



Conflict in Ukraine

Situation Report #41

December 2023 Updates // published 31 January 2024

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The winter holiday season in Ukraine has been overshadowed by massive Russian missile and drone attacks on cities and increases in civilian casualties and infrastructure damage. At least 592 civilians were killed or injured in December 2023, with the United Nations (UN) reporting a **26.5% increase** in verified civilian casualties. This uptick in attacks came as temperatures across Ukraine dropped sharply, making an already difficult situation even harder for civilians to live through as access to electricity, heat, water, and safety are threatened.

The ongoing war has led to a protection crisis, including grave violations against civilians, and brought upon amounts of trauma, grief, and chaos of war, increasing mental health issues, causing complications for people with chronic health conditions, and deteriorating livelihoods.

Since February 2022, there have been a total of **1,522 verified attacks on Ukraine's health system**, including on health facilities, infrastructure, patients, medical transportation, supplies, and health workers. These attacks significantly impact the availability and quality of health care services, especially near the front lines. This reality requires innovative and adaptive approaches to health care delivery, like Project HOPE's 36 Mobile Medical Units that have reached more than 178,000 people with medical and mental health support.

The war has also continued to have a devastating impact on Ukraine's economy, increasing both poverty and the breadth and scale of humanitarian need. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, **over 14.6 million people — about 40% of the Ukrainian population — will need humanitarian assistance in 2024.**

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



Since the conflict erupted in 2022, **3.7 million Ukrainians** have been internally displaced and **6.3 million** have become refugees, with **more than 950,000 refugees** recorded in Poland and **more than 120,000** living in Moldova.



With winter weather further compounding humanitarian needs in Ukraine, our team is providing **winter assistance** to front line communities, internally displaced people, and social and health facilities by delivering thermal clothes, electrical heaters, kettles, mattresses, pillows, blankets, bed linens, solid fuel, and other essential non-food items.



Project HOPE's team members in **Poland and Moldova** continue to address gaps in essential services, including **primary health, MHPSS, and protection services** for refugees and host community members.

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 projects for health care facilities. Project HOPE's team in Ukraine is also addressing mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS); protection; water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); and winterization needs. In Moldova and Poland, our team has completed all projects with local partners and will now begin directly implementing humanitarian programs through a local team of health workers 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 **89,364 winterization supplies** and non-food items, including thermal clothes, electrical heaters, kettles, mattresses, pillows, blankets, bed linens, and solid fuel to 91 health and social service facilities
- Supplied communities in Kherson, Kharkiv, and Dnipro oblasts with a total of **nine ambulances**, which have since transported **6,343 patients**
- Provided a total of **511,091 medical consultations** for **239,381 patients** in **32 health facilities across Ukraine**, including **13,021 mental health consultations**
- Provided MHPSS services to **141,680 Ukrainians** in three IDP centers, **six MHPSS sites** established by Project HOPE, and **27 hospitals**
- Provided gender-based violence response services to **26,137 people**
- Continued **renovating one health care facility within our portfolio of 12 health and social service facilities** that we are reconstructing in Kyiv, Chernihiv, Kharkiv, and Kherson oblasts
- Distributed **137,504 hygiene kits and essential non-food items** to cover the basic needs of **239,957 individuals**
- Reached **6,119 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)



Project HOPE staff delivering solid fuel to support families living near the front lines in Donetsk Oblast. Photo by Oleksii Kozodaiev for Project HOPE, 2023.



Project HOPE water distribution in Mykolaiv Oblast in the town of Kulbakino. Photo by Nikita Hlazyrin for Project HOPE, 2023.



Critical Care Transport teams using ambulances provided by Project HOPE in the town of Novovorontsovka in Kherson Oblast. Photo by Oleksii Kozodaiev for Project HOPE, 2023.



Project HOPE staff training health workers on the Mental Health Gap Action Programme to strengthen the health system in Barvinkove in Kharkiv Oblast. Photo by Oleksii Kozodaiev for Project HOPE, 2023.



Project HOPE has launched **36 Mobile Medical Units (MMUs)** that have since provided **404,995 medical consultations** (including 9,291 mental health consultations) to **178,863 patients** in the Zaporizhzhia, Odesa, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Donetsk, and Kharkiv oblasts.



Before the Kakhovka Dam disaster in 2023, Project HOPE was already providing **drinking water** to villages and communities in Kherson oblast, which enabled our teams to quickly redouble our efforts in support of flood-affected communities in the Kherson, Mykolaiv, and Dnipro oblasts. Since then, our team has continued to support the WASH needs of families and **12 health facilities** in the region by using **251 trucks** to deliver **913,920 six-liter bottles of drinking water** to cover the needs of **24,000 Ukrainians for five months**.



Children at center for internally displaced people in Darnytsia, a municipality near Kyiv, enjoying a holiday party organized by Project HOPE.
Photo by Nikita Hlazyrin for Project HOPE, 2023.

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.
- Based on a recent needs assessment conducted by Project HOPE’s team in Moldova, we will begin implementing a new, comprehensive program that strives to improve access to quality care for Ukrainian refugees and Moldovan families in vulnerable positions by strengthening the capacity and resilience of the Moldovan health system and modernizing equipment. We will also foster social integration efforts for Ukrainian families looking to stay long term in Moldova.



Project HOPE established **nine playrooms** that have since supported **9,035 Ukrainian refugees and host community members**, including **6,109 children**, with MHPSS services, food, hygiene kits, and medical vouchers.



Victoria, a Ukrainian refugee and mother of three, with her daughters, Elvira, Ilona, and Alina at a playroom created and funded by Project HOPE in Baltata, Moldova.
Photo by TMP staff for Project HOPE, 2023.

POLAND UPDATE

- Supported University Children’s Hospital in 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. Our team also supplied 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, which have reached 11,112 people (45% children) thus far**.
- Based on a recent needs assessment conducted by Project HOPE’s team in Poland, our team will begin a new program that **supports 11 health and social institutions** with essential medical equipment and lifesaving devices, so that they can provide high quality and accessible services to Ukrainian refugees and local communities in need (specifically children, older adults, and people with disabilities or special conditions).



Psychologists attending a specialized training conducted by Zustricz Foundation, Project HOPE’s local partner in Poland.
Photo by Zustricz Foundation staff for Project HOPE, 2023.

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 train health and social workers and provide health care and MHPSS services to Ukrainian refugees in Romania. Together, we reached **12,211 refugees** with **medical and MHPSS services; trained 1,615 social workers and volunteers;** distributed **25,630 hygiene kits** and **300+ wheelchairs;** and supported social integration activities for refugees.



Since the beginning of our regional response, Project HOPE has provided **40,500 Ukrainian refugees** and **4,500 host community members** in vulnerable situations in Poland, Moldova, and Romania with MHPSS services.



Project HOPE's Poland and Ukraine teams conducting a needs assessment for refugees at the Krakow Slavic Mission Center in Krakow, Poland.
Photo by Project HOPE staff, 2023.