

This statement has been submitted by the European Cancer Organisation (ECO), in our capacity as a Non-State Actor at WHO/Europe. It is an abridged version of a fuller statement available [here](#).

Ukrainian cancer patients, and their care, have been drastically impacted by Russia's invasion. This includes:

- The destruction of healthcare facilities, including hospitals;
- The deterioration of medical supply lines;
- The displacement of millions of Ukrainians, including adults and children with cancer, their caregivers and healthcare professionals;
- The creation of enormous trauma to citizens, including those already suffering distress associated with cancer;
- The substantial pressure on health services across the region;
- The transgressions against internationally established principles, including medical neutrality.

[Our Special Network on the Impact of the War in Ukraine on Cancer](#) takes the occasion of today's Special Meeting to highlight cancer service needs that can be more fully met through inter-governmental attention and response.

1. Meeting the needs of Ukrainian cancer patients in transit

Ukrainians with cancer seeking safety and security in another country require very rapid, proactive support. Information about how to access care in another country must be made immediately available to them upon arrival and in their native language. Those working directly with refugees should be made aware of the many resources now available online to help meet this need, including, but not limited to www.onco-help.org (and www.onko-help.org).

See more on this topic [here](#).

2. Tackling medical supply shortages

Intelligence from different cancer centres and organisations in Ukraine reveals that life-saving and life-extending needs remain to be addressed. These include the supply of many generic cancer medicines essential to standard care, as well as items necessary for the maintenance of other cancer treatment modalities such as single-use surgery tools. Maintaining radiotherapy capacity in Ukraine and neighbouring countries has particular needs requiring large, fixed equipment with patients attending daily over several weeks, ideally without interruptions.

See more on this topic [here](#).

3. Civil society: a resource to be enabled

Civil society organisations are a strong force, providing precious support, rapid responses and ensuring humanity prevails in this present devastating situation in Ukraine. They can often respond with great speed to reported gaps in care provision and take a hands-on approach to helping individuals in need, overcoming obstacles and achieving better care for those suffering from the impact of the war. We urge governments to give high-priority consideration to ways in which the work of these organisations (many of which are made up of volunteers) can be supported through this crisis to deliver what others are not providing at this time.

See more on this topic [here](#).

4. Professional Qualification Recognition

We are also aware that many who have departed Ukraine hold professional qualifications in healthcare vocations but are not able to contribute these skills to their hosting country's health service, due to issues with professional qualification recognition. We urge resolution of such problems so that these trained professionals can contribute their skills to the healthcare effort.

See more on this topic [here](#).

More than ever, this is a time for health solidarity

Health service capacities are finite in any country, and the war has placed not only unprecedented strain on the healthcare services in Ukraine but has also created tremendous challenges for the healthcare services in other countries who are trying to help displaced cancer patients and their families. All countries in Europe must unite together in the pooling of health service capacity and resources, prioritising actions according to the countries neighbouring Ukraine which have the greatest support needs.

Read our full statement [here](#).