



A woman in Bashtanka receives a hygiene kit.

In December, Russian attacks on Ukrainian infrastructure continued, with rocket, missile and drone attacks during the holiday period targeting not only critical energy and healthcare infrastructure but also destroying residential and other civilian buildings, causing the death of more than 50 people.¹ The repeated attacks throughout the country have left millions of people without electricity, water supply or heating. Given that temperatures continue to drop below zero, more and more people need help with basic needs, including non-food items (NFIs) and cash assistance to survive the winter.

International Medical Corps Response

Despite ongoing security risks, International Medical Corps staff members are all safe and accounted for, and are continuing their work. Our country management and security teams are continually assessing and strengthening our robust security protocols while continuing to monitor and respond to security developments, enabling team members to provide services throughout the country, including in newly liberated areas.

Our response efforts throughout the country are tailored to each region's needs. In regained and post-conflict zones, International Medical Corps focuses on providing a full range of services, including health, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), protection, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and treatment, nutrition, food security, NFIs, multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA), and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). We also provide health facilities with durable medical equipment and supplies, including vehicles, to help restore and continue healthcare services.

In active conflict zones, International Medical Corps has adopted a dynamic programming strategy focusing largely on critical lifesaving operations, which includes supporting frontline hospitals with essential medicines, medical equipment and supplies, and distributing food, NFIs and water to impacted communities. In areas under threat of attack, International Medical Corps 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 prepare for and become more resistant to potential attacks and mass-casualty events.

In safer regions where IDPs are seeking refuge from fighting, International Medical Corps continues to deliver comprehensive, integrated programs to help IDPs directly, to reduce social tension between host communities and IDPs, and to promote overall social cohesion. We also are helping health facilities and shelters survive winter by providing repairs and heating supplies.

FAST FACTS

Our Impact

- 5.8 million people benefitting from improved access to health supplies and services
- 165 primary and secondary health centers supported
- 1,578,304 non-food items (NFIs) distributed
- 67,960 liters of drinking water distributed
- 692,081 primary outpatient health consultations delivered
- 3,250 individual mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) consultations delivered
- 4,192 beneficiaries reached with direct infant and young-child feeding services
- 7,286 people reached with cash assistance

¹ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/01/1132147>

In Poland, International Medical Corps is focusing on the needs of Ukrainian 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 in Ukraine, working closely with communities across the country to assess and respond to their needs.

Health

In December, International Medical Corps continued to support primary healthcare centers by providing essential medicines, supplies, equipment, furniture, and IT equipment, as well as training to enhance special clinical skills. In addition, we are supporting higher-level health facilities that provide services to tens of thousands of patients each month by providing medicines, medical materials and equipment. We are providing generators to regional and city health authorities, and helping health facilities that are under attack or threat of attack to strengthen armed-conflict protection mechanisms for staff and patients. We also are supporting laboratory services—a key component of the healthcare system—through a partnership with a private network of laboratories.



International Medical Corps has operational centers throughout Ukraine, providing services and supplies specific to each region's needs.

In December, International Medical Corps was invited to join the Ukraine Health Care Recovery Consortium (UHCR), which comprises 16 partners, including Hospitainer, Philips and Imres, among others. The consortium has been created to obtain resources to support the rehabilitation of health facilities, and to provide training and equipment. International Medical Corps participated in the consortium's first international workshop, held in the Netherlands during the first week of December, as part of our work to ensure continuity of healthcare throughout Ukraine.

Training

During December, International Medical Corps finalized the second phase of the training program it has been providing in partnership with the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative. In Kyiv oblast, we trained 177 people—including healthcare workers, community members and NGO staff—on first aid techniques through “Stop the Bleed,” “Advanced Trauma Life Support” and “Pre Hospital Care” courses.

Health Facilities Rehabilitation

International Medical Corps completed rehabilitation of seven health facilities— three in Chernihiv, three in Kharkiv and one in Stryi— during December. We also donated sanitary fixtures and spare parts to health facilities for sustainable functionality of their WASH facilities. To ensure the quality of domestic water, we organized a training of trainers session on water-quality monitoring for WASH workers in Kyiv. We also delivered and installed a CT scan machine at Chernihiv's City Hospital No.2.

MHPSS

To support the mental health and well-being of conflict-affected people, frontline workers and groups of volunteers who are facing significant emotional burdens, our MHPSS teams continue to implement psychosocial support activities, and to provide Self Help+ training, as well as group and individual consultations. Our teams are currently active in Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Lviv and Odesa oblasts. To provide support to newly accessible areas within Kharkiv oblast, as well as in the Mykolaiv region, we deployed a roving MHPSS team in December to provide psychological first aid.

After our efforts working with the Ministry of Health (MoH) to conduct ToT in WHO's Mental Health Gap



Examples of bathroom rehabilitation in Novyi Rozdil City Hospital, Stryi.

Action Programme (mhGAP) in October and November, International Medical Corps is now rolling out regular mhGAP training for health workers in other locations. The MoH has emphasized the need to train as many frontline health workers as possible in the approach, to align with the national Roadmap for Mental Health implementation launched in late December by the MoH and the First Lady of Ukraine as part of their Initiative for Mental Health. The initiative will increase drastically the ability of Ukrainians to access mental health services. We will continue to provide follow-up supportive supervision to those we train, to ensure that they are able to apply their knowledge in an effective manner.

GBV

In December, International Medical Corps continued to provide GBV awareness-raising sessions, psychosocial support through recreational activities, and GBV case management directly and through women's rights organizations (WROs) that we are partnering with across Ukraine. The sessions created a safe space for people to share their input about and expand their knowledge of GBV causes and consequences, to learn about their ability to fight and eliminate GBV, and to support all types of women and girls. During the month we reached 2,336 people, including 2,068 women and 268 men.

International Medical Corps also is delivering training to local WRO partners, stakeholders and government staff, reaching 418 people in sessions covering GBV core concepts, how to implement a survivor-centered approach, and safe and effective referrals.

During December, our GBV team conducted multiple partner visits in Kyiv, Poltava and Stryi, to strengthen and support the partnerships between International Medical Corps and WROs. One of the main challenges that has affected both direct and partner implementation is the constant power cuts that are a result of attacks on energy infrastructure. International Medical Corps is consequently exploring different ways to address this challenge, such as by providing generators and chargeable lamps.



Women in our Women's and Girls' Safe Space in Irpin participate in psychosocial activities.

Nutrition

During December, our infant and young-child feeding (IYCF) in emergency services reached 78,204 people (2,554 directly and 75,249 indirectly).

Our four mother-baby spaces in Kyiv, Odesa and Stryi served 1,077 people (518 girls and 559 boys), providing one-month complementary-food kits, diapers and counseling on IYCF practices for mothers/caregivers, who mainly are IDPs and host community members affected by the conflict.

In December, our IYCF counselors met with 300 pregnant women (236 in Stryi, 34 in Odesa and 30 in Kyiv) in maternity hospitals and in various primary healthcare facilities, educating them on the importance of maternal nutrition and exclusive breastfeeding, and on how to manage breast problems during breastfeeding.

We directly reached 1,040 mothers/caregivers (1,002 women and 38 men) through IYCF group sessions that we held in 38 health facilities (24 in Stryi, five in Odesa and nine in Kyiv), educating them on the introduction of complementary foods to children aged 6 to 24 months. Other topics discussed included the benefits of exclusive breastfeeding and initiating breastfeeding immediately after birth.



A staff member leads an IYCF group session in a mother-baby space in Odesa.

In Stryi district, we trained 31 health workers (30 females and 1 male)—mainly family doctors, nurses and midwives—on IYCF in emergencies.

We reached more than 75,000 people with IYCF messages through the radio in Kyiv and Stryi, focusing our messages on the importance of keeping babies warm (through skin-to-skin contact) during winter and on the importance of early initiation of breastfeeding, ensuring that the child receives colostrum milk, which is nutrient-dense and high in antibodies and antioxidants that build a newborn baby's immune system.

WASH

In December, International Medical Corps continued providing WASH-related services to conflict-affected people, with special emphasis to the newly liberated areas around Kherson, Mykolaiv and Donetsk. We distributed 7,398 liters of water and 2,565 blankets in 15 villages in North Kherson; 69,000 liters of water in three areas around Mykolaiv; 8,568 liters of water in Lyman, Donetsk; 2,583 hygiene kits in Bashtanka (a suburb of Mykolaiv) and to 10 collective shelters in and around Stryi; and 32 infection prevention and control kits to Bashtanka Hospital.

MPCA

In December, International Medical Corps registered 2,949 people in Kharkiv and Stryi for multi-purpose cash assistance. The Ministry of Social Protection and International Medical Corps provided a Ukrainian Sign Language interpreter during these registrations to ensure that the assistance and all related information was accessible.



During a power outage, a staff member registers a Kharkiv resident for cash assistance.

Poland

International Medical Corps team members in Poland are implementing projects in health and GBV in Warsaw and Krakow, and are currently working with four local partners, including a partner that helps to cover the needs of marginalized groups, such as the Roma population.

Health

In December, International Medical Corps worked with a local partner to provide 213 remote health consultations through a hotline (via both telephone and the social-media app Telegram) and 53 physical rehabilitation consultations. Once again, the majority of the consultations focused on how to access existing physical rehabilitation services in Poland—demonstrating that a lack of information is hampering refugees' access to available public services. We distributed 191 assistive devices to public institutions for people with disabilities, while our partner Avalon distributed 500 hygiene kits to people with disabilities.

International Medical Corps continues to help Krakow's Children Hospital increase its capacity to provide medical care to Ukrainian children. As a result, the additional staff hired by the Children's Hospital have supported 937 Ukrainian patients.

GBV and Protection

International Medical Corps continues to implement a project with UNHCR that aims to strengthen interagency capacity for implementation of GBV prevention and response services among organizations, staff and volunteers in Poland, increase the protective environment for Ukrainian refugees and ensure that quality response services are available to survivors of GBV. So far, International Medical Corps has trained 386 humanitarian workers about GBV core concepts, case management and basic response training, and has created a pocket guide for people to use.

International Medical Corps continues to assess and support the evolving needs of Ukrainian refugees, and so far has helped 478 Ukrainian refugees of Roma descent by providing access to education, medical services, schools and hotline services. We have provided GBV support to 998 people, while 513 people have participated in recreational activities in women's centers. Our safe space has distributed 1,995 hygiene kits.



Participants in GBV Risk Mitigation training held in December.

OUR RESPONSE IN NUMBERS (UKRAINE)		
5,812,300 beneficiaries reached with supplies, equipment and services		
Health		
165 health facilities provided with medicines, medical equipment and supplies	2,474 people trained in health-related topics (783 men, 1,691 women)	692,081 outpatient health consultations delivered by supported facilities (295,130 men, 396,951 women)
Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)		
3,250 MHPSS individual consultations provided (696 men, 2,554 women)	2,917 people trained in MHPSS-related topics (271 men, 2,646 women)	6,543 people reached through MHPSS sessions (1,436 men, 5,086 women)
Gender-Based Violence (GBV)		
6,400 people reached through GBV interventions (791 men, 5,609 women)	646 people trained in GBV-related topics (40 men, 606 women)	
Nutrition		
137 people trained in nutrition-related topics (6 men, 131 women)	2,126 children under 5 years reached with nutrition-specific interventions (1,092 boys, 1,034 girls)	
761 pregnant women provided with nutrition-specific interventions	2,114 people provided with education to improve IYCF practices (162 men, 1,925 women)	
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)		
67,960 liters of water distributed	32,351 people received WASH assistance	
20,244 NFI kits distributed	150,421 people received NFI assistance	
Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)		
7,286 people supported with cash assistance		