Conflict in Ukraine
Situation Report #7
17 March 2022

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Project HOPE has successfully shipped two Interagency Health Kits into Lviv, Ukraine. These kits will provide primary health care medication for 20,000 people for 3 months.
- Project HOPE ERTs in Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Ukraine continue to scale up response to the unfolding crisis through provision of essential pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, and consumables as well as hygiene kits and other nonfood items.
- In partnership with SAMU, Project HOPE’s team in Moldova has provided medical assistance at three refugee shelters. The team is exploring opportunities to expand coverage and provide mental health support.
- Assessments conducted by Project HOPE, local partners, and other relief organizations identify urgent health, MHPSS, protection, and WASH needs among conflict-affected Ukrainians. MHPSS services are among the most critical among Ukrainian refugees.
- More than three million refugees have fled Ukraine since February 24. Relief agencies estimate this number could grow up to 10 million if the conflict continues on its current trajectory.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Fighting in Ukraine extended this week, for the first time, to the capital city of Kyiv and other northern cities. As in other parts of the country, civilian sites were not spared from the devastation. Among areas targeted by Russian shelling was a residential neighborhood located 2.5 kilometers from the presidential palace. A 12-story apartment in the city’s central district “erupted in flames” from shrapnel fire.1

Nearby, in Chernihiv, at least 10 people were killed by Russian shells while queueing for bread. A local official said the attack was “indicative of Russia’s use of indirect fire against civilians.”ii

On Wednesday, a theater sheltering hundreds of people in the besieged city of Mariupol was bombed. Satellite imagery revealed the word “children” spelled out on two sides of the building prior to the attack. Hundreds of thousands of people are believe to be trapped in the city, which has been surrounded by Russian forces for weeks. Supplies of essential goods and utilities have been cut off since the barricade

Project HOPE delivered two Interagency Emergency Health Kits into Lviv, Ukraine today. The contents will be transferred to hospitals in need of supplies.

Credit: Project HOPE, March 2022
began. With no options to flee, some residents are reportedly melting snow and dismantling heating systems in search of water.

Meanwhile, fighting raged for a third week in Mykolaiv, which has significant strategic value and has been targeted since the invasion’s onset. With no clear means to advance an apparent stalemate, Russian troops have regularly attacked neighborhoods, hospitals, and supermarkets. Project HOPE is receiving requests from hospitals in Mykolaiv for blood bags and body bags.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCR) estimates that 691 civilians have died and 1,143 more have been injured in the conflict. The agency cautions actual figures are likely higher because limited access has limited reporting. Most casualties were attributed to “use of explosive weapons with a wide impact area,” such as heavy artillery shells, missiles, and airstrikes.

The UK Ministry of Defense announced on March 17 that Russian forces are resorting to older, less precise weaponry in recent fighting. The ministry said this development is likely to increase civilian casualties going forward.

Widespread destruction of essential infrastructure and the targeting of residential neighborhoods, hospitals, and schools has devastated populations across the country. Moreover, civilians trapped in besieged areas face shortages of food and medical supplies. Project HOPE’s partners are reporting more and more communities experiencing food shortages.

In a March 16 statement, OHCR cautioned that the conflict poses particularly serious risks for some of the most vulnerable populations. In particular, the agency declared, “Armed conflict and displacement heightens risks of all forms of sexual violence, including trafficking in persons.” OHCR also highlighted the profound vulnerability of separated children to violence and abuse.

**HUMANITARIAN NEEDS**

Over three million Ukrainians have fled to neighboring countries in the past month. As in recent weeks, the majority headed to Poland, now home to 1.9 million or 60% of the total. Some estimates project the conflict could produce up to 10 million refugees.

Hundreds of thousands of potential refugees are believed to be trapped in Ukraine because they cannot access safe passage out. In his appeal to U.S. Congress, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said evacuation corridors failed on Wednesday because Russian forces would not cease shelling. Throughout the conflict, Russia has repeatedly reneged on agreements to enable civilians to escape areas under siege.

Because men of fighting age are not allowed to leave Ukraine, its refugee population consists almost exclusively of women, children, and older people. According to the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), 75,000 children have become refugees—the equivalent of 55 children every minute since the start of the invasion.

The demographics of refugees, as well as their exposure to violence and risk of separation, exposes them to extensive mental health and protection risks. Moreover, good-natured efforts by local communities to take in refugees has made it difficult to track their movements and needs shortly after they arrive abroad.

In addition to the ongoing threat of violence, Ukrainians who remain in country face a rapidly deteriorating situation. Fighting has already taken an extensive toll on civilian infrastructure, from schools and hospitals, to gas and electricity lines. Disrupted supply chains have cut off some to essential goods and services—including food and medicine.
PROJECT HOPE RESPONSE

Project HOPE’s Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) in Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Ukraine continue to scale up response to the unfolding crisis. We’re coordinating with local NGOs, hospitals, and government officials across each country, as well as the WHO Health and Logistics Clusters, UNHCR-led Protection Cluster, Ministries of Health, and other authorities.

The twenty-two pallets of medicines and supplies delivered into Lviv earlier this week have been split between two hospitals in Lviv and Vinnitsa. Project HOPE is facilitating the transport of five pallets of anesthesia and injectables from Krakow into Lviv this week, as well. Additional Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHKs) will be transported into Ukraine next week, as well as International Health Partner UK’s Emergency Health Packs and other supplies.

In partnership with SAMU (Servicios de Asistencia Medica de Urgencias), Project HOPE’s team in Moldova has provided medical assistance at three refugee recipient centers. The team is exploring opportunities to expand coverage and provide mental health support.

To date, interventions have included provision of essential pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, and consumables as well as hygiene kits and other nonfood items (NFIs). Project HOPE’s teams are also working with partners and developing action plans to address health, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), NFIs, protection, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs in Ukraine and among refugees.

In Ukraine, Project HOPE’s activities include:

• Successful delivery of two shipments this week into a supported health facility in Lviv. Additional deliveries will take place in the coming days.
• Providing a grant to a Ukrainian non-governmental organization to purchase and transport pharmaceuticals and medical supplies to civilian hospitals.
• Assessment of hospitals and health facilities to determine needs and how best Project HOPE and partners can fulfill gaps.

In Moldova, Project HOPE’s activities include:

• Supporting SAMU’s mobile medical team to serve refugees crossing the Ukraine/Moldova border as per the request of WHO and the Moldovan Ministry of Health.
• Procurement and delivery of key NFIs (blankets, bedding, towels) to the Ministry of Social Protection to serve refugees.
• Establishing supply lines into Ukraine to support health facilities.
• Mobilization of an IEHK and insulin to the Ministry of Health to support refugees.

In Poland, Project HOPE’s activities include:

• Establishing warehouse space and 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 explore training opportunities for medical personnel.
• Assessing needs and contingency planning for health facilities in Poland as refugee numbers increase demand on the Polish health system.

• Assessing protection and mental health needs and identifying local NGOs to provide support to in this sector.

In Romania, Project HOPE’s activities include:

• Supporting local NGOs to provide mental health support to refugees and respond to hygiene/shelter needs.

• 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 Ukraine, 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.

---

1 https://www.cnn.com/2022/03/16/europe/russia-invasion-ukraine-03-16-intl/index.html
2 https://www.cnn.com/2022/03/16/europe/russia-invasion-ukraine-03-16-intl/index.html
3 https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-zelenskyy-kyiv-europe-congress-058c8b72b81044f861b30b7ceb500a15
5 https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/03/16/world/ukraine-russia-war
7 https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/particularly-shocking-every-single-minute-55-children-have-fled-their-country