KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Project HOPE has launched multiple mobile medical units (MMUs) in Ukraine to provide primary health care to populations impacted by the violence.
- Project HOPE has completed multiple rehabilitations of medical facilities in Ukraine, and has begun several other reconstruction projects to reinstate health services to the population.
- Violence continues to escalate in Eastern Ukraine, with Donbas “completely destroyed.”
- Nearly 6.5 million Ukrainians are refugees, with an additional 8 million displaced in-country.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

This reporting period was marked by repositioning of Russian forces in Ukraine after notable wins in key urban districts. After gaining control of Kharkiv—the country’s second largest city—Russian troops positioned there are reportedly now being deployed to the Donetsk region in Donbas.¹

Similarly, several units operating in Mariupol are now being sent to support other active conflicts following the surrender of remaining Ukrainian fighters at a local steel plant. Russia has used the mass surrender in Mariupol for propaganda purposes in part to counter widespread reports of starvation, deprivation, and human rights abuses during the two months the city was besieged.²

Last week, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky described fighting in the country’s east—which continues to escalate—as “hell.” In a nightly address, he declared that the Donbas had been “completely destroyed” and accused Russian forces of bombing Severodonetsk.³

Meanwhile, local authorities in the southern city of Kherson, the first major urban area to fall to Russian control, said they will soon ask to formally join Russia. The city has already begun using Russian currency, media, and internet services as have other occupied territories.⁴ Despite formal and informal moves by the Russian government and Pro-Moscow separatists, other localities under Russian control, such as Odessa, have largely remained resistant to such efforts.⁵

Lastly, as a result of reduced fighting in Ukraine’s north and west, the U.S. embassy reopened its operations in Kyiv, the capital.⁶ Stability in Kyiv and the western city of Lviv, while welcome,
has drawn many internally displaced Ukrainians—putting additional stressors on infrastructure that has yet to recover from months of conflict.

**HUMANITARIAN NEEDS**

Since Russia’s invasion began on February 24, almost 6.5 million Ukrainians have been forced to flee their country. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) assessed that another 8 million have been internally displaced as well. Millions more remain in occupied areas and/or in active conflict zones where they face immediate health, security and protection threats.

Among those who have fled Ukraine, the majority have sought safety in Poland—now home to more than half (3.5 million) of Ukraine’s refugees. Large concentrations have also gone to Romania, Russia, Hungary, Moldova, Slovakia, and Belarus. Notably, Ukrainian officials argue many refugees in Russia were either involuntarily sent there or made the journey under extreme duress.

On May 13, at the first Inter-Agency Refugee Forum, the Romania UNHCR Country Representative shared that the country was receiving 7,000 refugees each day (compared with 10,000 for the entirety of 2021). While the majority of refugees arriving in Romania continue on to other destinations in Europe, there is still great need to provide assistance along the border.

The majority of internally displaced persons (IDPs) can be found in Lviv, Kyiv, and other western cities. Whether they crossed international borders or a few blocks, displaced Ukrainian populations are in urgent need of essential services—ranging from cash and shelter to medical assistance and psychological support. In areas of high concentrations, local infrastructure continues to struggle to meet the demand of the host community and newcomers. At the Inter-Agency forum, UNHCR noted that as savings run out and hostilities continue, the need for support among refugees will only increase.

The United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) continues to report on the considerable protection concerns among Ukrainian children. Recent assessments have surfaced the following needs among at-risk and unaccompanied children: appropriate care arrangements, access to education, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and gender-based violence (GBV), trafficking, and exploitation prevention.

According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 3,778 civilians have been killed in ongoing hostilities and another 4,186 have been injured. The most common cause of death was due to injuries sustained from missiles and other explosives. The reported death and injury toll is believed to be significantly lower than actual numbers due to reporting constraints.

**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 has 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.
Project HOPE’s activities inside Ukraine:

- Project HOPE delivered over 200 pallets of medicines and medical supplies, including insulin, needles, hygiene kits, and more to Lviv for onward distribution westward to hospitals in need.
- The team has engaged a local pharmaceutical company to provide key medicines free of charge to Ukraine’s Ministry of Health.
- Project HOPE is launching three mobile medical units to provide primary health care in the Dnipro and Zaporija areas.
- The Medical Team continues to provide training for “Orthopedic Management of Ballistic Fractures” in Lviv Hospital. The team is working on expanding its training to include trauma injury training across Ukraine.
- Project HOPE has completed multiple reconstruction projects in Irpin and Bucha, and is now expanding these activities to several facilities in Bordyanka municipality and Zagalci village.

Project HOPE’s activities in Moldova:

- Project HOPE’s team in Moldova continues to support SAMU’s mobile medical team that serves 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.
- The team is working with two local NGOs to launch a mental health response in central Moldova and in border towns and villages.
- Project HOPE’s logistics team continues to support the Ministry of Health through procurement of supplies and pharmaceuticals, including insulin.
- The logistics team has also procured NFI kits for distribution to shelters, women and child centers, and other facilities servicing mothers and children.

Project HOPE’s activities in Poland:

- Project HOPE’s team has provided a grant to University Children’s Hospital – Krakow to support their Ukrainian children’s ward and is exploring mental health programming with the hospital.
- In addition, a $250,000 grant was provided to local NGO Podkarpackie Stowarzyszenie dla Aktywnych Rodzin (PSAR) for provision of mental health support to Ukrainian refugees in Poland.
- The team continues to update needs assessments and contingency planning for health facilities in Poland as refugee numbers increase demand on the Polish health system.

Project HOPE’s activities in Romania:

- Project Hope’s team in Romania is set to start providing assistance to two newly identified areas namely, Brasov and Constanta. Brasov and Constanta were identified by the UNHCR team in Romania as centers of high numbers of newly incoming Ukrainian refugees.
- Project HOPE continues its financial and technical support to four local NGOs, providing vital health and mental health care to refugees.
- Distribution of hygiene kits – including toothpaste, toothbrushes, diapers, and more – for refugees in Romania are still ongoing.
- Project HOPE recently concluded a delivery of medical vacuum pumps into Romania for onward distribution to Odessa hospitals.

Project HOPE’s Ukraine Response teams at NHQ and in Ukraine, Poland, Romania and Moldova continue to closely monitor the situation as it unfolds and adapts their response accordingly.
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Contact Information

Marcella Michaud
Ukraine Regional Response Director
mmichaud@projecthope.org

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