



Staff from International Medical Corps in Kharkiv city distribute dignity kits to women and girls at the transit center for displaced people there.

Russia opened up a new front in its war on Ukraine on May 10, when it mounted an offensive against Kharkivska oblast in the northeast. Ground forces broke through the border in two areas, and Russia has brought in additional troops while continuing its shelling and air attacks.

The attacks and Russian occupation of multiple settlements have forced some 20,000 civilians to flee their homes, according to the United Nations. For example, Russian troops have occupied settlements around the city of Vovchansk, 55 kilometers (km) northeast of Kharkiv city, and have been threatening Vovchansk itself. To the west, Russian forces have been approaching Lytysi, just 25 km from Kharkiv. Despite the danger to the oblast capital—including a strike on a shopping center on May 25 that reportedly killed 19 people and injured more than 40 others—more than 10,100 of the newly displaced people have visited the transit center there to receive first aid and support. International Medical Corps' local partner, Relief Coordination Center, operates the transit center. From there, evacuees are offered accommodation in dormitories and hostels in and around the city.

International Medical Corps' Response

In response to the emergency, International Medical Corps is working with local governments and other organizations, including the Kharkiv Regional State Administration, Vovchansk city authorities, the Relief Coordination Centre in Kharkiv, UN OCHA and the different humanitarian clusters. International Medical Corps has helped to assess needs and is providing relief.

Our **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)** team has been offering comprehensive support to the evacuees. For example, we have donated 25,092 child and adult diapers to the Future for Youth NGO for distribution at the collective centers where evacuees are staying. In addition, our WASH team is distributing 10,000 6-liter bottles of water at two collective centers—a month's supply of drinking water for almost 400 people. The team has also donated 16 80-liter boilers to three collective centers and three tool kits to three villages—Krasnopavlivka, Oskil and Savintsi—housing almost 8,500 evacuees.

The **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)** team has been providing psychological first aid to internally

FAST FACTS

- Russian forces have continued to attack Kharkivska oblast, in northeastern Ukraine, since the current offensive began May 10.
- Attacks and shelling resulted in a mandatory evacuation of settlements near the Russian border—with approximately 20,000 residents having been displaced so far.
- The number of Ukrainians being displaced by the attacks continues to rise.
- Most of the residents being evacuated are older, and many have chronic health conditions and mobility challenges.
- International Medical Corps, working closely with partners and has provided humanitarian support, including dignity kits, diapers and psychological first aid.



displaced persons (IDPs) from Lyptsi and Vovchansk. One of our team psychologists was on hand to support evacuees at the transit center on May 28, when the **Gender-Based Violence (GBV)** team distributed 64 dignity kits to women and girls evacuated from Lypsti and Vovchansk. The transit center has become a main focus of humanitarian aid, with at least seven NGOs—including the Danish Refugee Council and International Rescue Committee—operating there and offering a diverse range of support. International Medical Corps is coordinating with these NGOs, and our GBV team will continue to assist the evacuees there twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, supported by the MHPSS team. The GBV team will also be active at the collective centers.

International Medical Corps' **Health** team in Kharkiv has been supporting two health facilities in Krasnohrad and Zmiiv, two towns south of Kharkiv that have seen an influx of 300 evacuees from border areas, significantly increasing the facilities' catchment populations. By supplying the facilities monthly with a comprehensive list of critical medicines, International Medical Corps is helping them to cope with challenges caused by the recent military activity.