International Medical Corps, which has a history in Ukraine stretching back to 1999, has been operating continuously since 2014, when we began providing medical, mental health and protection services, and infection prevention and control programs in response to the conflict in the southeast. Following the Russian invasion in February 2022, International Medical Corps expanded our operations throughout the country, with programs in health, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), protection, nutrition, food security and livelihoods, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

International Medical Corps currently has operations in Chernihiv, Dnipro, Kyiv, Lviv, Odessa and Vinnytsia. From these operational hubs, International Medical Corps also provides material support in the way of food, non-food items (NFIs), and medical supplies and equipment to Donetsk, Kharkiv and Mykolaiv.

International Medical Corps is providing context-based programming based on the security, access and needs that have been brought about by the invasion. In each context, we are approaching our emergency response in a tailored way to meet the specific needs of the people.

In liberated zones, we are focusing on stabilization and recovery efforts. Our response philosophy is to rehabilitate, repair and support the healthcare system, ensure access to emerging MHPSS, protection and WASH needs, and ensure that the local population has access to such basic such as food, shelter, water and cash. In high-risk zones, we are focused on preparation measures ensuring that the healthcare and social systems are resilient to any shocks if and when conflict occurs. We are also focused on providing services to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and residents. In accessible zones, International Medical Corps is focused on ensuring the safety and well-being of IDPs in the region.

**Chernihiv Oblast**

Chernihiv oblast and Chernihiv city were invaded and besieged on the first days of the invasion. Chernihiv city, located just 50 miles from the Russian border, was besieged until April 4, with aerial munitions used against many areas. The conflict has had a massive impact on the socioeconomic well-being of the population and caused significant infrastructure damage.

The healthcare system requires significant investment to get back on its feet. Many healthcare workers suffered trauma, and many have left the region, leading to a shortage of healthcare staff. In addition, numerous healthcare facilities were attacked, leading to infrastructure, water and sanitation damages.
It is common in Ukraine for family doctors and social workers to make home visits, but many vehicles—including hospital-owned vehicles and public transport—were destroyed or damaged, and are now inoperable. This lack of transportation has led to the inability of family doctors and social workers to make home visits, leaving a massive gap in the healthcare and social welfare systems.

In response, International Medical Corps has initiated rehabilitation and repairs of five healthcare facilities, is providing support to 14 primary healthcare centers, and has provided an ambulance and six vehicles to family doctors and the tuberculosis hospital so they can continue providing mobile operations.

For the community’s social welfare, International Medical Corps has purchased more than 280 bicycles so that social workers can return to visiting their clients and providing essential services to the community. Our team also is registering vulnerable and disadvantaged people in the community to provide multi-purpose cash. International Medical Corps also conducted training on "Doing What Matters in Times of Stress" for 19 healthcare workers at the Chernihiv oblast psychoneurological hospital. To ensure access to neuropsychiatric services, International Medical Corps has put in place a voucher system to provide patient transport using local taxis. We also plan to support the facility through last-mile distribution of psychotropic medications and other necessary materials.

Kyiv Oblast

Kyiv oblast was invaded in the opening maneuvers of the invasion in February. On the path from Belarus to Irpin, the invasion, occupation and counteroffensive left towns and villages in ruins. Citizens of these areas had fled the fighting but have recently begun returning to their destroyed communities. Numerous healthcare facilities were damaged or destroyed, and the socio-economic damage cannot be overstated.

International Medical Corps was one of the first organizations to conduct a multi-sectorial needs assessment in the liberated areas of Kyiv oblast. Based on our findings, we identified several interventions to bring relief to the population. We initiated a two-pronged approach, to ensure healthcare access and revival of the healthcare system. In the early phase of the response, International Medical Corps opened two polyclinics in Irpin and Brovary to provide free access to healthcare for residents. Simultaneously, we began repairing damaged Ministry of Health (MoH) healthcare facilities, providing vehicles to family doctors, procuring generators, and supplying equipment, supplies and pharmaceuticals to facilities in need. We are also supporting the MoH health information management system by providing computers and internet devices.

We also identified that community members needed cash support to pay their rent and other essential expenditures, so we began a multi-purpose cash program, and began distributing food and non-food items to supplement the cash payments. International Medical Corps is also partnering with the Bucha City Council to support the newly formed Bucha Mental Health Support Center by funding eight staff, providing MHPSS capacity building and procuring two vehicles for mobile teams.

Kharkiv Oblast

Kharkiv is an oblast in the northeast of the country, roughly 500km east of Kyiv, on the Russian border. The oblast has been impacted by the invasion since February, with constant shelling, damage to infrastructure and occupation of some of the oblast. Forty healthcare facilities have sustained significant damage, in addition to civilian infrastructure. International Medical Corps, which is conducting a second round of assessments, envisions supporting the regional blood bank—the largest blood bank in the country. The entire operation for the blood bank has been moved to the basement of the facility due to the shelling, and the building has been attacked on multiple occasions by aerial munitions. The basement work area is dark and humid, with almost no ventilation and electrical problems. In addition, all 90 staff currently live in the basement.

International Medical Corps is helping the blood bank increase its capacity, ensuring the safety of blood products and staff, and providing technical assistance.

Odesa Oblast

Odesa oblast is a strategic region at risk of invasion and occupation. Based on ongoing assessments, International Medical Corps’ strategy involves identifying critical hospitals and helping them prepare for the high likelihood of conflict in the oblast.

With each potential partner hospital, International Medical Corps conducts a detailed assessment to identify needs and vulnerabilities. Once we establish a partnership, International Medical Corps provides needed equipment and supplies, and strengthens the hospital's basement so it can continue to treat patients in this bunker environment, even when under threat from aerial attack. Previously, during air raids, the hospital staff could go to the bunker, but patients who were attached to machines or immobile would remain on the upper floors in danger.

We renovate hospital bunkers with proper lighting and energy supplies, ensuring that they have functional sewage and water systems, building and strengthening walls and doorways, and generally ensuring that these spaces can be fully
functional sections of the hospital. We are currently working with engineering firms to finalize the plans to strengthen the bunkers of both a maternity hospital and a major regional hospital.

Additionally, our operational partner in the region opened a multi-service center at an IDP hub, where it provides humanitarian aid, conducts needs assessments and organizes psychosocial services in groups and for individuals. It also is training community members on how to provide psychological first aid (PFA).

We also are using Odesa as a base to provide aid to the active conflict zone of Mykolaiv, which has seen conflict since the beginning of the invasion and is currently under constant bombardment. There has been no access to fresh water in the city since mid-April, after the city’s water source was damaged. Last week, International Medical Corps sent three truckloads of food, water and NFIs—including diapers, soaps and other WASH items—to the affected population there.

**Dnipro**

Dnipro, the closest major city to the Donbas region, has become a hub for IDPs, and is where regional administrations from Donetsk and Luhansk have relocated. Dnipro is strategically important, due to its proximity to the eastern and southern fronts. Due to the influx of IDPs, needs are high in the region.

International Medical Corps recently opened an office in Dnipro that will serve as a hub for our response activities in Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhia and the southern part of Kharkiv. We have already provided food, water and NFIs to regional authorities, and we will focus on helping healthcare facilities prepare for and respond to the emergency. Our programs will focus on mental health interventions and an integrated package of WASH, health, food and cash programs.

**Stryi**

Though Stryi has not seen active conflict since the beginning of the invasion, it has experienced a large influx of IDPs from the north, eastern and southeastern part of the country. International Medical Corps is providing MHPSS, WASH, nutrition, multi-purpose cash and protection services. Recently, our team trained 14 people—including psychologists, social workers and representatives from the local education department—on PFA.

**Poland**

International Medical Corps’ MHPSS team continues to train psychologists, service providers and volunteers in Poland on PFA. International Medical Corps has so far trained more than 130 participants on PFA.

This week, in collaboration with the Poland MHPSS Technical Working Group, International Medical Corps conducted a series of Service Mapping and Referral Pathway workshops in Krakow, Warsaw and Wroclaw. The workshops aim to improve knowledge on referral pathways for MHPSS and equip participants with essential tools on providing MHPSS, especially among Polish NGOs and public institutions at the regional and municipal levels that provide MHPSS services as a part of the health, protection and education sectors for Ukrainian refugees and host communities.

International Medical Corps also met with the Social Services Director of Warsaw to discuss the needs and gaps in accommodation centers run by the municipality, and plans to provide well-being sessions to the staff working there.

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**Ukraine Crisis Response**

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