



Conflict in Ukraine

Situation Report #32

March 2023 Updates/ Released: 21 April 2023

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- By the end of March 2023, around **5.4 million** Ukrainians have been internally displaced and **8.1 million** have become refugees in Europe — with over **5 million** Ukrainians registering for temporary protection or similar national protection statuses in European countries.
- Project HOPE has partnered with 15 local organizations in Poland, Romania, Moldova, and Ukraine to support Ukrainians both inside Ukraine and in host countries.
- The Project HOPE team is expanding its operation in Donetsk Oblast in eastern Ukraine, including the communities of Chasiv Yar, Soledar, Zvanivka, and Siversk, which border the frontlines in Bakhmut and Kostyantynivka.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

As a result of Russia’s invasion in Ukraine, about **18 million people** — approximately 40% of the country’s population — are in **need of multisectoral humanitarian assistance and protection**, including **4.1 million children**.

Recent heavy fighting in eastern Ukraine affected multiple cities in Donetsk Oblast. The **3,000 remaining civilians** in **Bakhmut**, which housed a pre-war population of 72,000, have been under constant bombardment since mid-February and **remain in urgent need of humanitarian assistance and protection**. Also in Donetsk Oblast, **Avdiivka** has experienced an escalation in attacks, causing authorities to call on the **2,000 remaining civilians** to evacuate amidst heavy bombardment and a disruption of water, electricity, gas and other essential services. Due to the ongoing threat, schools, hospitals, and markets are not functioning. Local authorities, volunteer groups and international partners are working to support those facing life-threatening humanitarian needs in the affected areas. The Project HOPE team recently held a meeting with the Kostyantynivka City Council to coordinate with the heads of local communities to assess the current humanitarian situation in **Chasiv Yar, Soledar, Kostyantynivka, Zvanivka, and Siversk communities**.



Air strikes continued across the country throughout March 2023. Of particular concern is Russia's use of hypersonic missiles. These missile strikes damaged power infrastructure across the country, including the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. At this site, which is Europe's largest nuclear power plant, power outages initiated backup procedures in place to prevent a nuclear meltdown. Not only is this dangerous for all surrounding areas, but this attack created severe disruptions in Ukraine's power grid. Other targets in Kyiv, Odesa, Kharkiv, Zhytomyr, Vinnytsia, Rivne, Dnipro, and Poltava were hit as well.

From February 24, 2022 to April 2, 2023, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights recorded a total of **22,607 civilian casualties in Ukraine**, with **8,451 killed and 14,156 injured**. According to the World Health Organization's (WHO) Surveillance System, since the full invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, there have **been 912 attacks (814 on health care facilities), causing 101 deaths and 136 injuries**. Damage to health infrastructure has been recorded in 17 regions, the largest share of which has been in the Donetsk, Kharkiv, and Chernihiv oblasts. Before the war, there were 3,118 ambulances nationwide. Since the onset of the war, **650 ambulances (about 21% of the country's supply) have been damaged or stolen**. Additionally, the latest report from the WHO indicates that somewhere between 20% and 54% of health facilities in Kharkiv and Donetsk oblasts have reported total or partial **damage to medical equipment**. While services related to primary care and non-communicable diseases are mostly unaffected, highly-specialized diagnostic tests like mammograms, cystoscopes, bronchoscopes, prostate biopsies, and even cancer treatments are increasingly difficult to access. The main cause of this disruption in access is due to a **lack of special medical equipment and staff**.

Of note, the second Rapid Damage Needs Assessment — a joint report authored by the World Bank, the Ukrainian government, the European Union, and the United Nations — has found that more than \$135 billion of damage has been done to Ukraine's infrastructure. While current estimates show that full reconstruction and recovery of would cost approximately \$411 billion over 10 years, Ukraine will need \$14 billion to recover critical infrastructure in 2023 alone.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

As Ukraine emerges from a cold winter season, the systematic destruction of civilian infrastructure throughout the war continues to exacerbate displacement and humanitarian needs. A year after the full invasion, the lives of the Ukrainian people are still massively disrupted. **Electricity blackouts and irregular access to energy affect more than 12.5 million households**, which are often without electricity for up to 10 hours a day. On a regular basis, people see loved ones killed or injured, their houses, hospitals, and schools destroyed, and their livelihoods interrupted. Many are forced to make the hard choice to leave their homes or find ways to survive in areas under constant bombardment.

The threat of violence also contributes to the humanitarian crisis. Because of the war, **Ukrainian women and girls are at a heightened risk of sexual violence**, especially **conflict-related sexual violence**, which is used as a form of torture or intimidation. Additionally, this violence is taking place in a context where women and caregivers face additional barriers when attempting to flee conflict zones due to lack of income and caretaking responsibilities.

Attacks on health facilities have dramatically decreased Ukrainian's **access to health services**. This situation is critical in recently reclaimed areas, where there is a dire **lack of medical staff and an inadequate supply of medication**. Further complicating relief efforts, the war has disrupted the Ukrainian economy. More than **5 million people have lost their jobs**, creating massive displacement and complicating future recovery efforts.

The war has also put additional pressure on a **mental health system** that was already strained before the full-scale invasion. **Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services are heavily disrupted**, creating access gaps for people in need. This is particularly concerning because — according to the WHO — nearly **10 million people in Ukraine are at risk of developing acute stress, anxiety, depression, substance use disorders, and post-traumatic stress disorder**.

PROJECT HOPE'S RESPONSE

Project HOPE continues to implement a highly coordinated, comprehensive humanitarian intervention in Ukraine and in the neighboring countries of Poland, Romania, and Moldova. **Humanitarian assistance in Ukraine** focuses on supporting local primary and secondary health facilities with essential medicine, medical supplies, and medical equipment, including



Distribution of drinking water delivered by Project HOPE to Posad-Pokrovsk village in Kherson Oblast, Ukraine. Photo by Nikita Hlazyrin for Project HOPE, 2023.

generators, as well as multiple reconstruction works for health care facilities. Project HOPE's teams are also working with partners to address health, MHPSS, protection, water, and hygiene needs. **In Moldova, Poland, and Romania**, we have identified local partners that we are working with to address gaps in essential services for refugees and affected communities, including primary health, MHPSS, and protection services.

In all areas of our response, Project HOPE continues to work closely with government officials, local partners, and coordination clusters (groups of humanitarian organizations coordinating relief work across multiple sectors) to ensure that our efforts address the most pressing needs. Project HOPE also promotes locally led relief programs by engaging in collaboration, partnership, and capacity strengthening with local non-governmental organizations. This approach was essential to the delivery of aid during the earliest and most acute phase of this humanitarian crisis, and we remain committed to this model as our response grows and evolves. Through this work, we aim to support sustainable solutions and promote resilient communities.

Project HOPE's response and programmatic achievements in Ukraine:

- Project HOPE has provided **humanitarian aid to 276 facilities** (including 10 IDP centers), with **153 health care facilities and two IDP centers in 23 oblasts** receiving medicines, medical supplies, insulin, needles, hygiene kits, emergency health kits, surgical kits.
- The team delivered **64 infant warmers** for newborns to 6 healthcare facilities in Kharkiv Oblast and **20 sets of intramedullary nails** (parts of internal fixators) to 17 healthcare facilities.
- Based on the priorities of health facilities, **170 generators were delivered and installed at 106 health care facilities in 18 regions**, including Kherson, Donetsk, Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhia.
- Project HOPE delivered **WHO-standardized health kits with medicines and medical supplies**, including a total of **21 IEHKs** (Interagency Emergency Health Kits), **37 TESKs** (Trauma and Emergency Surgery Kits), **12 PED/SAM** (Pediatric) kits, **12 NCD** (Noncommunicable Diseases) kits and **72 EHPs** (Essential Health Packs) to health care facilities in Ukraine, with a high emphasis on the Eastern and Southern regions.
- Project HOPE is **renovating 12 facilities in Kyiv, Chernihiv, and Sumy oblasts**. Eight are completed, two are under construction, and two are in the pre-construction stage.
- Project HOPE has **launched 16 mobile medical units (MMUs)** to provide primary health care in the Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia, Chernihiv, Kirovohrad, Kharkiv, Odesa, Mykolaiv, and Kherson regions. The MMUs have provided **97,537 medical consultations (including 4,713 mental health consultations) for 56,796 patients** (60% female, 40% male, and 20% IDPs) in Ukraine.
- Project HOPE has **provided MHPSS services to 16,427 Ukrainians in seven IDP Centers** in Kyiv, Mykolaiv, Dnipro, and Kharkiv regions and three established Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Sites in Odesa, Mykolaiv, and Dnipro regions. The team has also **provided 10,457 patients in 18 hospitals in Ukraine** (Dnipro, Odesa, Kyiv, and Lviv) **with MHPSS services**.
- In March, the medical team has provided **73,158 medical consultations for 25,155 patients** (to date our team has provided a **total of 144,907 medical consultations for 66,188 patients**) in 21 health facilities in Ukraine. This includes 79,427 noncommunicable disease, followed by 16,431 communicable disease, 3,546 trauma, 5,071 mental health consultations, 1 maternal/neonatal, 31 reproductive health — as well as 40,440 consultations for other conditions.
- To date, the protection team has **reached 3,973 patients** (32% male, 68% female, and 55% IDPs) with **gender-based violence response services**.
- Project HOPE continues to **deliver emergency drinking water to Kherson and Mykolaiv oblasts**. A total of 84,000 (6-liter) bottles of clean drinking water have been distributed to **12, 211 citizens**.
- Project HOPE provided **WASH equipment and supplies to eight health care facilities** in Zhytomyr, Kyiv, Ternopil, Khmelnytskyi, Poltava, and Chernihiv oblasts (including



The Mobile Medical Unit's team provides health services to local residents in the village of Zhurivka in Odesa Oblast, Ukraine. Photo by Nikita Hlazyrin for Project HOPE, 2023.

washing and drying machines, cleaning trolleys, dispensers, and waste buckets) and **trained 920 medical staff on Infection and Prevention Control, WASH concepts, and proper protocols for using this new equipment.**

- Project HOPE's medical team continues to provide a diverse series of **high-quality trainings for medical professionals in Ukraine** and has already reached **3,523 participants in 80 health care facilities across the country.** In March, **278** medical professionals were trained in the following areas:
 - **Trainings on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence** were given to **50 health care professionals** in Odesa, Kharkiv, and Kyiv oblasts;
 - **Basic Life Support** trainings were given to **89 medical professionals** in Lviv, Kyiv, and Chernihiv oblasts;
 - **Mental Health Gap** training courses were given to **40 participants** in Dnipro and Odesa oblasts;
 - **Psychological First Aid** trainings were given to **15 health care professionals** in Dnipro Oblast;
 - **Trauma and Disaster Team Response** trainings were given to **32 medical staff** in Odesa Oblast;
 - **European Pediatric Advanced Life Support (EPALS)** trainings were given to **12 medical professionals** in Dnipro;
 - Project HOPE's partner Momentum Wheels for Humanity trained **40 participants in adaptive technology**;
 - And **nurse training** (covering prenatal nutrition, treatment of minor disorders during pregnancy, postpartum episiotomy care, emergency care, nutrition and foot care in diabetes) is still ongoing **for 101 women** in Lviv, Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk, and Odesa oblasts.



Medical staff at Solone District Hospital in Dnipro Oblast, Ukraine attend an EPALS training given by Project HOPE. Photo by Oleksii Kozodaiev for Project HOPE, 2023.

Project HOPE's response and programmatic achievements in Moldova:

- In partnership with a local NGO, **The Moldova Project (TMP)**, Project HOPE launched the **"Empowering the Ukrainians"** project to increase the amount of support provided to child refugees and caregivers by **implementing integrated measures of education, integration, and creating safe spaces (children's playrooms).** To date, Project HOPE has **established nine playrooms** (eight new and one renovated), that have provided **MHPSS services to 3,503 Ukrainian child refugees and 958 parents and caregivers.**
- Project HOPE awarded a grant worth \$117,928.98 to The Association against Domestic Violence, **"Casa Marioarei,"** to **organize social activities to facilitate social integration and improve social cohesion.** Casa Marioarei will also **provide trainings on conflict de-escalation, GBV prevention, and job and livelihood trainings to equip Ukrainian refugees with the skills needed to access the job market in Moldova.** The program, which started in February 2023, **has trained 78 facilitators and begun promoting social cohesion through a variety of events that reached 251 refugees and provided vocational training for 140 Ukrainians.**
- Project HOPE has provided a grant worth \$140,165 to the local organization **Regina Pacis** to set up a **"Holistic Assistance Center for Ukrainian refugees and vulnerable families in Moldova."** The Center aims to **provide medical and psychological assistance, referrals to health services, information on how to access education services, asylum procedure assistance, and employment aid to both Ukrainian refugees and vulnerable families in Moldova.** To date, **1,281 people have registered for various services at the Center.**
- **86,500 insulin pens** (worth \$310,000) were distributed to **47 primary health care facilities across the country to help patients with Type 1 Diabetes.**
- **45 IEHKs** have been delivered to the Ministry of Health in Moldova.
- **2,160 hygiene kits** were donated to the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection for use in refugee shelters, women and child centers, and other facilities.
- **500 sleeping pads** were delivered to refugee shelters in Chisinău, Balti, and Balata village.

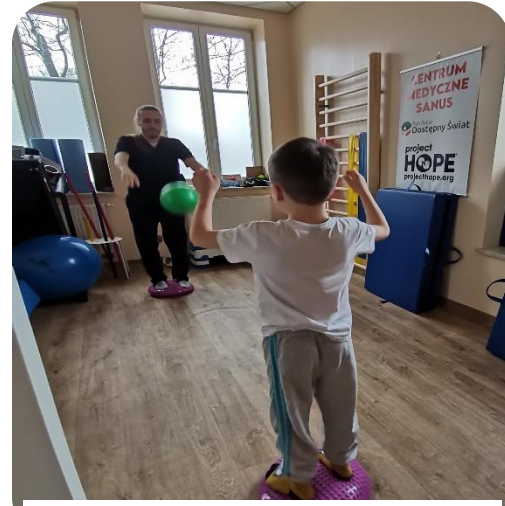


Ukrainian child refugees learn a new origami technique in a Child Friendly Space in run by Project HOPE's partner, TMP, in Calarsi, Moldova. Photo by TMP staff, 2023.

- **400 hospital beds, including mattresses, bed linen sets, blankets, pillows, and bed covers, (worth \$81,200) were donated to the Ministry of Health.** The hospital beds went to **three psychiatric hospitals** in Chisinău, Balti, and Orhei, as requested by the Ministry of Health.
- **303,015 bags of IV Fluids** worth \$174,500 were donated to the Ministry of Health.

Project HOPE's response and programmatic achievements in Poland:

- Project HOPE has been supporting **University Children's Hospital-Krakow**, which has seen and treated **7,127 children from Ukrainian refugee families through oncology and hematology; general surgery and emergencies; treatment in physiotherapy; and outpatient/consultation visits.** We are also exploring providing mental health programming in a ward for Ukrainian child refugees.
- Project HOPE provided a \$735,000 grant to local NGO **Podkarpackie Stowarzyszenie dla Aktywnych Rodzin** for the **provision of mental health support to Ukrainian refugees, specifically women and children in Rzeszow.** Thus far, the TUTU Center for Psychophysical Development has provided **mental health assistance to 5,560 Ukrainian refugees and residents.**
- Project HOPE has provided a \$543,823 grant to a local all-Ukrainian women organization, **Zustricz Foundation, to open a psychological support center and 32 satellite locations to provide refugees and migrants from Ukraine with MHPSS services in Krakow and surrounding areas.** The center opened in October 2022 and has provided a variety of **mental health services to 6,118 Ukrainian refugees to date.**
- Project HOPE provided \$272,433 in financial support to **Accessible World Foundation**, a local organization based in Krakow that provides **physiotherapy, rehabilitation, medical services, and psychological support to Ukrainian refugees with disabilities in Poland.** Since the opening of its SANUS Medical Center in December 2022, Accessible World has reached **341 patients.**



A rehabilitation therapist provides rehabilitation exercises for a Ukrainian refugee boy at SANUS Medical Center, run by Project HOPE partner Accessible World Foundation. Photo by AW staff, March 2023.

Project HOPE's response and programmatic achievements in Romania:

- Project HOPE provided two grants worth \$303,497 to **ICAR Foundation**, a Bucharest-based local NGO, to **provide mental health and medical support to Ukrainian refugees in Romania.** To date, ICAR has supported **7,443 Ukrainian refugees with MHPSS and medical services.**
- Project HOPE supported a local NGO, **Estuar Foundation**, with a grant worth \$204,321 to **provide vital mental health support to Ukrainian Refugees and to train humanitarian workers providing services to refugees on MHPSS.** To date, Estuar Foundation has **trained 1,615 psychologists, social workers, and volunteers on conflict management and 437 professionals on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.** A total of **1,948 Ukrainian refugees have benefited from MHPSS services.**
- Project HOPE provided a local organization, **La Rascruce Association**, with a grant worth \$129,839 to support Ukrainian refugees crossing into Romania through the Sculeni border point. La Rascruce staff and volunteers **provide Ukrainian refugees with vital information, registration support, and basic needs such as hot meals, water, hygiene items, transportation, and accommodation.** Additionally, La Rascruce provides refugees with **MHPSS services, Romanian classes, and vouchers** that can be used to buy essential supplies at their Integration and Relocation Center in Iași. To date, **5,075 refugees have been supported at both the Sculeni border point and La Rascruce Integration and Relocation Center in Iași.**
- Project HOPE **procured and delivered 25,128 hygiene kits including elderly, dignity, and infant kits to local partners in 11 cities in Romania** for further distribution to Ukrainian refugees.



La Rascruce's team register Ukrainian refugees for voucher program in their Integration and Relocation Center in Iași, Romania. Photo by La Rascruce staff, March 2023.