



International Medical Corps MHPSS and WASH teams deliver hygiene kits to IDPs in southern Kharkivska oblast.

Kharkivska oblast continues to suffer significant damage and casualties due to the latest wave of Russian attacks, even though the Ukrainian Armed Forces have managed to stabilize the situation following the launch of Russia's latest offensive there on May 10, two months ago. Residents continue to experience air attacks on a daily basis as glide bombs, ballistic missiles and rockets regularly strike Kharkiv city and other locations across the oblast.

In just one incident last week, three children, including a two-week-old boy, were among 14 people injured in shelling in northeast Kharkiv. Two houses were destroyed in the bombardment, while 10 houses, 12 apartment buildings, a cafe, a post office, a sports club and two university buildings were damaged. Meanwhile, settlements north of Kharkiv and closer to the Russian border remain under constant shelling, further contributing to the worsening humanitarian situation.

Approximately 11,000 people have been evacuated from the cities of Lyptsi and Vovchansk, north of Kharkiv, while the evacuation of families with children from Borivska, to the southeast, is currently underway. There are now almost 200,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in Kharkiv according to the Ministry of Social Policy, which is almost 40% of the total number of IDPs in the oblast.

International Medical Corps' Response

International Medical Corps continues to respond to the emergency in Kharkivska and increases its interventions.

The **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) team** made visits to seven IDP centers, helping 131 people. During their visits, they evaluated the needs of IDPs, introduced them to the services International Medical Corps offers and informed them about the benefits of psychological health and support. The team identified the displaced people's main stressors as:

- ongoing military actions;
- challenging living conditions;
- economic hardships;
- unemployment;
- expenses related to repairing damaged homes and replacing lost or stolen possessions;
- displacement and homelessness, particularly for those whose homes were looted, destroyed or occupied;
- anxiety over potential future attacks;
- grief and loss in various forms, such as loss of family, homes, assets, financial security and prospects for the future;

FAST FACTS

- The new Russian offensive in Kharkivska oblast is entering its third month.
- Civilians continue to be impacted by air attacks on a daily basis.
- There are now almost 200,000 IDPs staying in Kharkiv city—almost 40% of the total for the entire oblast.
- International Medical Corps' MHPSS team visited seven IDP centers to assess needs and offer support.
- The team also identified the main stressors affecting IDPs.
- MHPSS and WASH teams also distributed hygiene kits to longer-term IDPs in southern Kharkivska oblast.
- The GBV team continues to provide a range of support, including psychological first aid and dignity kits.

- difficulties in explaining to children the war's origins and its impact on their lives;
- movement challenges within communities, due to destroyed infrastructure and unexploded ordnance; and
- a sense of inadequate governmental support for home repairs or reconstruction.

One of the communities where International Medical Corps conducted assessments was Pervomaiskyi, in southern Kharkivska oblast, which hosts a group of people who have been displaced since the early days of the full-scale war, almost two-and-a-half years ago. They spoke in part about a shortage of hygiene products, difficulty in accessing necessary goods due to age or mobility issues, and economic hardships.



International Medical Corps' GBV specialists provide dignity kits to IDPs at a collective center in Kharkiv city.

To help address their needs, our MHPSS and **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)** teams distributed 37 hygiene kits—each containing a sufficient amount of supplies for a three-person family for one month, and of three months for an individual—reaching 62 people. Over the last three weeks, the WASH team distributed 600 hygiene kits and 876 packs of baby and adult diapers in Chuhivskiyi and Iziunskiyi districts, and in Pervomaiskyi.

The Kharkiv MHPSS team also has been able to offer psychosocial support and services to IDPs at collective centers in Pervomaiskyi and in Kharkiv city. The team also gave people information booklets about the services provided by and contacts for International Medical Corps specialists.

Meanwhile, the **Gender-Based Violence (GBV) team** continued to offer consultations and psychological first aid to new IDPs arriving at the Kharkiv Transit Center. Over the last three weeks, the team distributed 121 dignity kits to women and girls there, and over the course of the crisis has provided 463 kits.

Our GBV specialists also conducted group psychosocial-support activities, and information sessions for women and girls at four collective centers that host IDPs in Kharkiv, as well as in Dokuchaievsk and Krasnopavlivka to the south. The facilitators informed the participants about our safe spaces for women and girls, other GBV-related services and the full range of assistance provided by International Medical Corps.