

Conflict in Ukraine

Situation Report #38

September Response Updates // published 31 October 2023

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Twenty months since Russia’s invasion on February 24, 2022, the conflict **continues to escalate**. Fighting is currently concentrated in the eastern and southern regions of Ukraine, displacing families and forcing communities to live through a life-threatening humanitarian crisis. The combination of violence, displacement, and the destruction of communities, including civilian infrastructure, has **increased the scale of humanitarian need** in Ukraine as access to essential services, including access to water, health care, mental health support, and education, have been disrupted.

More than three months after the destruction of the Kakhovka Dam incident, **water shortages continue** to be an issue in areas around the Dnipro River, particularly in Kherson Oblast. Those living closer to the front line continue to have difficulty finding safe and adequate housing. Many displaced families are unable to access health care, medicines, and mental health support. This gap in the demand and availability of services is caused by the physical damage to health care facilities, the lack of medical staff and specialized services, and an insufficient supply of medical equipment. **The World Health Organization** has reported that rising levels of insecurity, a lack of medicines in pharmacies, the rising costs of medicines, transport issues, and the lack of financial resources to pay out-of-pocket expenses are among the barriers to accessing health care.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Since the conflict erupted in 2022, around **5.1 million** Ukrainians have been internally displaced and **6.2 million** have fled as refugees — with **1 million** Ukrainian refugees living in Poland, out of **1.7 million** who have registered for Temporary Protection Status. **119,000** refugees live in Moldova, including **19,000** who have registered for Temporary Protection Status and **2,400** who are living in Refugee Accommodation Centers.

Our team in Ukraine continues to focus on providing critical support to **conflict-affected communities** near the front lines in eastern and southern Ukraine, where individuals are often without access to **primary health, WASH, and MHPSS services**.

Project HOPE continues to partner with local organizations in **Poland and Moldova** to address gaps in essential services, including **primary health, MHPSS, and protection services** for refugees and host community members.

Project HOPE was awarded a 15-month program by USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, during which our team will strive to reach **1 million** internally displaced Ukrainians, host communities, and **22 health facilities**. This program will improve the health and well-being of conflict-affected IDPs and host communities in Ukraine through activities in the **Health, WASH, and Protection sectors**.

The conflict is causing severe levels of acute stress and trauma, increasing the risk of mental health disorders. A report by the International Organization for Migration shows that **90% of Ukrainians** have experienced at least one symptom of an anxiety disorder since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Since February 24, 2022, there have been **1,301 verified attacks on health care**, including attacks on health facilities, patients receiving care, medical transportation, medical supplies, and medical staff. In addition, there have been nearly **28,000 civilian casualties**, including more than **9,800 deaths** and almost **18,000 injuries**. However, the true number of casualties — like the true scale of humanitarian need — is likely higher than current records or reporting indicate due to the chaos of the ongoing violence.

PROJECT HOPE'S RESPONSE

Project HOPE continues to implement a highly coordinated, comprehensive humanitarian intervention in Ukraine and the neighboring countries of Moldova and Poland, which are hosting large refugee populations.

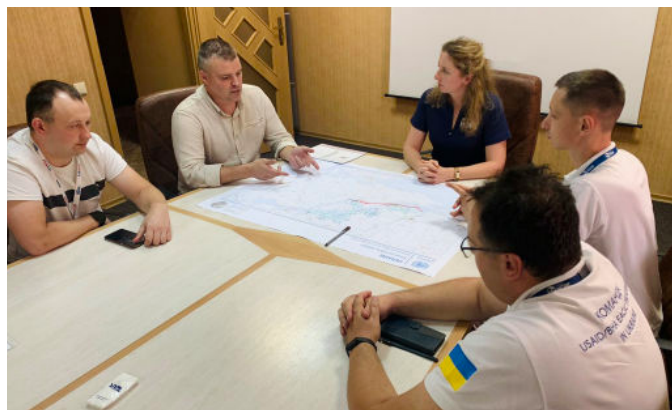
In **Ukraine**, Project HOPE's humanitarian assistance focuses on supporting local primary and secondary health facilities with essential medicine, medical supplies, equipment, and generators, as well as the reconstruction of critical health care facilities. Project HOPE's team in Ukraine is also addressing mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS); protection; and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs.

In **Moldova and Poland**, our team is working with local partners to address gaps in essential services for refugees and host communities, including primary health, MHPSS, and protection services.

In all areas of our response, Project HOPE works 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 critical 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. The following pages outline the combined impact of our response activities to date.

UKRAINE

- Project HOPE has provided humanitarian assistance to **392 facilities**, including 11 centers for internally displaced people (IDPs), 41 local administrations and 19 non-governmental organizations in 23 oblasts.



Project HOPE's Ukraine team meets with the Deputy Head of Economic Development Department of Kherson State Administration to discuss the current needs in the Kherson region. Photo by Project HOPE staff, 2023.

- Project HOPE has continued **delivering medicines, medical supplies and essential equipment**, reaching a total of **283 health facilities**, including four IDP centers, in **23 oblasts**.
- Project HOPE supplied communities in Kherson, Kharkiv, and Dnipro oblasts with **nine ambulances**, which have since conducted **2,721** patient transportations.
- Project HOPE delivered and **installed 234 generators** at **128 health and social service facilities** in Ukraine.
- Since the beginning of Project HOPE's response, the medical team has provided **359,669 medical consultations** to a total of **177,0165 patients** in **23 health facilities** across Ukraine for the following services: 209,527 for chronic illnesses and/or non-communicable diseases, 31,075 for infectious diseases, 11,658 for mental health, 6,589 for checkup and prevention, 8,859 for trauma, 430 medical documentations, 357 for reproductive health, 139 vaccinations, 23 for maternal/neonatal health, and 90,884 consultations for other conditions.



Project HOPE launched **30 Mobile Medical Units** that have since provided **284,172 medical consultations** (including 8,480 mental health consultations) to **136,672 patients** (78% female, 22% male, 18% internally displaced) in Zaporizhzhia, Odesa, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Donetsk and Kharkiv oblasts.

- **Project HOPE provided MHPSS services to 51,019 Ukrainians** in three centers serving internally displaced people and six MHPSS sites established by Project HOPE, as well as over **29,080 patients** in 19 hospitals across Ukraine.

- Project HOPE's protection team continues to help increase access to information and strengthen referral pathways for survivors of gender-based violence. So far, the team has provided **gender-based violence response services to 17,671 people** in Ukraine (77% female, 23% male, and 80% internally displaced people).
- Project HOPE continues to provide a series of **health worker trainings** in Ukraine. Topics include European Pediatric Advanced Life Support, Trauma and Disaster Team Response, Psychological First Aid, Mental Health Gap, Basic Life Support, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) response, and nurse training. To date, Project HOPE has reached a total of **5,265 health workers** from **87 health facilities** across the country.
- Project HOPE is renovating **12 health and social service facilities** in Kyiv, Chernihiv, and Kharkiv oblasts. **Ten projects** have been completed, one is under construction, and one is in the pre-construction stage. All ongoing projects will be completed by the end of December 2023.
- To advance **Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)** and complement our current WASH activities, our team has supported **16 health facilities** close to the front lines with sanitary equipment and other WASH items, including electric water heaters, water tanks, sinks, toilets, washing machines, personal protective equipment, and cleaning supplies. **Project HOPE's WASH team** has also provided technical assistance and additional support installing these items.

Before the Kakhovka Dam disaster, Project HOPE was already providing **drinking water** prior to villages and communities in Kherson Oblast. This unique position allowed our teams to quickly redouble our efforts and support flood-affected communities in Kherson, Mykolaiv, and Dnipro oblasts. Our team completed 20 deliveries that reached Ukrainian families and **12 health facilities** in affected regions. In total, we have provided **779,520 six-liter bottles of drinking water** to cover the needs of **20,000 Ukrainians for five months**.



- Project HOPE continues to distribute different types of **hygiene kits** to affected communities, especially those living in formerly occupied regions and those in front-line communities with disrupted access to essential, lifesaving WASH services. Our team has distributed a total of **133,146 hygiene kits and essential non-food items** to cover the basic needs of **236,934 people**.



Project HOPE delivers medicines for the mobile medical team at Shevchenkovo Primary Health Center in Kharkiv, Ukraine. Photo by Oleksii Kozodaiev for Project HOPE, 2023.



Doctors strengthened by the support of Project HOPE in Kherson Ukraine. Photo by Nikita Hlazyrin for Project HOPE, 2023.



Children at a Project HOPE safe space in Dnipro celebrate Knowledge Day, which is held each year on September 1 at the start of the new school year. Photo by Oleksii Kozodaiev for Project HOPE, 2023.



Project HOPE rebuilds a kindergarten in Borodyanka, Kyiv region, Ukraine. Photo by Nikita Hlazyrin for Project HOPE, 2023.



Project HOPE's team conducts door-to-door delivery of hygiene kits for seniors and people with low mobility in Kyiv. Kits are provided by Project HOPE with the support of BHA USAID. Photo by Nikita Hlazyrin for Project HOPE, 2023.

MOLDOVA

- Project HOPE awarded a grant worth **\$140,165** to the local organization **Regina Pacis** to set up a Holistic Assistance Center for Ukrainian refugees and Moldovan families in vulnerable situations. The Center provides medical and psychological assistance, referrals to health services, information on how to access education services, asylum procedure assistance, and employment aid. To date, **2,894 Ukrainian refugees**, including **145 children**, have received services at the Center.
- In partnership with **The Moldova Project**, Project HOPE launched the "Empowering the Ukrainians" program to **support child refugees and their caregivers, as well as children and caregivers from Moldovan families in vulnerable positions**, through the implementation of education and integration services and the creation of child-friendly playroom spaces. The playrooms are safe spaces in refugee communities that provide mental health activities like art therapy, music therapy, group therapy, games, and social cohesion activities for children.



Project HOPE established **nine playrooms** that have since supported **8,511 Ukrainian refugees and host community members**, including **5,776 children**, with MHPSS services, food, hygiene kits, and medical vouchers.



A mother and son play in a safe space for refugees built by The Moldova Project and financed by Project HOPE in Moldova. Photo by The Moldova Project, 2023.

POLAND

- From May 2022 through April 2023, Project HOPE supported University Children's Hospital Kraków, which saw **7,567 children from Ukrainian refugee families** for oncology, hematology, general surgery, emergencies, physiotherapy, and outpatient services. Our partnership with University Children's Hospital in Kraków is Project HOPE's longest standing relationship with a hospital in the world. Project HOPE's procurement team is still working with the hospital to support the Physiotherapy and Blood Cell Transplantation units of the hospital with **specialized medical devices and equipment** — which would allow the hospital to maintain and expand its operations, thereby increasing access for patients.
- Project HOPE provided a **\$735,000 grant** to local NGO **Podkarpackie Stowarzyszenie dla Aktywnych Rodzin (PSAR)** for the provision of MHPSS services to Ukrainian refugees, specifically women and children in Rzeszów. PSAR's TUTU Center for Psychophysical Development has provided mental health assistance to **6,699 Ukrainian refugees and host community members**, including 3,829 children.
- Project HOPE provided an initial grant of **\$543,823** to the Zustricz Foundation, a local organization led by Ukrainian women, to open a psychological support center and 29 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 **9,437 Ukrainian refugees** in Poland.

- Project HOPE provided the Zustricz Foundation with a second grant of **\$62,135** to support **their summer academy program for Ukrainian refugee children**, which provided children with psychosocial programs and gave children learning opportunities outside of school where they could develop new skills, discover talents, and deepen their knowledge in specific areas, such as science, art, sports, and technology. From July 2023 to September 2023, the summer camp **connected 118 Ukrainian refugee children and 11 parents** with psychosocial support and other events. This program has been completed.
- Project HOPE provided \$272,433 in financial support to **Accessible World Foundation**, a local organization based in Kraków that provides physiotherapy, rehabilitation, medical services, and psychological support to Ukrainian refugees and host community members with disabilities. Since the opening of its SANUS Medical Center in December 2022, AWF has reached **1,486 people** (206 children, 1,280 adults, 1,309 Ukrainian refugees, and 177 host community members).



A pregnant patient who is managing a cervical spine disc issue engages in therapeutic exercises through Project HOPE's partner, Accessible World, in Kraków. Photo by Accessible World, 2023.



Children watch a cartoon at the TUTU Center, a safe space Project HOPE supports through our partner, PSAR, in Rzeszów, Poland. Photo by PSAR staff, 2023.



Ukrainian refugees in Poland attend summer activities through Project HOPE's partner, Zustricz Foundation. Photo by Zustricz Foundation, 2023.



Since the beginning of our regional response, Project HOPE has provided **MHPSS services to 45,581 people** in Poland, Moldova, and Romania, **90% of whom are Ukrainian refugees**.