**HIGHLIGHTS**

- The WHO Country Office (CO) in Ukraine delivered to Siversk, Donetsk region the necessary medicines and medical supplies as part of the United Nations (UN) humanitarian interagency convoy to help 1500 people who remained in the area and who are near the frontline of Bakhmut. The supplies included medicine for noninfectious diseases, surgical kits and trauma treatment kits, burn treatment supplies and disinfectants, as well as pneumonia treatment supplies. The delivery was supported financially by the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) and USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance.

- The WHO CO in Ukraine conducted two rounds of quantitative studies to assess health needs and access to medical services among adult Ukrainians. The results show that the country’s health-care system remains stable and that overall access to medical services remains quite high. However, the results also show that more than half of those seeking different medical care experienced at least one problem, with major obstacles being drug costs and treatment, as well as time and transportation problems.
In the period from 10 to 16 March, the incidence of COVID-19 in Ukraine increased by more than 21%. In total, more than 18,600 cases were registered in the last week, and 4,479 patients were hospitalized. The Ministry of Health (MoH) expects that the number of detected cases should decline closer to April and increase again in the fall. “This means that the coronavirus is increasingly turning into a seasonal viral infection, and vaccination against COVID-19 can become part of routine vaccinations before the start of each epidemic season, which is especially necessary for priority population groups,” emphasized Ihor Kuzin, Deputy Minister of Health.

Since the beginning of the year, Ukraine has transferred almost 134 million hryvnias (US$ 3.6 million) to hospitals operating under temporary occupation. From the beginning of 2023, health-care facilities operating in the temporarily occupied territories continue to receive funding from the National Health Service of Ukraine (NHSU) as part of the “Ensuring the preservation of personnel potential for providing medical care to people residing in temporarily occupied territories” package. Sixty-four health-care facilities located in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine receive funding under this package. Of those, 22 health-care facilities are in the Luhansk region, 15 each are in the Zaporizhzhya and Donetsk regions, and another 12 are in the Kherson region.

The Ukrainian MoH announced a preparedness and response plan for a possible outbreak of measles after two cases in a single household were confirmed on 6 March. According to health authorities, given the conditions of a full-scale war and further decrease in immunization rates, the situation in Ukraine requires special attention to protect people as much as possible and reduce the potential negative consequences for the health-care system.

Leadership and coordination

The WHO Representative (WR) in Ukraine continued high-level engagement with the MoH, authorities, donors and partners in Kyiv.

The WR met with the First Deputy Minister at the MoH and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss the collaboration between WHO and Ukraine, emergency war-time response, emergency care and medical teams, primary health care, increasing need for mental health and rehabilitation services, as well as recovery and reconstruction.

The WR visited the Chernihiv region to review the work of mobile primary health-care teams and ways of further strengthening cooperation with local authorities.

The IM, along with UN partners in Dnipropetrovsk, supported the Humanitarian Operations Planning Cell in planning next week’s convoys to support the front-line response and joined the interagency convoy in Lyman.

The IM coordinated a primary health-care team to Zaporizhzhya in line with the outcome of WR leads on the collaboration between WHO and Ukraine, emergency war-time response, emergency care and medical teams, primary health care, increasing need for mental health and rehabilitation services as well as recovery and reconstruction.

The IM joined a WHO convoy in Zaporizhzhya to deliver supplies for more than 250,000 people.
HEALTH INFORMATION

Conflict-related health information

- From 24 February to date, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) recorded: 8,317 civilians killed; 13,892 civilians injured. **From 1 to 19 March 2023**, 113 killed (60 men, 34 women, 1 girl, as well as 14 adults whose sex is not yet known); 356 injured (149 men, 75 women, 17 boys, 1 girl, as well as 114 adults whose sex is not yet known).

- According to **the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**, as of 20 March over 19.7 million border crossings from Ukraine to neighbouring countries, of whom just over 10.1 million and over 2.3 million crossed the border to Poland and Hungary, respectively.

ATTACKS ON HEALTH

Verified reports of attacks (**1 January 2022 to date**) For further information, click **here**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>859</th>
<th>101</th>
<th>136</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attacks</td>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>Injuries</td>
<td>Countries &amp; Territories</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 766 attacks impacted facilities
- 104 attacks impacted transport
- 26 attacks impacted patients
- 215 attacks impacted supplies
- 87 attacks impacted personnel
- 15 attacks impacted warehouses
Surveillance

COVID-19 and other communicable diseases

- In the weeks of 9-16 March, the average daily number of new COVID-19 cases was 2660, an increase from 2196 per day in the previous week. The seven-day average daily polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests performed decreased to 5884 from 6207 in the previous week. A similar trend is observed with rapid diagnostic tests performed in laboratories and at primary health-care and hospital level. A comprehensive weekly COVID-19 dashboard can be found [here](#).

Surveillance from open-source intelligence

- About 80% of children were vaccinated against measles, mumps and rubella last year in the Zakarpattya oblast.
- Since the beginning of 2023, 20 cases of epidemic mumps have been recorded in the Cherkasy oblast. Most of the patients are children aged 9 to 17 years. The patients were not vaccinated according to the national vaccination schedule.
- A new subvariant of SARS-CoV-2 Omicron – XBB.1.9 – was identified by sequencing a sample of wastewater collected in the city of Pavlohrad, in the Dnipropetrovsk oblast. The result was provided by a reference laboratory of the Ukrainian Public Health Center (UPHC).
- In the last week 840 cases of COVID-19 were recorded in the Kyiv oblast, a 16% increase from the preceding week.

![Trend in new cases](#)

![Test Positivity rate (PCR) in private and state labs](#)

7-day average testing data as per 16 March
Operational Support and Logistics - OSL

- As of 20 March, WHO received in its warehouses in the city of Kyiv, in the Kyiv oblast and in Lviv medical supplies with a value of over US$ 72.53 million and a total weight of over 3032 metric tonnes. They included Trauma and Emergency Surgery Kits (TESK) 2019, WHO trauma bags, Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHKs) and other items.

- Between 13 and 20 March medical supplies and equipment with a total value exceeding US$ 1.43 million and a total weight of more than 156 metric tonnes were delivered to 13 oblasts across Ukraine. They included IEHKs, trauma/surgery supplies (TESK 2019, surgical instruments etc.), intercity bus, medication and office supplies.

### Breakdown of Number of Facilities and Oblasts Distributed to by Quarter

The number of WHO modules delivered to Ukraine from 1 March 2022 to date

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TESK</th>
<th>IEHK</th>
<th>PED-SAM</th>
<th>WHO CTT</th>
<th>NCD</th>
<th>WHO Trauma 1st aid kit</th>
<th>WHO Emergency Trauma backpack complete</th>
<th>Trauma backpack kit WHO emergency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9095</td>
<td>4221</td>
<td>678</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>1367</td>
<td>8194</td>
<td>1110</td>
<td>413</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHO CO is strengthening laboratory capacity at the microbiological laboratory of the Zakarpattya Oblast Infectious Disease Hospital and has launched large procurement of laboratory equipment, including a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) thermocycler, biosafety boxes, PCR boxes, microscopes, centrifuges, as well as reagents and consumables.

WHO delivered 10 large microbiology analysers to strengthen microbiological testing capacities, including antimicrobial resistance (AMR) at large hospitals and oblast centers for disease control and prevention in Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhya, Mykolayiv, Zhytomyr, Odesa, Lviv, and Kharkiv; as well as reagents for microbiological and AMR testing to 21 cities in Ukraine.

A two-day workshop titled “Operating a 3-Diff automated haematology analyser” was conducted on 13–14 March at the Zhytomyr Oblast Clinical Hospital named after Gerbachevsky. Sixty-two employees of clinical laboratories and centres for primary medical and sanitary service, including nurses, doctors, specialists with higher non-medical degrees, and laboratory assistants participated in the training.

Emergency medical services (EMS)

WHO conducted a training on implementing infection prevention and control clinical bundles and preventing health-care-associated infections, attended by over 80 health-care providers from 10 hospitals in the Ternopil and Khmelnytsky oblasts.
WHO UKRAINE COUNTRY OFFICE

UKRAINE COUNTRY OFFICE ACTIONS

Health Cluster / Partner updates

- On 8 March the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) released the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund First Standard Allocation Strategy. To support Partners in the application process, the Health Cluster held a dedicated briefing session on 10 March, during which OCHA informed Cluster members of the steps forward, and Health Cluster Ukraine provided guidance and direction, presenting strategies and priorities.

- To help Partners to shape an effective evidence-based operational response in Ukraine, on 13 March the Health Cluster and REACH held a dedicated briefing session on the key health findings of the recently published REACH Multi-Sector Needs Assessment Bulletin (February 2022).

- On 15 March the Health Cluster held a National Coordination Meeting, during which:
  - WHO presented a situation update on measles in Ukraine and provided insights on the MoH’s measles preparedness and response plan;
  - the Alliance for Public Health presented its efforts towards ensuring sustainable health services through the support of health-care providers with mental health and psychosocial services; and
  - the International Organization for Migration presented the results of the first round of Conditions of Return Assessment (January–February 2023)

Health Cluster Ukraine released the December #22 Bulletin, providing an overview of all Health Cluster and Partner achievements in 2022 in a dedicated chapter in the Year in Review. For more information, please click here.

- Since its launch on 15 April 2022, the Health Requests, Planning and Response tool (HRPR) has been revised and upgraded, and 602 requests have been logged overall, of which the majority were in the Kharkiv, Donetsk and Zaporizhzhya oblasts.
From 6 to 19 March, the WHO Ukraine CO published 20 Twitter posts, 20 Facebook posts and 12 Instagram posts, which received a total of 511,155 impressions on Twitter and 29,661 on Facebook. The topics included: a video about using data collection and monitoring tools (Health Resources and Services Availability Monitoring System (HeRAMS)) to better inform critical health-care interventions in areas impacted by the war; a video about deliveries of supplies for health facilities in hard-to-reach regions; a video on oxygen supplies and oxygen medical treatment provided by WHO; an announcement of a virtual event led by WHO on rehabilitation, assistive technology and disability inclusion activities to support Ukraine; a video story about the rehabilitation process of Anastasia and her husband, who were injured as a result of the war; a WHO Regional Office for Europe opinion titled “The health workforce crisis in Europe is also a gender equality crisis”; news about the participation of Deputy Head of the Presidential Office of Ukraine Iuliia Sokolovska in the virtual event on rehabilitation; information about health attacks and vacancies; WHO’s participation in the delivery of a UN interagency convoy to Chasiv Yar in the Donetsk region; Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP) meeting with partners; the WHO CO’s annual report titled “WHO’s response to the Ukraine crisis”; health needs assessment conducted in Ukraine; a video story on the delivery of oxygen generators to Ukrainian hospitals; WHO’s deliveries of essential medicines and supplies to Siversk in the Donetsk region; a meeting with WHO partners on HeRAMS; a video story on the rehabilitation of Tetyana and Sasha from the Dnipropetrovsk region; and a WHO visit to the Chernihiv region to review the work of mobile primary health-care teams and strengthen cooperation with local authorities.

Media:
- Video feature titled [WHO is using HeRAMS in Ukraine](#).
- Coverage of a public event organized by the WHO Regional Office for Europe, the WHO CO in Ukraine and the MoH of Ukraine, highlighting people’s rehabilitation needs.
- News release titled [Ukraine’s health system shows resilience, but barriers remain](#).

Production:
- Video about using data collection and monitoring tools (HeRAMS) to better inform critical health-care interventions in areas impacted by the war, published on [Facebook (UKR)](#), [Twitter (ENG)](#) and [Instagram (UKR)](#).
- Video on oxygen supplies and oxygen medical treatment provided by WHO, published on [Facebook (ENG)](#) and [Twitter (ENG)](#).
- Video about deliveries of supplies for health facilities in hard-to-reach regions, published on [Facebook (UKR)](#), [Twitter (ENG)](#) and [Instagram (UKR)](#).
- Video story on the rehabilitation of Tetyana and Sasha from the Dnipropetrovsk region, published on [Facebook (UKR)](#) and [Instagram (UKR)](#).

Social Listening
COVID-19 discussion is being revived:
- with a new wave of rumours related to vaccine side effects and related social media posts; and
- with a decline in interest, based on official statistics on cases and hospitalizations (source: Facebook).
- Risks related to post-traumatic stress disorder and suicide (source: Telegram Messenger)
Marking 1 year of learning response to the Ukraine emergency

Since the invasion of Ukraine began one year ago, participation in the Ukrainian language courses available on WHO’s OpenWHO.org learning platform has increased 57%. More than 3700 new enrolments have been added during this period and 12 new Ukrainian language courses have been produced, doubling the course offering. As of February, 24 courses were hosted on the dedicated Ukraine learning channel in collaboration with the WHO Country Office in Ukraine.

During the past year, the 3 most popular Ukrainian courses have addressed medical device reprocessing, simulation exercise management, and mental health and psychosocial support in emergencies. 33% learners across all Ukrainian language courses were health care professionals, 20% were students and 9% were volunteers.

Emergency response and injection safety training courses launched in Ukrainian

Three new online courses are available in Ukrainian to support emergency responders and health professionals in Ukraine, for a total of 25 Ukrainian language courses available on WHO’s OpenWHO learning platform.

In late February, OpenWHO.org launched the Ready4Response Tier 1 and Tier 2 courses on its Ukraine learning channel, which was developed in collaboration with the WHO Country Office in Ukraine. Ready4Response is a multi-tiered core curriculum that aims to develop consistent learning standards across the emergency response workforces at national level. It equips participants with essential competencies needed to work within public health emergency response and has Continuing Professional Development accreditation.

In March, a course on injection safety and needle-stick injury management was also launched in Ukrainian. Following safe injection practices is key to preventing the spread of infection during health care delivery.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OpenWHO.org: Free online courses in Ukrainian supporting health emergency response</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of Ukrainian language courses</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of enrolments in Ukrainian courses</td>
<td>6318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of certificates issued in Ukrainian courses</td>
<td>2335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of digital badges issued in Ukrainian courses</td>
<td>509</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHO UKRAINE COUNTRY OFFICE ACTIONS

Key links and useful resources

- **Online courses and knowledge transfer platform**
  For updated interactive, web-based, online courses, click [here](#).

- **Emergency medical teams (EMTs)**
  For updated EMT network activities, click [here](#).

- **WHO publications and technical guidance**
  For updated WHO publications and technical guidance on technological hazards and health risks in Ukraine, click [here](#).

WHO Ukraine Contacts

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- WCO WHE Lead Guillaume Simonian, [simoniang@who.int](mailto:simoniang@who.int)

Corrigendum:
On 24 March 2023 the figures in the table listing the OpenWHO.org courses were updated:
- first row, number "24" was replaced with "25";
- second row, number "6167" was replaced with "6318";
- third row, number "2236" was replaced with "2335"; and
- fourth row, number "489" was replaced with "509".

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