SitRep #40: Conflict in Ukraine
November 2023 Updates // published 3 January 2024

SITUATION OVERVIEW

A wave of airstrikes and intense hostilities across Ukraine, particularly along the front lines, continue causing civilian casualties and damage to critical infrastructure, including energy and water systems. These attacks - coupled with declining winter conditions, including severe snowstorms that hit the country in late November - have exacerbated humanitarian needs. Ukrainian authorities continue to evacuate civilians from heavily affected frontline communities, including from the Kharkiv and Kherson oblasts.

Since February 2022, there have been a total of 1,422 verified attacks on Ukraine’s health system, including healthcare infrastructure, patients, medical transportation, supplies, and health workers. These attacks significantly impact health services, especially in front line areas, leaving millions of people without adequate to medical and mental health support.

According to the UN Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN OHCHR), at least 10,000 civilians have been killed and more than 18,500 have been injured since the full scale invasion in February 2022. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) estimates that around 10 million people in Ukraine are at risk of acute stress and mental health conditions.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Since the conflict erupted in 2022, 6.3 million Ukrainians have become refugees and 3.7 million Ukrainians have been internally displaced. Nearly 954,874 Ukrainian refugees are living in Poland and 112,811 are living in Moldova.

With the arrival of winter, Project HOPE is prioritizing winter assistance to support internally displaced people and social and health care facilities by delivering thermal clothes, electrical heaters, kettles, mattresses, pillows, blankets, bed linens, and other non-food items.

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.
Despite these challenges, Project HOPE’s team continues to deliver health and humanitarian aid across Ukraine, prioritizing front line communities and reaching over one million people.

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. In Ukraine, Project HOPE’s humanitarian assistance focuses on supporting local primary and secondary health facilities with essential medicine, medical supplies, and equipment, as well as reconstruction of 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, the team is working with local partners to address gaps in essential services for refugees and selected 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 impact of our response activities to date.

UKRAINE UPDATE

- Provided humanitarian assistance to 406 facilities, including 314 health facilities, 11 centers for internally displaced people (IDPs), 49 local administrations, and 19 non-governmental organizations in 23 oblasts
- Delivered medicines, medical supplies, and essential equipment, reaching 283 health care facilities, including four IDP centers in 23 oblasts
- Delivered and installed 234 generators in 128 facilities
- Distributed 89,030 winterization supplies and non-food items, including thermal clothes, electrical heaters, kettles, mattresses, pillows, blankets, and bed linens to 91 health and social service facilities
- Supplied communities in Kherson, Kharkiv, and Dnipro oblasts with a total of nine ambulances, which have conducted 5,087 patient transportations
- Provided a total of 453,624 medical consultations for 203,274 patients in 23 health facilities across Ukraine
- Provided MHPSS services to 124,321 Ukrainians in three IDP centers, six MHPSS sites established by Project HOPE, and 27 hospitals
- Provided gender-based violence response services to 22,792 people
- Reached 5,919 health care workers from 87 health care facilities with health worker trainings on topics like European Pediatric Advanced Life Support, Trauma and Disaster Team Response, Psychological First Aid, Mental Health Gap, Basic Life Support, and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (GBV)
- Continued renovating three health and social facilities of 12 selected in the Kyiv, Chernihiv, Kharkiv, and Kherson oblasts
- Distributed 134,554 hygiene kits and essential non-food items to cover the basic needs of 237,007 individuals

Before the Kakhovka Dam disaster, Project HOPE was already providing drinking water to villages and communities in the Kherson oblast, enabling our teams to quickly redouble our efforts in support of flood-affected communities in the Kherson, Mykolaiv, and Dnipropetrovsk oblasts. Our team completed 20 deliveries that reached Ukrainian families and 12 health facilities in affected regions. In total, we provided 251 trucks with 913,920 six-liter bottles of drinking water to cover the needs of 22,000 Ukrainians for five months.
MOLDOVA UPDATE

• Launched the “Empowering the Ukrainians” program, in partnership with The Moldova Project Association (TMP), to increase support for child refugees, caregivers, and host communities by implementing education, mental health, and integration services at nine child-friendly safe spaces

POLAND UPDATE

• Supported University Children’s Hospital Krakow, which saw 7,567 children from Ukrainian refugee families for oncology, hematology, general surgery, emergencies, physiotherapy, and outpatient services between May 2022 through April 2023, and is also supporting the Physiotherapy and Blood Cell Transplantation units of the hospital with specialized medical devices and equipment to allow the hospital to maintain and expand its operations
• Provided a grant of $693,822 to the Zustricz Foundation, a local organization led by Ukrainian women, to open a psychological support center and 29 satellite locations to provide Ukrainian refugees with MHPSS services, reaching 10,940 people (45% children)
• Provided a $1,035,000 grant to Podkarpackie Stowarzyszenie dla Aktywnych Rodzin (PSAR) for MHPSS for Ukrainian women and children in Rzeszow reaching 5,413 Ukrainian refugees and 1,328 host community members (including 4,351 children)
• Provided $411,517 in financial support to Accessible World Foundation to provide physiotherapy, rehabilitation, medical services, and psychological support to Ukrainian refugees and host community members with disabilities, reaching 1,859 people (14% children, 89% refugees)

ROMANIA UPDATE

• Provided humanitarian assistance to local organizations from March 2022 till June 2023
• Supported five organizations -- Blue Heron Foundation, Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS), Estuar Foundation, ICAR Foundation, and La Rascruce Association -- with nearly $1.4 million in financial support to provide social worker training and medical and MHPSS services for Ukrainian refugees in Romania, which resulted in reaching 12,211 refugees with medical and MHPSS services, training 1,615 social workers and volunteers, distributing 25,630 hygiene kits and over 300 wheelchairs, and supporting social integration activities for refugees

For further information, contact media@projecthope.org.

Project HOPE established nine playrooms that have supported 8,931 Ukrainian refugees and Moldovan families including 6,061 children with MHPSS services, food, hygiene kits, and medical vouchers.

Group Support Session and Art Therapy for Seniors provided by Project HOPE’s partner, Zustricz Center in Krakow, Poland. November 10, 2023.

Accessible World Foundation, Project HOPE’s partner in Poland, providing care at their SANUS medical center. November 2023