



# Strengthening regulatory frameworks

## THE NEED FOR STRONG NATIONAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

Strong national regulatory frameworks are essential for ensuring safe, authentic medicines. These frameworks provide regulatory and enforcement authorities with the power they need to fight falsified medicines, which flourish where regulatory oversight and enforcement are weak. The WHO has even spotlighted weak or nonexistent national regulatory systems as a key factor that encourages the falsification of medicines.

**Yet, many countries still need to create or strengthen a regulatory framework. Currently, only 20% of WHO member states have effective, well-developed drugs regulation systems, and 30% of members have no or very limited regulation in place.** This endangers all patients across the globe, not just those in countries with weak regulation, as falsified medicines can move across national boundaries, even in countries with more robust regulatory systems.





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## BUILDING COLLABORATION TO STRENGTHEN REGULATION

IFPMA is playing a dynamic role in strengthening regulatory systems. In particular, IFPMA organized full-day workshops on falsified medicines coinciding with the IFPMA – DIA regulatory conferences in Asia and Africa. The workshops gathered international and regional experts and leaders to promote an integrated approach to fighting falsified medicines, focusing discussions on best practices in the current regulatory landscape and initiatives. Related topics included supply chain integrity; practices and technologies for prevention, detection, control and monitoring of falsified medicines; and collaboration within and between countries. These discussions tapped multi-stakeholder expertise through the participation of representatives from national regulatory authorities, regional intergovernmental organizations, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and private sectors.

IFPMA members are also deeply engaged in this fight. Companies are actively sharing expertise with regulatory and enforcement officials around the world, building awareness of the dangers of falsified medicines and establishing programs to dismantle organized crime networks involved in falsification. IFPMA members are also working closely with local authorities and international bodies to improve the identification of falsified medicines, collect information and monitor incidents of falsification and improve procedures for dealing with suspected counterfeiters.

