A LONG AND CHALLENGING YEAR FOR ACCESS TO HEALTH IN UKRAINE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HCT</td>
<td>Humanitarian Country Team</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDP</td>
<td>Internally Displaced People</td>
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<tr>
<td>INGO</td>
<td>International Non-Governmental Organization</td>
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<td>MdM</td>
<td>Médecins du Monde</td>
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<tr>
<td>MHPSS</td>
<td>Mental Health and Psychosocial Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>MoH</td>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCD</td>
<td>Non-communicable diseases</td>
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<td>NFI</td>
<td>Non-Food Items</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCHA</td>
<td>United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>PFA</td>
<td>Psychological First Aid</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHC</td>
<td>Primary Health Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>SRH</td>
<td>Sexual and Reproductive Health</td>
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<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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The 24th of February 2023 marks the first year of the escalation of violence in the war between Russia and Ukraine, but the armed conflict in Eastern Ukraine goes back to 2014. Over the course of eight years, Ukrainian government forces fought Russian-backed separatists for control over much of the two industrialized regions of Donetsk and Luhansk. Between 2014 and early 2022 a trench war killed 14,000 people, and one third of the territory was occupied by two Russian proxy statelets covering the areas of Donetsk and Luhansk.

On 24th of February 2022, Russia attacked Ukraine on several fronts, beginning a major invasion. One year on, millions of people have been left without essential services as a result of the hostilities. We are facing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, with the disruption of health services being among the critical concerns. Even though Ukraine’s health system has shown great resilience, the risk of a deterioration in mental and psychosocial health is growing as people continue to face traumatic events. Routine vaccination is disrupted, and people with chronic conditions are at risk as the care system has been operating with considerable shortages of health staff and supplies. Moreover, the health impact of this war goes beyond the borders of Ukraine, overstretched the capacity of human and technical resources and health systems to deal with the massive influx of refugees.

The Médecins du Monde international network, which was already working in the country, has been mobilizing significant resources to address the resulting needs of affected populations since the beginning of the war.

OUR PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES IN UKRAINE

Médecins du Monde has been operating in Ukraine since 2015, providing comprehensive Primary Health Care (PHC), including Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services in areas along the front line, a stretch of land that has separated people affected by the conflict residing in the areas under the control of the Government of Ukraine and in the areas under the temporary military control of the Russian Federation.
The longest year, a long and challenging year for access to health in Ukraine / One year in numbers

- **18.6 million** people have left Ukraine¹
- **5.3 million** people are estimated to be internally displaced²
- **2.3 million** people have been reached by Médecins du Monde through various activities
- **More than 800** attacks have occurred on health facilities since the beginning of the full-scale conflict⁴
- **More than 18,000** civilians have been killed or injured in Ukraine
  - **7,000 killed**
  - **11,000 injured³**
- **29,000** people have received direct care from Médecins du Monde
- **14.5 million** people in Ukraine are estimated to need health assistance³
- **17** mobile clinics have been deployed to reach the most vulnerable people by MDM
- **120** health facilities and **91** temporary community centres have been supported by MDM
- **14** local partners have been supported by Médecins du Monde

¹ Source: United Nations
² Source: State Migration Service of Ukraine
³ Source: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
⁴ Source: Euromaidan
⁵ Source: Humanitarian Intelligence Platform
In the light of the emergency and the scale of humanitarian needs, a Médecins du Monde international network response is being provided by several members (Belgium, France, Germany, Greece and Spain) operating in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. Other Médecins du Monde members (Portugal and the Netherlands) have developed partnerships with local actors and ensured procurement and delivery of medicines and medical supplies to hospitals and health facilities.

MdM has helped to meet the most urgent and acute humanitarian needs of the affected population by providing access to essential medicines and medical supplies, enabling direct healthcare services to be delivered at different levels of the health system. The MdM network is also responding to Ukraine’s displacement crisis in the neighbouring countries of Poland, Slovakia, Romania and Moldova, improving the health and wellbeing of refugees in partnership with national and regional health authorities and civil society organizations. The main focus has been to support access to primary healthcare services, mitigating the existing barriers to access.
THE LONGEST YEAR, A LONG AND CHALLENGING YEAR FOR ACCESS TO HEALTH IN UKRAINE / MÉDECINS DU MONDE RESPONSE

MARCH
- Russia invasion and massive influx of refugees in neighbouring countries
- Implementation of contingency plan: delivery of emergency stock to several hospitals in Luhansk Oblast

1/03/2022
- Deployment of an emergency team to Ukraine and delivery of medical equipment and medicines in Donetsk, Luhansk, Dnipro, Kiev, Chernihiv and Chernivtsi

MAY
- Resumption of direct intervention activities in Ukraine and deployment of mobile units and outreach services

JUNE
- Start of activities in Zaporizhzhia

JULY
- Participation in the National Primary Health Centers Assessment with the Ministry of Health in Moldova

SEPTEMBER
- Russia holds unlawful referendums in Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson, Zaporizhzhia
- Start of operations in Vinnytsia and Odesa Oblasts

OCTOBER
- Start of operations in Mykolaiv in partnership with Ukrainian Red Cross
- Targeted attacks on civilian infrastructure affecting energy, water and heating services, and an escalation of fighting with intensive shelling has continued over the past months

DECEMBER
- Deployment of two new mobile units in Vinnytsia and Ivano-Frankivsk Oblasts
- SINCE OCTOBER
- Targeted attacks on civilian infrastructure affecting energy, water and heating services, and an escalation of fighting with intensive shelling has continued over the past months
The main objective of the Médecins du Monde strategy in Ukraine is to facilitate access to comprehensive healthcare services and to address unmet health needs, including in mental health and psychosocial support of the population affected by the conflict, specifically focusing on the vulnerable host population and internally displaced people. This includes:

**ADDRESSING UNMET HEALTH NEEDS**

- Delivering comprehensive primary health services (including sexual and reproductive health) directly to the population facing severe constraints on their access to healthcare
- Enhancing the capacity of the public healthcare system to provide critical services, ensuring coverage of the internally displaced population and other vulnerable groups and restoring disrupted services (through donations of medical equipment and financial support to health facilities)
- Ensuring accessibility to critical non-food items for the internally displaced population and people in areas seriously affected by the hostilities

**ADDRESSING UNMET MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT NEEDS**

- Delivering MHPSS services directly to the conflict-affected population
- Enhancing the capacities of the public health system to provide MHPSS services
- Communicating, raising awareness and advocating on MHPSS from community to authorities level to reduce stigmatization and improve access to services

**REINFORCING COORDINATION MECHANISMS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND IMPACT OF THE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE**

- Increasing and improving collaboration and networking to involve communities and build resilience with local partners
- Increasing and improving coordination and networking with INGOs and UN agencies to ensure a comprehensive and efficient approach in the humanitarian response

Médecins du Monde has been continuously monitoring and adapting its response strategy according to the changing context and the security and logistical constraints.
IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

In neighbouring countries the overall aim is to improve the health and wellbeing of refugees within such a challenging context. While the EU's decision to trigger the Temporary Protection Directive allowed for an effective response to the massive population displacement, a significant number of refugees have been observed returning and leaving again (so-called pendular movements), as most of them still have families in Ukraine, or at least husbands, brothers, sons and fathers, and want to be close to them.

Médecins du Monde decided to intervene by filling specific gaps:

- Providing psychological first aid and mental health and psycho-social support through existing services or through civil society organizations,
- Offering community outreach health consultations and health-related education including SRH to refugees.

In most of the neighbouring countries, one of the main strategies has been to provide technical assistance and to strengthen local partnerships with state organizations and local NGOs to build resilience.

SVITLANA’S STORY

Svitlana is a doctor at Bucha Primary Medical and Sanitary Assistance Centre, receiving support from Médecins du Monde.

“On the 24th [of February 2022] explosions woke us up and we, me and my husband who are both of us doctors, we went to work, because patients were waiting for us. Our patients even had the vaccination planned for the 24th, though of course people were panicking. There were a lot of traffic jams, there were problems with fuel, and it was extremely hard to leave the area. Even our colleagues were leaving. And it was rather frightening.

[A few days later] people were coming to get medicines but, as you can understand, these were lacking. And it was very frightening because you knew that the person needed to take these pills regularly and you only had one pack of 30 pills. And we had to share, one blister pack for one person, while another had to be kept in case somebody else came. And for me, as a doctor, not to provide assistance was hard to bear.”

SVITLANA TARASHCHENKO, doctor in Bucha © Pietro Chekal
THE LONGEST YEAR, A LONG AND CHALLENGING YEAR FOR ACCESS TO HEALTH IN UKRAINE

/MÉDECINS DU MONDE RESPONSE

TYPE OF ACTIVITIES

- MHPSS
- Support to PHCs & community outreach
- Support to hospitals
- Delivery of medicines and equipment
- Strengthening local partnerships to build resilience

In these Oblasts* MdM only has delivered medicine, equipment and humanitarian aid

* Oblast is an administrative subnational government that corresponds to a region.

UKRAINE

POLAND

SLOVAKIA

ROMANIA

MOLDOVA

KYIV

CHERNIVTSI

IVANO-FRANKIVSK

VINNYTSIA

ZAPORIZHZHIA

MYKOLAY

ODESA

BUCHAREST

CHERNIHIV

KHARKIV

SOUMY

DONETSK

LUHANSK

SIRET, SUCEAVA, RADAUTI/ MILISAUTI

LOWER SILESIA, WALBRYZCH AREA

BRATISLAVA AND OTHER CENTRAL & WESTERN AREAS

UKRAINE

SUPPORT TO PHCS & COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN MOLDOVA:

- Chisinau city / Chisinau - Cricova city / Chisinau - Vadol Iui Voda village / Chisinau - Ciorsecu village / Chisinau - Budesti village / Anini Noi - Bulbuauc village / Stefan Voda - Volintiri village / Ialoveni - Costesti village / Comrat - Congaz area / Straseni - Cojusna village

NORTH-EASTERN BORDER:
NO. HEALTH OUTREACH CONSULTATIONS IN HEALTH FACILITIES OR TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION CENTER

UKRAINE

15,143 → 15 THROUGH MOBILE UNITS

SLOVAKIA

806 → 1 THROUGH MOBILE UNIT

ROMANIA

2,838 → 1 THROUGH MOBILE UNIT

MOLDOVIA

389

DATA FROM FEBRUARY 24TH, 2022 TO DECEMBER 31ST, 2022
### NO. OF MHPSS CONSULTATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>No. of Consultations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>6,904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>1,193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>Technical Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>to MHPSS Counsellors</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### FACILITIES SUPPORTED THROUGH DONATIONS OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND/OR MEDICINES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Health Facilities</th>
<th>Temporary Accommodation Centres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DATA FROM FEBRUARY 24TH, 2022 TO DECEMBER 31ST, 2022
Médecins du Monde is coordinating the field activities with the regional and local health authorities as well as the social policy departments of city councils. Furthermore, MdM is meeting regularly with other humanitarian organizations and donors to ensure effective coordination, discuss in detail the modalities and geographical coverage of assistance, and avoid the overlapping of services. MdM is part of the national Health Cluster and regional Subclusters and is participating in OCHA, HCT (Humanitarian Country Team) coordination meetings and in the Non-Communicable Diseases technical working groups. Diverse partnerships have been established with the Ministry of Health, city council Health and Social Policy Departments and local actors.

In the neighbouring countries MdM is focusing on building resilience, partnering with local organizations and providing services to vulnerable persons.

DIANA’S STORY

Diana left her ‘home sweet home’ in Mariupol with her family in the first days of the war. She has been housed in one of the IDP shelters Médecins du Monde has been supporting through local partners since the beginning of the war by providing medical and psychological care and donations.

“Today I went to Epitsenter [home improvement and construction store] and cried when I saw a cup just like the one I had in Mariupol, a blanket like in Mariupol, but our home is gone. [...] You know when I got here I had such mood swings. For example, in the space of 15 minutes I could burst into tears, I could laugh and I could be depressed, then something else. But the atmosphere here [in the shelter], all these open hearts. We are from Mariupol, and they housed other people from Mariupol together with us, because we feel the same pain, we are on the same page. [...] Volunteers here come to sit at tables, listen to conversations and provide advice on, for example, how to travel somewhere, to calm down, so life goes on. Letting people get back to life gradually.”

DIANA BURYACHENKO, an internally displaced woman from Mariupol. © Olmo Calvo
KATERYNA’S STORY

As soon as the conflict broke out, the main priority of Médecins du Monde was to get our team to safety. The office was moved to a safer city, Chernivtsi, located in western Ukraine, from where the transfer and accommodation of colleagues and their families were coordinated. Kateryna had been working for Médecins du Monde for 5 years when the conflict started.

“We left Sievierodonetsk at our own risk and peril, driving through the streets and seeing huge numbers of (military) equipment, soldiers, craters. Some buildings were already damaged. [...] The most precious thing we managed to take with us was ourselves and our loved ones. My family, my children, my husband. [...] The biggest shock for me was to realize that all my plans, wishes, some hopes... not only mine... They are shattered. I felt like there was no future. [...] This feeling that there is no future is tragic. But I understand that there is [a future] while we are alive. Some of our plans have been destroyed, but we will be able to create new ones as time goes by. [...] At least I have a job. And my children did not see the horror those who stayed there witnessed. Some part of their mental health is affected, and their emotional state is not very good, but they did not see or hear the most horrifying moments.”

KATERYNA KTYNIUKH, HR Officer for Médecins du Monde in Ukraine. © Olmo Calvo

Médecins du Monde plans to scale up its activities further in the most affected oblasts in Central, Eastern and Southern Ukraine. Conflict and safety remain the biggest factor influencing internal displacement movements and the last month has seen considerable numbers of newly displaced persons.

In Moldova, MdM intends to support eight primary healthcare centres and corresponding community mental health centres, while continuing health promotion for wider populations (refugees and host communities) in urban areas.

MdM will continue to monitor the situation in the neighbouring countries in case of further refugee influx, as there is no prospect of safe and sustainable conditions emerging in Ukraine.
HUMANITARIAN ACCESS AND SECURITY

As for most humanitarian organizations working in Ukraine, humanitarian access is the main concern of our advocacy. Uncertainty about security conditions is delaying our operations, as is the unwillingness to adequately facilitate humanitarian corridors and other measures to enable the passage of aid. In addition, security incidents and violence against humanitarian personnel are limiting the scope of our activities. At the same time, bureaucratic procedures are increasing the time needed to access affected communities. MdM has partnered with a network of humanitarian NGOs to issue open appeals demanding humanitarian access and unconditional protection of civilians by all parties to the conflict.

POPULATIONS REACHED

Confronted by the biggest refugee movement since the Second World War, all host countries - including Ukraine itself - needed to respond immediately to the resulting humanitarian needs. In supporting reception facilities and communities, MdM identified increasing needs for sexual and reproductive healthcare as well as mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). MdM addressed those needs in open statements to key decision-makers from the host countries, also pointing to the growing need for MHPSS among those supporting refugees and internally displaced people (IDP). Due to the ongoing war, long-term solutions for caring for IDP within Ukraine have become more pressing. Specifically, solutions need to be found for housing and access to comprehensive health-care services. MdM’s advocacy is also striving to draw attention to the needs of those people already in vulnerable situations before the war. The health of people with disabilities or with chronic diseases is thus being significantly affected by shortages of medicines and limited access to health facilities.
DAN’S STORY

Dan is a crisis psychologist, working with internally displaced children as a volunteer with the NGO Ukraine United, a Médecins du Monde partner.

“I call the country, where we will continue to live, the country of PTSD [Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder] because, unfortunately, all of us will face it. It is very important for us to make sure now that this stress does not develop into a long-term disorder, as can happen. And in the first three days when children with their parents come here, we try to normalize this condition, so that a minor stress disorder does not become a long-term one, and so that it does not become an obstacle in later life. […] It is very important for us to be sensitive to children and adults during the first days. Consultation as such may not be carried out, but we must accept these people, feed them, give them something to drink, ask if they need our help.”

DAN HUMENNY, crisis psychologist © Olmo Calvo
FUNDING RAISED FOR UKRAINE RESPONSE IN 2022

TOTAL: €26 MILLION

- 53% Public funding
- 26% Individual giving
- 21% Private grants and other private funds

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1 UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)
2 As of January 2023 – Displacement Tracking Matrix IOM (International Organization for Migration)
4 Surveillance system for attacks on healthcare (Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care of World Health Organization)
5 According to the health cluster https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/ukraine/card/4WkSLakFjw/
6 This is an exceptional measure to provide immediate and temporary protection in the event of a mass influx or imminent mass influx of displaced persons from non-EU countries who are unable to return to their country of origin. For the first time since its adoption in 2001, the Directive has been activated, granting access to a wide spectrum of rights to those fleeing Ukraine, including the right to engage in pendular movement to and from the country of origin.
WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR INSTITUTIONAL AND CORPORATE PARTNERS, AS WELL AS FOUNDATIONS AND ALL INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE MAKING OUR RESPONSE POSSIBLE.

Affinity, S.A.
Americares
Association Escale
Avmb - Comércio Imobiliário e de obras de arte, lda
Cahill Financial Inc
Captain Cause - Fondation EPSA
CNP Assurances
Consortium 12-12
Dia Portugal
Diputación de Badajoz
Donner Foundation
Dr. Schumacher Iberia
ECHO, the European Commission’s Humanitarian Agency
EDP - Energias de Portugal S.A.
EDP Foundation
EIB Institute
EPIM
Ernst and Young
Fondation de France
Fondation du Grand Orient de France
Fondation Erié
Fondation Roc Eclerc via Fondation de France
Fondation Roi Baudouin
Génissieux
German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO)
German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Giro555 Emergency Relief Alliance
Hans Anders
Hewitt Foundation
Japan Platform
Mairie de Chartres de Bretagne
McCall MacBain Foundation
Métropole de Nice Côte d’Azur
Ministère des Relations internationales et de la Francophonie du Québec
Moreno II - Health products
Multipharma
Mutualités Libres
Ouest France Solidarité
P&V Group
Palpita Momento Têxtil Lda
Phantasm
SCC
Singuart
Sternstunden e.V.
Swiss Solidarity
TAP Air Portugal
TELUS Friendly Future Foundation
Tolkien Trust
Unidade de Medicina Exponencial da Nova Medical School
USAID/BHA
Viatris
Wallonie-Bruxelles International
Xpandalphabet, lda
The Médecins du Monde International Network (MdM) is made up of 17 independent health and human rights organizations working on domestic and international projects. Providing care, bearing witness, and supporting social change, MdM continues its mission to fight for the universal right to health. Through more than 400 innovative medical programmes and evidence-based advocacy initiatives in over 70 countries, we enable vulnerable people and their communities to access good quality medical services and fight for universal access to healthcare.

Contact us at NetworkSupportTeam@medecinsdumonde.net