SITUATION UPDATE

The security situation in Ukraine continues to deteriorate, especially in the southern regions of the country with the Russian forces finally seizing the city of Severodonetsk after weeks of fighting Ukrainian forces and securing the Luhanska oblast, opening the way to the Donetsk oblast and the greater Donbas region. In the southwest, the Ukrainians have conducted counteroffensives against the Russians in and around the Kherson region, causing the Russians to strengthen their defensive positions. In the east of the country, Kharkiv continued to suffer from indiscriminate long-range artillery and rocket attacks against civilian areas of the city on a daily basis. This type of attack is now becoming more prevalent across the country, especially in the southern oblasts, stretching from the city of Mykolaiv in the southwest and continuing east along frontline areas, resulting in many injuries and deaths. The indiscriminate and increasing use of rockets and missiles against civilians and non-military targets continues to impact the psychological well-being of the civilian population as it disrupts normal life and the commercial infrastructure of the country overall.

International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps, which has a history in Ukraine stretching back to 1999, has been operating continuously in the country since 2014, providing medical consultations and services, mental health and protection consultations, and infection prevention and control (IPC) programs in response to the war in the southeast. Following the Russian invasion in February 2022, we expanded our operations throughout the country, with programs in health, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), protection, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and treatment, 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.

In liberated and post-conflict zones in the northern part of the country—including Kyiv, Chernihiv and Sumy oblasts—communities have experienced widespread and significant devastation, leaving health facilities and lifesaving medical
equipment damaged or destroyed and rendering WASH infrastructure inoperable, resulting in surging health- and mental health-related needs, as well as significant needs in other sectors. International Medical Corps has established programmatic hubs in Kyiv and Chernihiv to address these needs and, as access throughout the region is not a challenge, has launched an integrated multi-sectoral response focusing on health, WASH, nutrition, protection, food and NFI distribution, as well as multi-purpose cash (MPC) assistance. We also are providing durable medical equipment and supplies, including vehicles, to health facilities to support the restoration of healthcare services.

In active conflict zones in the eastern and southern parts of the country—including Donetsk, Luhansk and parts of Kharkiv oblasts—International Medical Corps has adapted a dynamic programming strategy largely focusing on critical lifesaving operations. This includes supporting frontline hospitals with essential medicines, medical equipment and supplies, as well as distributing food, NFIs and water to impacted communities in the region. These services are supported by a programmatic hub in Dnipro that coordinates and extends programs and activities throughout the region.

In the southern part of the country—including Odessa and Mykolaiv oblasts—where there is a high risk for further escalation of conflict and invasion, International Medical Corps operates a programmatic hub in Odesa that is focusing on the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) with an integrated approach that includes MHPSS, WASH, food, shelter, NFIs and MPC. We also are helping health facilities become more resistant to future attack and more prepared for potential mass casualty events. This includes bombproofing activities, such as renovating and outfitting bunkers with durable medical equipment so all patients can be taken to a safe place during air-raid alerts and can continue receiving the same level of care.

In the western part of the country—including Chernivtsi, Lviv and other oblasts—where there are no active conflict zones and where IDPs are seeking refuge from fighting in the eastern and southern parts of the country, International Medical Corps continues to deliver comprehensive integrated programs in MHPSS, nutrition, protection, food, NFIs and MPC.

Ukraine

Based on our continued assessments throughout the country, each region has differing identified needs. Thus, International Medical Corps is providing context-based programming based on the security, access and needs reported by the people we are serving in each region. In each context, we are approaching our emergency response in a tailored way to meet the specific needs of the people, working closely with the communities to assess and respond to those needs.

Health

Across the country, International Medical Corps has identified different needs based on the local context. In regions that have seen active conflict, primary healthcare service points have been damaged or destroyed and there is limited access to pharmaceutical treatments and laboratory services. This lack of access to medications is particularly troubling, due to the age distribution and prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in many areas that have seen conflict—as NCDs are the top health concern within the country, according to the World Health Organization. In high-risk areas that have not yet seen conflict, there are limited medicine stocks to manage acute illnesses. There also are concerns that the water supply of hospitals could be disrupted if conflict arises, due to their reliance on their city’s main water supply.

To help alleviate these problems, International Medical Corps is supporting 11 primary healthcare centers in Irpin and 14 in Bucha that provide services for up to 40,000 patients a month, distributing pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, and financing laboratory services through a partnership with a private network of laboratories. As we continue the rehabilitation of infrastructure for one damaged health facility in Irpin and four in Bucha, we are guaranteeing access to specialized outpatient consultations by fully financing the functioning of one clinic in Irpin and one in Browary—assistance that has so far led to 16,042 specialized outpatient consultations. Moreover, our partnership with Dobrobut—which ended on June 28 due to the restoration of health services in that area—enabled International Medical Corps to provide specialized outpatient consultations to 7,927 patients, as well as a high level of care for 68 referred patients who underwent specialized surgical procedures and medical treatments. We are in the initial phases of providing support for 14 primary healthcare centers as well as rehabilitating health facilities in Chernihiv and Kharkiv oblasts, are providing medicines and equipment, and drilling boreholes to ensure access to water at numerous sites across the country.

MHPSS

International Medical Corps is currently increasing mental health services by hiring mental health staff in primary healthcare centers; building the capacity of psychosocial support providers through training; providing psychoeducation, sensitization and mass media campaigns; and providing MHPSS support to Ministry of Health staff within International Medical Corps-supported healthcare facilities. Our most recent assessments have found that there are a significant number of mental health providers in Ukraine—including psychiatrists and psychologists—but that access to them is limited due to cost, as many of the psychologists work in the private sector. We have developed agreements to provide for free services in Bucha, and are coordinating with public services and local specialized organizations to develop accessible referral mechanisms.
To alleviate the growing tensions between host communities and IDPs due to “compassion fatigue,” cultural differences, demands on local resources and other reasons, International Medical Corps is focusing on community-based interventions, proposing group activities involving psychosocial support for host community and IDPs, as well as activities for children, that will lessen the strain. The team also is providing training in psychological first aid (PFA), as well as training in “Doing What Matters in Times of Stress: Self-Help Plus” to key community members, such as healthcare providers, teachers, city council members, religious leaders and local organization staff members.

In Odesa oblast, the mental health team is working with volunteer and distribution centers to coordinate coping and wellness information sessions for IDPs. International Medical Corps also is continuing to train volunteers, psychologists, social workers, and healthcare staff on MHPSS-related topics.

**GBV**

Across all the regions where International Medical Corps works in Ukraine, our teams have found that women and girls lack safe female-friendly spaces for reporting GBV and seeking care. This lack of access to safe spaces for seeking care is further compounded by a lack of access to services for GBV survivors, and an absence of available information within the community itself and among public servants about what services could help a survivor with healing and recovery.

Women have been reluctant to speak about GBV, but data from 2019 indicates that roughly 70% of Ukrainian women have experienced some form of violence, with 30% reporting direct physical or sexual violence. In recent months, there have also been multiple media reports of sexual violence related to the war. Our assessments show that GBV—including sexual violence, domestic violence, intimate partner violence and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA)—is prevalent and has been further exacerbated during this war.

Our approach to preventing and responding to GBV is to engage and support women’s rights organizations (WROs), to strengthen their capacity and help them expand and increase their reach. To do this, International Medical Corps launched the first response-wide Fund for Women’s Rights Organizations in Ukraine, in coordination with the GBV Sub-Cluster and the Women’s Consortium of Ukraine. The fund, totaling approximately $3 million, enables International Medical Corps to reach a more diverse range of women-led, girl-led and women’s-rights organizations for effective and quality GBV prevention and response programming. This approach—which will draw on the existing reach and community buy-in of WROs—will enable International Medical Corps to more effectively access women at risk, and survivors, of GBV.

In July, the fund identified 10 women’s rights organizations across 11 oblasts. These organizations will begin their interventions later this month, with our oversight of programming. We will continue to monitor their efforts and build the capacity of their staff.

International Medical has conducted GBV training for all International Medical Corps health and MHPSS staff, to enable the integration of important GBV messages within health and MHPSS activities, as well as within all future training for staff, partners and authorities, to facilitate referrals from GBV activities to MHPSS, and from MHPSS and health to GBV services. This will contribute to a more holistic response for GBV survivors.

International Medical Corps has also designed and developed GBV information material to be included in all upcoming dignity kit distributions and across all areas of operation and sites accessed by IDPs. The information provides IDPs with key contacts to report incidents of GBV, including sexual exploitation and abuse, and information on how to seek support.

**Nutrition**

International Medical Corps continues to raise awareness on infant and young-child feeding practices (IYCF), establish mother-baby spaces in collection centers, establish referral systems with other services (MHPSS and GBV), provide complementary foods and hygiene kits for children 6–23 months and build the capacity of our national and local partner staff across several oblasts across Ukraine. For IYCF services, our team is exploring the opportunity to work with primary healthcare centers and to establish multi-service centers to meet people’s needs and expand implementation.

**WASH**

International Medical Corps’ WASH specialists recently conducted assessments in 10 health facilities within Chernihiv, Dnipro, Kharkiv, Odesa and Stryi, where they observed needs for rehabilitation of health facilities and bomb shelters, heating systems and water-supply infrastructure, as well as a need for debris removal.

To address the urgent need to improve the water-supply infrastructure in Dnipro, Kyiv, Odesa and Stryi oblasts, our WASH team is conducting water quality and quantity analysis, installing small water-distribution systems, ensuring access to safe and clean water to critical areas and consultation points, focusing on minor latrine rehabilitation (including handwashing stations, showers, sewage systems and boreholes) and distributing filtration devices, because local water sources have been shown to have high levels of salinity, iron and other minerals of concern. We have also identified the need for water trucking in many areas, including Bucha and Odesa.
The team also is continuing to procure WASH-related NFIs, hygiene kits, IPC kits, mini water-treatment plants, and rehabilitation equipment and materials to health facilities, households and IDP shelters.

Poland

International Medical Corps Poland continues its operations in Warsaw and Krakow. Our medical units at the border crossing points in Kurczawa, Budomierz and Dorohusk ceased operations at the end of June, given the decreased number of border crossings from Ukraine, yet we remain ready to respond to any new waves of refugees into Poland.

International Medical Corps’ team in Poland is implementing projects in health, MHPSS and GBV. Most recently, we have been working with key international and national actors to identify gaps and challenges to provide needs-based assistance for Ukrainian refugees and third-country nationals.

Health

As part of its disability-needs assessment, International Medical Corps’ team in Poland has identified numerous challenges for Ukrainian refugees with disabilities, including problems with effective outreach campaigns, language barriers, lack of physical access and lack of utilization of available services, due to refugees’ unfamiliarity with the local system. Following the completion of the disability assessment, International Medical Corps initiated a partnership with a disability organization, expanding its existing physical rehabilitation services to Ukrainian refugees in need. The project will also help expand the access of persons with disabilities (PwDs) to available services by disseminating information and donating assistive devices to governmental and non-governmental service points. Under this initiative, assistive devices will also be distributed directly to Ukrainian and Polish PwDs.

MHPSS

International Medical Corps continues to provide PFA training to frontline workers through trainers who completed ToT (training of trainers) sessions from International Medical Corps, and from International Medical Corps directly. In August, International Medical Corps will support a conference bringing together Ukrainian and Polish psychotherapists to strengthen networks among them and facilitate a platform where good practices and lessons learned can be shared.

GBV

International Medical Corps is establishing a women’s center in Warsaw that will provide integrated GBV and MHPSS services along with recreational activities and language courses. To ensure that these activities complement existing services in the country, International Medical Corps is working with local authorities. Under UNHCR funding, International Medical Corps has established GBV training, with an initial focus on GBV Basic Response Training in Rzeszow. International Medical Corps also continues to bolster program monitoring-and-reporting systems to effectively and efficiently maintain due diligence.

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<th>Ukraine Crisis Response</th>
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<td>2,995,574 beneficiaries reached</td>
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Health

| 98 health facilities supported | 193 health kits distributed | 33,237 health consultations delivered by supported facilities (14,436 men, 18,801 women) |

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

| 696 MHPSS consultations delivered to unique beneficiaries (105 men, 591 women) | 914 people trained in MHPSS-related topics (69 men, 845 women) | 1,587 beneficiaries reached through MHPSS sessions (248 men, 1,339 women) |

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

International Medical Corps is scaling up our GBV programming now that we have identified local women’s rights organizations within 11 oblasts of Ukraine. More data will be available upon baseline analysis of the initial interventions.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

| 86,060 WASH and NFI items distributed | 13,206 beneficiaries received WASH and NFI assistance |

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPC)

| 3,266 beneficiaries reached by cash assistance (1,319 men, 1,947 women) |