

Ukraine



Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, a full-scale war has raged, with no end in sight. In the years following the invasion, the conflict has claimed the lives of more than 10,500 civilians. Almost 6 million Ukrainian refugees have fled to other European countries, while nearly 4 million remain displaced within Ukraine.

International Medical Corps' history in Ukraine stretches back to 1999, with a continuous presence in the country from 2014. Since February 2022, we have rapidly expanded our services to provide emergency and primary healthcare, mental health and psychosocial support services, protection support, physical rehabilitation services and more.

To support Ukraine's health facilities, we distribute medicines, medical equipment and health supplies, and rehabilitate damaged or destroyed buildings and other critical health infrastructure. We train health workers on trauma, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and other topics. Our water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) teams ensure that people can access safe water, and distribute bottled water, hygiene kits and dignity kits. We offer multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) and nutrition services to people affected by the conflict, while our livelihoods programs support those wounded in the war. Working with authorities and local partners, we coordinate the delivery of protection-related services, and support recovery interventions and health system strengthening (HSS) along the humanitarian-development nexus.

As of March 2024, International Medical Corps has reached more than 9 million people in Ukraine, Poland and Moldova with critically needed supplies, health services and training.



STRENGTHENING HEALTHCARE

To ensure the continuity and accessibility of healthcare in Ukraine, we provide various types of support to local health facilities and populations. We rehabilitate damaged health facilities; procure and deliver equipment, medicine and supplies; provide WASH and heating systems; and improve bunkers to protect staff and patients. Where facilities have been destroyed or extensively damaged, we provide mobile medical services to local populations until they are restored.

To strengthen the capacity of Ukraine's healthcare system, we're working with the Ministry of Health and other partners to deliver health services and to develop evidence-based policy. We have developed a health-systems strengthening and resilience framework to help deliver effective primary healthcare and emergency services in frontline communities, including by providing health consultations and laboratory testing, distributing essential medicine and equipment, rehabilitating facilities and donating health-related vehicles.

Working with the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, we have also developed a comprehensive trauma-care and preparedness program, providing training to thousands of health workers and first responders in person, and to more than one million people online.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

International Medical Corps implements complementary and stand-alone WASH activities across Ukraine, including rehabilitating health facilities and infrastructure damaged by the conflict. We rehabilitate and drill boreholes, and undertake environmental clean-up and waste management projects. We install modular health facilities, water storage tanks, purification systems and filtration devices to ensure that people and facilities have access to clean water. We also distribute potable water, hygiene kits, and infection prevention and control kits.



MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

We safeguard the mental well-being of affected populations through tailored MHPSS interventions that are integrated with primary healthcare services. Working with local partners, we deliver psychosocial support services and mental health case management. In frontline areas, we use mobile units to ensure that people get the support they need.

Our multidisciplinary teams build local capacity by training health and social workers in topics such as basic psychosocial skills, and detection of and referrals for mental health cases. We also teach evidence-based scalable interventions, such as Self-Help Plus (SH+) and the World Health Organization's Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP).

Co-leading the country's MHPSS Technical Working Group, we align training and interventions with the Ukrainian MHPSS Operational Roadmap and collaborate with stakeholders such as the Ministry of Health and the Coordination Center for Mental Health.

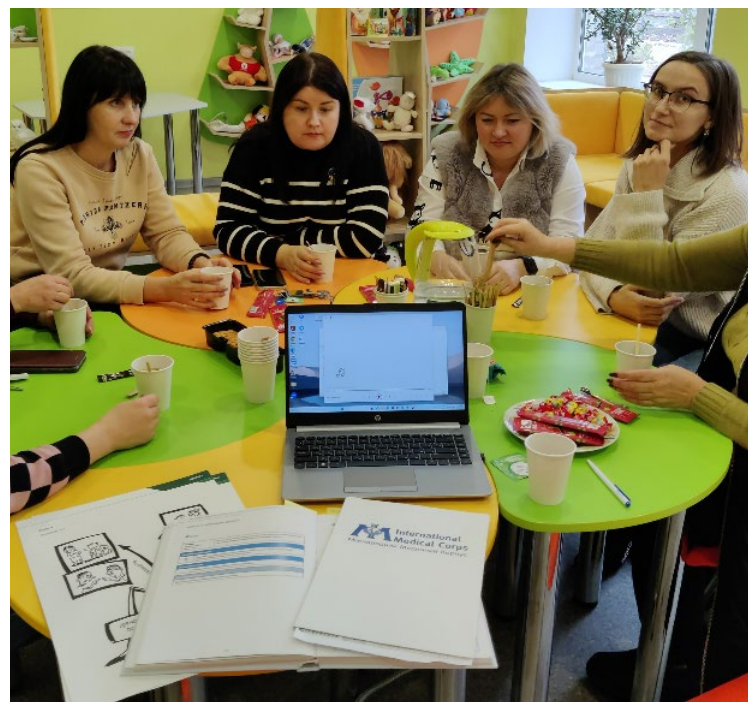


GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Because women and girls are particularly vulnerable during conflict, we work directly and in partnership with women's rights organizations to implement GBV response and prevention services. This includes awareness-raising sessions, PSS sessions through recreational activities and emotional support groups.

We operate women's and girls' safe spaces (WGSS) across Ukraine to increase access to lifesaving, comprehensive, age-appropriate GBV case management, PSS and referrals to specialized care. The WGSS are hubs for information-sharing and empowerment activities where women and girls can build connections, learn new skills and access services. We also distribute dignity kits and provide cash assistance through our case management services to meet the needs of GBV survivors.

To strengthen Ukrainian capacity to address GBV, we train local partners, stakeholders and government staff, covering topics such as implementing a survivor-centered approach and creating effective service mapping and referral mechanisms.



MULTI-PURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE

Our cash assistance programs are a key part of our multifaceted health interventions in Ukraine. MCPA supports the most vulnerable populations through direct cash transfers, ensuring transparency and ease of access for the people we help. Our Cash for Health (C4H) initiative has alleviated financial barriers faced by individuals suffering from chronic diseases, enabling them access to essential medications not covered by national health programs.

NUTRITION

Our nutrition programming focuses on mothers and children. We provide infant and young-child feeding (IYCF) interventions in health facilities, community meeting points and in the mother-baby spaces we have established in hospitals and community centers. These interventions include small-group and individual sessions on maternal nutrition and breastfeeding for pregnant women, awareness-raising about IYCF practices, and distribution of hygiene kits, diapers and complementary foods for children from 6 to 23 months.

We also train health workers on IYCF principles and cooperate with the Nutrition Cluster to raise awareness via social media and radio about IYCF best practices.

PARTNERSHIPS

We are committed to fostering localized relief and resilience with Ukrainian organizations, especially in the MHPSS, livelihoods and GBV protection sectors. To build the capacity of local partners and ensure that they are ready to respond to ongoing and emerging crises, we provide tailored technical support and develop systemic strengthening plans.

As part of our work centering on the humanitarian-development nexus (HDN), we coordinate with government bodies, HDN-focused technical specialists, local partners and donors to provide sustainable healthcare-system strengthening and capacity building. We consult with key stakeholders across a range of government ministries and agencies, and align our efforts with Ukraine's National Recovery Plan to enhance Ukraine's long-term resilience.



PHYSICAL REHABILITATION

The war has led to a dramatic increase in physical rehabilitation needs, while limiting access to resources. To improve access to quality physical rehabilitation services, we work with the Ministry of Health and the Ukrainian Association of Physical Therapy. We equip health facilities with essential physical rehabilitation equipment, develop and disseminate evidence-based guidelines tailored to the Ukrainian context, train medical staff and help make health facilities disability-friendly.



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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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