



*Dr. John Roberts inspects COVID-19 tests for quality and condition before distributing to refugee receiving centers in Warsaw, Poland.*

It has been one month since Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a “special military operation” in Ukraine, leading to Europe’s largest refugee crisis since World War II. In the four weeks since the crisis began, at least 2,571 civilian casualties have been reported in the country, including 977 killed.<sup>1</sup> The UN believes these numbers to be much higher, as casualties in some areas remain un- or undercounted.

Conflict-related trauma and injuries, maternal and newborn health, and food security and nutrition are being prioritized as public health areas of concern.<sup>2</sup> Environmental health risks (including risk of hypothermia) due to extreme weather conditions, and concerns about radiation exposure (given the number of active and decommissioned nuclear power plants in Ukraine) have added to the complexity of this emergency. As the majority of Ukrainians evacuating are women and girls, protection programs remain essential. And amid the COVID pandemic, the overcrowding of evacuation centers, lack of safe water and suboptimal vaccination coverage in affected areas of Ukraine have posed an increased risk of emergence and spread of infectious diseases.

Since the invasion, more than 3.6 million people have fled Ukraine.<sup>3</sup> As of March 24, at least 2,144,244 people had crossed the border from Ukraine into Poland, 555,021 had entered Romania, 371,104 had entered Moldova, 317,104 had entered Hungary, 256,838 had entered Slovakia, 271,254 had fled to Russia and 4,938 had fled to Belarus.

## FAST FACTS

### Humanitarian Toll

- According to the United Nations, at least 2,571 civilian casualties have been reported, including 977 killed, though the UN says that actual numbers are likely much higher.
- Nearly 6.5 million people have been forcibly displaced, while more than 3.6 million have left for nearby countries, meaning that more than 10 million people—or almost one-quarter of Ukraine’s population—have fled their homes.

### Our Footprint

- With a history in the country stretching back to 1999, we have operated continuously in Ukraine since 2014, in response to conflict in the east, providing health and protection services, and infection prevention and control programs for COVID-19.

### Our Response

- International Medical Corps currently is supporting mobile medical and MHPSS services in Ukraine, is providing medicines and medical equipment and supplies, and will provide other services as required.
- Our team has deployed staff to Poland, Romania and Moldova to provide critical supplies, services and programs at Ukrainian borders.

<sup>1</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/ukraine-humanitarian-impact-situation-report-1200-pm-eet-23-march-2022>

<sup>2</sup> <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/352504/WHO-EURO-2022-5152-44915-63936-eng.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>

## International Medical Corps Response

In the month since the conflict began, International Medical Corps has delivered essential medical supplies and medications to support health facilities inside Ukraine; distributed water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and non-food items (NFIs) to refugees in Poland and Moldova; delivered mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) consultations to affected residents in southeast Ukraine; and continued to increase our footprint throughout the region. We have secured four additional warehouses, expanded our offices to include sites in four additional locations throughout western, central, eastern and southern Ukraine, and deployed an expert team of logisticians to ensure an efficient and effective supply chain. We have deployed technical specialists and clinicians to identify critical needs, strengthen existing programs and increase access to services. As one of the few international humanitarian agencies working on both sides of the original “line of contact” since in 2014, our team has been working diligently to expand access to critically needed services for residents remaining in Ukraine and refugees in Poland and Moldova.



### Ukraine

In Ukraine, International Medical Corps has so far distributed more than 12.4 tons of vital medicine, medical supplies and trauma kits to six health facilities in Lviv, Kyiv and Kharkiv, including trauma and emergency surgery kits (TESK), interagency emergency health kits (IEHK), non-communicable disease kits (NCDK) and reproductive health kits, all of which will serve more than 260,000 people for three months. The medical kits include essential medications, as well as medical consumables, including gauze, bandages, syringes and hypodermic needles. The kits were procured from our supplier in the Netherlands and delivered to our staging warehouse in Lviv, Ukraine.

In addition to these items, our team is providing essential medical supplies to facilities in Lviv, Cherkasy, Korosten, Zhytomyr, Kramatorsk, Kyiv and Boyarka; has procured more than 900,000 items of personal protective equipment (PPE)—including aprons, gloves and face masks—that arrived in Lviv yesterday; and will be distributing 96 metric tons of medical consumables, pharmaceuticals and supplies to local partners in the coming weeks.

Our water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) team in Ukraine is coordinating closely with the national WASH cluster to quantify key gaps to be addressed as part of the response and to identify municipalities in need of additional WASH interventions. Priority needs identified include individual hygiene items and WASH support at receiving centers and health facilities. To support this effort, International Medical Corps will be distributing 5,000 hygiene kits and 400 infection prevention and control (IPC) environmental kits.

Finally, in collaboration with a local partner, International Medical Corps is continuing to provide MHPSS consultations in southeast Ukraine, having provided more than 120 consultations in the last month, and is providing remote psychological first-aid (PFA) training to first responders, in order to expand our impact in the war-torn region.

The Nutrition team is coordinating with the Ukraine Nutrition Cluster, UNICEF and partners to plan a coordinated, comprehensive infant and young-child feeding in emergencies (IYCF-e) response. We are working to integrate protection and promotion of IYCF practices into mobile medical units, existing health facilities and safe spaces for women and children, and are educating communities and humanitarian responders about the practices.

International Medical Corps' country team recently conducted an assessment in Odessa, Ukraine, where health facilities are in desperate need of additional medical supplies and equipment. Healthcare facilities in the area also emphasized the need to for additional medical staff, social services and mobile medical units to ensure that residents can continue to have access to critical services. Our team is continuing to meet with local partners in the city, and will provide essential supplies and equipment to support these needs.

## **Poland**

In Poland, the health team distributed 3,600 COVID-19 rapid antigen tests to receiving centers for Ukrainian refugees, in partnership with Polish Humanitarian Action. Our team also donated non-food items (NFI), including sleeping items and towels, to a temporary accommodation center in Warsaw, and baby diapers and wipes to a reception point in Lubaczów. The team will be meeting with officials from Warsaw this week to further assess needs and discuss how we can strengthen existing primary healthcare services.

With border countries continuing to provide significant response services to those fleeing Ukraine, International Medical Corps has initiated additional strategic partnerships for a more efficient response. We have partnered with Polish Medical Mission—a non-government organization focused on improving quality of life through healthcare interventions and humanitarian programs—to support Ukrainians crossing the Polish border through static and mobile medical units that will be positioned along the border for at least three months. Our team has also partnered with the Polish Center for International Aid (PCPM) to support a cash-for-work project for refugees, Ukrainian students and members of host communities that will provide employment for those with expertise in psychosocial work, community work and other specialties who can contribute to the psychosocial well-being of Ukrainian refugee populations in Poland.

We also are providing in-person PFA training for Polish first responders that will emphasize team and self-care strategies, as well as stress management, and will be delivered as a training-of-trainers (ToT) session, enabling attendees to conduct future training for additional participants as the response continues. The MHPSS team is working with Polish Humanitarian Action, Fundacja Polskie Forum Migracyjne, Funda de Somalia, UNICEF and UNHCR to identify other local organizations to participate in PFA training.

International Medical Corps' gender-based violence (GBV) team is coordinating with local partners to identify key priority areas related to protection and GBV services. Working closely with the MHPSS team, the team will implement an integrated program to deliver stronger, more comprehensive services to vulnerable populations. Priority activities include PFA training, emergency GBV case management and support for child-friendly spaces.

## **Moldova**

At the request of the Moldovan Ministry of Health, our health team assessed needs at shelters and border crossings along Moldova's Ukrainian border. The team has been approved by the Moldovan Ministry of Health to provide medical services and programs, and provided health and hygiene kits to 11 reception centers for refugees.

As part of our work in the country, our team joined the Accommodation and Transport Sector–WASH coordination platform, chaired by the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection. In this capacity, the team conducted a rapid needs assessment for the refugee accommodation centers in Moldova and supported the local market survey for key WASH items. Per this assessment, 93 centers—housing almost 5,000 people—have been authorized by the government to host refugees. The majority of receiving centers are public buildings that were empty prior to the invasion. As a result, many of the refugee accommodation centers require access to WASH facilities.

To support these needs, International Medical Corps has locally procured hundreds of hygiene and cleaning kits to support refugee accommodation centers in border districts along central and southern Moldova. Each kit includes towels, toilet paper, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, personal protective and infection prevention items, and other personal hygiene items. The cleaning kits are designed to support the refugee accommodation centers and include dish soap, sponges, garbage bags, cleaning solutions, mops, brooms, laundry supplies and other items. Our team already has



*WASH Advisor Yasir Ahmad prepares hygiene kits and cleaning kits to be distributed at refugee receiving centers in Moldova.*

distributed hygiene and cleaning kits to centers in Criuleni, Anenii Noi and Cimislia, and will deliver the remaining kits in the coming weeks.

<b>Ukraine Crisis Response</b>			
<b>6</b> health facilities supported	<b>11</b> refugee centers supported	<b>6</b> local partners engaged	
<b>58</b> staff members in the region	<b>4</b> warehouses secured	<b>121</b> MHPSS consultations delivered	
<b>12</b> different types of health kits distributed	<b>379</b> WASH kits distributed	<b>187</b> non-food items distributed	<b>3,600</b> COVID-19 tests distributed
<b>28</b> health kits procured	<b>746</b> WASH kits procured	<b>918,840</b> PPE items procured	
<b>10</b> reproductive health kits in procurement	<b>5,400</b> WASH kits in procurement	<b>129 tons</b> of medical consumables and pharmaceuticals in procurement	
<b>264,425</b> direct beneficiaries			