



## PRESS RELEASE

### WHO Foundation launches Health Emergency Appeal for Ukraine

- US\$57.5m required to fund immediate large-scale emergency response and health needs in Ukraine and the humanitarian response in neighbouring countries
- Money raised will fund essential hospital services, medical supplies, and support refugees arriving in neighbouring countries
- WHO's Ukraine representative says: "This is moving very fast with the military offensive broadening and we are moving closer to a humanitarian crisis."

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022:** The WHO Foundation has launched a campaign to raise funds for WHO's Health Emergency Appeal for [Ukraine](#). The WHO appeal, part of the UN broad appeal launched on 1 March, is in response to deep concern for the health of people in Ukraine and neighbouring countries amidst the escalating humanitarian emergency. An estimated \$57.5m is required to fund the large-scale emergency response needed to deliver urgent healthcare and support the immediate health needs of those affected by the crisis, in Ukraine and surrounding countries.

The WHO Foundation is calling on people around the world to help raise US\$45 million to support the 18 million people in Ukraine needing access to healthcare.

With the military offensive causing a rising number of casualties and injuries, the funds are essential to protecting essential health services. Emergency medical services, surgical departments, and intensive care units are likely to become overwhelmed with trauma patients. Essential health services have been disrupted and are collapsing and jeopardising the treatment of other patients. The disruption of essential services also increases the affected population's vulnerability to communicable diseases, such as COVID-19, polio, and measles.

WHO requires funds to tackle critical shortages of life-saving medical supplies and intensive care beds across hospitals in Ukraine. Oxygen supplies are at critically low levels, with some hospitals close to running out and unable to manage increased demand caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Donations will help support the immediate health response to treat patients wounded by the conflict and those in need of vital care.

WHO will also work to support the mental health of those affected by the crisis, including the healthcare workforce, working with all other humanitarian partners involved in the response.

In neighbouring European countries, including Poland, Republic of Moldova, Hungary, Slovakia, and Romania, more than 4 million Ukrainian refugees are expected in the coming weeks. A further US\$12.5 million is required to provide these people with access to emergency and essential healthcare services and psychosocial support.

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



"WHO is on the ground in Ukraine, working with partners to respond and assess the impact of the conflict on the health of Ukraine's people and its health system, and deliver essential medical supplies. Our needs for the next three months are US\$45 million for Ukraine, and US\$12.5 million to support neighbouring countries to care for refugees. WHO's support will also address key health issues among refugees and forcibly displaced persons, including mental health and psychological assistance, as well as treatment for diseases including HIV, TB, and cancer. Anyone can contribute to support our essential response through the WHO Foundation appeal."

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

"As the situation develops and deteriorates in Ukraine, health must remain a priority of the humanitarian response, to make sure health systems and facilities remain protected, functional, safe, and accessible to all who need essential medical services, and that health workers are protected and can continue to save lives."

**Jarno Habicht, the WHO country representative in Ukraine, said:**

"We see that some cities now are becoming isolated and we are getting reports that people don't feel safe seeking healthcare with healthcare workers under attack. This is moving very fast with the military offensive broadening and we are moving closer to a humanitarian crisis."

"We don't have a full picture, but we are concerned about electricity provision, which is important to keep machines running, and oxygen and medicines for intensive care. Where the military offensive is ongoing there is also a question about access to supplies and while some hospitals have supplies for one or two weeks, in others they are already running out."

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

"The people of Ukraine need urgent action and support from the rest of the world to ensure its healthcare is functioning and protected so further loss of life is prevented. The WHO Foundation enables anyone who wants to support the WHO's urgent health response to do so. I urge anyone who can to donate to ensure all those in need of basic health care, as well as those wounded and directly affected by the conflict, have safe access to lifesaving care. Together, we can help protect the population of Ukraine and, all those forced to flee, through this crisis."

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>

[WHO Emergency Appeal - Ukraine and Neighbouring 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**

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.