

● Where attacks and explosions have been reported across Ukraine



Source: CNN

On February 24, Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a military operation in Ukraine, invading the neighboring nation in an attack that has been condemned by world leaders.¹ Missile attacks and explosions have been reported throughout Ukraine, with military troops invading from three sides of the country. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky reported that 137 civilians and military personnel were killed in the first day of the invasion. As of February 25, more than 100,000 people have been displaced due to the crisis.² The number of refugees from this crisis could result in anywhere from 1 to 5 million individuals, according to officials.³

As the crisis rapidly unfolds, neighboring countries have begun to brace for refugees. Under Ukraine's declaration of martial law, men ages 18–65 are prohibited from leaving the country. Therefore, the majority of those fleeing are women, children and people over 65 years of age. Poland has established nine receiving centers for refugees and is prepared to ensure that they receive food, medical care and information at these centers.⁴ There are already 300,000 Ukrainians living in Poland, having fled the violence that has plagued their country for eight years, and there are reports of another 100,000 currently waiting at the Polish border. The Minister of Health has also announced that the government will prepare a medical train to transport thousands of patients to 120 Polish hospitals. Romania has already received more than 7,000 refugees from Ukraine and is prepared to receive and shelter as many as 500,000 Ukrainians.⁵

Conflict between armed groups and government forces in the eastern part of the country has affected millions of people since fighting began in April 2014. Though conflict between the two nations has regularly occurred since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, affairs worsened in 2014 with a pro-Western interim presidential replacement. The political outcome resulted in the retaliation of pro-Russian separatists taking over the autonomous region of Crimea, which Russia formally annexed in 2014. Between April 2014, when the conflict began, and December 2021, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UHCHR) estimates that civilian deaths totaled more than 3,400, with more than 7,000 injuries. Casualties have continued to rise as the war has expanded.

FAST FACTS

Our Footprint

- International Medical Corps has a history of working in Ukraine that dates back to 1999. Since 2014, in response to conflict in the east, we have provided primary care, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services, gender-based violence prevention and response, and infection prevention and control for COVID-19.

Our Response

- International Medical Corps is supporting mobile medical and MHPSS services response during the crisis.
- Our team is scaling up existing mobile medical unit programming to provide additional critical-care services to those displaced or affected by the Ukraine crisis, including gender-based violence prevention and response.

¹ <https://www.cnn.com/2022/02/24/europe/ukraine-russia-attack-timeline-intl/index.html>

² <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/24/russia-ukraine-invasion-casualties-death-toll>

³ <https://www.npr.org/2022/02/16/1081185004/russia-ukraine-invasion-us-impact>

⁴ <https://www.politico.eu/article/poland-prepares-refugees-ukraine-war-russia/>

⁵ <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/romania-could-take-500000-ukrainian-refugees-if-needed-defence-minister-2022-02-22/>

International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps is one of the few international humanitarian agencies working on both sides of the original “line of contact” in the conflict that began in 2014. The country mission team has stayed in Ukraine throughout the Russian invasion, has supported the Ministry of Health throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, has supported a mobile medical and mental health-psychosocial support services (MHPSS) response to the conflict and is prepared to launch emergency mobile medical teams, working with Ukrainian partner organizations. International Medical Corps is poised to harness its organizational expertise and contextual experience, and draw on established partnerships, to renew and expand services to meet the needs of the current emergency.



Since 2014, International Medical Corps has implemented programs in Kiev, Mariupol and Donetsk Oblast, and other villages in Ukraine.

Through partner organizations in government-controlled areas, International Medical Corps is prepared to rapidly expand existing operations and provide a mobile, multi-sectoral response in the southern Donetsk Oblast, providing:

- essential primary and emergency health services from medical professionals that include specialist physicians, general practitioners and nurses;
- MHPSS services, which are critical for conflict-affected communities experiencing emotional distress or mental health conditions;
- gender-based violence (GBV) response services, serving survivors of rape and other forms of abuse, and increasing protection of women and girls who face specific risks; and
- COVID-19 prevention and awareness services, to keep high-risk displaced populations safe from the pandemic.

In addition to expanding existing programs in Ukraine, International Medical Corps is assessing opportunities to respond to the crisis at the borders of Poland and Romania. As government and non-governmental organizations in both countries assess response needs, International Medical Corps is coordinating with local responders to identify opportunities for support. Areas of potential activities include providing non-food items, such as hygiene kits, blankets and other critical items for refugees at special reception centers, as well as delivering MHPSS and GBV services to refugees. International Medical Corps is also assessing the possibility of developing a corridor from either Poland or Romania into Ukraine, which would enable the logistics support needed to ensure that critical items and commodities can be delivered to responders who remain in Ukraine.

International Medical Corps has significant experience in Ukraine: we previously worked in the country from 1999–2000, delivering essential relief and medicines to healthcare facilities, and training more than 500 local doctors and medical staff. In 2014, following the collapse of eastern Ukraine’s health system in the midst of conflict, we once again began providing health services, including outpatient primary healthcare, MHPSS, GBV prevention and response, and infection prevention and control, to stop COVID-19 transmission in communities affected by the continued violent conflict.

From 2015 to 2020, International Medical Corps delivered GBV prevention and response programs in partnership with local organizations and community structures. International Medical Corps organized women’s and girls’ safe spaces (WGSS), trained caseworkers to provide individualized care for women and child survivors of violence, and mobilized communities to reduce risks and prevent incidents of violence. During the COVID-19 pandemic, International Medical Corps has worked with the Ukrainian Ministry of Health to implement a COVID-related health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) program in Donetsk region. Since December 2021, International Medical Corps’ mobile medical unit (MMU) has provided medical consultations to local community members in Donetsk Oblast. The MMU’s medical staff includes an endocrinologist, gynecologist, urologist, ophthalmologist, otolaryngologist, surgeon, ultrasound specialist and specialized physicians.

Before the Russian invasion, International Medical Corps also provided training and counseling services on MHPSS, both directly and in coordination with local partners, through remote means that included telephone and online groups. Our MHPSS services are founded on evidence-based psychological and psychosocial interventions for adults and children of all ages, and our outreach activities for psychoeducation and referrals targeted communities at large. In addition, International Medical Corps has collaborated with local partners to improve service delivery, and with the Ministry of Health to promote healthcare worker wellbeing, and has actively participated in the MHPSS Technical Working Group. In 2017, the team supported the [assessment and guidance](#) for strengthening the integration of mental health into primary healthcare and community-based services in Ukraine.