

12.5. Primary healthcare

Dear Chair,

Ukraine takes note of the Director-General's report and reaffirms that primary health care is the foundation of universal health coverage, resilient health systems, and equitable access to health services.

For Ukraine, strong primary health care is not only a reform priority, but a daily necessity in the context of the ongoing war. Primary care remains essential to ensure continuity of services, prevention, early diagnosis, and support for people with chronic diseases, mental health needs, and war-related health conditions.

At the same time, the war places an extraordinary burden on trauma care. The speed of evacuation and the quality of medical assistance determine how many lives can be saved and how many people can return to normal life without severe disability. A continuous chain of care is therefore critical — from stabilization during evacuation to specialized treatment and rehabilitation. This requires strong coordination and clear referral pathways between primary care, emergency services, hospitals, and rehabilitation care.

Ukraine stresses the importance of sustainable financing for primary health care to ensure equal access to services, especially for vulnerable populations and communities affected by war.

We also emphasize the need to strengthen the health and care workforce, including community-based services. Investment in health workers, their training, retention, and safety is essential for long-term health system resilience.

In addition, strong health information systems and the use of data are important to measure progress, improve quality of care, and support effective decision-making.

Ukraine remains committed to cooperation with WHO and international partners to strengthen primary health care as a core pillar of resilience and recovery.

Thank you.