



# THE LONGEST YEAR

**A LONG AND CHALLENGING YEAR FOR ACCESS  
TO HEALTH IN UKRAINE**







# GLOSSARY

<b>HCT</b>	Humanitarian Country Team
<b>IDP</b>	Internally Displaced People
<b>INGO</b>	International Non-Governmental Organization
<b>MdM</b>	Médicos del Mundo
<b>MHPSS</b>	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
<b>MoH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>NCD</b>	Non-communicable diseases
<b>NFI</b>	Non-Food Items
<b>OCHA</b>	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>PFA</b>	Psychological First Aid
<b>PHC</b>	Primary Health Care
<b>SRH</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health
<b>UN</b>	United Nations

# INTRODUCTION

The 24<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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, overstretching the capacity of human and technical resources and health systems to deal with the massive influx of refugees.

The Médicos del Mundo 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

**Médicos del Mundo 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.**

# ONE YEAR IN NUMBERS



**18.6 MILLION**

PEOPLE HAVE LEFT UKRAINE<sup>1</sup>

**5.3 MILLION**

PEOPLE ARE ESTIMATED TO BE INTERNALLY DISPLACED<sup>2</sup>



**MORE THAN 800**

ATTACKS HAVE OCCURRED ON HEALTH FACILITIES SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE FULL-SCALE CONFLICT<sup>4</sup>



**14.5 MILLION**

PEOPLE IN UKRAINE ARE ESTIMATED TO NEED HEALTH ASSISTANCE<sup>5</sup>

**MORE THAN 18,000**

CIVILIANS HAVE BEEN KILLED OR INJURED IN UKRAINE



7,000 KILLED  
11,000 INJURED<sup>3</sup>

**2.3 MILLION**

PEOPLE HAVE BEEN REACHED BY MÉDICOS DEL MUNDO THROUGH VARIOUS ACTIVITIES



**29,000**

PEOPLE HAVE RECEIVED DIRECT CARE FROM MÉDICOS DEL MUNDO

**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 MÉDICOS DEL MUNDO



In the light of the emergency and the scale of humanitarian needs, a Médicos del Mundo international network response is being provided by several members (**Belgium, France, Germany, Greece and Spain**) operating in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. Other Médicos del Mundo 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.

# CRISIS TIMELINE

**24/02/2022**



Russia invasion and massive influx of refugees in neighbouring countries

**25/02/2022**

Implementation of contingency plan: delivery of emergency stock to several hospitals in Luhansk Oblast

**MARCH**

Deployment of a team in neighbouring countries (Poland, Slovakia, Romania and Moldova) to conduct an assessment of needs to understand the extent of the health services gap at primary healthcare level

**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

**SEPTEMBER**

Start of operations in Vinnytsia and Odesa Oblasts

**OCTOBER**

Start of operations in Mykolaiv in partnership with Ukrainian Red Cross

**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

**DECEMBER**

Deployment of two new mobile units in Vinnytsia and Ivano-Frankivsk Oblasts

## IN UKRAINE

The main objective of the Médicos del Mundo 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

Médicos del Mundo 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<sup>6</sup> 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.

Médicos del Mundo decided to intervene by filling specific gaps:

- Providing psychological first aid and mental health and psychosocial 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 Médicos del Mundo.

*"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




# TYPE OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY MÉDICOS DEL MUNDO


**TYPE OF ACTIVITIES**

-  MHPSS


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-  Support to PHCs & community outreach


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-  Support to hospitals


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-  Delivery of medicines and equipment

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-  Strengthening local partnerships to build resilience

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

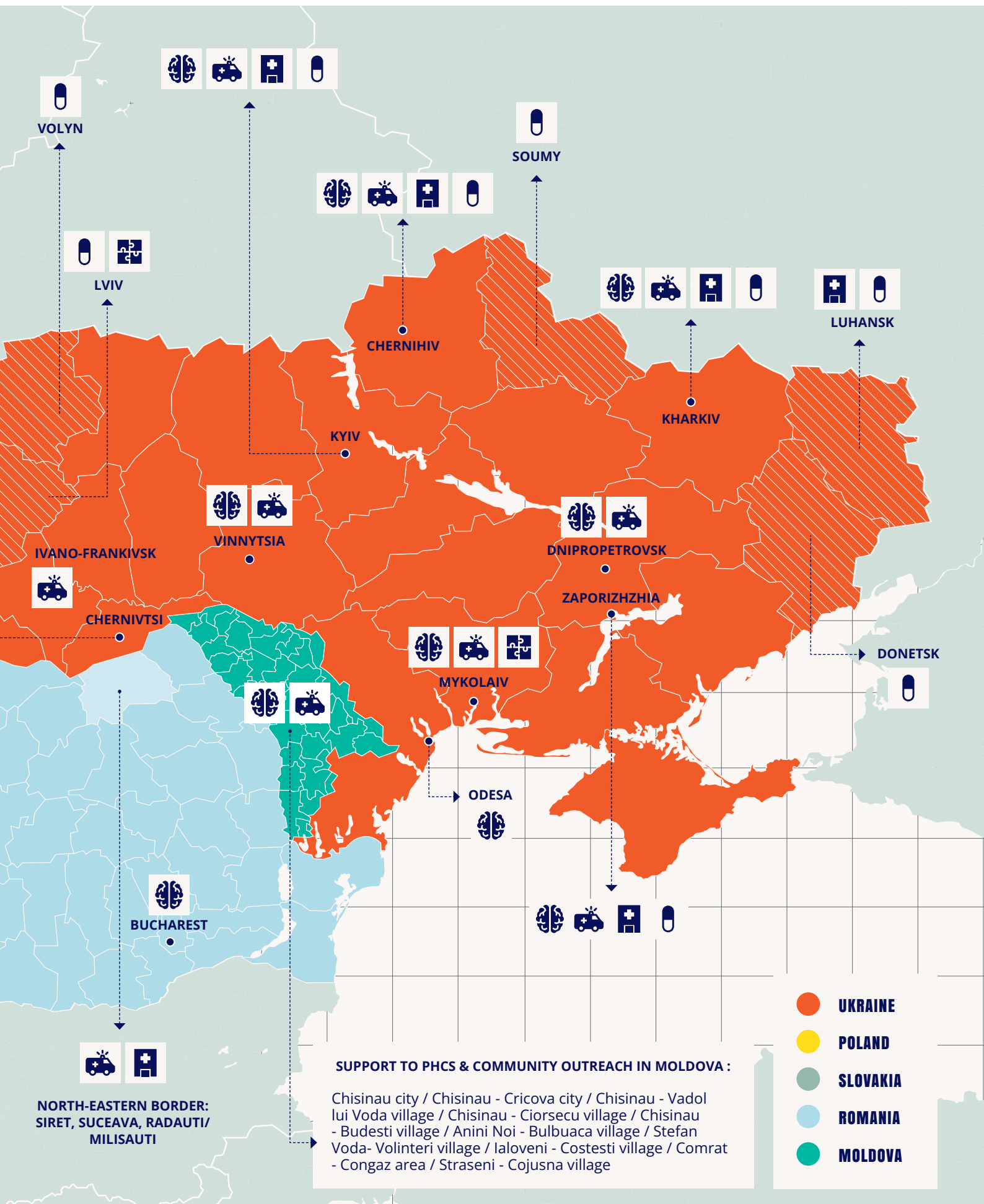
\* Oblast is an administrative subnational government that corresponds to a region.

LOWER SILESIA,  
WALBRYZCH AREA



BRATISLAVA  
AND OTHER CENTRAL  
& WESTERN AREAS







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 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2022 TO DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2022



## NO. OF MHPSS CONSULTATIONS

UKRAINE

6,904

ROMANIA

TECHNICAL SUPPORT  
TO MHPSS COUNSELLORS

POLAND

1,193

MOLDOVIA

582

SLOVAKIA

816



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



HEALTH FACILITIES



TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION  
CENTRES

UKRAINE

120

UKRAINE

91

SLOVAKIA

1

SLOVAKIA

-

ROMANIA

4

ROMANIA

2

DATA FROM FEBRUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2022 TO DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2022



# COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL INSTITUTIONS AND NGOS

Médicos del Mundo 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 Médicos del Mundo 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

Médicos del Mundo 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.

**MOVING FORWARD**



## KATERYNA'S STORY

As soon as the conflict broke out, the main priority of Médicos del Mundo 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 Médicos del Mundo 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 KYTNIUKH, HR Officer for Médicos del Mundo in Ukraine. © Olmo Calvo

# ADDRESSING SPECIFIC ISSUES OF CONCERN THROUGH ADVOCACY

## 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.

## REFUGEES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

With the adoption of the Temporary Protection Directive, the European Union showed that it has effective mechanisms to protect the rights of refugees and manage their reception. However, this measure has not been adopted in similar circumstances for people from other conflict situations in the Global South. For this reason, together with partner organizations we have demanded that all people who are forced to move are protected and received by member states of the European Union without discrimination.



## DAN'S STORY

Dan is a crisis psychologist, working with internally displaced children as a volunteer with the NGO Ukraine United, a Médicos del Mundo 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

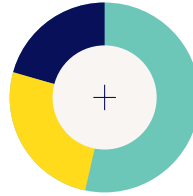


# FUNDING

## FUNDING RAISED FOR UKRAINE RESPONSE IN 2022

TOTAL:

### €26 MILLION



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



Photo credit (cover and above): © Pietro Chekal

- 1 UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)
- 2 As of January 2023 – Displacement Tracking Matrix IOM (International Organization for Migration)
- 3 OHCHR (Office of the High Commissioner of the Human Rights) update 23 January 2023.
- 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

Asociación Excursionistas 1º Mayo

Asociación Ojos del Sur

Association Escale

Avmb - Comércio Imobiliário e de obras de arte, Ida

Biomédicus SL

Cahill Financial Inc

Captain Cause - Fondation EPSA

Cardiva SL

CNP Assurances

Consortium 12-12

Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Dia Portugal

Diputacion Badajoz

Donner Foundation

Dr. Schumacher Iberia

ECHO, the European Commission's

EDP - Energias de Portugal S.A.

EDP Foundation

EIB Institute

EPIM

Ernst and Young

Farmacéuticos Mundi

Fondation de France

Fondation du Grand Orient de France

Fondation Erié

Fondation Roc Eclerc via Fondation de France

Fondation Roi Baudouin

Fundación Privada Nous Cims

Fundación Telefónica- Voluntariado

Génissieux

German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO)

German Ministry of Economic

Giro555 Emergency Relief Alliance

Global Giving

Grandes Vinos y Viñedos SL

Grupo Electro Stocks

Hans Anders

Hewitt Foundation

Humanitarian Agency

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

Pérez-Llorca Abogados

Phantasm

SCC

Singularart

Stavros Niarchos Foundation

Sternstunden e.V.

Swiss Solidarity

TAP Air Portugal

TELUS Friendly Future Foundation

Tolkien Trust

Unidade de Medicina Exponencial da Nova Medical School

USAID/BHA

Viatrix

Wallonie-Bruxelles International

Xpandalphabet, Lda

# MÉDICOS DEL MUNDO INTERNATIONAL NETWORK



The Médicos del Mundo 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 [pilar.martin@medicosdelmundo.org](mailto:pilar.martin@medicosdelmundo.org)