

Accessing lifesaving care

Immediate and vital health assistance, **Ukraine and neighboring countries**

Urgent humanitarian support is needed to ensure the Ukrainian population has access to vital healthcare. The disruption to services and supplies in Ukraine is posing an extreme risk to people. The World Health Organization (WHO) is working in and outside Ukraine, providing life-saving medical supplies and healthcare services.

The problem

The conflict in Ukraine has seen a humanitarian disaster unfold before our eyes. This crisis has a devastating impact on people to get access to even basic health care. The Ukrainian health system is undergoing unimaginable stress, dealing with three simultaneous crises. First, COVID-19 was already stretching the health system to its limits. Second, the pandemic had created a massive backlog of health needs as many people postponed their healthcare. And now this humanitarian emergency is further knocking down a health system that was already reeling. While the health system isn't yet at the point of collapse, it can't go on forever.

The partner

WHO was founded in 1948 and is the United Nations agency that connects nations, partners and people to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable. WHO leads global efforts to expand universal health coverage and directs and coordinates the world's response to health emergencies and promotes healthier lives.

The philanthropic solution

WHO continues its close coordination with the Ukrainian Ministry of Health and other health emergency organizations to deliver support to populations in Ukraine and neighboring countries:

- Provide operational support for hospitals and health facilities and emergency care to treat the wounded and those with other health needs
- Coordinate the deployment Emergency Medical Teams (EMT)¹.
- Deliver life-saving medical supplies to support trauma, surgery and primary health care in Ukraine. WHO has established direct supply lines to almost all

cities of Ukraine. WHO has also sent medical supplies to NGO partners

- Support to the Ministry of Health in establishing a referral pathway for patients in need of medical care within Ukraine and their transfer to countries in the European Union.
- Coordinate the global health response both within Ukraine and in neighboring countries as the United Nations Health Cluster Lead.

The evidence

WHO has worked for decades in Ukraine with close ties with the Ukrainian Ministry of Health. In January 2022, WHO led assessments in medical structures and training around emergency preparedness for the Ukrainian staff and prepositioned supplies. It immediately reinforced its activities in and around the country when the war broke out

The impact

WHO ensures the Ukrainian population has access to vital healthcare.

¹ EMTs support the work of doctors and nurses on the frontlines, set up health centers at key gateways for Ukraine refugees and provide primary health care to the refugees as well as mental health support.

All programmatic data provided by WHO Foundation. The UBS Optimus Foundation is a grant-making foundation that offers UBS clients a platform to use their wealth to drive positive social and environmental change. The Foundation selects programs that improve children's health, education and protection, ones that have the potential to be transformative, scalable and sustainable as well as programs tackling environmental and climate issues.

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