

UKRAINE

People in need of health assistance¹

9.2 MILLION

People targeted of health assistance¹

2.9 MILLION

Funding requirement

US\$ 68.4 MILLION

1 Humanitarian Need and Response Plan for Ukraine 2025

CONTEXT

As of 31 August 2024, the Office of the United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights recorded 36 357 civilian casualties in Ukraine, with 11 743 killed and 24 614 injured. As of 9 January 2025, the World Health Organization (WHO) had verified 2209 attacks on health care facilities in Ukraine, leading to 205 deaths and 698 injuries since 24 February 2022.

The humanitarian crisis in Ukraine has reached a scale of undeniable severity. With the ongoing conflict, the UN reports an astonishing 12.7 million people in dire need of urgent humanitarian assistance and 9.2 million with health needs. The unpredictability of the conflict's evolution could either see a further deterioration of conditions or a potential stabilization of the situation.

Insecurity, damage to and lack of maintenance of aging health facilities and medical equipment, shortages of medicines and medical supplies, understaffing, and curtailed access to referral hospitals and pharmacies have all taken a toll on the provision and accessibility of health care services. The war's impact on public health is of grave concern, particularly as public funding is redirected towards military expenses.

Despite the resilience of Ukraine's health system and generally high access to certain health services, obtaining care near the contact line remains challenging, particularly in rural areas. In conflict-affected regions ("oblasts"), WHO has noted partial or complete disruptions in primary care services and a significant increase in trauma and emergency medical needs. Both prehospital and hospital sectors across the country are overwhelmed with acute trauma and burn patients. Additionally, barriers such as cost, time, and transportation constraints further delay or prevent access to medical care.

Health system recovery remains one of WHO's key priorities in Ukraine, which goes beyond rebuilding damaged or destroyed medical facilities. WHO aims to support the country in restoring essential services, and the financing of these essential services, such as rehabilitation, primary health care (PHC), public health surveillance, all of which are critical for overall national recovery.

The war has intensified mental health challenges, with approximately 9.6 million people estimated to be at risk of or living with a mental health condition. WHO is responding to the mental health crisis, including through its support to the All-Ukrainian Mental Health Program, initiated by First Lady Olena Zelenska.

Access to rehabilitation care is hampered by non-operational or functional rehabilitation referral pathways, gaps in the provision of assistive products to the person upon discharge from the hospital, and major gaps in specialized rehabilitation services. Barriers for persons with disabilities accessing humanitarian services are present, putting them at a heightened risk. The Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine reports that 6% of the population are persons with disabilities. However, given the multiple barriers related to the disability status process in Ukraine, including technical and administrative challenges, this is a significant underestimate. WHO estimates that the prevalence in Ukraine is equal to or more than the WHO global average, standing at 16%. Increased injury rates, breakdown of health and other critical services and displacement contribute to increased disabilities in Ukraine. Disability is a critical driver of humanitarian needs and requires to be actively considered across humanitarian programmes and processes.



8 July 2024, a missile strikes Kyiv's Okhmadyt Childrens Hospital
Photo Credit: WHO

WHO'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- 1. Emergency health response in Ukraine due to the ongoing conflict:** For more effective public health responses to emerging threats for war-affected communities in priority regions (along the contact line) and high IDP concentration areas across the country.
- 2. Health system recovery:** Including restoring essential services such as rehabilitation, primary care, and public health surveillance, which are critical for overall national recovery and goes beyond just rebuilding health facilities.
- 3. Continuing health reforms:** Initiated in 2016 to align Ukraine's health care system with international best practices. Despite the war, WHO supports reforms in health financing, primary care, procurement transparency, and non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

These strategic objectives align with the WHO Country Cooperation Strategy, Ukraine 2024-2030. The Strategy is designed to address the immediate and medium-term health challenges in Ukraine, focusing on building resilient health systems, improving health outcomes, and ensuring health care access for all, especially in the context of ongoing conflict and recovery efforts. It charts WHO's collaborative efforts across health response, recovery and reform.

WHO has been a strong support for our emergency work here. When we needed new ambulances due to constant shelling that destroyed the previous ones, WHO helped us secure replacements to continue delivering emergency care, they also quickly installed a modular health facility after our previous base was destroyed and provided essential equipment and medicines. This support is invaluable for the functioning of emergency services in the region.

Halyna Saldan, Head of the Centre for Emergency Medical Care and Disaster Medicine of Kherson Regional State Administration



Strategic meeting between WHO and the Ministry of Health of Ukraine
Photo credit: WHO

WHO 2025 RESPONSE STRATEGY

WHO's emergency response strategy in Ukraine for 2025 aligns with and builds on the recommendations of the Ukraine Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) 2025 and operates in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, with the primary objective of saving lives. The response is designed to strengthen emergency and critical health care services, ensure continuity of essential health service delivery, and address the profound impacts of war on the health care network – particularly in contact line regions.

WHO's 2025 response strategy is anchored on five key pillars:

1. Strengthen emergency medical services (EMS) and trauma care systems to ensure emergency response in priority regions
2. Ensure continuity and quality of essential primary health care (PHC) services and outreach initiatives for war-affected populations
3. Enhance coordination among health partners and improve health information management for accurate data collection, reporting, needs assessment and disease surveillance
4. Address critical concerns hampering health security and resilience in emergency settings, such as weather preparedness and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) prevention, among other priorities
5. Support key health recovery priorities in emergency settings, to ensure quality care and sustainable access.

Through these targeted interventions, WHO aims to mitigate the devastating health consequences of the ongoing conflict and strengthen the resilience of Ukraine's health system. With an emphasis on collaboration, innovation, and inclusivity, WHO remains committed to protecting health and saving lives in one of the world's most challenging humanitarian crises.

OPERATIONAL PRESENCE

The WHO Country Office in Ukraine is located in Kyiv and as of December 2024, has approximately 300 staff members and consultants supporting implementation in various technical areas. WHO has several additional field office locations throughout the country to support operations, with additional offices planned. The project will build upon the expertise of WHO's implementation with health partners in Ukraine.

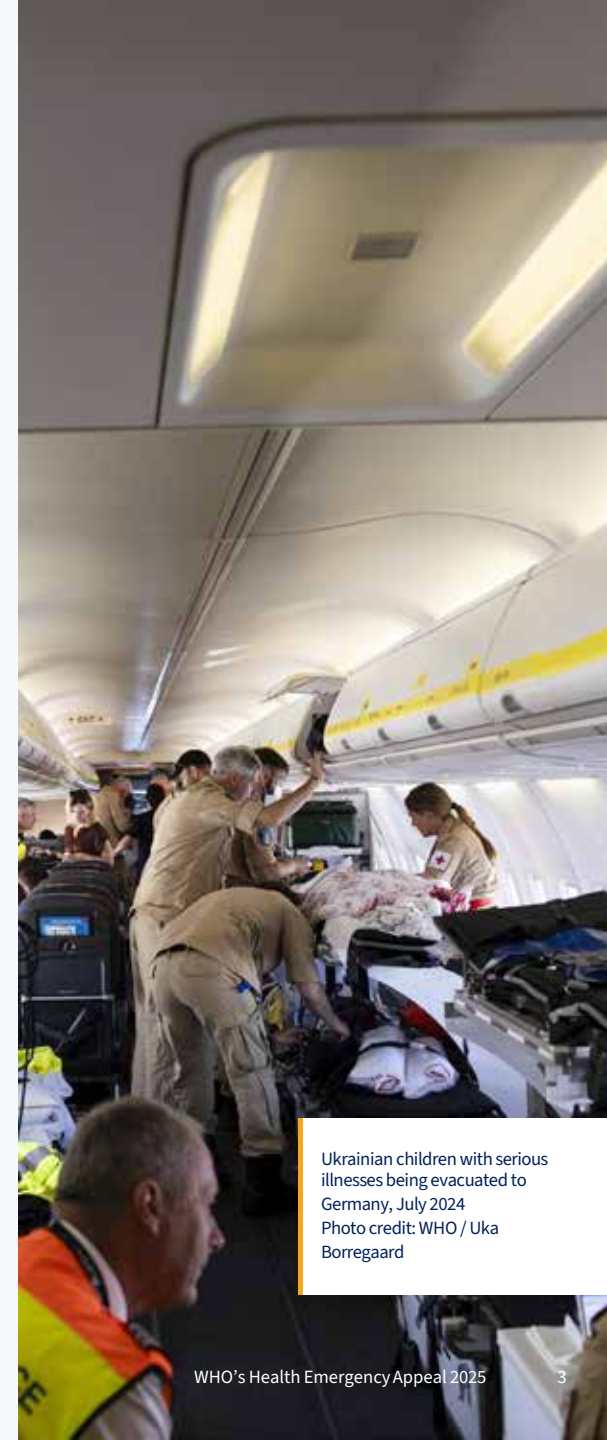
Besides national coordination in Kyiv, decentralized coordination will be implemented in the hubs of Dnipro, Kharkiv and Odesa where local partners are present. Coordination will be conducted in close collaboration with regional health authorities (Center for Disaster Medicine, Department of Health).

As part of the Health Cluster, Technical Working Groups (TWGs) will continue to provide technical oversight for a quality response at all levels.

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

WHO serves as the Cluster Lead Agency for health, playing a role in offering strategic leadership and oversight for health-related initiatives undertaken by various partners, including UN agencies, international and national non-governmental organizations (INGOs, NNGOs), and civil society organizations (CSOs) in Ukraine. This is aimed at achieving synergies and preventing the duplication of health interventions within the health sector.

There are currently 231 health partners registered within the Health Cluster. Coordination of health partners by the Health Cluster takes place at the national level in Kyiv and in hubs located in Dnipro, Kharkiv, Kherson, Mykolaiv and Odesa. This involves elements such as the coordination of activities based on the HNRP health strategy, tracking of training and monitoring medicine use by partners, amongst others. WHO will operate on various interfaces to lead the response, capitalizing on synergies with partners. This will include participation in General Coordination Meetings at the regional level, engagement in the Humanitarian Operation Planning Cell (HOPC), and empowering local actors to assist in delivering emergency health aid in hard-to-reach and high-risk areas in collaboration with all partners.



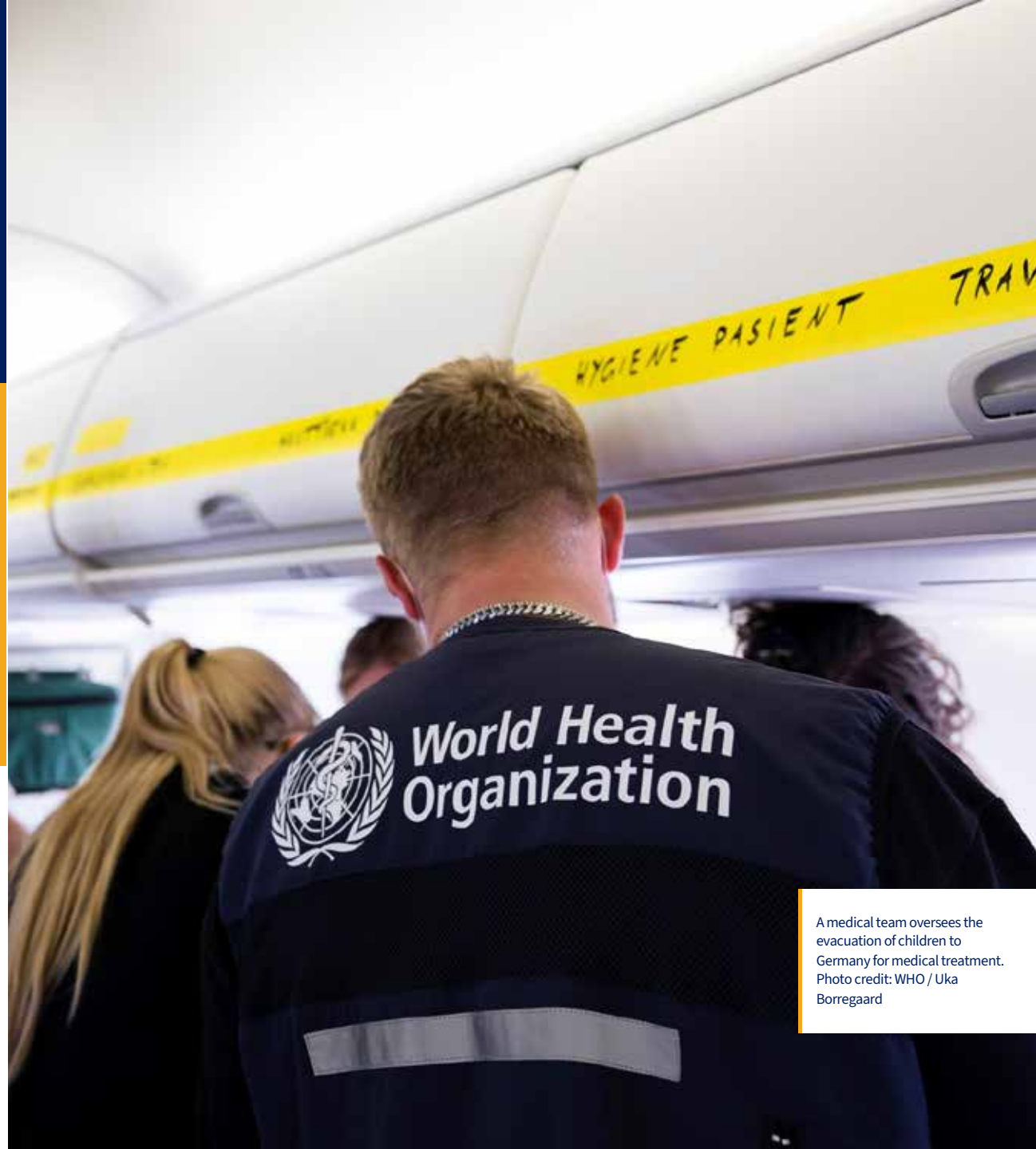
Ukrainian children with serious illnesses being evacuated to Germany, July 2024
Photo credit: WHO / Uka Borregaard



Patients at a rehabilitation centre
in Vinnytsia.
Photo credit: WHO

KEY ACTIVITIES FOR 2025

- **Strengthen emergency and trauma care**
 - Enhance mass casualty management and poly-trauma care through health workforce capacity-building at pre-hospital and hospital levels.
 - Institutionalize trauma care protocols and internationally accredited training to reduce dependency on external expertise.
 - Equip and support National Emergency Medical Teams (n-EMTs) and disaster medicine units.
 - Expand support for survivors of gender-based violence through targeted services.
- **Expand access to essential services**
 - Ensure continuity of primary health care (PHC) by deploying modular prefabricated structures and improving services in priority regions.
 - Deliver essential medical supplies, including medicines, equipment, and consumables to conflict-affected areas.
 - Address non-communicable diseases (NCDs) by integrating prevention and care into PHC delivery, with a focus on vulnerable populations.
- **Enhance outreach for hard-to-reach populations**
 - Deploy mobile health units and outreach teams to underserved areas near conflict zones.
 - Innovate with telemedicine and eHealth to address human resource shortages and improve access to care.
 - Strengthen referral pathways to ensure access to specialized services.
- **Support and promote rehabilitation, disability inclusion, mental health and psychosocial services (MHPSS)**
 - Expand MHPSS integration at the PHC level to address stress-related impacts on health.
 - Provide targeted services to address negative coping mechanisms exacerbating NCD risks, such as tobacco and alcohol use.
 - Improve access to care for persons with disabilities, including assistive technologies and facility upgrades for inclusivity.
- **Enhance health security and preparedness**
 - Develop preparedness plans aligned with International Health Regulations (IHR) to strengthen outbreak prevention and response.
 - Address winter and energetic security by maintaining electricity, heating and cold chain for sensitive medical supplies.
 - Monitor and mitigate environmental health risks, including WASH-related hazards, air pollution and radiological exposures.



A medical team oversees the evacuation of children to Germany for medical treatment.
Photo credit: WHO / Uka Borregaard

KEY ACTIVITIES FOR 2025 CONTINUED

- **Strengthen health governance and systems**
 - Promote decentralized governance and health workforce development tailored to local conflict challenges.
 - Foster resilient health-financing strategies for adaptive and sustainable reform.
- **Improve health information and coordination**
 - Strengthen Health Information Systems for data collection, surveillance, and needs assessment.
 - Enhance intersectoral collaboration with Protection and WASH clusters for integrated service delivery.
 - Ensure accountability through response monitoring, beneficiary feedback mechanisms and quality assurance.
- **Community engagement and infodemic management**
 - Advance risk communication to improve disease prevent and behavioural change.
 - Engage communities tailored health promotion strategies and local partnerships.

Thanks to WHO's emergency care trainings, we've been able to adjust our approaches to the challenges we face here. As ambulance workers, we respond to calls despite the risks, working just 20 kilometres from the frontline in Ukraine. Clearly, WHO's support has significantly enhanced our skills and readiness for this critical situation.

Kseniia Ostrizhna, Emergency Medicine Doctor

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024

WHO INSTALLS A NEW MODULAR CLINIC IN THE KHARKIV REGION



WHO team visiting modular primary health care clinic in the village of Tsyркuny, Kharkiv region
Photo credit: WHO

WHO has opened a new modular primary health care clinic in the village of Tsyркuny in the Kharkiv region, replacing a clinic destroyed in an attack earlier this year in nearby Lyptsi.

The clinic is a large, modular primary health care facility with four patient or examination rooms. It will serve internally displaced people who have been evacuated or have fled areas in the region due to intense hostilities. Five health care workers will staff the clinic, which is fully equipped to operate during power outages.

This is the second modular clinic installed in Tsyркuny; together, the two facilities will serve around 12 000 patients per year.

“When the previous modular clinic in Lyptsi was damaged, we responded quickly. Thankfully, everyone was evacuated and no one was harmed in the attack. Our team worked hard to ensure the new facility was ready within two months,” said Dr Emanuele Bruni, acting WHO Health Emergency Programme Lead, when visiting the new facility.

This project bridges emergency response and early recovery, with the modular units fully integrated into Ukraine’s health system.

“WHO has been investing in modular primary health care units over the past year to ensure local communities have access to primary health care services – a fundamental human right,” explained Dr Jarno Habicht, WHO Representative and Head of the Country Office in Ukraine.

This clinic is one of 28 WHO-installed modular units being run in regions affected by the war in Ukraine. Each clinic can be set up in 10 to 14 days and is intended to be a long-term solution, with a lifespan of more than 10 years. The units are integrated into Ukraine’s health system, contracted by the National Health Service of Ukraine, ensuring a sustainable solution.

The unit’s installation was made possible with the support of the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG-ECHO).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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WHO Representative in Ukraine, Dr. Jarno Habicht, together with the WHO team and the Minister of Health of Ukraine, Viktor Liashko, visiting Lyman, Donetsk region and assessing health needs
Photo credit: WHO

2025 FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Overall country funding requirements by emergency response pillar (US \$ million).

UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY	
EMERGENCY RESPONSE PILLAR	FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (US\$'000)
Collaborative surveillance	3799
Surveillance, case investigation and contact tracing	3306
Diagnostics and testing	493
Community protection	1261
Risk communication and community engagement	1211
Infection prevention and control in communities	50
Safe and scalable care	41 377
Infection prevention and control in health facilities	1019
Case management and therapeutics	8107
Essential health systems and services	32 211
Access to countermeasures	16 936
Operational support and logistics	16 936
Emergency leadership	5029
Leadership, coordination, PSEAH and monitoring	5029
Grand Total	68 361