

The Interagency Emergency Health Kit: Information Note

UNICEF Supply Division
October 2025

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This information note provides an update on the Interagency Emergency Health Kit (IEHK) 2024 packed by UNICEF, which contains medicines, medical devices, and equipment for a population of 10,000 people for a three-months period. It highlights the updates of this new version of the kit, and provides information on the kit's demand and supply, packaging, labelling, pricing and order considerations.

1. Summary

- The Interagency Emergency Health Kit (IEHK) contains essential medicines, medical devices, and equipment to cover the health needs for a population of 10,000 people for three months. It is ideal for rapid deployment and prepositioning as part of emergency response and preparedness. The kit is specifically designed to meet the priority health needs of populations affected by emergencies that have limited access to routine health care services, and for use in the early phase of an emergency when it is not yet feasible to identify and quantify needs.
- The IEHK is updated every 5 years, or on the base of changing information. The latest update was launched in 2024 (IEHK 2024), further refining the subcomponent definitions, i.e., modules and units, as well as incorporating updates to the list of products based on newer treatments and updated treatment guidelines. It replaces the IEHK 2017 version.
- The Kit is divided into 2 modules: the Basic Module and the Supplementary Module, each covering different levels of the health care system. Each module is subdivided into units, which refer to different categories of products. This structure facilitates both procurement and distribution of the kit after its arrival at an emergency.
- In the IEHK 2024 Supplementary module, the number of supplementary medicines units has been increased to 3: Supplementary Medicine Oral unit, Supplementary Medicine Injectable unit, and Supplementary Medicine – Mental Health unit.
- The procurement of the kit is done at unit level. Each unit is standalone and can be ordered in different quantities depending on the needs.
- A complete kit is comprised of 10 Basic modules plus 1 Supplementary module, weighing in total approximately 2000 kg, and taking up a volume of approximately 9.5 m³.

2. Background

The Interagency Emergency Health Kit (IEHK) is an integral part of UNICEF's supplies for immediate response to emergencies. The first Emergency Health Kit was developed in 1990 through the collaboration of the World Health Organisation (WHO), UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

The IEHK is principally designed to meet the priority health needs of a population affected by emergencies and that have limited access to routine health care services. It is a gap filling mechanism for the onset of an emergency but still requires the specific local needs to be assessed as soon as possible to meet the actual demand. IEHK is not designed as re-supply kits and, if used as such, may result in the accumulation of unneeded devices and medicines, resulting in wastage. All efforts should be made to strengthen and develop a medical supplies and logistics management information system to enable appropriate quantification and stock management as soon as the emergency situation stabilizes.

The full kit contains essential medicines and medical devices (renewables and equipment) for a population of 10,000 people for a period of three months. However, it does not cater for all medical needs. The IEHK does not include products for immunization, nutrition programmes, routine reproductive health services, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, leprosy, major surgery, and the chronic management of non-communicable diseases and other conditions requiring continued care. These are met through other kits or order of specific products.¹ Basic maternal and newborn health needs in emergencies are catered for in the IEHK. More specialised products are included in separate midwifery, obstetric surgical, and new-born kits.² For reproductive health needs, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) packs the interagency Emergency Reproductive Health Kits.³

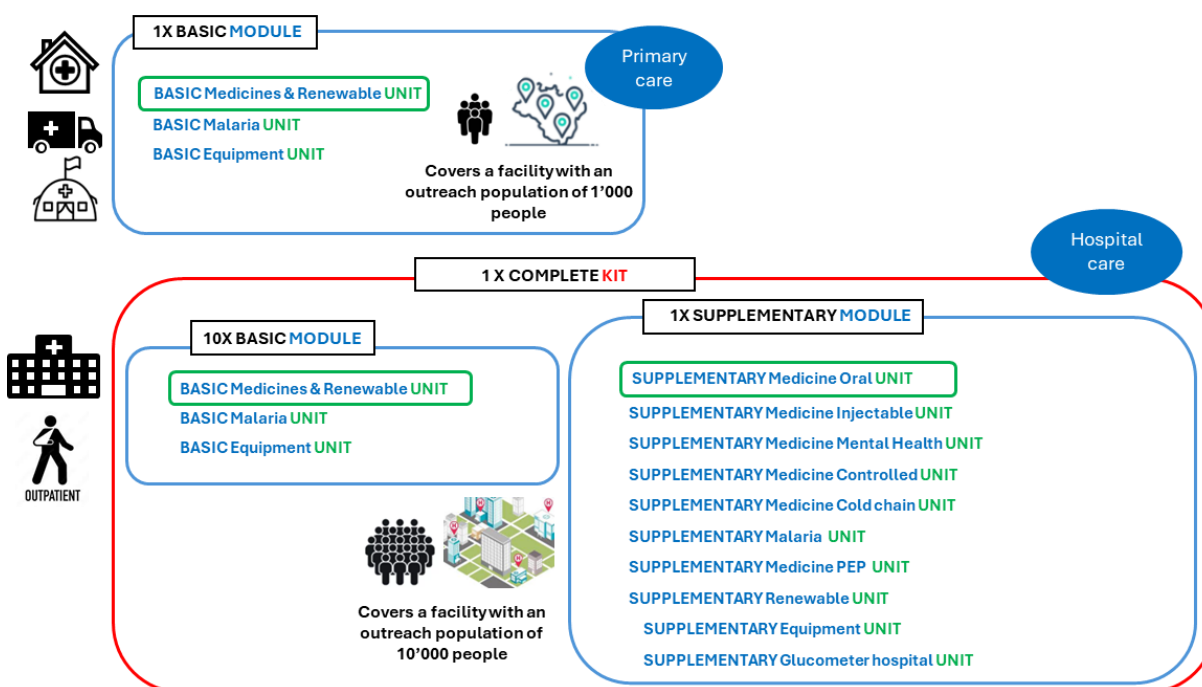
The IEHK is comprised of two types of modules: Basic and Supplementary. A complete kit (see Figure 1) is designed for a catchment population of 10,000 people and consists of ten (10) Basic modules (1000 people per Basic module) and one (1) Supplementary module (for a population of 10 000 people). Each module is then subdivided into units, with 'unit' referring to specific product categories such as medicines, renewables, and equipment.

¹ For information on other pre-packed kits visit <https://www.unicef.org/supply/unicefs-pre-packed-kits>.

² UNICEF, 2022, *UNICEF's midwifery and obstetric kits: Ensuring a safe childbirth around the world*, <https://www.unicef.org/supply/stories/unicefs-midwifery-and-obstetric-kits-ensuring-safe-childbirth-around-world>.

³ United Nations Population Fund, *Emergency Reproductive Health Kits*, UNFPA, New York, 2011, <https://www.unfpa.org/resources/emergency-reproductive-health-kits>.

Figure 1: Structure of the IEHK 2024



Source: WHO

3. The Interagency Emergency Health Kit 2024

The IEHK is revised approximately every five years⁴ with the next update expected to commence no later than 2029. Interagency collaboration may undertake ad hoc revisions to align the kit's contents with changes made by WHO to its respective treatment guidelines, WHO's model list of essential medicines (EML), and WHO's model list of essential medicines for children (EMLc) to ensure contents remain consistent, relevant, and fit the changing needs and requirements of various emergency situations. In 2022 the IEHK Secretariat called for a revision of the IEHK 2017, which was done by the committee during 2023.⁵ The current IEHK 2024 replaces the previous IEHK 2017.

The complete IEHK 2024 weighs nearly 2000 kg, taking up approximately 9.5 m³ in volume. To accommodate handling considerations, the kit is broken down into Basic and Supplementary modules. The indicative price⁶ for one complete kit (10 basic modules plus 1 Supplementary module) is approximately USD 28,150.

⁴ WHO, The Interagency Emergency Health Kit 2024, <https://www.who.int/emergencies/emergency-health-kits/interagency-emergency-health-kit-2017>.

⁵ WHO, 2024.

⁶ Indicative Prices: Supplies stocked at UNICEF Warehouses are subject to a Moving Average Price that could result in price fluctuations between prices listed and actual costs by the time goods are dispatched from the warehouse.

4. Contents of the IEHK 2024

4.1. The Basic module

The Basic module contains essential medicines and medical devices (renewables and equipment) covering the equivalent of a primary care facility with an outreach population of 1000 people over an estimated period of 3 months. The basic module contains supplies that correspond generally to the level and training of nurses and community health care workers. The Basic module consists of three units:

- *The Basic Medicines & Renewables unit:* This unit includes only oral and topical medicines and consumables (e.g., gloves, bandages, compresses, etc.) that correspond generally to the level and training of nurses and community health care workers.
- *The Basic Equipment unit:* This unit includes only reusable items such basic medical devices, as well as a few non-medical items. It is kept as a separate unit due to its different reorder patterns.
- *The Basic Malaria unit:* Each basic malaria unit contains rapid diagnostic tests and anti-malarial medicines for the treatment of uncomplicated malaria. The basic malaria unit can be excluded when ordering the basic module for countries where malaria is not endemic.

Table 1: Basic Module Symbols and Material Numbers

Symbol	Material Number	Material Description	Number of parts
	S9901040	IEHK 2024, Basic Medicine & Renewable UNIT	3
	S9901041	IEHK 2024, Basic Malaria UNIT	1
	S9901042	IEHK 2024, Basic Equipment UNIT	1

Source: UNICEF Supply Division

4.2. The Supplementary module

The Supplementary module contains medicines (orals and injectables) and other supplies that generally correspond to the level and training of physicians, nurses and other staff with specialized training. It is designed for hospital use or larger health centres with specialized

services. The outreach population for this module is 10,000 people over an estimated 3-month period. The supplementary module is made up of ten units as described below:

- *Supplementary Medicine Oral unit:* contains oral medicines intended for general hospital wards which can also be directed/ repurposed to hospital outpatient departments (OPDs), mobile clinics, or large health centres.
- *Supplementary Medicine Injectable unit:* contains injectable medicines intended for use at hospital level and which require special handling.
- *Supplementary Medicine Mental Health unit:* contains psychotropics for use by trained professionals at a hospital care level.
- *Supplementary Medicine Controlled unit:* contains medicines that normally need export and import authorizations (narcotic/psychotropic substances).
- *Supplementary Medicine Cold Chain unit:* contains medicines (insulin and oxytocin) that must be transported and stored between +2° to +8°C (35° to 46° F) in a cold chain and can therefore only be supplied via air shipment.
- *Supplementary Malaria unit:* contains injectable antimalarial medicine, injection devices, and sharp containers. It also comes with posters for the reconstitution/administration of the medicine.
- *Supplementary Medicines Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) unit:* contains medicines for 50 adults and 10 children for emergency post-exposure prophylaxis of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) following sexual assault. It also contains emergency contraceptives and pregnancy tests.
- *Supplementary Equipment unit:* contains medical devices like thermometers, stethoscopes, scales and surgical instruments etc.
- *Supplementary Renewable unit:* contains medical devices and consumables, most of which are sterile and for single use. This module is packed separate from the equipment module to give users the flexibility to replenish medical devices and consumables according to their actual needs.
- *Supplementary Hospital Glucometer unit:* this unit is new to the IEHK 2024. It contains a glucometer and consumables (glucose strips and lancets).

Table 2: Supplementary Module Symbols and Material Numbers

Symbol	Material Number	Material Description	Number of parts
	S9901043	IEHK 2024, Suppl. Medicine Oral UNIT	4
	S9901044	IEHK 2024, Suppl. Medicine Inj. UNIT	21
	S9901045	IEHK 2024, Suppl. Med Mental Health UNIT	1
	S9901046	IEHK 2024, Suppl. Medicine Controlled UNIT	1
	S9901047	IEHK 2024, Suppl. Medicine Cold Chain UNIT	1
	S9901048	IEHK 2024, Suppl. Malaria UNIT	4
	S9901049	IEHK 2024, Suppl. PEP UNIT	1 (3)
	S9901050	IEHK 2024, Suppl. Renewable UNIT	6
	S9901051	IEHK 2024, Suppl. Equipment UNIT	2
	S9901052	IEHK 2024, Suppl. Glucometer UNIT	1

Source: UNICEF Supply Division

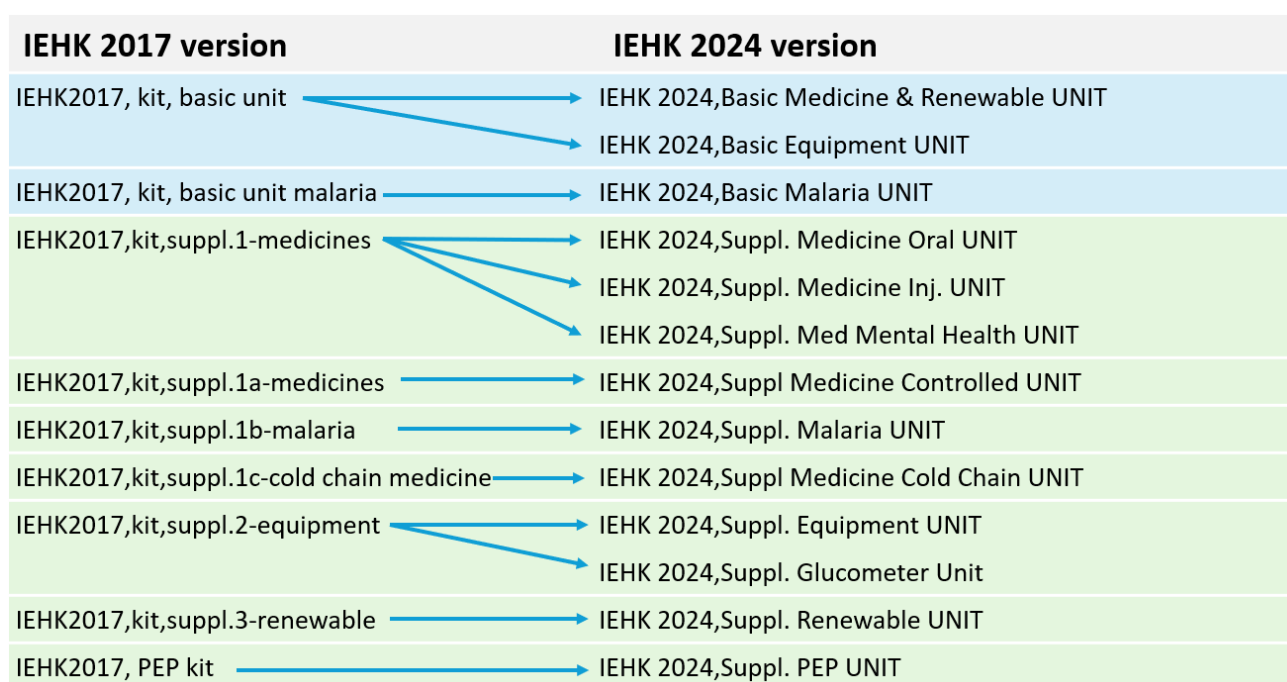
4.3. Changes compared to the IEHK 2017

The IEHK 2024 version has some changes to its structure and contents compared to previous editions of the IEHK. These changes have been made considering the patterns for reordering, simplifying the process and preventing duplication (see Figure 2). New components and updates to the quantities of existing components have been changed based on clinical need and feedback from the field.

Additionally, the clinical guidelines are included in electronic format on a USB stick. The kit also includes a form with a QR code to collect user feedback on the kit content, to ensure that the kit is fit for purpose.

For the details on the content changes refer to WHO's Interagency Emergency Health Kit 2024 Booklet.

Figure 2: Structural changes in the IEHK 2024 compared to the IEHK 2017



Source: UNICEF Supply Division

5. Market Situation

5.1. Historical Demand

Between 2020 and 2024, UNICEF delivered a total of 51,051 Basic units and Basic Malaria units, and a total of 28,637 Supplementary Modules of the IEHK 2017 version. They were delivered to 65 countries across all UNICEF regions (see Table 3 and Table 4).

Table 3: IEHK Basic Units and Basic Malaria Units deliveries per UNICEF region (2020-2024)

UNICEF region	Number of Basic Unit and Basic Malaria Units Delivered	Percentage
Middle East and North Africa	16,491	32.30%
Europe and Central Asia	10,792	21.14%
East and Southern Africa	9,762	19.12%
South Asia	7,499	14.69%
West and Central Africa	3,062	6.00%
East Asia and Pacific	2,402	4.71%
Latin America and Caribbean	1,043	2.04%
Grand Total	51,051	100.00%

Source: UNICEF Supply Division

Table 4: Supplementary Modules Delivered by UNICEF region (2020-2024)

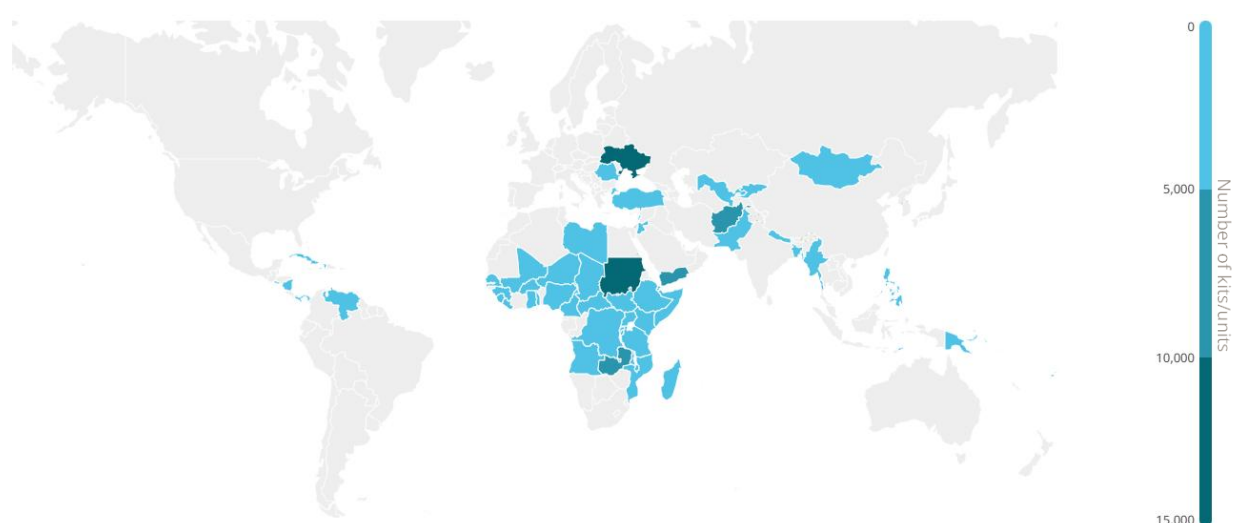
UNICEF region	Number of Supplementary Modules Delivered	Percentage
Middle East and North Africa	7,982	27.87%
East and Southern Africa	6,840	23.89%
Europe and Central Asia	6,740	23.54%
West and Central Africa	3,564	12.45%
Latin America and Caribbean	1,728	6.03%
South Asia	1,682	5.87%
East Asia and Pacific	101	0.35%
Grand Total	28,637	100.00%

Source: UNICEF Supply Division

Note: Supplementary Modules in the IEHK 2017 included Supplementary Medicines, Controlled Medicines, Supplementary Malaria, Cold chain medicines, Supplementary equipment, and Supplementary Renewables.

Of the total Basic Units and Supplementary Modules procured through UNICEF between 2020 and 2024, over half (52 per cent) were sent to four countries: Ukraine (21 per cent), Sudan (13.2 per cent), Afghanistan (9.7 per cent) and Yemen (8.1 per cent), notably in response to the armed conflicts affecting the people and health systems in these countries (see Figure 3).

Figure 3: IEHK units delivered per country (2020-2024)

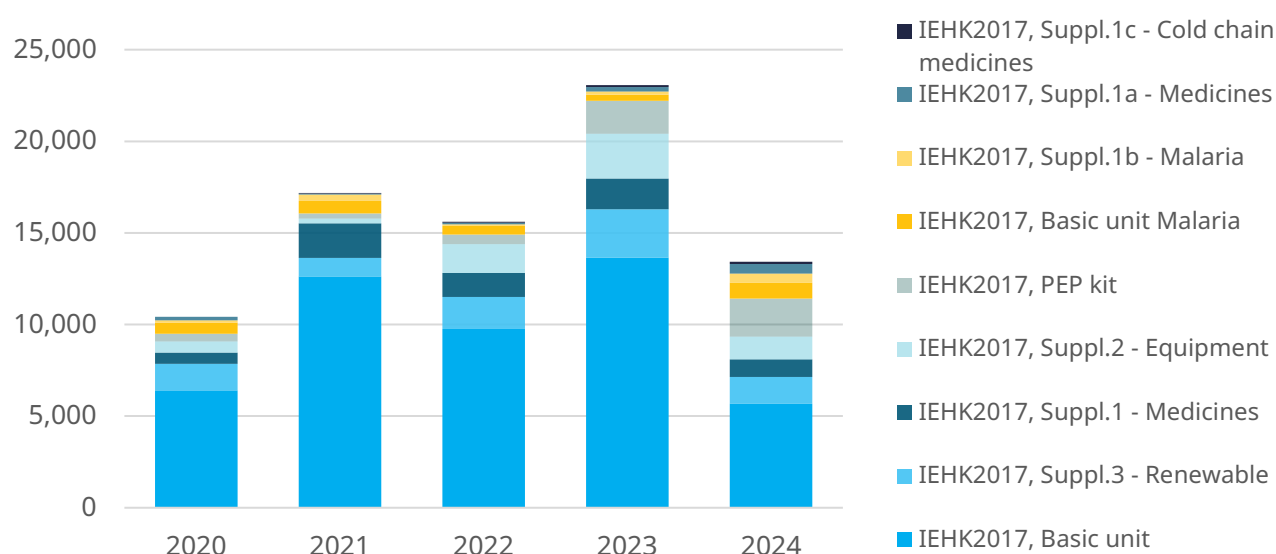


Source: UNICEF Supply Division

5.2. Supply

Between 2020 and 2024, UNICEF primarily supplied IEHK Basic units (see Figure 4). For this 5-year period, 60 per cent of the kits supplied were Basic units followed by the Supplementary module 3 – Renewables (10.4 per cent), Supplementary module 1 – Medicines (8.1 per cent), and Supplementary module 2 – Equipment (7.7 per cent) (see Table 5). The Supplementary modules 1b – malaria, Supplementary 1a – controlled medicines, and Supplementary 1c cold chain medicines were the least often procured, representing 3.3 per cent of the total IEHK and modules delivered in this period.

Figure 4: UNICEF supply of IEHK units by type (2020-2024)



Source: UNICEF Supply Division

Table 5: IEHK basic units and supplementary modules supplied by UNICEF (2020-2024)

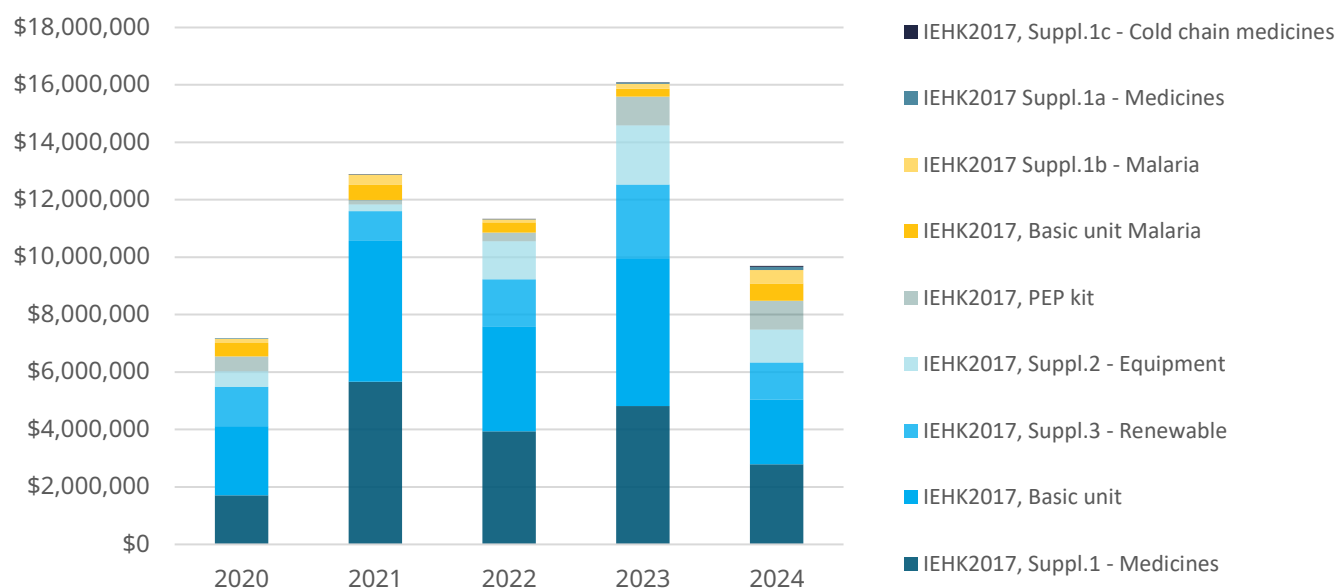
Kit module	Quantity	Percentage
IEHK 2017 basic unit	48,113	60.4%
IEHK 2017 supplementary 3-renewable	8,297	10.4%
IEHK 2017 supplementary 1-medicines	6,460	8.1%
IEHK 2017 supplementary 2-equipment	6,118	7.7%
IEHK 2017, PEP kit	5,122	6.4%
IEHK 2017, kit, basic unit malaria	2,938	3.7%
IEHK 2017 supplementary 1b-malaria	1,244	1.6%
IEHK 2017 supplementary 1a-controlled medicines	1,083	1.4%
IEHK 2017 supplementary 1c-cold chain medicines	313	0.4%

Source: UNICEF Supply Division

Note: A complete IEHK 2017 kit was comprised of 1 Basic Module (10 Basic units and – optional - Basic Malaria units) and 1 Supplementary Module (1 Supplementary Medicines, 1 Controlled Medicines, 1 Supplementary Malaria, 1 Cold chain medicines, 1 Supplementary equipment, and 1 Supplementary Renewables).

In terms of value in USD, the IEHKs procured through UNICEF in the analysis period reached USD 57 million, averaging approximately USD 11 million a year. The year 2023 saw the highest value procured, with a total of over USD 16 million.

Figure 5: Value of Different modules of IEHK Supplied by UNICEF (2020-2024, USD)



Source: UNICEF Supply Division

5.3. Pricing and UNICEF Supply Catalogue

UNICEF publishes and maintains an updated catalogue containing specifications and indicative prices for over 2,000 products. The prices listed in the catalogue are indicative only, and actual prices may vary depending on the product, the time of procurement, and individual suppliers. For more details on the IEHK, see the UNICEF Supply Catalogue.⁷ Enter a search for “IEHK 2024” or the respective material number for each kit module (see Table 6).

⁷ UNICEF Supply Catalogue: <https://supply.unicef.org/>

Table 6: Indicative price, weight and volume per IEHK 2024 unit

Material number	Description	Indicative Price*(USD)	Weight (KG)	Volume (M3)
S9901040	IEHK 2024, Basic Medicine & Renewable UNIT	663	64.3	0.291
S9901042	IEHK 2024, Basic Equipment UNIT	75	20.0	0.120
S9901041	IEHK 2024, Basic Malaria UNIT	1,074	37.0	0.160
S9901047	IEHK 2024, Supplementary Medicine Cold Chain UNIT	173	15.0	0.115
S9901049	IEHK 2024, Supplementary PEP UNIT	475	15.0	0.120
S9901043	IEHK 2024, Supplementary Medicine Oral UNIT	1,734	90.0	0.500
S9901044	IEHK 2024, Supplementary Medicine Inj. UNIT	2,135	340.0	1.300
S9901045	IEHK 2024, Supplementary Med Mental Health UNIT	156	6.0	0.048
S9901046	IEHK 2024, Supplementary Medicine Controlled UNIT	829	20.0	0.060
S9901048	IEHK 2024, Supplementary Malaria UNIT	1,493	80.0	0.437
S9901051	IEHK 2024, Supplementary Equipment UNIT	1,119	87.0	0.300
S9901052	IEHK 2024, Supplementary Glucometer Unit	tbc	tbc	tbc
S9901050	IEHK 2024, Supplementary Renewable UNIT	1,917	112.0	0.880

Source: UNICEF Supply Division

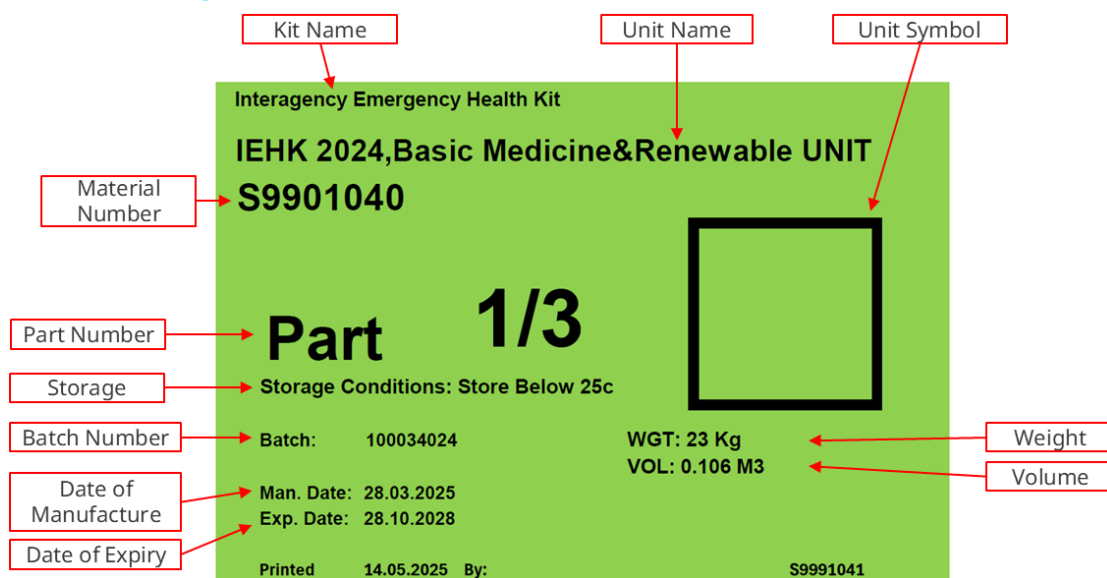
Note*: Indicative price subject to change. For the latest information check UNICEF's Supply Catalogue.

6. IEHK Labelling

To facilitate in-country logistics, the shipping cartons for units and their different parts are labelled with the following information (see Figure 6):

- Kit name, unit name and symbol;
- weight and volume of each carton;
- the number of parts composing the corresponding unit (i.e., Part 1/2); and
- storage conditions, batch number, manufacturing date and expiry date.

Figure 6: IEHK labelling



Source: UNICEF Supply Division

7. Order Considerations

Before ordering the IEHK 2024, please note:

- Any rapid response to an acute public health emergency requires an initial risk assessment to ensure defensible decision making, including the implementation of appropriate control measures. A systematic approach to a public health risk assessment can provide the basis to prioritise actions to alleviate the consequences on affected populations.
- A rapid assessment of the situation would establish what specific IEHK needs would be optimal for a first response phase and to determine what type of health kit modules and units would be best suited for the needs, and where they are needed. The IEHK is a standardized emergency kit, designed for worldwide use, prepacked and kept ready for immediate dispatch. While it is generally recommended to order the whole Kit to fulfil its purpose, it is important to consider the following:
 - **Malaria Units:** Assess the necessity of both the basic and supplementary malaria units based on local malaria prevalence. Additionally, review the national malaria protocol because the first-line treatment and detection algorithms may differ from the content provided in the kit.
 - **PEP Unit:** Consider the PEP unit based on the country's needs and access to emergency treatment.
 - **Cold Chain Capacity:** Evaluate the cold chain capacity for items in the cold chain unit, ensuring storage conditions between 2-8°C.

- Undertake a rapid assessment of the local situation to confirm that the emergency health kits are needed, which units are needed and where they are needed (level of care).
 - To avoid duplication, coordinate with the other partners engaged in the response.
 - Storage Requirements: Ensure sufficient and appropriate storage space is available. Supplementary units are bulky (approximately 1 cubic meter each for medicines, renewables, and medical devices units) and require storage between 15-30°C. The cold chain unit requires about 0.150 cubic meters of space and must be stored between 2-8°C.
- IEHK can also be stockpiled as part of preparedness or pre-positioning and would require an appropriate medical supplies and logistics management information system to enable appropriate stock management (expiry date tracking of contents).
 - Ensure adequate funds for shipping, customs clearance, safe storage, and distribution.
 - For support with calculating the number and types of IEHK kits/units needed, please contact UNICEF Supply Division at: mnctechical@unicef.org.

7.1. Important Actions

Any waivers, exemptions, and permits should be arranged well in advance of ordering the kits. These may include:

- Registration: UNICEF recommends obtaining a blanket import waiver for all emergency kits as there may be multiple suppliers for the same product component, and it is not feasible to pre-determine such specificity.
- Intellectual property/patents, if applicable: This may apply to some of the antiretroviral (ARV) medicines contained in the PEP module. In such cases, the country should consider use of Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement flexibilities such as “for government use” clause, citing ARV medicines in the kit as emergency supplies.⁸ This should be done in advance of ordering the kits to enable importation. See patent status at: <http://www.medspal.org/>

It may be necessary to organize a country-based forum to review the contents of this information note so as to plan to update any relevant country documents. This may include Country Emergency Supply Lists and guidance to health care providers on use of the NEW IEHK 2024 kit.

⁸ World Trade Organization, Intellectual Property: Protection and Enforcement, WTO, Geneva, 2019, https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/agrm7_e.htm .

7.2. Orders from UNICEF Country Offices

UNICEF country offices can identify emergency supplies in the UNICEF's intranet Emergency Supply List (ESL) or contact UNICEF Supply Division's Emergency Coordinator (email: danemergency@unicef.org). An emergency Sales Order should be raised through UNICEF's Internal Virtual Integrated System of Information (VISION). For more details, please refer to:

- [UNICEF Procedure on Procurement in Emergencies](#)
- [Emergency Supply Procurement Procedure and How to Order](#)

7.3. Orders from Government, External Partners, and Other UN Agencies

Partners (Governments, NGOs, other UN agencies) can access emergency supplies through UNICEF Procurement Services (PS). Send an email to psid@unicef.org. This mechanism may be more suited for the procurement of supplies for emergency preparedness rather than for emergency response given the required process. UNICEF encourages partners considering IEHK procurement options to consult UNICEF country offices prior to ordering. For more information, please see:

- [Procurement services resources and guidelines | UNICEF Supply Division](#)

For further questions or additional information, please contact:

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Other UNICEF information notes can be found at: [Market notes and updates | UNICEF Supply Division](#)

UNICEF issues market and information notes on products and supplies that are essential for the needs of children, and by extension their families. While some products are easily available and affordable, the availability of others can be limited, or in some instances, non-existent in the quality and price required. UNICEF places a strategic focus on these supplies to shape healthy markets. UNICEF seeks to influence the market to achieve greater coverage, affordable prices, diversified supplier bases, competitive market landscapes, and product quality that is fit for purpose and in the right form for children.