



Impact Update

January 2025



Thank you for your
incredible support

“
WHO's commitment to health for all is an inspiration
”



I want to say a heartfelt thank you for your incredible support for the WHO Foundation. By donating to the Foundation, you are helping the World Health Organization (WHO) to safeguard the health of people in the greatest need across the globe.

This impact update will give you insights into the incredible work of WHO's health emergencies program in 2024. WHO is the lead humanitarian organization for health. With more than 150 offices around the world, it serves 194 member states. In a health crisis, they lead the response and they are tireless in speaking truth to power on behalf of people who need it most. Take Gaza, for example, where the healthcare system would have collapsed without the help of WHO and its partners, or Sudan, where, in the words of the WHO Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, civilians are living in a 'nightmare of conflict'. In Ukraine, WHO is helping maintain healthcare, treat traumatic injuries and provide mental health support after more than 1000 days of war.

WHO's commitment to health for all is an inspiration. In the midst of conflict, in the aftermath of disaster and amid disease outbreaks, they solve problems that deliver health today and in the future, always guided by science and acting on humanitarian principles.

The work does not stop. In 2025, WHO will be training thousands of healthcare professionals, supplying life-saving equipment where it is badly needed, saving lives threatened by malnutrition and keeping health services running when there is no one else to do the job.

We know that donations make a difference: US\$ 100 could provide two people with complex trauma surgeries to treat their critical conditions and injuries, US\$ 250 could provide five children with pediatric medicines to treat their wounds and illness. Every gift matters.

Please read the report with interest. We would love to hear your comments and questions about the work of WHO and the role of the WHO Foundation.

If you wish to get involved, engage your company or amplify the work of the Foundation, connect with us.

Thank you for standing with the people who need WHO's assistance. Knowing there are people like you helping to make the world a healthier place motivates us beyond measure.

With gratitude,

Anil Sonil
Chief Executive Officer, WHO Foundation

Highlighting WHO's Emergency Health Response

1 Gaza Emergency



Medical supplies for
6.3 million
treatments and surgeries



500,000+
children vaccinated against
polio



49
emergency medical teams
(EMTs) deployed



70,000
women provided with hygiene
and sanitary supplies



2.2 million
consultations provided by
EMTs



6
malnutrition treatment
centers established

2 Lebanon Crisis



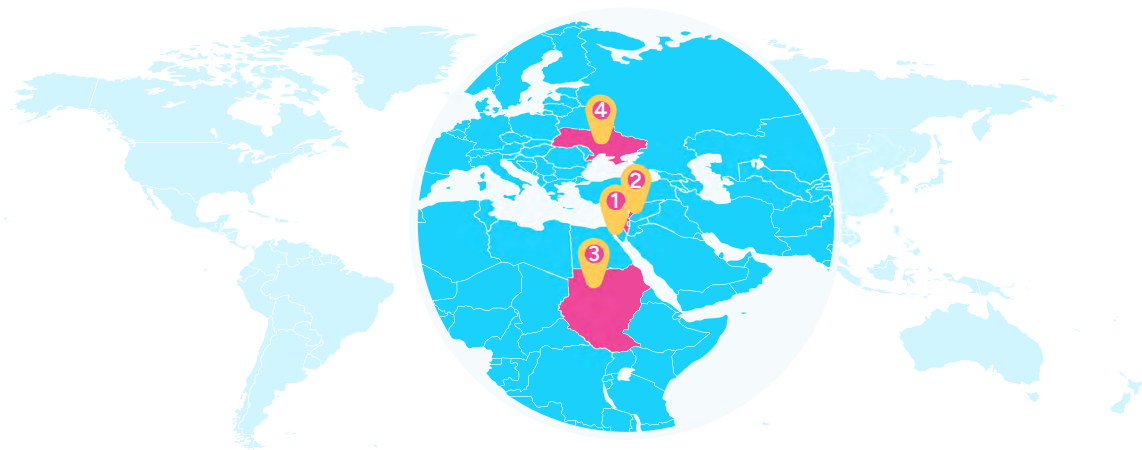
500
health centers supplied
with medicines



120
hospitals received mass
casualty management training



112
hospitals undertook mass
casualty management drills



3 Sudan Conflict



18
hospitals receiving aid across
10 states



900 metric tons
of medicine, diagnostic
supplies and cholera kits



126
stabilization centers for
severe, acute malnutrition
supported



8,872
consultations at WHO-
supported health centers



4,500+
people received mental
healthcare

4 Ukraine Conflict



9,000*
people given emergency
health assistance



28
health clinics installed

Mpox Outbreak



38
countries reached with mpox
supplies since August 2024



50,000
people vaccinated in the
Democratic Republic of
Congo. Vaccines allocated to
9 countries

*By Health Cluster partners led by WHO

Gaza Emergency

In Gaza, the devastating conflict has caused the deaths of more than 44,000 people, with an estimated 10,000 people still buried under rubble. Just under two million people are displaced, with nine out of ten people living in tents, exposed to harsh conditions. This makes them vulnerable to disease, particularly respiratory conditions such as influenza and pneumonia. The lives of newborn babies, in particular, are at risk.

Delivering critical care in 2024 was a high risk operation. Less than half of all health centers were even partially functioning, with an estimated 50,000 women pregnant and 5,000 expectant mothers due to give birth every month in 17 damaged hospitals and four field hospitals. Attacks on health facilities and the detention of healthcare staff jeopardized healthcare further. In December 2024, a military assault on Kamal Adwan Hospital closed the last major health facility in North Gaza. Severe food shortages and disruptions in aid deliveries have led to a rising number of cases of malnutrition. In 2024, WHO reported that more than 35 children died of malnutrition and more than 5,000 patients were admitted for medical treatment due to life-threatening severe, acute malnutrition. Thousands of people are awaiting medical evacuation.



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6
malnutrition treatment
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“

I am so grateful, I mean, what happened to us is a very, very big thing. The fact that my daughter was able to come to Spain and complete her treatment here, and God willing she can continue it, and I pray to God that she's cured.

”

Iman Al Majida
Mother to Eleen and Samar

After the war in Gaza started, Iman Al Majida learned her daughter Eleen's leukemia's treatment would end; the hospital had been damaged by shelling and could not run even diagnostic tests. Her only chance would be through securing treatment abroad; a complex and politically fragile process. The majority of evacuation requests were turned down.

Following intervention by WHO and several partners including the non-profit organization Accem, Eleen was evacuated to Spain with

her mother and twin sister, Samar to continue her treatment for leukemia and to receive psychosocial support.

At the time of writing an estimated 12,000 patients inside Gaza are in need of medical evacuation abroad. They have life-threatening conditions or injuries that could be successfully treated with the correct care. Around 2,500 of those waiting to travel outside of Gaza are believed to be children like Eleen.

Eleen 6, her twin sister Samar and their mother Iman Al Majida.



WHO's Response

WHO is supplying humanitarian health aid to hospitals and health centers, and organizing international medical evacuations and vaccination campaigns. It has helped restore hospitals and primary care facilities after raids, attacks and destruction.

In November 2024, despite highly dangerous conditions, a remarkable 94% of the target population of 591 714 children under the age of 10 years were successfully vaccinated against polio. Additionally, an estimated 448 425 children under 10 received vitamin A which boosts immunity against disease during the second round of the campaign.



WHO prepared patients at Gaza's European Hospital for medical evacuation abroad.



WHO supported the medical evacuation of patients to countries abroad.

WHO and partners continue to transfer patients to health centers, conduct needs assessment, support the deployment of emergency medical teams (EMTs) and field hospitals, and deliver medical supplies, blood and fuel to health facilities. Since the start of the emergency, 49 national and international emergency medical teams have carried out more than 2 million health consultations, at great personal risk. In total, 238 health service points, including 160 medical points, are currently operating throughout the Gaza Strip.





Displaced persons in Gaza face a harsh life in biting cold and damaged tents. Moreover, Al Mawasi Khan Younis camps are right by the sea, where temperatures can feel even lower due to the sea breeze. The tides often flood the tents.

© WHO

Lebanon Crisis

In the short but destructive conflict in Lebanon, more than 15,000 people were injured and more than 3,000 killed, including more than 200 health workers. On a single day in September, more than 550 deaths and 183 injuries were reported, making it the deadliest day in the country in nearly two decades.

The conflict and the closure of healthcare centers put the health and lives of 500,000 displaced people at risk, particularly pregnant women, children under five and patients with chronic illnesses.

By October, overwhelmed hospitals were struggling to cope. More than 9800 trauma cases had been reported, including many severe injuries such as amputations, facial trauma, and burns caused by airstrikes and white phosphorus. The emergency prompted an urgent need for trauma kits, emergency medical supplies and critical care equipment to manage these cases. One in 4 people with life-changing injuries will need long-term rehabilitation and, in some cases, assistive technologies and prosthetics.

The war displaced more than 800,000 people including more than 40,000 families. In addition, many of the country's 1.5 million Syrian refugees remained in urgent need of mental health and psychosocial support. WHO estimates that more health workers and patients have been killed proportionally in Lebanon than in Ukraine and Gaza.

**500**

health centers supplied with medicines

**120**

hospitals received mass casualty management training

**112**

hospitals undertook mass casualty management drills



© WHO

WHO is training surgeons in Lebanon where thousands of civilians require reconstructive surgeries after the war between Israel and Hezbollah.

“

The physical destruction is similar to what you see after an earthquake. And since the treatment provided during the war was often not optimal, the injured end up needing multiple surgeries to prevent complications and disabilities.

”

Dr Ahmad Alchaikh Hassan
WHO Trauma Technical Officer

WHO's Response

WHO led efforts to manage the health emergency during the conflict and its aftermath, including expert guidance for health workers to manage the influx of patients. This included training in the management of mass casualties in 120 hospitals and the dispatch of emergency medical supplies and critical care equipment to manage its trauma cases. In order to keep health services afloat, WHO supported the ministry of health to strengthen disease surveillance and implement outbreak control measures.

Following the eight-week ceasefire declared on November 27, WHO and the health ministry began to focus on replenishing medical supplies and rebuilding health services throughout the country. Providing urgent trauma care, maintaining essential health services and controlling disease outbreaks will remain a priority into 2025.

Emergency medical supplies arrive in Beirut, Lebanon.

© WHO/Hala Habib





Celine 7, suffered severe burns to her body during an attack in Southern Lebanon and was treated at Geitawi Hospital.

Sudan Conflict

War in Sudan has resulted in the world's largest displacement crisis and the first officially declared famine in four years. More than 20 months of violence, including widespread and horrifying sexual violence, has led to more than 14 million people fleeing in the hope of shelter, either within the country or to neighboring states. It is believed more than half of those displaced are children. Many people have been forced to migrate repeatedly because of attacks, flooding and acute food shortages, with famine reported in five regions of North Darfur. Seven out of 10 hospitals have closed. The risk to health is heightened by overcrowded, unsanitary conditions in displacement sites where disease outbreaks including cholera were reported. By October 2024 WHO reported that cholera had spread to 11 states with 29,147 cases and 852 deaths. A further 1216 deaths have been reported since 1 January 2025.

Since the start of the conflict in April 2023, WHO has verified 119 attacks on healthcare that killed 189 people and injured a further 140.


18

hospitals receiving aid across 10 states


900 metric tons

of medicine, diagnostic supplies and cholera kits


126

stabilization centers for severe, acute malnutrition supported


8,872

consultations at WHO-supported health centers


4,500+

people received mental healthcare

“

In times of extreme violence ...it becomes even more crucial to have a functional health system. But instead, we not only see facilities but also health workers – the caregivers to the most vulnerable in society – targeted.

”

Dr Hanan Balkhy

WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean

Adre Refugee Camp, Chad
which hosts civilians from
Sudan.

© WHO/Nicolò Filippo Rosso



WHO's Response

WHO leads the emergency health response in Sudan. In 2024 it helped to maintain the life-saving work of 18 hospitals including support for operational costs, minor rehabilitation, and supplies such as oxygen, and sanitation supplies.

By October 2024, an estimated 48,000 people had received healthcare services at these hospitals.

More than 900 metric tonnes of healthcare supplies were dispatched, including medicines, diagnostic kits, cholera and treatment kits for severe, acute malnutrition. Oral cholera vaccination campaigns in priority areas have reached 5.3 million people. WHO provides medical supplies and staff training for 126 stabilization centers across Sudan for the management of children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Across South Darfur, Khartoum (Karari and Omdurman), North Kordofan, River Nile and Red Sea states, 145 health workers have been trained in inpatient management of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) with medical complications. To help mitigate the enormous impact on people's mental health, WHO also supported mobile mental health clinics with more than 4,500 patient visits recorded.

Fatima Mudassir Abkar is vaccinated against cholera by WHO and partners in Gederef State, Sudan.





His Excellency Federal Minister of Health Dr Heitham Mohamed Ibrahim Awadallah, Director General of Gedaref State Ministry of Health / Acting Gedaref State Governor Dr Ahmed Elamin Adam, and WHO Representative in Sudan Dr Shible Sahbani hold six-month old Aden Khalil, the first child to receive the malaria vaccine in Sudan, during a vaccine roll-out event in Gedaref.

Ukraine Conflict

The war in Ukraine reached its 1000th day in November 2024. This grim anniversary was accompanied by airstrikes that damaged hospitals, homes and energy facilities, leading to delays in surgery and disruptions to medical care. In late 2024 intensifying attacks led to an estimated 30 percent increase in injuries and deaths when compared to 2023. At least 165 civilians were killed and a reported 887 injured in November alone. Despite efforts by the health ministry to increase provision, in many parts of the country, there are not enough rehabilitation services for trauma patients. This has resulted in patients with injuries to their spinal cords, traumatic brain injuries and amputations being unable to recover enough to rebuild independent lives.

Harsh winter conditions have increased suffering, with exposure to freezing weather expected to increase the number of people suffering from respiratory illnesses and worsening mental health.

**9,000**

people given emergency health assistance

**28**

clinics installed



© WHO

Several floors of Ohmatdyt Hospital, the largest children's hospital in Kyiv, were destroyed in July 2024. Pictured, left WHO Country Representative in Ukraine, Dr Jarno Habicht.

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Health facilities crippled by war are being refurbished, including with enhanced security measures to adapt to constant shelling.

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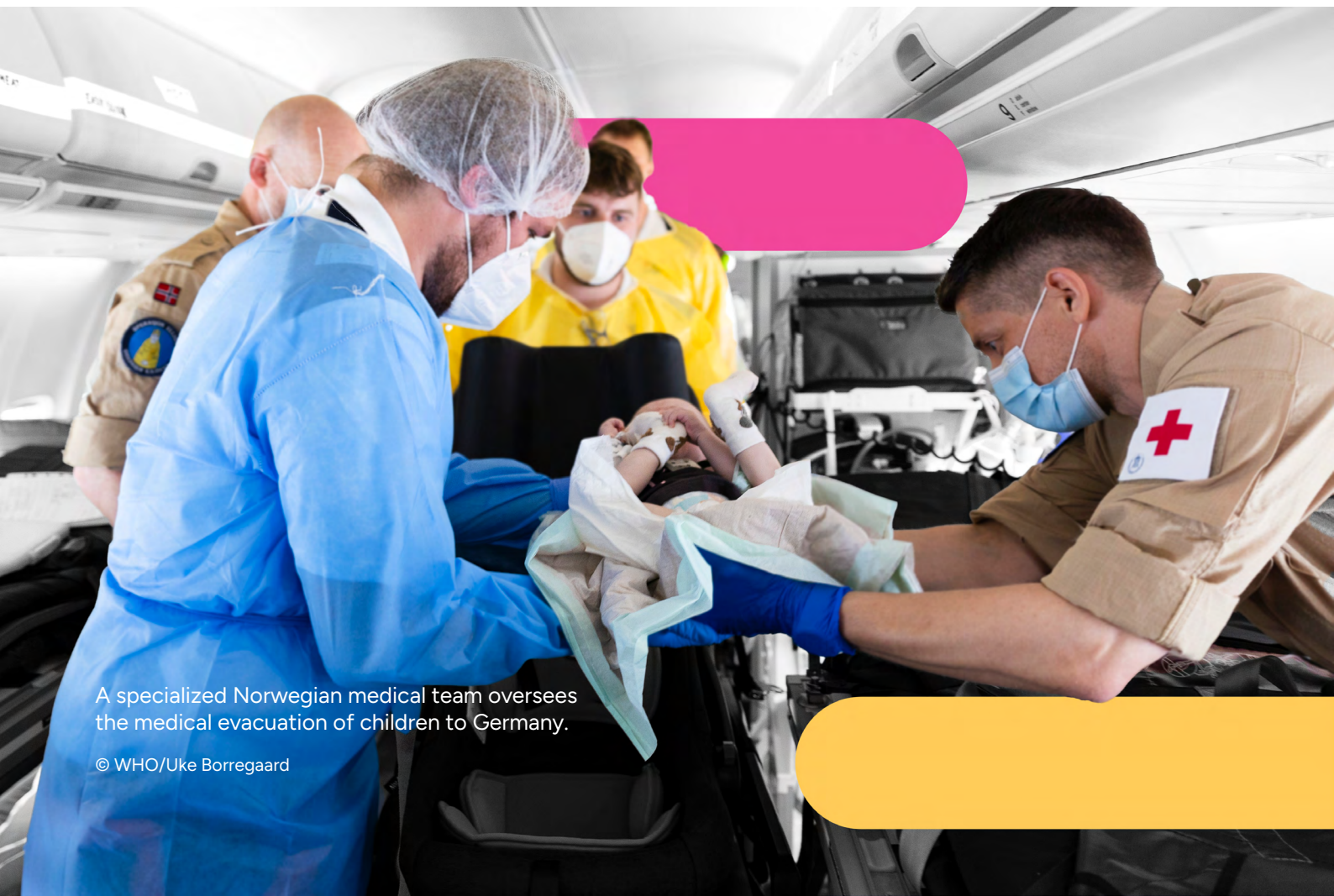
Hans Kluge

WHO Regional Director, Europe

WHO's Response

WHO leads the health response in Ukraine, along with more than 100 active health cluster partners who supply health equipment, carry out training, restore health operations and conduct medical evacuations. Since the start of the war, WHO has supported more than 5,000 medical evacuations out of the country. In 2024, WHO helped to restore health services in conflict-affected regions by supplying pre-fabricated primary healthcare clinics across six regions. These buildings have helped to restore services and provide medicine to tens of thousands of people.

As part of the winter response, healthcare partners have provided 56 health facilities in front line communities with heating systems, boilers, fuel, and generators - vital for maintaining health services. Health partners, working closely with first responders and local health authorities, have reached over 9,000 people with emergency health assistance since the escalation of attacks in December 2023.

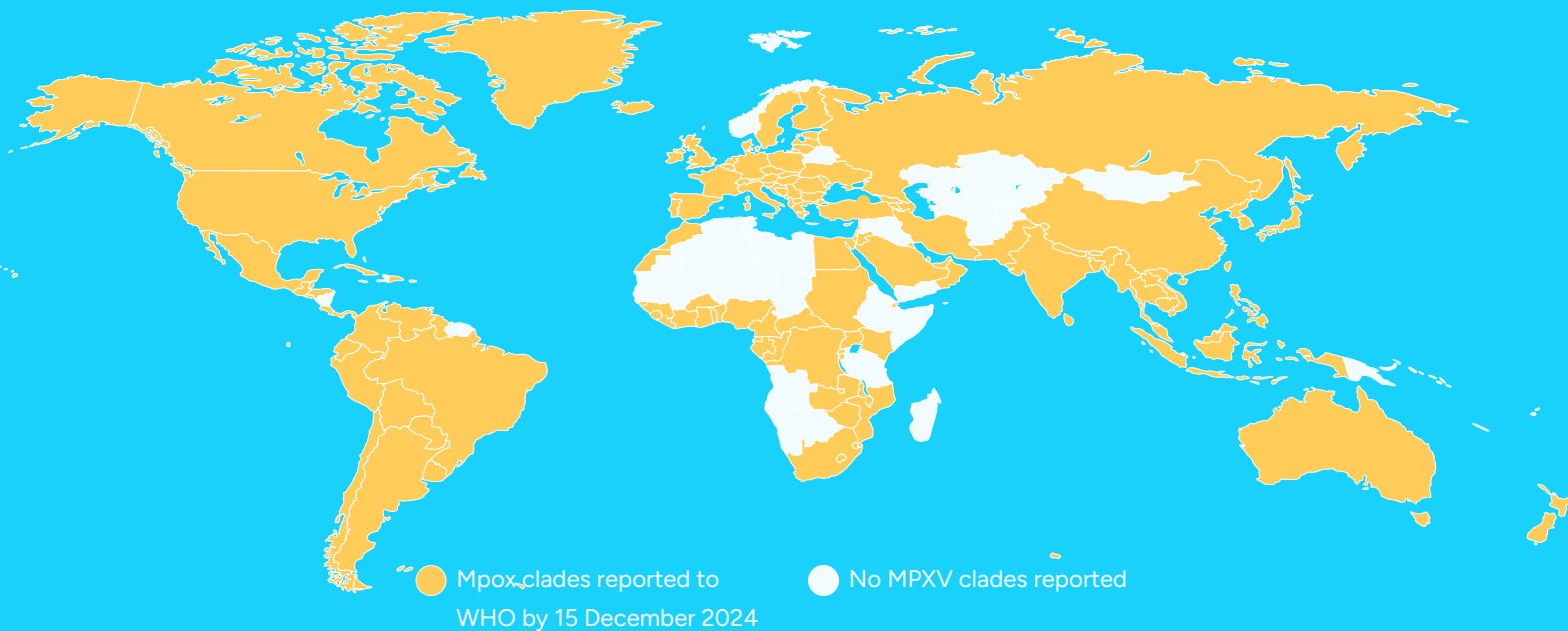


A specialized Norwegian medical team oversees the medical evacuation of children to Germany.

© WHO/Uke Borregaard



A mother kisses her baby as a specialist health team in Lviv, Ukraine, prepares for the infant's medical evacuation to Germany.



38

countries reached with mpox supplies since August 2024



50,000

people vaccinated in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Vaccines allocated to 9 countries.

Mpox Outbreak

Mpox is a viral illness, similar to smallpox that results in skin pustules, fever and headaches. It can be lethal. Severe cases of the virus most likely in children and in people with low immunity to disease. More than 100,000 people have been diagnosed with mpox worldwide since 2022. In 2024, an upsurge in cases on the African continent - affecting 18 countries - led WHO to declare it a public health emergency of international concern, the highest level of alert for an infectious disease. By January 2025

more than 51,000 mpox suspected mpox cases were reported in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The final number of cases could be higher as testing has proved very difficult in the Democratic Republic of Congo due to conflict and a lack of testing facilities. There is currently no specific treatment approved for mpox and efforts have been concentrating on clinical care, detecting and limiting the spread of the virus and on the development of vaccines.

WHO's Response

To help contain the outbreak WHO has issued emergency approval for vaccines and diagnostic supplies and is coordinating the surveillance of disease, dispatch of supplies and treatment of patients from its emergency hubs in Nairobi, Kenya and Dakar, Senegal.

Surveillance, diagnostics, risk communication and community engagement remain central to stopping the outbreak and eliminating human-to-human transmission of mpox. By issuing emergency approval for vaccines, WHO paved the way for the vaccination of more than 50,000 people in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In Burundi, Eastern Africa, for example, WHO has helped to cut the time it takes to return test

results from one day to just one hour. It did this by supplying advanced laboratory equipment and training staff - speeding up results and giving health workers a chance to break the chain of transmission. In Kenya, WHO's training for border staff in infection control and prevention has given staff the skills to improve disease screening at the country's five international borders. WHO has also stepped up support for routine health services in the countries affected to ensure essential health services such as mother and child services, immunization and HIV services continue despite health workers being overstretched.

“
It's clear that a coordinated international response is essential to stop these outbreaks and save lives.
”

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
WHO Director General





Christivie and 7-month-old son Jeanfete, who was treated for mpox at Kavumu Hospital in South Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo.



About the World Health Organization (WHO)

WHO is the global authority on health, with a presence in over 150 countries. From leading emergency responses to pioneering advancements in health systems, WHO's mission is to ensure that no one is left behind.

With full funding, WHO projects will:

- Save 40 million lives by 2028.
- Train 3 million health workers to meet future demands.
- Establish 10,000 climate-resilient health facilities to protect vulnerable communities.

WHO's work extends from delivering vaccines to addressing maternal health, tackling mental health challenges, and coordinating efforts during crises in places like Gaza, Lebanon, and Ukraine. When emergencies strike, WHO acts swiftly to save lives.

About the WHO Foundation

The WHO Foundation brings together funders and high impact health initiatives to further the mission of the World Health Organization and other health partners.

The WHO Foundation is regulated by the Swiss Federal Supervisory Board for Foundations in Bern, Switzerland.

Donate to WHO via the WHO Foundation

