

Conflict in Ukraine

Situation Report #14

22 April 2022

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 5 million refugees have fled Ukraine since the Russian invasion in late February.
- Senior members of Project HOPE's global team conducted onsite visits at areas of operation in Poland, Romania, and Poland to strategize scale ups as the crisis continues.
- Regionally, Project HOPE is working on scaling up programming with existing partners while continuing to identify new ones.
- Inside Ukraine, Project HOPE is collaborating with government officials to identify gaps in training for health care workers to respond to the most recent crisis



Project HOPE CEO and President Rabih Torbay traveled through Ukraine last week to meet with government and health officials.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Fighting in Ukraine has been primarily concentrated in the countries east—namely Izium and Donetsk—over the past week, according to a 20 April Civilian-Military Coordination briefing in Rzeszow, Poland. So far, Russia has only made minor gains in this so-called “Battle for Donbas”.ⁱ However, analysts anticipate that Russia has yet to pull all its forces into the effort and anticipate a rapid escalation in the coming weeks.ⁱⁱ

Meanwhile, fighting continues in the besieged city of Mariupol. Located along Ukraine's southeast coast, this port city has been surrounded by Russian troops for almost two months. Only limited evacuations have taken place there to date—leaving tens of thousands of civilians trapped and without access to essential goods and services. The situation is unlikely to improve as Russian and Ukrainian forces appear to be in a deadly standoff over this strategic location.ⁱⁱⁱ

After some successful evacuations from the city, the number of new Mariupol evacuees has started to decrease. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), this is because Russian forces have begun collecting information on those wishing to flee in a large database—the

Response Updates

- ERTs in Ukraine, Poland, Romania and Moldova
- EMTs in Romania and Moldova serving refugees
- 6 hospitals in Ukraine supported with 150+ pallets of medicines and supplies including items such as:
 - 8 IEHKs
 - 45 EHPs
 - 5 TESKs
 - 7,900+ doses of insulin
 - 15,000 prenatal supplements
 - 5,000 COVID-19 tests
 - 1,280+ infant kits
 - 2,000 hygiene kits

effort is considerably slow and resulting in queues exceeding 5,000 at each collection site.^{iv} Men under 65 years of age are not allowed to sign up to be evacuated.

With fighting concentrated in the east, notable attacks are still taking place elsewhere—including airstrikes in Lviv over the weekend. The attacks are of significant concern as Lviv has been a major hub for internally displaced persons (IDPs) because of its perceived relative security.

At the Civilian-Military Coordination briefing, analysts shared that recent attacks in the west and north, as exhibited in Lviv, have been targeted, including launching of rockets at railway points to block aid. They forecast that strikes aimed at high-value targets (e.g., airfields, petroleum storage sites) would continue but that larger-scale bombardments were unlikely while Russian forces remain largely positioned in the east.

Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, is not receiving IDPs due to security concerns, according to a UNHCR protection officer.^v Although Russia has largely pulled back from the city for the time being, new reports of found bodies—some with signs of torture—continue to emerge.

The conflict has displaced 7.1 million Ukrainians to date. The most pressing needs among this population are cash and financial support, transportation, food, shelter, and hygiene items. Many are also in need of medicines and health services.^{vi} The humanitarian conditions for those who remain in their homes are also severe. Over 1.4 million people are without running water in Eastern Ukraine and an additional 1.6 million across the country are in immediate risk of losing their access. Many others face significant protection, food, and health risks.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Hostilities in Ukraine have forced over 5 million people to flee their homeland. Over half of this population (2.8 million) are living in Poland. Romania has received over 750,000 and Moldova has received almost 430,000.^{vii} Some forecasts estimate the conflict could produce up to 10 million refugees if the situation continues to deteriorate.

Commendable efforts by bordering countries to support Ukrainian refugees are already taking a toll on local infrastructure and communities. In countries such as Moldova, essential supplies (e.g., insulin) are becoming scarce or incredibly costly. Even in Poland, health facilities are struggling to meet an influx of communicable, chronic, and advanced health conditions. All bordering countries are struggling to find enough licensed professionals to provide essential mental health and psychosocial services (MHPSS), such as psychological first aid (PFA). Meanwhile, the arrival of highly vulnerable populations Ukraine—especially women, children, and unaccompanied minors from—poses severe protection risks, particularly for human trafficking and gender-based violence.

The situation is even more dire for those who remain in Ukraine. As hostilities increase, access to basic human needs is becoming more and more difficult.

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's response in the region continues to grow in response to the ongoing humanitarian crisis. Our teams in Moldova, Poland, Romania and Ukraine Project HOPE continues to scale up operations in Eastern Europe to respond to the ongoing humanitarian crisis. We are working closely with government officials and established NGOs, as well as our own technical team, to bring high-quality programming to those in need.

Project HOPE is identifying both medium-term and long-term strategy in conjunction with government leaders and existing actors. We will support the Ukrainian population throughout both the emergency and the recovery phases, and are developing and preparing multiple plans of action dependent on how the situation on the ground evolves.

Ukraine Response Updates

Last week, Project HOPE's President and CEO, Rabih Torbay, traveled throughout Ukraine with Project HOPE's Country Director, including to Kyiv and Bucha, to assess needs and meet with Ministry of Health, other government officials, hospital leadership, and local authorities. More about this trip can be found in an essay written by Torbay [here](#).

Project HOPE's support to health facilities and IDPs in Ukraine continues to scale-up in response to the overwhelming needs. Recent and ongoing activities include:

- Establishing focus on three hubs of support in West Ukraine, East Ukraine, and Kyiv area with potential expansion to Odessa and Kherson and other areas as security allows
- Importation of over 150 pallets of medicine and medical supplies to date, including Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHKs), Essential Health Packs (EHPs), Trauma and Emergency Surgery Kits (TESKs), first aid kits, prenatal supplements, hygiene kits and infant kits. These supplies have been delivered to hospitals across Lviv, Kyiv, Cherkasy, Poltava and Kharkiv.
- Establishing a trauma care training model to roll out to medical professionals on the front lines

Moldova Response Updates

- Delivery of an Interagency Emergency Health Kit (IEHK) and mobilization of an insulin shipment to the Ministry of Health to support refugees.
- Procurement of over 300 wheelchairs to be distributed to a local organization serving Ukrainian refugees.

- Supporting SAMU's Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) to serve refugees crossing the Ukraine/Moldova border as per the request of the WHO and Moldovan Ministry of Health. **Most prevalent diagnoses have included hypertension, upper respiratory infections and acute mental health issues.**
- Developing programming for partners to provide Mental Health support to refugees.

Poland Response Updates

- Provision of a grant to University Children's Hospital – Krakow to support their Ukrainian children's ward.
- Development of Mental Health and Protection programming with partners to support Ukrainian refugees in Poland.

Romania Response Updates

- Expanding current support of local NGOs to provide further mental health support to refugees in shelters and community centers.
- Provision of hygiene kits – including toothpaste, toothbrushes, diapers, and more – for refugees in Romania.
- Establishing key relationships to delivery 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.

ⁱ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/4/19/russia-has-begun-battle-for-donbas-in-ukraines-east-zelenskyy>
ⁱⁱ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/apr/21/ukraine-access-weapons-determine-fate-donbas-offensive>
ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/04/21/world/ukraine-russia-war-news>
^{iv} 21 Apr 2022 Humanitarian Information Sharing Session, Rzeszow, Poland
^v 21 Apr 2022 Humanitarian Information Sharing Session, Rzeszow, Poland
^{vi} <https://www.iom.int/news/71-million-people-displaced-war-ukraine-iom-survey>
^{vii} <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>

Contact Information

Adib Fletcher
 Director of Humanitarian Response
afletcher@projecthope.org
 +1 (202) 893-9701

