

# UKRAINE AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES

## FLASH APPEAL

Grade 3 Emergency



### At a glance

**18 million** people affected by the conflict in Ukraine

**6 million** people targeted in Ukraine (3 months)

**536** conflict related deaths

**1684** injured

**70** health partners in Ukraine

**874 026** refugees in neighbouring countries and up to **4 million** anticipated in coming weeks

**2.4 million** refugees targeted in neighbouring countries (6 months)

### Requirements

**US\$ 45 million** to secure medical supplies and cover essential health interventions in Ukraine

**US\$ 12.5 million** to secure medical supplies and cover essential health interventions in neighbouring countries

### Current situation and impact on health

#### Ukraine

- Casualties have been reported across the country and are expected to rise. Emergency Medical Services (EMS), surgical departments and intensive care units are likely to become overwhelmed with trauma patients. Essential health services have been disrupted and are collapsing and jeopardize the treatment of chronic/non-communicable diseases (NCDs) including diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular diseases. Equally, there is disruption and lack of access to mental health and psychosocial support services, sexual, reproductive and maternal health care, ante-natal care, child health and assistance to people with disabilities.
- There is poor or no access to primary health care institutions due to restricted mobility and security concerns, especially in areas of intense fighting, this disrupts the referral system; thereby making not only primary, but also secondary and tertiary care (hospitals and specialist centres) inaccessible to the population. Access to state programmes, such as “affordable drugs” and free insulin for diabetic patients has also been limited. Damage to health care infrastructure, curtailed access to referral hospitals and pharmacies, and personnel fleeing from conflict-affected areas are compounding to paralyze the health system.
- Health care services disruptions coupled with conflict conditions increase the affected population's vulnerability to communicable diseases, such as COVID-19, polio and measles. Poor vaccination coverage increases the risk of outbreaks of preventable communicable diseases, particularly among children; the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent reported cases of polio in the western part of the country compound this risk. Confinement conditions in shelters, population displacement, and infrastructure damage, make hygiene difficult to maintain, increasing the risk of respiratory and diarrheal diseases, which could rapidly have a large impact on the health of the population.
- The pre-existing mental health and psychosocial support needs of the population have intensified. Health-care workers face overloading, understaffing and are at increased risk of psychological distress and mental health disorders because of witnessing traumatic events.

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## Neighbouring countries

- As of 1 March 2022, 874 026 people may have already fled the violence in Ukraine. Poland alone has already welcomed over 453 982 refugees, Republic of Moldova 79 315, Hungary 116 348, Slovakia 67 000, Romania 44 540 and other European countries 69 600. UNHCR estimates that over 4 million people could flee from Ukraine and seek protection and support across the region. Partners involved in the implementation of the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP), including WHO, aim at assisting 2.4 million refugees and asylum-seekers in neighbouring countries.
- The immediate health priorities include providing the fleeing population with access to EMS and to surgical services to treat trauma caused by violence and military operations. Additional priorities include provision of access to essential healthcare services and medication including for mothers and children, HIV and Tuberculosis patients as well as patients suffering from NCDs, access to mental health and psychosocial support.
- Addressing the increased transmission of COVID-19 and other seasonal respiratory infections as well as of vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles or the vaccine-derived poliovirus (VDPV) in refugee populations is a matter of priority.

### WHO priorities

- Immediate emergency care for injured patients.
- Provision of essential medical supplies to fill urgent gaps.
- Ongoing assessments of health impact and humanitarian health needs.
- Coordination of the international response, including Emergency Medical Teams.
- Continuity of COVID-19 care.
- Infrastructural support for hospitals and health facilities.
- Strengthening health information management.

## WHO's response in focus

### Ukraine

WHO's overall response will continue to focus on saving lives, ensuring access to basic health services for those affected by armed conflict, COVID-19, polio and other health threats including technological, industrial and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear hazards.

While WHO and other humanitarian partners are severely constrained due to the security situation, WHO is working closely with the Ministry of Health to collect data and requirements in terms of trauma care and oxygen capabilities, and to map health care facility needs. WHO, as the Health Cluster Lead, is also coordinating the response with health partners. The collection and analysis of health data from – including critical conflict-related indicators such as numbers of deaths and injured and attacks on health care – is a central focus of WHO.

WHO is establishing a logistics emergency centre in Poland to deploy critical essential medical supplies, including trauma kits, life-saving medicines, laboratory supplies and other critical items through ground transportation into Ukraine, and to neighbouring countries.

Trauma care and continuity of care for all categories of patients, including those with chronic conditions in need of life-saving medication and care, as well as mental health and psychosocial support are key elements of the overall health response. WHO is working with local health authorities to address related needs on the ground in Ukraine. Ensuring that healthcare facilities are operational again will also be a central element of the response.

Continuity of COVID-19 and polio outbreak response activities is also vital, and it will be critical to sustain COVID-19 response efforts, ensuring that all pillars of the response remain active and that there is a reliable supply of personal protective equipment (PPE), testing supplies, vaccines, therapeutics and other supplies to replace the lost and damaged materials in Ukraine.

### Neighbouring countries

WHO country offices in Poland, Republic of Moldova, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and in other European countries are working closely with Ministries of Health to address the immediate health needs of Refugee arrivals. All offices are scaling up capacity through staff deployments. In neighbouring countries, WHO is operating under the interagency response as part of the RRRP coordinated by UNHCR.

The WHO emergency centre in Poland will be used to deploy emergency medical supplies to support the immediate needs of affected population both inside and outside Ukraine. This centre will also act as a base for WHO's technical assistance, where WHO will house expertise covering health sector/ cluster coordination, emergency medical team coordination, emergency medical care, COVID-19 and other communicable diseases control, primary health care and health service delivery and mental health. WHO headquarters and the WHO Regional Office for Europe are working jointly with the WHO offices in Ukraine (more than 130 staff before the escalation), Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary and Moldova.

WHO will be focusing on trauma care and continuity of care for all categories of patients – including those with chronic conditions in need of life-saving medication and care. Mental health and psychosocial support will also be central elements of the response.

Given the high risk of transmission of COVID-19, other respiratory diseases and vaccine-preventable diseases including polio, particular attention will be granted to ensure robust disease surveillance systems are in place and care for patients suffering from those conditions is accessible while implementing relevant infection prevention and control measures.

WHO in coordination with United Nations partners will take comprehensive measures to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse in Ukraine and neighbouring countries during the operations.

## WHO funding needs for March 2022 – June 2022

Activities	Geographic distribution of funding (US\$)	
	Ukraine	Neighbouring countries
Coordinating the humanitarian health response for those affected by the conflict in Ukraine including IDPs and in neighbouring countries. Including activating an operational centre in Poland.	100 000	3 500 000
Meeting urgent trauma care needs and emergency health care via deployment and coordination of Emergency Medical Teams.	2 000 000	1 000 000
Provision of trauma kits essential medical supplies and logistics support to fill urgent gaps.	25 000 000	2 000 000
Generators and other infrastructural support items for hospitals and health facilities.	10 000 000	500 000
Medical equipment including personal protective equipment (PPE).	2 000 000	500 000
Ensuring the continuity of COVID-19 services in Ukraine and extending access to COVID-19 services to refugee populations including vaccination, public health measures, testing and medical care.	2 000 000	2 000 000
Preventing and responding to vaccine-preventable diseases, measles and polio.	1 500 000	1 000 000
Strengthening health information management and surveillance in Ukraine and surrounding countries and establishing public health information system (PHIS) in Ukraine.	400 000	800 000
Preventing, detecting and responding to potential outbreaks of diarrheal diseases.	300 000	200 000
Provision of mental and psychological support to populations (including IDPs and refugees) and building capacity of frontline health care workers in managing stress related conditions.	1 500 000	600 000
Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).	200 000	400 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>45 000 000</b>	<b>12 500 000</b>

## For more information

Pierre Roca

External Relations  
WHO Regional Office for Europe[rocap@who.int](mailto:rocap@who.int)

Kerstin Bycroft

External Relations  
WHO[bycroftk@who.int](mailto:bycroftk@who.int)

In one day, more than 16 000 citizens of Ukraine entered the Republic of Moldova. © WHO