

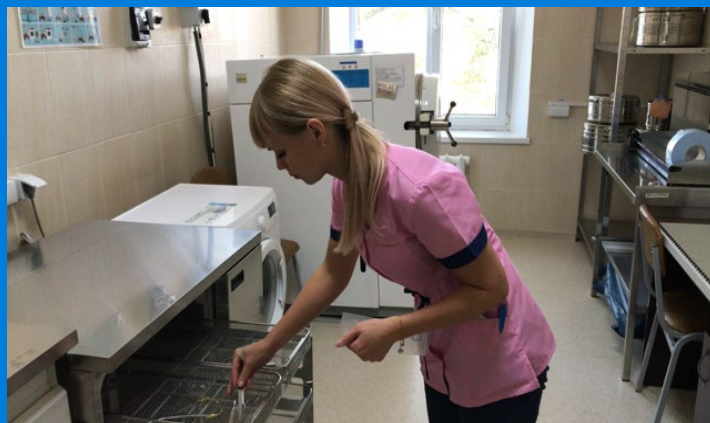


World Health Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Europe**

Situation report # 3
July–September 2018

Ukraine humanitarian crisis



A nurse at the Luhansk regional hospital using disinfection equipment supplied by WHO.
Photo: WHO Ukraine

For the reporting period¹



2.2 million people are in need of essential health services



40 conflict-related injuries were recorded in the reporting period



9 conflict-related deaths were recorded in the reporting period



2 million people live in mine-contaminated areas along the contact line

Key figures

Highlights

WHO emergency programme in eastern Ukraine	
60	Health and Nutrition Cluster partners
900 000	People targeted by Health and Nutrition Cluster partners in 2018
45%	Funded operations in 2018
4 900 000	US\$ requested for operations

In response to the humanitarian crisis in the east of Ukraine, WHO and partners provide life-saving health services to conflict-affected populations on both sides of the contact line.

- WHO supplied two autoclaves and disinfection equipment to the hospitals in Luhansk region.
- Twenty national laboratory mentors were trained on laboratory quality management and international standards.
- The community-based mental health team provided over 225 consultations to patients with moderate to severe mental health disorders.
- Two trauma kits were delivered to hospitals near the conflict line in eastern Ukraine. These supplies will allow 200 major surgeries or over 1000 moderate surgeries to be performed.

Situation overview

The Ukrainian armed conflict enters its fifth year with 3.4 million people affected in eastern Ukraine. Those most in need include 800 000 residents along the 457 km contact line.

Continued shelling, limited freedom of movement, and shortages of medicines and medical supplies significantly affect people's life and health. Due to impaired access to health services people are exposed to increased health risks. The contact line, separating the government

¹ Data from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA).

controlled areas from nongovernment controlled areas, has also become one of the most mine-contaminated areas in the world.

[Access to health-care services²](#)

- The population living within 20 km of the contact line reported the cost of medicines to be the main barrier in accessing health care.
- According to the [Analysis of humanitarian trends](#) report issued by the REACH Initiative, obstetrics and gynaecology, gastroenterology and mental health care were the least available types of specialized care reported by households. In terms of psychosocial support, households also reported that they did not know where their closest psychological support centre was.
- In rural areas within 5 km of the contact line, 61% of households reported challenges in accessing health-care services. The cumulative effects of the armed hostilities, infringements on freedom of movement, and the declining socioeconomic situation continued to further entrench hardship, particularly for people living in conflict-affected areas along the contact line.

Leadership and coordination

WHO leads health sector partners to jointly respond to the health needs of conflict-affected people in eastern Ukraine and to improve health outcomes. WHO ensures that gaps are filled through effective coordination and support for the mobilization of resources to address the most pressing health needs.

In July–September, WHO worked together with the Ministry of Health to fill the gaps in [infection prevention and control](#) at the secondary and tertiary health-care levels, improve access to mental health services for people living in conflict-affected regions and [procure medicines and medical supplies](#) for health facilities in eastern Ukraine.

Partner coordination

Since the beginning of the conflict in eastern Ukraine in 2014, WHO has led the Health and Nutrition Cluster, coordinating over 40 national and international health partners. Additionally, WHO co-chairs two Health and Nutrition Cluster working groups:

- the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Working Group
- the HIV/TB Working Group.

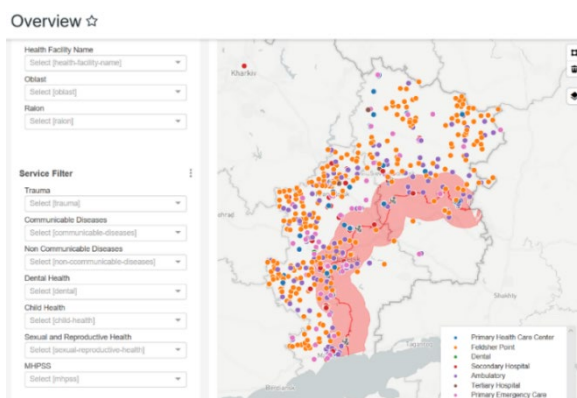
Information and planning

[Information](#)

WHO developed an information management system to equip the WHO Ukraine emergency operations team and partners with necessary technical support to assess data sources and to improve evidence-based decision-making.

This tool provides humanitarian relief workers with an online real time dashboard to share and make data actionable.

The tool collects information on population, health-care needs, partner activities and health facilities, and if required the tool can be further extended to include a large set of data – for example vaccination coverage, weather information, incidence rates per disease.



The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of WHO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

² Data from the REACH Initiative's Humanitarian Trend Analysis Fact Sheet.

Planning

In August 2018, WHO and Health and Nutrition Cluster partners submitted inputs to the 2019–2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview, a comprehensive assessment of the humanitarian needs of people affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine. Starting from 2019, the humanitarian partners will work on a multi-year humanitarian response plan for Ukraine. This approach will support the implementation of the [humanitarian–development nexus](#) and help to create the conditions to enable broader engagement of development actors in the humanitarian response.

Health operations and technical expertise

Improving infection prevention and control in hospitals

As part of WHO's overall objective to reduce infection in hospitals, the Organization supplied the Luhansk regional children's hospital with two autoclaves, disinfection equipment and furniture.

The Luhansk regional adult hospital covers the secondary and tertiary health-care needs of 112 500 people, including 18 000 internally displaced people (IDPs). The Luhansk regional children's hospital serves almost 108 000 children, about 25 000 of which are IDPs.

The project is supported by the Government of Japan and aims to improve disinfection

capacities through building the capabilities of health-care workers and increasing the quality of equipment at hospitals. Furthermore, 120 health-care workers will be trained in four health facilities in Donetsk and Luhansk regions in the autumn of 2018.

Improving the surveillance system

WHO conducted a four-day workshop for national laboratory mentors in support of Ukraine's ongoing health-care reform, specifically focusing on the reorganization of its public health surveillance system. Following the workshop, 20 newly trained mentors will in turn support laboratories to increase quality and safety according to international standards. Among these laboratories, three are located in regions affected by the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine.



Preparation of the materials for sterilization in Luhansk regional children's hospital. Lysychansk, Luhansk region.
Photo: WHO Ukraine



"A number of mentoring visits to laboratories in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions were held in 2017–2018. The mentoring support to the laboratories resulted in an increase of the implementation of quality management systems from a 20% baseline to 90–100%."

Dr Natalia Kononenko
Head of Emergency Response and International Health Regulations
Public Health Center, Ministry of Health, Ukraine

Improving access to mental health services

The community mental health mobile team supported by WHO in Slavyansk, Donetsk region, provided over 225 consultations to patients with moderate to severe mental health disorders. The team consists of a psychiatrist, a psychologist, a nurse and a social worker, and operates under WHO technical guidance.

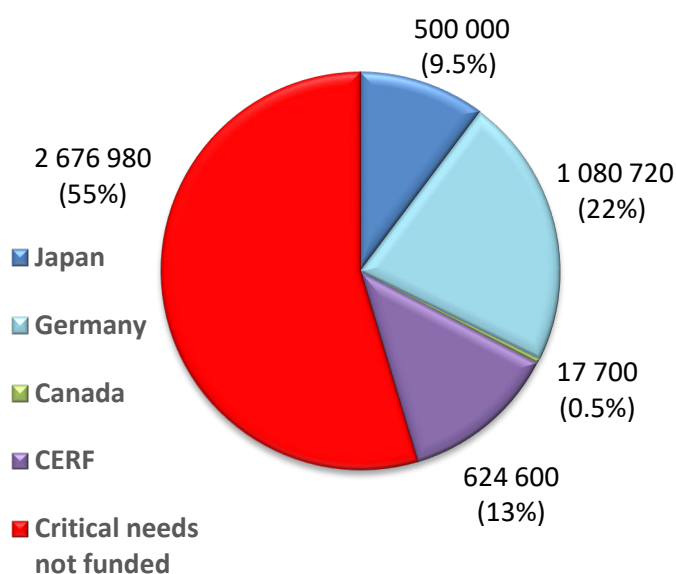
The WHO publication [Improving health systems and services for mental health](#) has been translated into Ukrainian to be published in October 2018. This document presents an integrated strategy for mental health system development that will lead to enhanced service delivery, improved outcomes and recognized human rights for people with mental disorders.

Operation support and logistics

As a part of WHO's overall objective to support trauma care, two trauma kits sufficient to cover more than 200 major or about 1000 minor operations were delivered to the hospitals in Kostyantynivka and Stanytsa Luhanska, with financial support from the Italian government.

Finance and administration

WHO funding request
in 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan (US\$)



New donor funds

The WHO project, Emergency Health Care Response in Eastern Ukraine: Treating and Preventing Communicable and Noncommunicable Diseases received US\$ 500 000 in financial support from the German government.

Within this project, WHO will focus on:

- provisioning of primary health care services;
- improving public health surveillance;
- treating and preventing noncommunicable diseases.

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