

Ukraine

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, a war has raged with no end in sight. Almost twice as many civilians have been killed and injured during the first year of the war than the casualties recorded in the previous eight years of conflict.

International Medical Corps has been working in Ukraine since 1999, and has maintained a continuous presence in country since 2014. Since February 2022, the organization has rapidly expanded services throughout the country, providing emergency, primary and mental health services; distributing medicines, medical

equipment and supplies to health facilities; rehabilitating damaged or destroyed health facilities; providing training to health workers on trauma care and other topics; ensuring access to safe water and distributing hygiene supplies; providing cash assistance and nutrition services; and working with authorities and local partners to coordinate the delivery of protection-related services.

As of March 2023, International Medical Corps has reached more than 6 million people in Ukraine, Poland and Moldova with critically needed supplies and health services, including hundreds of thousands of primary outpatient health consultations, and trained thousands of people on key health, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), gender-based violence (GBV), and nutrition courses and topics, alongside other activities.



International Medical Corps works in Ukraine to address the emergency needs of conflict-affected populations by implementing multi-sectoral and complementary programming. Our key areas of focus are health; protection (MHPSS and GBV); water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); multi-purpose cash assistance; and nutrition.

We take a two-fold strategic approach to implementing our programs: directly utilizing International Medical Corps' extensive expertise and experience, and working with local partners, particularly in MHPSS and GBV. This enables us to reach the most vulnerable individuals and households while strengthening the capacity of partners, increasing their knowledge of best practices and improving the quality of services they provide. Moreover, we provide specialized and non-specialized training to a range of stakeholders, including healthcare and social workers.

STRENGTHENING HEALTHCARE IN UKRAINE

International Medical Corps implements extensive and comprehensive health programs to ensure continuity and increase accessibility of healthcare services. We provide support to primary and secondary healthcare facilities, including health consultations and laboratory testing; procurement and distribution of essential medicine, equipment and supplies; rehabilitation of health facilities, WASH and heating systems; improvements to bunkers, to safely shelter staff and patients; donation of health-related vehicles; and donation of generators, to ensure consistent access to energy. Where health facilities have been completely destroyed or extensively damaged, our team provides mobile medical services to local populations to ensure immediate access, while working with static healthcare facilities to help them once again become operational.

To further strengthen the capacity of the healthcare system, International Medical Corps, in partnership with the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI), developed a comprehensive trauma-care and preparedness program that so far has provided in-person training to thousands of health workers in Ukraine, and is expanding its reach through a series of Ukrainian-language training videos posted on our YouTube channel. These training sessions have been expanded due to the high number of requests from health workers and local authorities.



MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

International Medical Corps works directly in communities and with local partner organizations to provide appropriate and targeted MHPSS programming in Ukraine. We provide individual and group MHPSS consultations and psychological services and support activities, as well as awareness-raising and psychoeducation sessions that highlight important topics on well-being and coping strategies that can support persons in distress.

International Medical Corps conducts training sessions to build the capacity of frontline staff and community members on essential frameworks, such as psychological first aid (PFA), which trains

frontline staff to communicate effectively with persons in distress, and on such evidence-based interventions as Self-Help Plus (SH+) and Problem Management Plus (PM+). And working with the MoH, we have been providing training, including training-of-trainers, in WHO's Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP) for health workers. 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 December 2022 by the MoH and the First Lady.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

International Medical Corps continues to directly implement and, in partnership with women's rights organizations (WROs), provide GBV response and prevention services, including GBV awareness-raising sessions, psychological support through recreational activities and GBV case management. We have established Women's and Girls' Safe Spaces (WGSS) across Ukraine to increase access to lifesaving, comprehensive and age-appropriate GBV case management, PSS services and referrals. The WGSS are hubs for information-sharing and empowerment activities, where we distribute dignity kits (which are essential to maintaining self-esteem and confidence for women and girls in emergency situations) and provide cash assistance to meet the basic and immediate needs of GBV survivors.

International Medical Corps also is strengthening capacity and knowledge by conducting training for local WRO partners, stakeholders and government staff on GBV core concepts, causes and consequences, as well as on the guiding principles of GBV programming, how to implement a survivor-centered approach and how to create effective service mapping and referral mechanisms.





WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

International Medical Corps implements complementary and standalone WASH activities across Ukraine, including rehabilitation of healthcare facilities and WASH infrastructure in health facilities and centers for internally displaced persons (IDPs) that have been damaged by the conflict; distribution of potable water to meet immediate needs; distribution of hygiene kits; installation of water storage tanks, water purification systems and filtration devices; distribution of infection prevention and control (IPC) kits; drilling and rehabilitation of boreholes; environmental clean-up and debris removal; and the preparation and installation of modular healthcare facilities.

MULTI-PURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE (MPCA)

International Medical Corps provides MPCA to help meet the immediate financial needs of IDPs fleeing the war, as well as people in host communities who have seen their homes damaged or destroyed. The formation of a nationwide MPCA initiative focuses on the most vulnerable segments of populations, including IDPs, elderly individuals, people with disabilities, large households and single-headed households, providing a short-term injection of capital that is unrestricted and that empowers recipients to allocate funds in ways that are most impactful for themselves and their family. This money also indirectly supports local businesses and markets.

NUTRITION

International Medical Corps continues to raise awareness on infant and young-child feeding practices (IYCF); establish mother-baby spaces (MBS) in collection centers; establish referral systems to other services (including MHPSS and GBV); provide complementary foods and hygiene kits and supplies, including diapers, for children 6–23 months; and build the capacity of our national and local partner staff in oblasts across Ukraine. We have implemented IYCF interventions in MBS, health facilities and community meeting points, selecting pregnant women to participate in small-group and individual sessions on maternal nutrition and the importance of early initiation of breastfeeding. Our IYCF counselors support health facilities and provide informational sessions to improve IYCF practices, covering the importance of breastfeeding and of introducing complementary food at the age of 6 months. We also provide training on IYCF for health workers, including family doctors, nurses and midwives. Finally, working with the nutrition cluster, International Medical Corps increases awareness about IYCF best practices via social media and radio.



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A pre-eminent first responder since 1984, International Medical Corps delivers emergency medical and related services to those affected by conflict, disaster and disease, no matter where they are, no matter what the conditions. We also train people in their communities, providing them with the skills they need to recover, chart their own path to self-reliance and become effective first responders themselves.

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