# Multi-Agency collaboration is key

The fight against counterfeit and substandard medicines requires smart multi-agency partnerships to win.

The Ministry of Health, FBO facilities, health workers and the National Medicines
Regulatory Authority should work collaboratively in combating circulation of counterfeits/substandard medicines.

As a health worker, you should play a watchdog role by always being keenly vigilant in your facility. Ensure you report any suspected medicine to your local Minilab partner.

# MINILAB NETWORK PARTNERS

### **GHANA**

♦ NCHS, Accra

### **CAMEROON**

- ♦ OCASC, Yaounde
- ♦ CBC, Mutengene
- ♦ PCC, Buea

### DRC

- ♦ CEPAC, Bukavu
- ♦ CADIMEBU, Bunia

### **NIGERIA**

◆ CHAN—MEDI-PHARM, Jos

### **KENYA**

♦ MEDS, Nairobi

### **TANZANIA**

KILIMATINDE Hosp., Manyoni

### **INDIA**

- ♦ CDMU, Odisha
- ♦ TEZPUR Hosp., Tezpur

### **MALAWI**

♦ NKHOMA Hosp., Nkhoma

### **BURUNDI**

♦ LIFE NET, Bujumbura

### **UGANDA**

♦ JMS, Kampala

## STAMP & CONTACT ADDRESS OF LOCAL MINILAB PARTNER

Tel. No:

**Email:** 

This material was developed by the DIFAEM-EPN Minilab Network Programme in 2015



# STOP COUNTERFEIT AND SUBSTANDARD MEDICINES. SAVE LIVES!

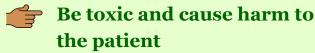
**DIFAEM-EPN Minilab Network Programme** 





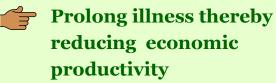
# Why are counterfeit medicines harmful?

### They may:



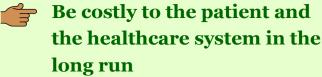








Erode patients' confidence in the Health Systems



Lead to waste of resources

# How can I identify counterfeit/substandard Medicines?

### The medicine is suspect if:

- ⇒ The label on the carton does not match label on the container
- ⇒ The trade name is misspelled, or the symbol R or TM is absent or does not follow trade name
- ⇒ The manufacturer's name or logo is illegible or incorrect and hologram does not look authentic
- ⇒ The manufacturer's address is missing or incomplete
- ⇒ The amount of active ingredient per unit dose is not clearly labeled
- ⇒ The manufacture/expiry date is not indicated on the label
- ⇒ The tablets/capsules appear discoloured, mouldy and crumble
- ⇒ The packaging varies in quality and the text differs in font and color from the genuine medicine
- ⇒ The tablets/capsules have breaks, cracks, embedded surface spots, contamination, splits or pinholes

# What can I do to stop counterfeit medicines

### You should:

- 1. Implement EPN Guidelines on Good Pharmacy Practice
- 2. Select and procure medicines from authorized suppliers only
- 3. Develop and implement a CHECKLIST for receiving all in coming supplies



- 4. Conduct regular VISUAL INSPECTION of medicines at the store and all end user units
- 5. If, after conducting a VISUAL INSPECTION, you suspect the medicine to be counterfeit, inform your local MINILAB PARTNER immediately using the contact address provided overleaf to get further instructions on how to send a sample for quality testing and further action steps