

# Conflict in Ukraine

## Situation Report #12



5 April 2022

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Project HOPE's teams in Ukraine and three bordering countries continue to scale up operations to meet the growing needs of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and other groups impacted by the crisis.
- Depending on local needs, Project HOPE is providing health, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and other basic services to highly vulnerable populations.
- Trauma, separations, instability, and other stressors are making MHPSS needs among the most urgent for refugees.
- Over 4.2 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.



A shipment of pharmaceuticals and consumables is received in Moldova this week. The items will be used by medical teams providing health services for newly arrived refugees at border reception centers.

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

In the past few days, Russian forces appeared to disengage from Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, and surrounding areas. The withdrawal has allowed for a clearer picture of the devastation wreaked since the incursion began on February 24.<sup>i</sup>

Analysts warn Russia's tactical shift is not necessarily the beginning of de-escalation, particularly as there has been little progress in peace talks. Instead, it is likely Russian forces are regrouping in response to recent stalls and losses with an intention to either return to Kyiv or concentrate their efforts in other parts of the country.<sup>ii</sup>

Newly released video of the town of Bucha, located north of Kyiv, showed the bodies of at least nine civilians, including one child, lying in the street shortly after Russia forces withdrew from the area. Bucha's mayor told news outlets that some 270 residents were later found buried in two graves. He estimates 40 bodies have been left in the streets.<sup>iii</sup> Evidence is growing that residents were fired upon "purposely and indiscriminately" as Russian troops exited the town.

Devastating reports from Bucha and other parts of the country from which Russian forces have withdrawn have invigorated international demands for an investigation into Russian human rights violations.<sup>iv</sup>

To date, there have been credible reports of indiscriminate shelling in civilian areas, use of internationally banned weaponry, and forced transportation of Ukrainian civilians by Russian troops. On April 3, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky described the Russian assault on his country as a genocide. Russia has dismissed such allegations as "provocation".<sup>v</sup>

As Russian forces withdraw from the north, fighting is expected to escalate in Ukraine's east and south—which have been heavily targeted since the early days of the invasion.<sup>vi</sup>

This week, a humanitarian effort to evacuate citizens of Mariupol was denied by intense fighting in the area. The International Red Cross has also said one of its evacuation teams, charged with helping civilians flee areas that are either besieged or regularly under attack, is being detained outside Mariupol. It is not clear who has detained them.<sup>vii</sup> Russian forces have surrounded the southeastern port city for over a month, cutting off supplies of food and other essentials and trapping 130,000 civilians.<sup>viii</sup>

Nearby, in Odessa, Russian forces struck an oil refinery and nearby fuel storage facilities on Sunday. The city's council said Odessa was attacked from the air, causing fires in several areas.<sup>x</sup>

The United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR) has been tracking casualties of the Ukrainian crisis. As of April 3, OHCHR recorded 1,430 civilian deaths and 2,097 injuries—though the agency cautions actual numbers are likely much higher. Explosive ordnance were the most common cause of reported casualties.<sup>xi</sup>

The conflict has devastated Ukraine's civilian infrastructure—hospitals, schools, residential areas, and utility works have been damaged or destroyed by aerial attacks. In addition, disruption of supply chains and heavy fighting has limited civilians' ability to flee as well as distribution of goods, including food and medication.

Massive displacement, moreover, has exacerbated risks faced by already vulnerable populations. Displacement to date has largely impacted women, increasingly their exposure to gender-based violence and human trafficking. Children, older people, and other at-risk populations have also been disproportionately impacted. These groups have significant MHPSS and protection needs that are only likely to increase in the coming months.<sup>xii</sup>

## HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

More than 4.2 million Ukrainians<sup>xiii</sup>—over a quarter of the entire population<sup>xiv</sup>—have fled their country since the Russian incursion began. To date, Poland has received more than half (over 2.5 million) of these refugees, followed by Romania (over 640,000) and the Republic of Moldova (almost 400,000). On a daily basis, the influx continues at an unwieldy pace. Some estimate the conflict may produce up to 10 million refugees if it is allowed to continue.<sup>xv</sup>

To date, neighboring countries have made a commendable effort to support Ukrainian refugees. Nonetheless, the large—and ever growing—number of arrivals threatens to overwhelm local infrastructure. Already, local facilities are struggling to keep up with demand for certain medical and MHPSS needs. In addition, the overwhelming number of women, children, older persons and other vulnerable groups among refugees means that many are at risk of human trafficking, gender-based violence (GBV), and other protection concerns.

Trends of local communities taking refugees into their homes has made tracking such needs and providing support all the more difficult. In response, UN agencies have launched "Blue Dot" hubs to provide assistance—including protection and MHPSS—to at-risk populations.<sup>xvi</sup>

The situation is even more dire for those who remain in Ukraine. Some 6.5 million Ukrainians have been internally displaced by fighting.<sup>xvii</sup> Another 13 million are believed to be trapped or stranded in areas of active conflict due to heavy fighting, destruction of bridges and roads, active blockades, or lack of resources or information necessary to facilitate safe transport and shelter.<sup>xviii</sup>

Most population centers have experienced damage to infrastructure—from roads and bridges to hospitals and utility works. Obstruction to the supply chain has left many without secure access to food, water, medicine and other essentials.

## PROJECT HOPE RESPONSE

Project HOPE continues to scale up operations in Eastern Europe to respond to the ongoing humanitarian crisis. Teams in Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Ukraine bring technical knowledge on health, MHPSS, protection, and other sectors with considerable field experience, and a strong relationship with local and international actors to forge a targeted and comprehensive response. Some of these partnerships far precede the crisis, such as support to the University Children's Hospital in Krakow, which spans across five decades.

As a result, Project HOPE is able to quickly identify emerging gaps in areas of operation. Most recently, Project HOPE has been coordinating with UN agencies to identify where we can support Blue Dot initiatives. Each country team closely collaborates with one another—as well as with coordination clusters, UN agencies, and local governments—to adapt programming that supports both beneficiaries and aligns with overall response efforts.

Project HOPE's current programming spans provision of pharmaceuticals, consumables, medical equipment, and technical support to health facilities treating conflict-affected populations, facilitation of MHPSS and protection services, and procurement and distribution of essential supplies, including non-food item (NFI) and hygiene kits.

### In Ukraine, Project HOPE's activities include:

- Partnering with a non-governmental organization to purchase and transport pharmaceuticals and medical supplies across Ukraine.
- This coming week, Project HOPE is transporting 100 pallets of pharmaceuticals and supplies, including insulin, needles, sutures, and gauzes into Lviv for onward distribution westward.
- Conducting assessments of health facilities to determine needs and how Project HOPE and partners can best fulfill gaps.

### In Moldova, Project HOPE's activities include:

- Delivery of an Interagency Emergency Health Kit (IEHK) to the Ministry of Health.
- 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.
- Mobilization of insulin to the Ministry of Health.

### In Poland, Project HOPE's activities include:

- Identification of key partners for MHPSS.
- Extensive support to University Children's Hospital in Krakow, including medical supplies for a Ukrainian children's ward and psychosocial support.
- 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.
- Participating and collaboration within the cluster system.

### In Romania, Project HOPE's activities include:

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

- Sourcing wheelchairs, 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.
- Mobilization of medical supplies to send 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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- <sup>i</sup> <https://www.npr.org/2022/04/02/1090448712/russian-forces-appear-to-be-withdrawing-from-kyiv-moving-to-cities-in-south-and->
- <sup>ii</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/04/03/world/ukraine-russia-war>
- <sup>iii</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukrainian-mayor-shows-dead-bodies-liberated-city-bucha-2022-04-03/>
- <sup>iv</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/04/04/russia-ukraine-war-news-putin-live-updates/>
- <sup>v</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/4/3/ukraines-president-calls-civilian-killings-by-russia-genocide>
- <sup>vi</sup> <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ukraine-russia-focus-mariupol-odesa/>
- <sup>vii</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/04/04/russia-ukraine-war-news-putin-live-updates/#link-3X3AO5GYL5FTFPXPTSNNKGN554>
- <sup>viii</sup> <https://www.npr.org/2022/04/02/1090448712/russian-forces-appear-to-be-withdrawing-from-kyiv-moving-to-cities-in-south-and->
- <sup>ix</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/04/04/russia-ukraine-war-news-putin-live-updates/>
- <sup>x</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/04/03/odessa-ukraine-russian-strikes-port/>
- <sup>xi</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2022/04/ukraine-civilian-casualty-update-4-april-2022>
- <sup>xii</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Ukraine%20-%20Humanitarian%20Impact%20Situation%20Report%20%28As%20of%201200%20p.m.%20%28EET%29%20on%201%20April%202022%29.pdf>
- <sup>xiii</sup> <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>
- <sup>xiv</sup> <https://reporting.unhcr.org/document/2030>
- <sup>xv</sup> <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>
- <sup>xvi</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/press/2016/2/56d011e79/unhcr-unesf-launch-blue-dot-hubs-boost-protection-children-families-move.html>
- <sup>xvii</sup> <https://dtm.iom.int/ukraine>
- <sup>xviii</sup> <https://reporting.unhcr.org/document/2030>

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