

# Conflict in Ukraine

## Situation Report #2

28 February 2022

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Russia’s attacks on Ukraine have escalated as troops advanced towards major urban areas and key military targets, including Kyiv, Kharkiv, Kherson, Odessa.<sup>i</sup>
- Over 500,000 refugees have fled Ukraine as of this past weekend and crossed the border into Hungary, Romania, Poland, Moldova, and Slovakia.<sup>ii</sup> Hundreds of thousands are internally displaced, seeking safety in other parts of Ukraine.
- Project HOPE’s medical coordinator in Ukraine is carrying out assessments of medical facilities in and around Dnepro. We also have teams in Krakow, Poland and Chisinau, Moldova assessing needs at the border, readying pharmaceuticals, medicines and medical supplies to respond to the pressing health and humanitarian needs within Ukraine.
- Project HOPE is coordinating with local organizations in Ukraine, Moldova, and Poland to support both inside Ukraine and in the surrounding countries.
- The United States government has announced nearly \$54 million in humanitarian assistance for Ukraine.<sup>iii</sup>



*Russian Attacks on Ukraine as of February 27*  
Source: NYTimes

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

The Russian invasion on Ukraine has escalated since its start on February 24<sup>th</sup>, as Russian forces continue to attack Ukraine from multiple entry points. The capital of Kyiv has endured continuous attacks, and Kharkiv, Ukraine’s second-largest city, had residential communities shelled repeatedly last night. Late Sunday night, Ukraine’s Interior Ministry reported over 350 civilians dead.<sup>iv</sup> That number is expected to increase as Kharkiv endured dozens of casualties from the heavy shelling on Monday.<sup>v</sup>

Ukraine’s central bank has limited cash withdrawals,<sup>vi</sup> and many ATM machines are not functional. With the increase of violence and advance of Russian troops, further infrastructure will break down and the needs of the population will increase.

The Ukrainian Defense Minister has issued a call to civilians to arm and defend themselves from Russian troops, and under martial law, no man aged 18-60 is allowed to leave the country.<sup>vii</sup> Late last week, the Defense Minister and the mayor of Kyiv pled to citizens to “prepare Molotov cocktails” in defense of Kyiv as Russian forces blocked the western border of the city.<sup>viii</sup> President Zelensky has requested that all able-bodied men and women join the country’s military,<sup>ix</sup> and journalists report that most fleeing the conflict zones are women and children.

Peace talks initiated on Monday between Ukraine and Russia, in Belarus, ended late Monday evening, with both parties returning to consult with their governments.<sup>x</sup>

## HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

UNHCR has stated that 500,000 Ukrainians have already been displaced by the conflict, fleeing their homes to avoid the violence.<sup>xi</sup> This number could reach five million people as the Russian offense continues. Most of the refugees crossing the border in these early stages of the conflict are going to family and friends, or have the means to rent shelter for themselves. As these numbers increase, it is anticipated that later waves of refugees will have fewer resources for health care, food, and shelter.

Freight forwarder Priority Worldwide has reported that any humanitarian assistance will need to cross into Ukraine by truck or by rail. The Polish government has commenced rail shipments into Ukraine, and humanitarian shipments of food, medicine, and health items are tax and duty free if the consignee is a registered humanitarian organization.

With the cessation of flights and cargo ships into Ukraine, it is anticipated that finding fuel, food, and goods will become increasingly problematic. Project HOPE contacts in-country are reporting that Kyiv and Kharkiv are experiencing shortages of medical supplies and pharmaceuticals, and hospitals as well as the Ministry of Health have put in direct requests for assistance. Project HOPE is working with partners and contacts on the ground to fulfill their needs. Cold chain for insulin, vaccines, and other medicines are a high priority as power outages has had a severe impact on the availability of these items.

UNICEF officials are reporting significant health needs in north Ukraine, where the Russian military has advanced. Reports suggest there are no health services available as there are no supplies or staffing. Access to these areas has been cut off. There is a major need for trauma kits, wound dressings, tourniquets and bandages. Primary health care in this area has all but ceased, and there are reports of an increasing number of home births. Food shortages are reported in major urban areas under attack, and there is concern of a rise in malnutrition.

Project HOPE's contacts on the ground in Kyiv and Lviv are also reporting that pharmacies are running out of medicine and supplies, and food and fuel is becoming scarce. Project HOPE is in Dnepro assessing medical needs and availability to procure pharmaceuticals and supplies locally. We've also engaged a number of contacts within Ukraine to determine needs in other municipalities, and will be fulfilling requests as available.

## PROJECT HOPE RESPONSE

Project HOPE currently has emergency response teams in place in Krakow, Poland; Bucharest, Romania; and Chisinau, Moldova as well as presence within Ukraine. Project HOPE is working with the WHO Health Cluster and Logistics Cluster as well as the Ukrainian Ministry of Health and other authorities.

Our activities include:

- Expanding presence within the region to provide immediate health and humanitarian relief
- Continued mobilization of additional staff within Ukraine to respond to health needs
- Development of partnerships with local organizations both in Ukraine and in bordering countries to meet priority health and humanitarian needs

- Continued sourcing and shipping essential medicines and medical supplies for primary health and trauma care to affected areas, including hygiene kits, Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHKs), insulin, and more

Project HOPE will continue to closely monitor the situation as it unfolds in order to respond to the most pressing health and humanitarian needs among affected populations.

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#### SOURCES

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