

Emergency in Ukraine

External Situation Report #18, published 28 July 2022
Reporting period: 14–27 July 2022

9.9 million
BORDER
CROSSINGS



6.1 million
REFUGEES
RECORDED
ACROSS EUROPE



6.3 million
INTERNALLY
DISPLACED



12 272
CIVILIAN
CASUALTIES



5237
CIVILIAN
DEATHS

Key updates

- According to [WHO's Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care](#), there have been 414 attacks on health care, resulting in 100 injuries and 85 deaths, reported between 24 February and 27 July. Attacks on health care include those against health facilities, transport, personnel, patients, supplies and warehouses. These attacks deprive people of urgently needed care, endanger health-care providers, and undermine health systems.
- WHO has supported the health response in Ukraine by providing, among other things: training on COVID-19, chemical preparedness and response and mass casualty management; technical expertise on the national immunization strategy; trauma and burn kits, and support for medical evacuation (medevac) after the attacks on Vinnytsya; technical expertise on environmental health issues, including water-related preparedness and response measures, in view of a potential cholera outbreak.
- The WHO team visited western Ukraine (Lviv, Zakarpattia and Rivne oblasts) with the Deputy Minister of Health and partners from the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). In Lviv they carried out an assessment of readiness to respond to a poliomyelitis (polio) outbreak, which included a surveillance and vaccination review. The risk of polio is currently high in Lviv due to the large number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) currently residing there. The assessment concluded that there was a need to spread information on polio preparedness and vaccination in rural areas of Ukraine, particularly those with the lowest vaccination rates, where distrust in vaccines may be more common.

1. SITUATION UPDATE

Figure 1. Distribution of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees in Ukraine and in refugee-hosting countries as of 26 July 2022

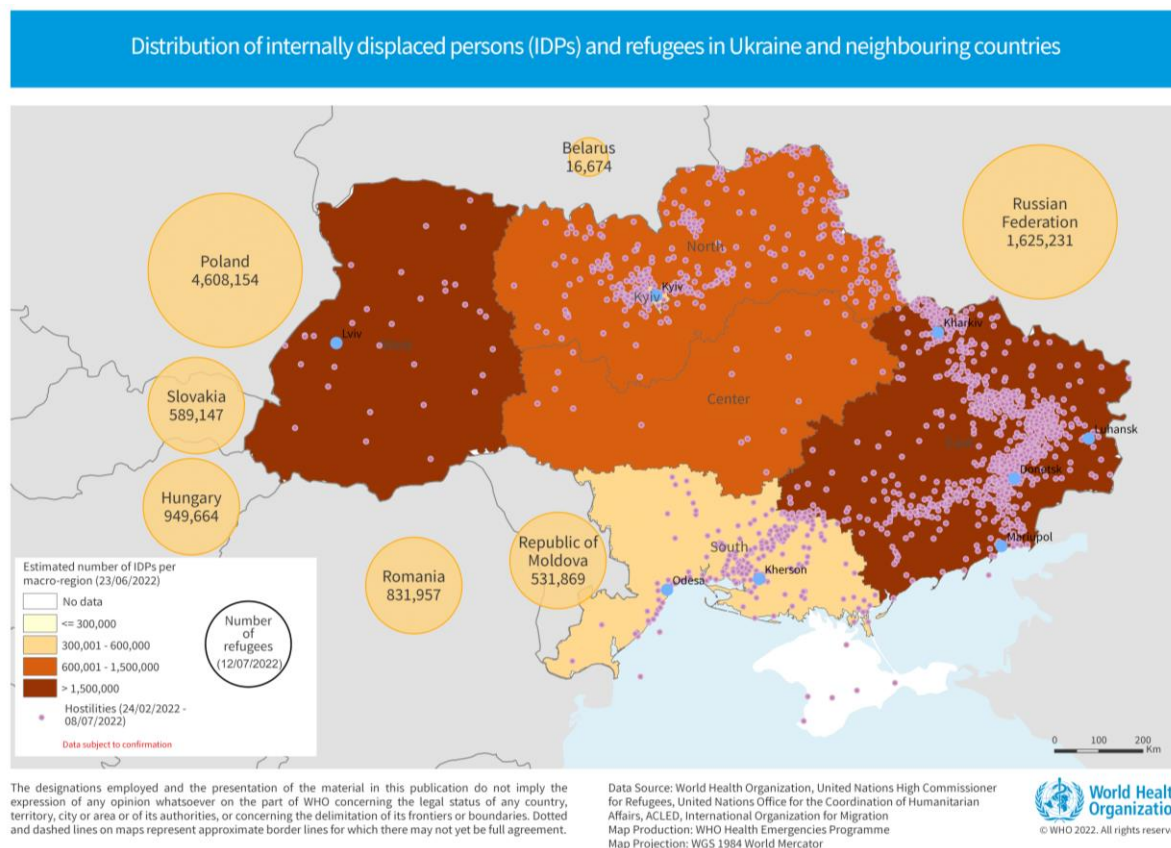


Table 1. Key humanitarian figures as of 26 July 2022

People affected	
Internally displaced persons	6.3 million (as of 23 June)
Border crossings	9.9 million
Refugees recorded across Europe	6.1 million
People entering Ukraine	3.9 million
Injuries among civilians	7035 (as of 24 July)
Deaths among civilians	5237 (as of 24 July)

1.1 Population displacement and refugees

As the crisis evolves, displacement and mobility patterns continue to change. This requires a response that addresses both emerging and existing needs.

According to government data compiled by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 9.9 million border crossings¹ from Ukraine took place between 24 February and 26 July. Just under half entered Poland (49%), while significant proportions entered the Russian Federation (18.5%), Hungary (10.4%), Romania (9%), Slovakia (6%) and the Republic of Moldova (5.5%).

¹ This does not equal the actual number of refugees.

As of 23 June 2022, an estimated 6.3 million people remain internally displaced within Ukraine, representing 14% of the general population.

1.2 Overall WHO response

The role of WHO is to coordinate the response to health emergencies, promote health and well-being, prevent disease and expand access to health care.

In support of the health sectors in Ukraine and refugee-hosting countries, WHO is working with key stakeholders, including:

- Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) to provide support for infectious disease outbreaks;
- Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) to deliver health-care services;
- Health Cluster Partners to coordinate humanitarian health activities;
- Standby Partners to deploy emergency health-care personnel; and
- the governments of Ukraine and of refugee-hosting countries to provide support to improve access to health care and to ensure safe medical evacuation (medevac) of patients.

1.3 Funding

As of 27 July WHO has received US\$ 93.8 million (64%) against its total funding requirement of US\$ 147.5 million under its [appeal for the Ukraine crisis](#) from 17 donors.

WHO would like to thank [donors](#) who are supporting its response in Ukraine, including: *Canada, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), European Commission – Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), Germany, Ireland, Japan/Asia Europe Foundation, the King Salman Humanitarian Aid & Relief Centre (KSRelief), Kuwait, Norway, Novo Nordisk Foundation, Switzerland, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (UHF), the United States Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration and Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance, WHO Foundation, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam;* for their timely contributions.

WHO has issued an [interim report](#) covering its response from February to June 2022.

2. HEALTH PRIORITIES AND WHO ACTIONS IN UKRAINE TO DATE

2.1 Access to health care in Ukraine

Access to health care is severely impacted due to security concerns, restricted mobility, broken supply chains and mass displacement. Between 24 February and 27 July, 414 attacks on health care² were reported³, resulting in 100 injuries and 85 deaths, with one new attack reported in the past two weeks. These attacks deprive people of urgently needed care, endanger health-care providers, and undermine health systems.

The conflict has disrupted supply lines, limiting the movement of medicines and consumables between and across institutions, cities and regions. Cargo movement by air has stopped, many roads are blocked, trains and train stations are damaged, and as movement on roads continues to be risky, the supplies of goods have been delayed.

Through engagement with the Ministry of Health (MoH) of Ukraine, national health authorities, partners and donors, WHO has been able to provide affected populations with life-saving supplies, equipment and medicines. However, reaching some of the hardest-hit areas, where health systems have been severely disrupted, remains a challenge.

2.2 Priority public health concerns

More detail on each of the priorities listed below can be found in previously published [situation reports](#), the [Public Health Situation Analysis](#) and the [Strategic Response Plan](#).

Conflict-related trauma and injuries	Emergency medical services, surgical departments and intensive care units have been overwhelmed with trauma patients. Access to health care has been limited and essential health services have been disrupted or are collapsing.
Maternal and newborn health	According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), damage to and destruction of medical facilities as well as a shortage of service providers and critical supplies have severely compromised the delivery of essential health services, including access to maternal care for the estimated 265 000 women who were pregnant when the conflict erupted.
Management of chronic diseases and noncommunicable diseases (NCDs)	Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) are the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in Ukraine, with the five major NCDs – cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, chronic respiratory disease, and mental health conditions – accounting for 84% of all deaths. Disruptions in treatment for chronic cardiovascular and respiratory diseases increase morbidity and, most likely, mortality.
Risk of emergence and spread of infectious diseases	<p>Between 23 February and 24 July, the overall number of beds available and beds occupied by patients with COVID-19 decreased by 68% and 98%, respectively, reflecting potential challenges in accessing hospitals, limited data reporting, and a potential decrease in actual hospitalizations. The most notable decrease in the number of available beds was reported in the Luhansk oblast (100%), followed by the Vinnytsya (88%) and Chernivtsi (85%) oblasts.</p> <p>An average of 134–149 hospitalizations per day were reported in the last week. However, COVID-19 remains a substantial threat given the country's low vaccination rates.</p> <p>The circulation of poliovirus has been confirmed in two oblasts in western Ukraine: Rivne and Zakarpattia. To date, two children with acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) have tested positive for circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) (both with onset of illness in 2021), and the virus has also been detected in 19 asymptomatic contacts. Intensified AFP surveillance is ongoing across the country, along with environmental poliovirus surveillance. Since January 2022, 61 AFP cases have been reported, all of whom have tested negative for polio.</p> <p>In the current crisis setting, this outbreak poses a substantial risk of international spread due to subnational gaps in immunization coverage and suboptimal AFP surveillance in countries surrounding Ukraine, and mass population movement linked to the war. The risk of polio is currently high in Lviv in western Ukraine, due to the large number of IDPs currently residing there.</p>

² Attacks on health care include those against health facilities, transport, personnel, patients, supplies and warehouses.

³ [Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care \(SSA\)](#).

Protection issues: risk of human trafficking and escalated risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)	<p>Women and girls, in particular, face heightened risks of gender-based violence and abuse, including conflict-related sexual violence and rape, while those fleeing their homes are exposed to increased risks to their safety and well-being.</p> <p>National protection systems and mechanisms for women survivors of violence have been compromised.</p>
Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)	<p>The affected population is considered at high risk for adverse mental health outcomes and there is an urgent need for continued mental health and psychosocial support services. Health-care workers face challenges of working over capacity due to understaffing, and are at increased risk of psychological distress, burnout and mental health issues. This comes against a backdrop of already responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has overstretched systems.</p>
Food security and nutrition	<p>The conflict is affecting food security within and outside Ukraine. Between 1 and 18 July the World Food Programme (WFP) served 1.5 million beneficiaries. More than half of them received food assistance in the form of ready-to-eat foods and dry goods. Food distribution has mostly focused on the eastern part of Ukraine, where the conflict is the most intense. The remaining beneficiaries were IDPs.</p>
Technological hazards and health risks	<p>Potential nuclear hazards</p> <p>There are both operational and decommissioned nuclear facilities in Ukraine. In addition, numerous radioactive sources are used in industry and in health-care facilities. According to the International Atomic Energy Agency's analysis, the current nuclear safety situation appears under control. However, the ongoing armed conflict puts nuclear installations at risk of accidental or deliberate damage and jeopardizes the security of radioactive sources.</p> <p>WHO has developed technical guidance and public communication materials on this subject, including materials in Ukrainian. Training courses and webinars focusing on medical and public response to radiation emergencies are also being delivered in collaboration with national partners in Ukraine.</p> <p>Chemical hazards</p> <p>The risks posed by industrial facilities or sites storing, transporting or producing toxic industrial chemicals remain, particularly to populations living near industrial facilities located close to the line of conflict. During the reporting period there were no new chemical events reported. However, WHO continues to prepare health authorities, health responders and communities for such potential events.</p>

2.3 WHO and partner actions in Ukraine to date

Leadership and coordination

The WHO team visited western Ukraine (Lviv, Zakarpattia and Rivne oblasts) with the Deputy Minister of Health and partners from the GPEI. In Lviv they carried out an assessment of readiness to respond to a polio outbreak, which included a surveillance and vaccination review. The assessment concluded that there was a need to spread information on polio preparedness and vaccination in rural areas of Ukraine, particularly those with the lowest vaccination rates, where distrust in vaccines may be more common.

WHO is supporting the MoH of Ukraine in the development of a national plan of action on sanitary and epidemiological well-being, following an assessment carried out in December 2021 under the International Health Regulations (IHR).

Medical evacuation of patients (medevac)

A total of 877 patients requiring medevac (79% of the requests received from the European Commission) have been evacuated from Poland, Republic of Moldova, Slovakia, and Ukraine for medical treatment in 18 other European countries via the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism. Among current requests, a further 8% are in transit. These evacuations are mainly due to chronic conditions and traumatic injuries.

Transportation of patients within Ukraine is provided by the national emergency services, while transportation across the border to other countries within the European Union (EU) is managed by international EMTs and coordinated by the CADUS team, a German nongovernmental organization (NGO) that provides EMT support.

Health information and operations

The health sector response continues to prioritize saving lives and protecting mental health. Actions focus on ensuring access to health care for wounded people and others affected by the armed conflict, COVID-19, polio, and other health threats and hazards. Continuity of treatment and care for people with NCDs – including diabetes and cancer – is a top priority.

During the reporting period, WHO has supported the health response in Ukraine by providing, among other things:

- training on COVID-19, chemical preparedness and response, and mass casualty management;
- two ventilators to the Khmelnytsky Regional Hospital;
- improved access to medical care for IDPs in remote settlements in the Khmelnytsky oblast;
- technical expertise on the national immunization strategy;
- trauma and burn kits, and supporting medevac after the attacks on Vinnytsya; and
- technical expertise on environmental health issues, including cholera preparedness and response.

Supplies and logistics

- WHO has delivered to Ukraine (as of 26 July) 836 metric tonnes of medical supplies, valued at US\$ 563.7 million. Of this, 440 metric tonnes of supplies have been delivered to 24 oblasts.
- Over the past week, more than 56 metric tonnes of medical supplies, valued at more than US\$ 1 million, were delivered to warehouses across Ukraine.
- Ten ambulances designated for the MoH have reached the Lviv warehouse.
- An additional nine truckloads of supplies (78 metric tonnes) are awaiting dispatch to Ukraine.
- WHO continues to support Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in importing controlled medicine (e.g. narcotic analgesics) kits for various beneficiaries around Ukraine.

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) and external communications

During the reporting period, WHO has supported:

- a Facebook campaign on cholera awareness, reaching 12 million people across Ukraine;
- the development of rapid message testing to encourage the use of free mental health resources in Ukraine; and
- research into access to health care by IDPs in Zaporizhzhya, in partnership with the Danish Red Cross.

Operational partnerships

Emergency Medical Teams

The EMT Coordination Cell (CC) coordinates 27 EMTs operating across 13 oblasts in Ukraine. The priority activities of these EMTs are: trauma care, rehabilitation (including burns and spinal cord injuries), patient transfer and medevac, and training.

- Training has been conducted on: mass casualties, advanced trauma life support for adults and children, basic emergency medicine and trauma, surgical management of penetrating trauma, and tactical emergency casualty care.
- As of 26 July EMTs have reported providing 12 457 consultations across 11 oblasts. Among outpatient consultations, 11% were for respiratory infections and 23% were for chronic diseases.

- WHO donated 50 assistive devices (crutches, wheelchairs) to 11 acute care hospitals in eastern Ukraine.

Standby Partnership deployments

From 2 March to 26 July there have been a total of 17 deployments to the WHO Regional Office for Europe, Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Ukraine. Four other deployments to Poland, Romania and Ukraine are in process.

They provide expertise on:

- health information management;
- Geographic Information System mapping;
- risk communication and community engagement;
- mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS);
- prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA);
- sexual and reproductive health;
- gender-based violence; and
- Health Cluster coordination.

Regional WHO-UN-Red Cross Movement Coordination Platform for Emergencies

The fifth meeting of the Regional WHO-UN-Red Cross Movement Emergency Coordination Platform is scheduled for 28 July. It focuses on the use of mobile labs (mostly deployable) by emergency health-care delivery teams within Ukraine and refugee-hosting countries.

Invitees include representatives from UN Agencies and partner organizations and members of the Issue-based Coalition on Health and Well-being (IBC-Health).



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