

## PRESS RELEASE

### WHO Foundation calls for additional support for Health Emergency Appeal for Ukraine

- US\$147.5m urgently required to protect and support healthcare needs of Ukraine as the ongoing conflict adds to the humanitarian crisis.
- WHO has confirmed more than 200 attacks on healthcare in Ukraine as of 7 May 2022.
- The conflict has left over 12 million people in need of health assistance in Ukraine.
- WHO has delivered 398 metric tonnes of medical supplies and equipment and enough medicines and basic healthcare items for 650,000 people, but more funding is needed.

**Geneva, Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022:** The WHO Foundation is calling for additional funding for WHO's Health Emergency Appeal for [Ukraine](#). Urgent support is needed to deliver healthcare and emergency medical supplies as the war continues to take a heavy toll on Ukraine's health system and add to the existing humanitarian crisis.

In total, \$147.5m is needed to support Ukraine's immediate healthcare delivery and helping the health system stay resilient for the longer term.

\$80m of this is needed for in country support, such as distributing medicines and delivering vital healthcare services. With more than 5.7 million people – many women and children - having left Ukraine for neighbouring countries, a further \$67.5m is required to assist refugee-receiving and hosting countries, such as Poland and Romania.

Nearly three months into the war, ongoing attacks against healthcare and civilian infrastructure are killing and injuring civilians and obstructing delivery of and access to healthcare for those in need, destroying hope and creating anguish among the population. Roughly 300 health facilities are in conflict areas and 1,000 health facilities in changed areas of control, meaning health services are extremely vulnerable to damage and severe disruptions.

According to OHCHR, more than 3,000 civilians have died because they couldn't get medical care and because of the stress on their health amid the hostilities.

This means that, for millions of people, there is limited or no access to medicines, health facilities, or healthcare workers. Those needing regular medicines are also struggling to access treatment needed with nearly 50% of Ukraine's pharmacies presumed to be closed, and many health workers either displaced or unable to work.

The lives of people in Ukraine living with a chronic disease are also at risk. [WHO's research](#) shows one in three (30%) households surveyed in Ukraine that have at least one person with a chronic disease reported challenges in accessing care for those conditions. Less than a third (30%) sought out healthcare services recently; with 39% citing the security situation as the main reason and 27% reporting that no healthcare services were available at all in their area.

The need for medical supplies remains particularly high in the eastern regions where active fighting continues to put civilians at risk. This includes supplies for trauma and emergency care and life-saving treatments for people with non-communicable diseases, such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, or cancer.

Oxygen supplies, equipment, and infrastructural support for hospitals - generators and ambulances are also needed – for example, 20 ambulances were given to the Ministry of Health (MoH) of Ukraine by WHO on 8 May. WHO also needs to acquire several armoured vehicles given the security situation and the need to transport WHO staff safely across the country among active fighting and airstrikes.

WHO Foundation is calling on people around the world to donate what they can to ensure access to medicines and healthcare services can continue to reach those who need them: <https://www.ukraine.who.foundation/>.

Saving lives continues to be the priority of WHO's response in Ukraine. As of 4 May 2022, WHO has delivered 398 metric tonnes of medical supplies and equipment to Ukraine. The critical supplies delivered by WHO up to date cover 8,000-16,000 surgeries and enough medicines and basic healthcare items to serve 650,000 people during 3 months.

Medical supplies and HR support have also been sent to refugee-hosting countries, including medicines, medical equipment, diagnostics, and personal protective equipment to serve more than 631,400 refugees.

Action focuses on ensuring access to care and basic health services to wounded people and others affected by the armed conflict, within Ukraine as well as neighbouring countries. This includes emergency support as well as addressing ongoing medical needs such as mental health support, immunisation from COVID-19 and polio, as well as ensuring people get the treatment and care they need for chronic illnesses.

WHO is committed to delivering essential health supplies and services to those currently affected by the conflict, as well as laying the foundation for longer-term health systems recovery.

**Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization, said:**

“I have been very moved by the resilience of the Ukrainian people, the bravery of Ukraine's health workers, the dedication of our own WHO staff, and the commitment of the Ministry of Health under his leadership and the Government of Ukraine to protecting health in these terrible circumstances.

“My message to the Minister of Health, and to all the people of Ukraine, is that WHO stands with you. We will do everything we can to support the Government in its efforts to treat the injured, maintain health services, and to repair and strengthen Ukraine's health system.”

**Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe, said:**

“These are tough times, with the real lives of real people on the line – millions of children, women, and men. Addressing the health needs of people in Ukraine and those in the surrounding countries is my top priority. As we respond to this human tragedy and humanitarian crisis, we must also plan for reconstruction and rehabilitation in parallel, bringing hope and the resolve to put health at the centre of recovery efforts.”

**Jarno Habicht, the WHO Country Representative in Ukraine, said:**

"As we work on the immediate response, WHO is here to support Ukraine's recovery, continue its halted health reforms and ensure that the health system comes out of the war stronger than ever.

"I am deeply impressed and grateful to our doctors for their heroism, which they show every day, saving the lives of Ukrainians under fire. Today, more than ever, we need support from people around the world. "

**Anil Soni, Chief Executive Officer of the WHO Foundation, said:**

"The humanitarian crisis is still unfolding in Ukraine. Attacks on civilians sadly continue, I was devastated to hear about the recent horrific bombing on a school in Bilohorivka. Healthcare attacks are also rising and severely disrupting services for those wounded or needing medical treatment. It has taken a tragic toll leaving people without medicine and losing their lives.

"Medical supplies and continued access to lifesaving healthcare are essential as the situation continues to worsen. The people in Ukraine, as well as Ukrainian refugees, are facing the most difficult circumstances and need our help. I call on anyone who can, to support the WHO's urgent health response through the WHO Foundation appeal. Together, we stand to support healthcare for those affected by the conflict".

Donate to the Health Emergency Appeal for Ukraine now to help WHO deliver urgent healthcare to people in Ukraine and refugees in neighbouring countries.

<https://www.ukraine.who.foundation/>.

Get the latest updates on Ukraine here:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/situations/ukraine-emergency>

<https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/emergency-appeal---ukraine-an-refugee-receiving-and-hosting-countries>

**ENDS**

**For more information contact:**

**Media:** [WHOF@freuds.com](mailto:WHOF@freuds.com)

**WHO Foundation:** [T.jeewa@who.foundation](mailto:T.jeewa@who.foundation)

**Notes to editors**

\$147.5m is needed to support Ukraine's worsening humanitarian needs for immediate healthcare delivery as well as helping the health system stay resilient longer term. \$80m is needed for in country support from March to August as well as \$67.5m to assist refugee-receiving and hosting countries from March to December 2022.

For more information on the WHO Emergency Appeal, see:

[WHO Emergency Appeal - Ukraine and Neighbouring Countries](#)

**What is the WHO Foundation?**

Established in 2020 as an independent entity, the WHO Foundation complements and strengthens the work of WHO and its global network of partners by mobilizing new funding from diverse sources—including philanthropists, corporate entities, and the public—to power WHO's mission. By addressing the world's most urgent health issues in a new,



transformative, catalytic way, the WHO Foundation aims to provide everyone, everywhere, a healthier, more equitable future.