Conflict in Ukraine
Situation Report #3

3 March 2022

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Project HOPE’s response to the Ukraine crisis continues to expand as we procure medicines and medical supplies for use in both Ukraine and bordering countries.
- Project HOPE has developed key relationships with partners and local organizations supporting response efforts and is strategically developing a broad response plan to span the region as the crisis evolves.
- Over one million refugees have left Ukraine, and that number continues to increase with expectations that the number of displaced from the conflict could reach 10 million.
- Psychosocial and mental health needs are the most urgent health concerns for refugees at this time, requiring a rapid scale up of psychosocial support, mental health and protection activities.
- Inside Ukraine, our team reports shortages of medicines and medical supplies, with limited means to access these items due to the violence. Project HOPE is facilitating the purchase and transfer of medicines and supplies in Kyiv and Odessa with expansion to other impacted areas as needed.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The fighting in Ukraine continues to escalate, with Russia gaining control of Kherson, one of the largest cities in the country, on March 2. Russia has laid siege to urban and residential areas with increasing force via ground fighting, heavy artillery and shelling, multi-launch rocket systems, missiles, and airstrikes.

According to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 249 civilians, including 17 children, have been killed between February 24 and March 2. An additional 553 civilians, including 30 children, have been injured by the fighting. These numbers are believed to be underestimates as capturing the true extent of fatalities amidst the violence remains challenging due to reporting delays and inability to assess the scope amidst constant fighting.

Damage to civilian infrastructure continues, causing disruptions in electrical lines as well as gas and water supply systems. This is even more concerning considering temperatures in Ukraine are frequently below freezing. There are frequent reports of open fire on hospitals and schools in areas on both side of the contact line in Eastern Ukraine.
HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

The war in Ukraine continues to escalate, deepening the humanitarian crisis in the country and the outflow of refugees to neighboring countries. The United Nations has predicted that 10 million Ukrainians – approximately one quarter of the population – could be displaced by the conflict. Of those, roughly 4 million could become refugees in other countries over the weeks to come.1

In Ukraine, it is estimated that 12 million people living in affected areas are stranded, unwilling or unable to leave due to active fighting and security risks, destruction of bridges and roads, and lack of resources or information on where to find safety.2 In these areas in particular where there are disrupted supply chains, there are increasing reports of food insecurity, lack of medicines and supplies, and need for basic items including winter clothes. The UN-led Protection Cluster for Ukraine is reporting the most vulnerable internally displaced people (IDPs) include children, women and girls, persons with disabilities and older people.

As of March 3, more than 1 million people have fled from Ukraine crossing into neighboring countries. Over 500,000 refugees have streamed into Poland, putting significant pressure on the existing health system.3 In reference to the increasing number of refugees requiring health care, a director at a Krakow pediatric hospital told Project HOPE, “I am concerned about the collapse of our health care system with what we are anticipating to see.” Health facilities are struggling to keep up with the demands of space, staffing, and materials. Project HOPE’s team on the ground in Krakow reports that bandages are already in short supply, and the existing supply chain cannot keep up with the demands in both Poland and Kyiv.

Family separation within Ukraine as a result of hostilities and displacement is a growing concern, particularly as responding agencies in neighboring countries, including UNHCR, are reporting an increase in unaccompanied children crossing the border over the last few days. The majority of refugees leaving Ukraine continue to be women and children as men between the ages of 18-60 are required to stay in country. Project HOPE’s teams on the borders report that as most women have multiple children, the bulk of refugees are children. Cold and wet weather exacerbate the flight of refugees, and many are travelling with minimal belongings.

Post-traumatic stress, anxiety and mental health needs are the top health concerns for refugees fleeing Ukraine at this time. Our team in Romania reported that refugees crossing the border frequently request immediate mental health support as a result of the trauma endured. There is a dire need to scale up Protection activities, including psychosocial support, mental health activities, and reducing risks of gender-based violence and trafficking, particularly for women and children.

PROJECT HOPE RESPONSE

Project HOPE’s teams are working in Poland, Romania, Moldova, and Ukraine. We’re coordinating with local NGOs, hospitals, and government officials across each country, as well as the WHO Health and Logistics Clusters, Ministries of Health, and other authorities. Project HOPE’s Executive Vice President of Global Health, Chris Skopec, arrived in Krakow this week, joining the Project HOPE team there, and is coordinating Project HOPE’s response from Poland.

In Ukraine, Project HOPE’s activities include:

- Supporting a Ukrainian non-governmental organization in Kyiv to purchase and transport medicines and medical supplies to civilian hospitals.
- Assessing health needs in the Dnepro region, including for the internally displaced.
- Continued mobilization of additional staff to respond to health needs.
In Moldova, Project HOPE’s activities include:

- Procurement and delivery of key medical supplies to the Ministry of Health to serve refugees.
- Mobilization of an Interagency Emergency Health Kit (IEHK) and insulin to the Ministry of Health to support refugees.

In Poland, Project HOPE’s activities include:

- Procurement of key medical supplies being delivered to a neonatal hospital in Kyiv on Friday through a local Polish partner.
- Development of key relationships to continue supplying medicines and medical supplies into Ukraine.
- Assessing needs and contingency planning for health facilities in Poland as refugee numbers increase demand on the Polish health system.
- Establishing warehouse space and a sustainable logistics corridor into Ukraine.

In Romania, Project HOPE’s activities include:

- Sourcing hygiene kits, medical supplies, and medicines for transport into Ukraine as well as for the refugee population.
- Assessment of border entry points to determine needs of refugee population and transit centers.
- Establishment of relationship with key partner to send supplies into Odessa, and the mobilization of an IEHK and hygiene items to Romania.

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.

SOURCES

2 https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Civilian%20casualties%20as%20of%2020%20March%202022%20ENG.pdf
4 https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/03/03/world/russia-ukraine
5 https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/28feb_2022_protection_cluster_ukraine_crisis_snapshot_eng_0.pdf

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