

Conflict in Ukraine

Situation Report #10

28 March 2022

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Project HOPE delivered 5 Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHKs) into Lviv over the past few days. The kits will be moved eastward into more conflict-impacted areas.
- Project HOPE is working in Moldova, Poland, and Romania to provide health, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and other essential support to highly vulnerable populations.
- Over 3.8 million refugees have fled Ukraine since the Russian invasion in late February. The number displaced by the conflict could reach 10 million according to some estimates.
- Trauma, separations, instability, and other stressors are making psychosocial and mental health needs among the most urgent. A rapid scale up of MHPSS services as well as protection programming is required to meeting growing needs.



SITUATION OVERVIEW

International Health Partner UK's Essential Health Packs were delivered into Lviv last week for onward travel to Cherkasy.

Throughout the reporting period, the Russian assault on Ukraine continued uninterrupted. All major cities—including Chernihiv, Lutsk, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Mariupol, Rivne, and Zhytomyr--and other strategic locations were impacted.ⁱ

On Saturday, two Russian missiles hit Lviv—the largest city in western Ukraine—which had largely been spared the worst of the conflict to date.ⁱⁱ Because of its relative safety, Lviv has become a hub for the country's 6.5 internally displaced population (IDPs)ⁱⁱⁱ and a transit point for others aspiring to cross to neighboring countries. For these reasons, the escalation of fighting on Lviv poses particular humanitarian concerns as does its proximity to Poland—a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).^{iv}

Meanwhile, the besieged city of Mariupol, which has been surrounded by Russian forces for a month, was subjected to "carpet bombing" this weekend.^v The Russian encirclement has cut off the city from food, electricity, and other essentials, leading to concerns of mass starvation. The head of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) said on Friday that the agency had received reports of mass graves in the city, including one that was estimated to hold 200 bodies.^{vi}

Meanwhile, Russian forces withdrew from parts of the city of Kherson—along the Black Sea. The loss is notable as Kherson was among the first mid-sized cities it struggled to take over.^{vii} Ukrainians also made incremental progress in Chernihiv and Kyiv, the country's capital.^{viii}

The general stalling of the Russian invasion as well as some successful offensives by Ukrainians has, some speculate, led Putin to renew military and rhetoric focus on the Donbas region, which has been the focal point of Ukrainian-Russo fighting since 2014.^{ix}

To date, 1,119 Ukrainian civilians have been killed and another 1,790 have been injured as a result of the conflict. OHCHR, which tracks these figures, warns actual numbers are likely much higher.^x

Beyond the direct toll to human life, the ongoing assault has devastated the country's civilian infrastructure—including hospitals, schools, residential homes. The wide-ranging implications of deteriorating conditions for food security, health, mental health, and protection, among others. As of March 24, 1.4 million had been cut off to safe access to water and another 4.6 million had limited access or were at risk of it being cut off.^{xi}

Moreover, amongst the chaos, families are getting separated from one another, especially young children. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates that 4.3 million Ukrainian children have been displaced in the conflict.^{xii} The agency has warned children are at heightened risk of separation from families, trafficking, and other severe protection concerns.^{xiii}

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Since the start of the invasion on February 24, 3.8 million people have fled ongoing hostilities in Ukraine.^{xiv} Poland has taken in the largest number of refugees to date—nearly 2.3 million—followed by Romania—over 595,000—and Moldova—over 383,000. The rapid influx of refugees in just five weeks leads weight to some estimates of up to 10 million refugees if the conflict continues.

IOM is reporting nearly 6,500,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) in Ukraine, with an additional two million actively considering leaving their homes due to the conflict.^{xv}

Protection concerns—including human trafficking risks and separations of children—continue for Ukrainians who successfully cross to neighboring countries. Many local communities, in the eagerness to support, have taken refugees into their homes. This gestures of goodwill has made it difficult for local governments and humanitarian agencies to track refugees and their needs.

In addition, many new arrivals are in great need of mental health and psychosocial support to cope with the traumas they have experienced as well as their new situation. In addition, meeting health and other basic needs of the rapidly growing refugee population is placing profound strain on local governments.

For those who remain in Ukraine, the situation is even more dire. Extensive damage to infrastructure—from schools and hospitals to gas and electricity lines—means those unable to leave have limited access to essential goods and services. In besieged cities, like Mariupol, relief organizations fear that death due to dehydration, hunger, and access to medicines is becoming a growing possibility for inhabitants.

PROJECT HOPE RESPONSE

Project HOPE continues to rapidly scale up activities in Ukraine, Poland, Moldova, and Romania, with full teams including leads, medical coordinators, mental health specialists, and logisticians in place. We continue to procure and deliver medical supplies into Ukraine, as well as to support local NGOs in providing support to impacted populations.

In Ukraine, Project HOPE's activities include:

- **Recent delivery of 5 IEHKs to Lviv for onward distribution eastward. (A total of 7 IEHKs delivered to date).**
- Exploration of mobile medical support to IDPs and other impacted populations.
- Coordination with key hospitals and universities to determine the best mechanism for support.

In Moldova, Project HOPE's activities include:

- **Working closely with the Ministry Health to fulfill pharmaceutical needs, including insulin, for Moldova. Moldova's medicinal supply chain has been directly impacted by the conflict and the Ministry of Health is in dire need of several life-saving medications.**
- Supporting SAMU's mobile medical team to serve refugees crossing the Ukraine/Moldova border as per the request of WHO and Moldovan Ministry of Health.
- Identifying local NGOs and partners to provide mental health and protection interventions for refugees.

In Poland, Project HOPE's activities include:

- **Key support to the University Children's Hospital – Krakow in creating a ward specifically for Ukrainian children through procurement and a grant.**
- Establishing a sustainable logistics corridor into Ukraine
- Development of key relationships with public hospitals and local NGOs to continue supplying medicines and medical supplies into Ukraine and exploring training opportunities for medical personnel
- Supporting local NGOs to provide protection and mental health support to refugees.

In Romania, Project HOPE's activities include:

- **Supporting local NGOs to provide mental health support to refugees and respond to hygiene/shelter needs.**
- Exploring further programmatic partners to expand support to refugees.

SOURCES

ⁱ <https://www.cnn.com/europe/live-news/ukraine-russia-putin-news-03-27-22/index.html>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/03/27/russia-ukraine-war-news-putin-live-updates/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.iom.int/news/almost-65-million-people-internally-displaced-ukraine-iom>

^{iviv} <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/03/27/what-know-about-ukraines-lviv-struck-by-missiles-when-biden-was-250-miles-away/>

^v <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/03/27/russia-ukraine-war-news-putin-live-updates/>

^{vi} <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/un-rights-office-says-evidence-growing-mariupol-mass-graves-2022-03-25/>

^{vii} https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2022/03/25/ukraine-disappointed-nato-poland/?itid=lk_inline_manual_10&itid=lk_inline_manual_41

^{ix} https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2022/03/25/ukraine-disappointed-nato-poland/?itid=lk_inline_manual_10&itid=lk_inline_manual_41

^x <https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2022/03/ukraine-civilian-casualty-update-27-march-2022>

^{xi} <https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/war-ukraine-pose-immediate-threat-children>

^{xii} <https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/war-ukraine-pose-immediate-threat-children>

^{xiii} <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/children-fleeing-war-ukraine-heightened-risk-trafficking-and-exploitation>

^{xiv} <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>

^{xv} <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/ukraine-internal-displacement-report-general-population-survey-16-march-2022-round-1>

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