SITUATION UPDATE

Russian sources reported explosions across Crimea—possibly caused by Russian air defenses, Ukrainian reconnaissance or a Ukrainian attack—on the night of August 18. Three local sources told Reuters that at least four explosions struck around Belbek Airbase in Russian-occupied Crimea, near Sevastopol. The Russian-appointed governor of Sevastopol, Mikhail Razvozhaev, claimed that preliminary information indicated that Russian air defenses shot down a Ukrainian drone and caused no damage. Russian sources also claimed that Russian air defenses shot down a drone near the Kerch Bridge—an important target for Ukraine to disrupt Russian logistics capabilities into occupied Ukraine—between Crimea and Russia on the night of August 18, as social media footage showed active air defenses in the area. Ukrainian Presidential Advisor Mykhailo Podolyak tweeted on August 17 that the Kerch bridge was illegally constructed and “must be dismantled.” Social media videos also claimed to show active Russian air defenses at a Russian base in Nova Kakhova in southern Kherson oblast the night of August 18, suggesting a possibly coordinated series of Ukrainian attacks (if there were attacks), or drone overflights.

International Medical Corps Response

Following the Russian invasion in February 2022, International Medical Corps—which had been operating in Ukraine since 2014 in the southeast along the conflict’s “line of contact,” providing medical and mental health services—expanded operations throughout the country, implementing programs in health, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), protection, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and treatment, nutrition, food security, non-food items (NFIs), multi-purpose cash (MPC), and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

International Medical Corps currently has operations in Chernihiv, Dnipro (extending to Kharkiv), Kyiv, Lviv, Odesa, Stryi and Vinnytsia. 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 has launched an integrated multi-sectoral response focusing on health, WASH, nutrition, protection, food and NFI distribution, and 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 parts of the country—including Donetsk, Luhansk and parts of Kharkiv oblasts—International Medical Corps has adapted a dynamic programming strategy focusing largely on critical lifesaving operations. This includes supporting frontline hospitals with essential medicines, medical equipment and supplies, and 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 Odesa 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 focuses on the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs), with an integrated approach that includes MHPSS, WASH, food and NFIs. 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 that all patients can be taken to a safe place during air-raid alerts and can continue receiving appropriate levels 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 assistance.

In Poland, International Medical Corps is focusing on the needs of refugees, providing both services and training in the areas of health, MHPSS and GBV.

Ukraine

As described above, 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, working closely with communities to assess and respond to their needs.

Health

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. There also are concerns that the water supply of hospitals could be disrupted if conflict arises, due to their reliance on municipal systems.

To help alleviate these problems in Kyiv oblast, 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. In Chernihiv oblast, International Medical Corps is providing support to 14 primary healthcare centers and the District Hospital of Chernihiv, which conducts more than 8,000 consultations per month. In August, International Medical Corps began rehabilitation work for five health facilities in Chernihiv (the District Hospital, City Hospital No. 2, the Regional Psychiatric Hospital, the temporary Tuberculosis Center and the Ambulatory for Primary Care, Kienka). By the end of October, all rehabilitation will be completed, enabling the facilities to be better prepared for the harsh winter. Furthermore, we will implement a tailor-made, multi-sectoral preparedness program in the border areas in the last quarter of 2022.
In Kharkiv, International Medical Corps is continuing to provide medical materials, medical equipment, generators and medicines to the regional and city health authorities, as well as support for armed-conflict protection mechanisms for staff and patients working in health facilities that are under constant shelling. These solutions range between setting up temporary facilities to replace facilities that have been destroyed (e.g., we have installed a modular ambulatory care center that is in the process of being connected to water and electricity in Novo Bavarski district, replacing Policlinic 10) or installing protection panels in the Regional Blood Bank, the tertiary-level care maternity and neonatal hospital, and ambulatories in other areas of town. Our support to the Regional Blood Bank—a critical facility in Kharkiv that has been under constant attack since the first days of the war—will have a larger scope and include rehabilitation of the basement as well as donation of essential equipment in the coming months. International Medical Corps also is exploring the possibility of extending telemedicine services to rural areas of Kharkiv, working with the Regional Hospital team.

International Medical Corps is providing medicines and equipment and drilling boreholes to ensure access to water at numerous sites across the country. We have identified 19 health facilities in Odesa oblast (15 primary health facilities and four higher-level facilities) where the team will provide medicines, supplies and equipment, and have chosen five health facilities in Odesa for rehabilitation. International Medical Corps also is supporting the expansion and response time of emergency services by rehabilitating facilities in Novyi Rozdil, and bolstering health services in Stryi district, which has seen an increase in demand for services due to the region’s influx of IDPs. International Medical Corps also has identified two health facilities for rehabilitation in Dnipro (PCH 4 and PCH 6).

Earlier in August, International Medical Corps delivered the first three courses of its Trauma Care Response training program. The training program is a six-course curriculum for healthcare providers and first responders, developed in partnership with the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI), aiming to address immediate healthcare needs in Ukraine related to trauma, mass casualty and mass disruption.

**MHPSS**

International Medical Corps is increasing MHPSS services in Ukraine by training family doctors on the WHO Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP), training local psychosocial support (PSS) service providers to develop their skills and knowledge on basic PSS and communication skills, and providing psychoeducation, sensitization and mass media campaigns. From August 16–19th, we trained 15 family doctors from the Odesa Public Health Center in the mhGAP-IG. In September, they will begin a six-month supervision process. International Medical Corps also delivered 259 bicycles to social workers from the Department of Social Protection in Chernihiv. The bicycles will enable them to continue to provide door-to-door services despite disruptions in public transit operations.

International Medical Corps continues to focus on community-based interventions involving psychosocial support for host community and IDPs, as well as activities for children, to lessen the strain on host communities due to rapid population growth from IDPs, an increase in demands on services and cultural differences. The MHPSS team helped youth departments in Hnizdychiv, Morshyn, Novirozdil and Stryi plan and implement celebrations around International Youth Day (August 12), promoting group activities and bolstering social cohesion. Almost 320 people participated in the three-hour program, which included: art therapy, handcrafts workshops and recreational activities. The teams also continue to provide training in psychological first aid (PFA), and self-care training to key community members, and is co-leading coordination efforts at the MHPSS Technical Working Groups at the national level, and at the regional levels in Lviv and Odesa.

**GBV**

International Medical Corps’ GBV team conducted an assessment in Kyiv, Odesa and Stryi, using focus group discussions and individual interviews to determine what should be included in dignity kits, which are essential to maintaining self-esteem and confidence for women and girls in emergency situations.

Respondents suggested a wide range of items, leading our Senior GBV Advisor and the GBV Sub-Cluster to create two lists, with one including basic dignity kit items and the other containing a more comprehensive set of items, including sanitary pads, underwear, socks, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, towel, deodorant, hand sanitizer, hand cream, shampoo, sponge, power bank, wet wipes, wet wipes, hair conditioner, bed pad, nail clipper and hair dryer. These kits will be distributed through International Medical Corps’ local partners and community mobilizers.

International Medical Corps’ GBV Officer in Stryi accompanied the MHPSS team in the celebration of International Youth Day and distributed leaflets on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), as well as on how to report PSEA and GBV incidents to police and access mental health support.

**Nutrition**

International Medical Corps Nutrition team in Kyiv team conducted a lecture with a group discussion for Bucha healthcare staff during World Breastfeeding Week. In addition, the team is working on establishing mother and baby spaces (MBS)
and preparing training sessions on infant and young-child feeding (IYCF) for healthcare staff. Training in Stryi will start on August 29 and in Kyiv in mid-September.

**WASH**
In Kharkiv, the installation of the water sewage system for the hospitainer mobile medical unit is complete, and was tested by International Medical Corps’ WASH team and the local supplier Voda Kanal during the reporting period. The WASH team is hiring an electrical company to connect the hospitainer to the municipal power grid and to install protective fencing around it. The team also has concluded the bill of quantities (BOQ) for the external work to protect the basement of the blood bank in Kharkiv, has begun rehabilitation at five health facilities in Chernihiv, and has begun receiving hygiene kits for distribution in Stryi and Odessa. To date, 382 hygiene kits have been distributed.

In Irpin and Bucha, International Medical Corps’ WASH team conducted a technical visit to the Hostomel Ambulatory with interested contractors to evaluate the BOQ and to respond to questions from the contractors. Due to some changes observed during the visit, the WASH team will review and revise the BOQ to enable the contractors to submit bids based on the updated needs of the ambulatory. For Bucha, the WASH team has completed its technical capacity assessment for the selection of vendors for the rehabilitation of health facilities there, as per the BOQs.

**MPC Assistance**
This week, International Medical Corps registered 5,464 people across Chernihiv, Kyiv and Lviv Oblasts. Of these, 4,919 have been able to receive their cash payments through MoneyGram, Mobile Bank or Post Office pickup. Those remaining are currently being processed for final cash transfer, and should receive funds by the end of next week.

In addition, International Medical Corps has secured memorandums of understanding with regional authorities in Bucha, Irpin and Stryi for MPC assistance programs, and has an advance team currently in Chernihiv coordinating with local authorities to secure the needed signatures for an agreement.

**Poland**
International Medical Corps’ team in Poland is implementing projects in health, MHPSS and GBV, operating out of Warsaw and Krakow. We currently are working with four local partners in Poland and are planning to bring on an additional partner to cover the needs of marginalized groups, such as the Roma population in Poland.

**Health**
International Medical Corps is working with a physical rehabilitation and disability care partner in Warsaw to design, implement and digitize information-collection tools.

Between the beginning of July and August 11, our partner provided 3,230 remote consultations through a hotline (via telephone and the social-media app Telegram), including 413 remote consultations in August. The majority of the consultations focused on how to access existing physical rehabilitation services in Poland—revealing that a lack of information is one of the key barriers to refugees’ access to available public services.

International Medical Corps has provided 71 physical rehabilitation consultation sessions since the beginning of July, including 23 consultation sessions conducted in the first 11 days of August. Our partner received requests for assistive devices from 306 people, whose applications are currently being assessed. We also plan to support three NGOs with assistive devices to be utilized for beneficiaries seeking their services, following completion of the needs assessment.

**MHPSS**
International Medical Corps continues to assess the evolving needs of Ukrainian refugees in the areas of MHPSS. A multi-day conference that we have supported—“In Search of Truth and Humanity in the Age of War”—organized by WAPP Support Project Association, has reached around 300 mental health professionals across the region. As part of the ongoing conference, International Medical Corps’ MHPSS Technical Advisor and a psychologist from the Ukraine team will lead a workshop session on “Self-care for Mental Health Professionals: Moving from Knowledge to Practice.”
**GBV**

International Medical Corps’ Women’s and Girls’ Safe Space is planning to conduct its first awareness session on August 26, when women and girls will be able to register for Polish language classes that will begin in September. As part of preparation activities, International Medical Corps plans to provide a range of training to the center’s staff, on such topics as Safeguarding and Ethics, Safety and Security, and Monitoring and Evaluation. Additionally, the center plans to distribute hygiene kits in September.

### UKRAINE CRISIS RESPONSE

- **3,059,617** beneficiaries reached with supplies, equipment and services

#### Health

- **122** health facilities supported
- **1,212** health kits distributed
- **96,702** health consultations delivered by supported facilities (41,830 men, 54,872 women)

#### Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

- **1,332** MHPSS consultations delivered to unique beneficiaries (200 men, 1,132 women)
- **1,190** people trained in MHPSS-related topics (104 men, 1,086 women)
- **2,723** beneficiaries reached through MHPSS sessions (500 men, 2,223 women)

#### Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

- **31** representatives of local GBV organizations participated in a GBV workshop that we organized. (4 men, 27 women)

#### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- **211,131** WASH and NFI items distributed
- **23,353** beneficiaries received WASH and NFI assistance

#### Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPC)

- **5,464** beneficiaries registered for cash assistance (2,051 men, 3,413 women)