



International Medical Corps' Logistics Coordinator Chris Martin assesses a warehouse in Poland.

On February 24, Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a “special military operation” in Ukraine, invading the neighboring nation in an attack that has been condemned by world leaders.¹ Missile attacks and explosions have been reported throughout Ukraine, with military troops invading from three sides of the country. Since the start of the invasion, at least 364 civilians have been killed, including 14 children, and 1,684 people have been wounded, including 116 children. However, UN OHCHR believes these numbers to be much higher, as casualties in some areas remain undercounted.

According to UN OCHA, the attempted evacuation of civilians from the southeast regions of Mariupol and Volnovaka was postponed after being scheduled for March 5.² The attempted safe passage of those who remain trapped was thwarted by increasing attacks along the evacuation route, despite assurances of cooperation with a ceasefire. A second humanitarian corridor was planned for March 6, but did not materialize due to similar circumstances. Additional evacuation routes are being urgently explored, along with a possible humanitarian corridor out of Kharkiv in northern Ukraine. Though more than 1.7 million Ukrainians have fled the country, many remain and are in desperate need of food, water and medicine. Affected populations have been unable to receive relief due to the military attacks in and around various cities. Thirty trucks with humanitarian relief supplies remain unable to deliver provisions, as there is no way to safely reach people.

The World Health Organization has identified a number of priority health concerns as the situation continues to unfold in Ukraine. Conflict-related trauma and injuries among those in Ukraine have been exacerbated due to the effects the invasion has had on health facilities.³ Those living with non-communicable diseases have experienced disruptions in medications and services, which is likely to increase morbidity and mortality. Communicable diseases, including COVID-19, are likely to spread rapidly among those fleeing, due to overcrowding. Furthermore, destruction to utilities, including electricity and water systems, will lead to poor water and sanitation hygiene, and decreased access to safe

FAST FACTS

Humanitarian Toll

- At least 364 civilians have been killed and 1,684 wounded, with actual numbers likely much higher.
- At least 1.7 million Ukrainians have fled to nearby countries.

Our Footprint

- International Medical Corps has a history of working in Ukraine that dates back to 1999. Since 2014, in response to conflict in the east, we have provided primary care, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response, and infection prevention and control for COVID-19.

Our Response

- International Medical Corps is supporting mobile medical and MHPSS services response in Ukraine, and will provide other services as required.
- Our team has deployed staff to Poland and Romania, and plans to deploy to Moldova, to assess needs for critical supplies, services and programs at Ukrainian borders.

¹ <https://www.cnn.com/2022/02/24/europe/ukraine-russia-attack-timeline-intl/index.html>

² <https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/ukraine-humanitarian-impact-situation-report-300-pm-eet-6-march-2022>

³ <https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/emergency-ukraine-external-situation-report-1-published-5-march-2022>

drinking water. Mental health and psychosocial needs among an already stressed population remain among the top priorities for healthcare.

Since the invasion, more than 1.7 million people have fled Ukraine. Last week, Poland received the highest number of Ukrainians at the border, with Romania following behind. As of March 7, more than 1,027,603 people had crossed the border from Ukraine into Poland.⁴ More than 78,977 people had entered Romania, 180,163 people had entered Hungary, 82,762 had entered Moldova, 128,168 had entered Slovakia, 53,300 had fled to Russia and 183,688 had fled to other European countries. According to a Border Crossing Survey conducted by IMPACT Initiatives, 70% of those surveyed chose their destination because they already have family or friends in that location. However, only 50% of all respondents indicated they will be staying with family or friends, and 15% are unsure of where they will stay.



International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps is one of the few international humanitarian agencies working on both sides of the original "line of contact" in the conflict that began in 2014. The country mission team has stayed in Ukraine and has worked with partners to continue providing mental health and psychosocial services (MHPSS) throughout the Russian invasion. It also has supported the Ministry of Health throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, has supported a mobile medical response to the conflict and is prepared to launch emergency mobile medical teams, working with Ukrainian partner organizations. International Medical Corps is poised to harness its organizational expertise and contextual experience, and draw on established partnerships, to renew and expand services to meet the needs of the current emergency.

In Ukraine, International Medical Corps is assessing health facility needs. Current areas of requested support include trauma kits, first-aid kits and other urgent supplies to provide care to injured civilians. The team is looking to scale medical services through partnerships with local volunteer clinicians. Communication with health facilities is a major challenge, as many affected regions remain without electricity. The unpredictable circumstances under which health facility staff are operating make liaising with in-country staff extremely difficult. The team is focused on providing services to affected populations while prioritizing the safety and security of its in-country staff. As a result, the team is looking to establish Lviv as its central hub in Ukraine, given its current status as a safer outpost for civilians and staff.

In Poland, International Medical Corps' Emergency Response Team is coordinating closely with local organizations to identify the needs of refugees and potential gaps in existing services. Over the weekend, International Medical Corps deployed technical advisors to Poland, including staff from the gender-based violence (GBV) team and staff from the mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) team. They have initiated rapid needs assessments for each sector, to identify priority areas for programming. Additional team members include those from the supply-chain and logistics team, who are overseeing the procurement, storage and transport of essential medical supplies and commodities.

In Romania, the Emergency Response Team is recruiting additional emergency personnel to support the humanitarian response both for Romania and Moldova, as well as for providing emergency supplies to our Ukraine operations. The government, in coordination with the Department for Emergency Situation of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, has designated the Romanian city of Suceava as the main humanitarian hub for the Ukraine crisis.

⁴ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/28/russia-ukraine-crisis-in-maps-and-charts-live-news-interactive>