

# Conflict in Ukraine

## Situation Report #15

28 April 2022

project  
**HOPE**  
Emergency  
Response

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Project HOPE continues to expand its mental health interventions in bordering countries while expanding its programmatic footprint inside Ukraine, as well.
- Project HOPE has begun rehabilitation of a hospital in Irpin that was heavily damaged in the conflict.
- Over 7 million Ukrainians have been displaced to date.

### 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”.<sup>i</sup> However, analysts anticipate that Russia has yet to pull all its forces into the effort and anticipate a rapid escalation in the coming weeks.<sup>ii</sup>

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.<sup>iii</sup>

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 effort is considerably slow and resulting in queues exceeding 5,000 at each collection site.<sup>iv</sup> 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.



*Project HOPE's Senior Program Advisor, Chessa Latifi, visits a shelter in Bucharest where Project HOPE has provided hygiene kits and is expanding support to a community center in the coming weeks.*

Credit: Morgan Loomis for Project HOPE, April 2022

Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, is not receiving IDPs due to security concerns, according to a UNHCR protection officer.<sup>v</sup> 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.<sup>vi</sup> 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.<sup>vii</sup> 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—especially women, children, and unaccompanied minors from Ukraine—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 expansive work in the region continues, with our teams in Moldova, Poland, Romania and Ukraine alleviating the effects of the conflict through medical resupply, mental health service provision, and primary health care. We continue to work closely with local and international actors for a targeted and comprehensive response, participating in coordination clusters and working with UN agencies and local governments. We've adapted our programming to support both beneficiaries and align 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:

- Importing over 100 pallets of medicine and medical supplies, including insulin, needles, hygiene kits, and more, into Lviv for onward distribution westward to hospitals in need.
- Identifying hospitals and schools in the Kharkiv area for rehabilitation.
- **Beginning a rehabilitation of hospital in Irpin.**
- Expanding our offices from Lviv to include Kyiv and Dnipro.

#### **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 the WHO and Moldovan Ministry of Health. SAMU is the only EMT providing services to refugees in Chisinau.
- **Working with two local NGOs to launch a mental health response in central Moldova and in border towns and villages.**
- NFI kits have been procured for distribution to shelters, women and child centers, and other facilities services mothers and children.

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

- Provision of a grant to University Children's Hospital – Krakow to support their Ukrainian children's ward.
- **The development of a partnership with a local organization providing key mental health services to refugees in Krakow.**
- Assessing needs and contingency planning for health facilities in Poland as refugee numbers increase demand on the Polish health system.

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

- **Support four local NGOs to provide mental health and primary health support to refugees as well as hygiene needs. One of these NGOs has provided crisis intervention trainings for over 1000 participants, and is preparing a workshop in May for refugee mothers titled "How to Talk to Your Children about War." Another partner is providing free consultations with a primary health care physician and a psychiatrists for refugees in the Bucharest area.**
- Distribution of hygiene kits – including toothpaste, toothbrushes, diapers, and more – for refugees in Romania.
- Delivery of medical vacuum pumps into Romania for onward distribution to Odessa hospitals.

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.aljazeera.com/news/2022/4/19/russia-has-begun-battle-for-donbas-in-ukraines-east-zelenskyy>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/apr/21/ukraine-access-weapons-determine-fate-donbas-offensive>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/04/21/world/ukraine-russia-war-news>

<sup>iv</sup> 21 Apr 2022 Humanitarian Information Sharing Session, Rzeszow, Poland

<sup>v</sup> 21 Apr 2022 Humanitarian Information Sharing Session, Rzeszow, Poland

<sup>vi</sup> <https://www.iom.int/news/71-million-people-displaced-war-ukraine-iom-survey>

<sup>vii</sup> <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>

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