

Conflict in Ukraine

Situation Report #17

12 May 2022



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- 14 million Ukrainians, over 30 percent of the population, have been displaced internally or to other countries as a direct consequence of ongoing hostilities in their country.
- Project HOPE's teams in Ukraine as well as Moldova, Poland and Romania continue to provide emergency interventions for conflict-affected populations
- Project HOPE has several rehabilitation projects completed and underway, including a hospital in Irpin and a hospital in Bucha.
- Project HOPE has begun trauma-response training for physicians in Iraq as the start of a country-wide training program.



SITUATION OVERVIEW

During the reporting period, Russian forces made advances in southern Ukraine toward Kherson. The port city sustained an intense, week-long aerial assault by Russia, which U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken called “shameful”. Heavy bombardment widely impacted civilians and forced a hospital to relocate its children’s cancer ward in the midst of aerial fire.ⁱ

Meanwhile, Russia continues to signal intent to annex Kherson. A pro-Moscow official told state news agencies that the Russian-occupied region plans to formally request to join Russia soon.ⁱⁱ

However, Russian gains were significantly stalled or pushed back in other parts of the country, in part due to substantial fuel and food shortages as well as low morale among troops. Following a withdrawal from major western and northern urban areas a few weeks ago, a convoy of Russian combat vehicles is reportedly struggling to return to Kyiv, the capital.ⁱⁱⁱ

A Ukrainian counteroffensive continued in the country’s northeast, where fighting concentrated around Kharkiv, its second largest city. Ukrainian military officials reportedly pushed back Russian counterparts in the area and reclaimed the village of Pytomnyk.^{iv}

Farther east, Ukrainian forces allegedly neutralized a Russian army battalion consisting of 50 vehicles and as many as one thousand troops while it was crossing a pontoon bridge on the Siverskyi Donetsk River.^v

Project HOPE has expanded operations across Ukraine.

Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, a close ally of President Vladimir Putin, said ongoing efforts by Western countries to supply Ukraine with weapons “increase the likelihood of a direct and open conflict between NATO and Russia,” which runs “the risk of tuning into a full-fledged nuclear war”.

The statement was the most direct threat to date by Russia of escalating the conflict. Analysts say Medvedev’s action was motivated by Finnish leaders, who have issued a statement indicating their support for an application to join NATO.^{vi}

Meanwhile, an investigation by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR) in the city of Mariupol, which had been besieged by Russian forces for two months, appeared to support ongoing allegations of war crimes and human rights abuses by Russian forces.^{vii}

The previous week UN teams visited 14 town and villages around Kyiv and Chernihiv, where they heard first-hand accounts of residents being “killed, injured, detained, and disappeared.” A UNHCR spokesperson reported that over 1,000 civilian bodies have been found to date in Kyiv alone. While some died immediately from conflict-related injuries, others are believed to have died due to stress from hostilities and lack of medical aid. Some appeared to have been tortured.^{viii}

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

According to UNHCR, almost 6 million Ukrainians have fled hostilities in their country.^{ix} Another 8 million have been internally displaced.^x

To date, Poland is the largest recipient of refugees—more than 3.2 million to date. Romania has received almost 900,000. Large concentrations of Internally displaced persons (IDPs) have relocated to northern and western cities, where fighting is less intense. Lviv, the largest city in the west, has become a functional IDP hub. Local authorities are struggling to support the newcomers.

Despite ongoing efforts to evacuate Ukrainians from besieged and dangerous areas, an unknown number are trapped by ongoing fighting or limited access. Recent, high profile evacuations from Mariupol have brought light to some of the risks faced by those who are cut off from the rest of the country and often in active conflict zones. However, the actual number of trapped civilians is unknown.^{xi}

A nationwide rapid assessment conducted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) revealed a 24-percent increase in IDPs since mid-March. The study found urgent and growing needs across humanitarian sectors, including food, non-food and hygiene items, health support, cash, shelter, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).^{xii}

In a speech this week, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet said there “seems to be no end in sight to daily reports of civilian deaths and injuries.” The agency’s ongoing monitoring mission has documented 180 cases of arbitrary detentions and disappearances as well as reports of sexual violence by parties on both sides of the conflict.^{xiii}



Project HOPE is partnering with ICAR Foundation in Romania, where ICAR is providing mental health support, hygiene items, and medical consultations at the Siret border crossing in Romania.

A total of 3,496 persons killed and 3,760 persons injured have been reported by a UN agency monitoring casualties in the Ukraine conflict. However, most experts anticipate this number to be significantly below the true figure due to reporting constraints. The majority of reported casualties were a direct result of conflict-related injuries.^{xiv}

PROJECT HOPE RESPONSE

Project HOPE continues to implement a highly coordinated, comprehensive humanitarian intervention in Ukraine and neighboring countries. Emergency programming in Ukraine focuses support to local primary and secondary health facilities through essential medical equipment and supplies. The refugee response in Moldova, Poland, and Romania have identified local partners to target gaps in essential services, including primary health, MHPSS, and protection.

In all locations, Project HOPE continues to work closely with government officials, local partners, and coordination clusters to ensure efforts address most pressing needs.

In Ukraine, Project HOPE's activities include:

- Importing over 200 pallets of medicine and medical supplies, including insulin, needles, hygiene kits, and more, into Lviv for onward distribution westward to hospitals in need.
- **Training for Orthopedic Management of Ballistic Fractures in Lviv Hospital; expansion of additional trauma injury training across Ukraine**
- **Beginning rehabilitation of a hospital in Irpin and a kindergarten in Zagalci; completion of a rehabilitation of a hospital in Bucha**
- Created four humanitarian response hubs (Kyiv, Lviv, Dnipro and Odessa) with a dedicated warehouse and full team

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.**
- Support to the Ministry of Health through procurement of supplies and pharmaceuticals, including insulin.
- 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.
- **A \$250,000 grant to Podkarpackie Stowarzyszenie dla Aktywnych Rodzin (PSAR) for provision of mental health support to Ukrainian refugees in Poland.**
- Assessing needs and contingency planning for health facilities in Poland as refugee numbers increase demand on the Polish health system.



Project HOPE rehabilitated a hospital in Bucha that had been damaged by Russian forces.

In Romania, Project HOPE's activities include:

- Continued support to four local NGOs providing key health and mental health care to refugees.
- 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.

ⁱ https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/03/02/ukraine-battlefield-military-offensive-kherson/?itid=lk_inline_manual_2

ⁱⁱ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/05/12/russia-ukraine-war-news-live-updates/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/03/02/ukraine-battlefield-military-offensive-kherson/>

^{iv} <https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/314800757499676>

^v <https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidaxe/2022/05/11/the-russians-lost-nearly-an-entire-battalion-trying-to-cross-a-river-in-eastern-ukraine/?sh=d52b6191689a>

^{vi} <https://www.cnbc.com/2022/05/12/russia-ukraine-live-updates.html>

^{vii} <https://www.cnn.com/europe/live-news/russia-ukraine-war-news-05-12-22/index.html>

^{viii} <https://www.cnn.com/europe/live-news/russia-ukraine-war-news-05-12-22/index.html>

^{ix} <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>

^x <https://www.iom.int/news/needs-growing-over-8-million-internally-displaced-ukraine>

^{xi} <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/05/05/russia-ukraine-war-news-putin-live-updates/>

^{xii} <https://displacement.iom.int/reports/ukraine-internal-displacement-report-general-population-survey-round-4-29-april-3-may-2022>

^{xiii} <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/05/05/russia-ukraine-war-news-putin-live-updates/>

^{xiv} <https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2022/05/ukraine-civilian-casualty-update-11-may-2022>

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