**KEY HIGHLIGHTS**

- Over 3.6 million refugees have fled Ukraine, and Project HOPE continues to provide support in Moldova, Romania, and Poland.
- Project HOPE is working closely with a partner in Ukraine to provide key medical supplies to hospitals and health facilities in need.
- Project HOPE is working with Service d’Aide Médicale Urgente (SAMU) to facilitate 24/7 health coverage at refugee reception sites near the Ukrainian border in Moldova.
- Project HOPE is working closely with Krakow Children’s Hospital to create a ward for Ukrainian children in response to the surge of patients the hospital is seeing.

**SITUATION OVERVIEW**

During the reporting period, Russian forces were forced to withdraw from territory at several prized locations that had been seized in prior weeks. The setbacks have not, however, been accompanied by a reduction in fighting. On the contrary, the Ukrainian military reported a buildup of Russian and Belarussian military equipment along the Ukrainian border with Belarus.

In Kyiv, the country’s capital, Ukrainian forces successfully countered a Russian advance, driving occupying troops from a strategic suburb (Makariv) and thwarting their efforts to surround the city from the northwest.1

To the east, Kharkiv—Ukraine’s second largest city—remains subjected to “near-constant shelling.” At least half-a-million residents have fled the fighting2 and many others have sought shelter from bombardment underground.3 Kharkiv’s mayor said that almost 1,000 of the city’s residential buildings have been destroyed.4

In the south, battles still rage in Mykolaiv—among the first regional capitals to come under attack since the February 24 invasion. Though Russian troops had previously taken the city’s center, they have since been forced back by Ukrainian forces. The city is considered a strategic point in Russia’s westward push toward Odessa.5

The humanitarian situation in Mauripol, which has been completely surrounded by Russian forces for weeks, continues to deteriorate. Mauripol has become a symbol of the entire conflicts’ devastation—maternity wards, shelters, and other civilian locations have been devastated by attacks, severely hindering the populations’ ability to meet basic needs. Up to 200,000 civilians are believed to be trapped in the city. They face...
diminishing access to water, food, medicine, and other essentials as the Russian military continues to block efforts to bring goods inside and to let civilians flee.\textsuperscript{vi}

This week, the United States joined NGOs and international agencies in accusing Russia of committing violations of the rules of war and human rights—including usage of internationally banned weaponry (e.g., cluster munitions) and deliberately targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure.\textsuperscript{viii} At least 64 attacks on medical facilities alone have been confirmed to date by the World Health Organization (WHO)\textsuperscript{x} and a major news outlet has documented at least 1,500 instances of civilian buildings, structures, and vehicles being damaged or destroyed by fighting.\textsuperscript{v} The International Criminal Court has reportedly opened a formal investigation into these allegations.\textsuperscript{vi} Meanwhile, calls continue to pressure Russia to allow trapped civilians safe passage from active fighting and to allow delivery of essential supplies in besieged cities.

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) says it can confirm 977 civilians deaths and 1,594 who have been injured in the conflict. However, the agency cautions actual figures are likely to be higher.\textsuperscript{xi} In addition, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) estimates that 7,000-15,000 Russian troops may have died in fighting and another 30,000-40,000 have been injured.\textsuperscript{xi}

**HUMANITARIAN NEEDS**

According to the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR), more than 3.6 million Ukrainians have fled fighting in their homeland in the past month. Poland has received the most refugees (over 2.1 million), followed by Romania (555,000) and Moldova (371,104).\textsuperscript{xv} OCHA has reported in cluster meetings that 175,000 Ukrainians have been displaced to Lviv. UNHCR has reported that an evacuation bus from Mariupol was seized this week, and Donetsk is suffering from decreasing water supplies and an increase in looting. UNHCR has also reported in cluster meetings that there is a possible rotavirus outbreak among children at Tesco Reception Center in Przemyśl, Poland.

Although neighboring countries have made commendable effort in receiving the immense and sudden influx, a rapid, comprehensive scale up of humanitarian response is needed to address present and projected needs. Some international relief agencies have estimated the number of refugees may reach 10 million if the conflict continues unabated.

Among the Ukrainian refugee population are an estimated 1.5 million children. The large number of unaccompanied children documented at reception sites across the Ukrainian border and trends of newly arrived refugees being taken in among local communities raises significant protection concerns. UNICEF has documented 500 unaccompanied children arriving in Romania alone.\textsuperscript{xv}

In addition to the unique protection concerns of separated minors, other highly vulnerable populations—including women and older persons—have been prevalent among the refugee influx. All are in needs of protection and—because of the traumas endured—mental health and psychosocial support.

In addition to the burgeoning refugee numbers, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), estimates some 12 million Ukrainians are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. Among this population is 6.5 million Ukrainians have been internally displaced by the conflict. As the conflict has spread to all major urban centers, their access to safety, shelter, and basic necessities is severely hindered.\textsuperscript{xvi}

**PROJECT HOPE RESPONSE**

Project HOPE’s dual approach to the impact of the conflict has focused on providing support inside Ukraine through medical resupply as well as mental health and
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Protection initiatives, as well as support to the refugee populations in Moldova, Poland, and Romania.

In Poland, we’re working with Krakow Children’s Hospital to supply a new ward for Ukrainian children, including the procurement of pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, and more. The surge of additional patients to the hospitals has necessitated additional space and personnel to serve the Ukrainian population, and Project HOPE has had an extensive, multi-decade relationship with Krakow Children’s Hospital. In Romania, we’ve provided grants to two organizations providing key support to refugees, and are working with additional partners to support their programming, as well. Jesuit Refugee Services – Romania (JRS-R) is housing dozens of refugees, mostly women and children, in a converted hotel. Project HOPE is providing key support to the organization to provide hygiene items as well as to support the staff working at the shelter.

Project HOPE is also working with Estuar Foundation in Romania to provide mental health training to health professionals and providing mental health consultations to Ukrainian refugees in Romania.

Project HOPE continues to expand our partnerships and activities across the region:

In Ukraine, Project HOPE’s activities include:

- Partnering with a non-governmental organization to purchase, warehouse, and transport pharmaceuticals and medical supplies in coordination with the Ukrainian Ministry of Health.
- Conducting assessments of existing support mechanisms in Lviv and other areas of Ukraine 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 non-food items (blankets, bedding, towels) to the Ministry of Social Protection to serve refugees.
- Sourcing of key medical supplies to support the Moldovan Ministry of Health

In Poland, Project HOPE’s activities include:

- Key support to Krakow Children’s Hospital to create a ward specifically for Ukrainian children
- 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.
- Establishing warehouse space and a sustainable logistics corridor into Ukraine.
- Assessing protection and mental health needs and identifying local NGOs to provide support to in this sector.

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.
- Establishment of relationship with key partner to send supplies into Ukraine.
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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10. https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-ukraine-ukraine-zelenskyy-kyiv-europe-nato-e35e54b40359e52f3fdd4911577b669a