Three-level mission from WHO headquarters, WHO Regional Office in Europe, and WHO Country Office in Ukraine concerning the Ukraine response

During the three-level mission from 16 to 19 April, Dr Jarno Habicht, WHO Representative in Ukraine, together with Dr Gundo Weiler, Director of the Division of Country Support and Partnerships and acting Regional Emergency Director at the WHO Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe), Mr Altaf Musani, Dr Catherine Smallwood and Dr Ardita Tahirukaj and Dr Emanuele Bruni, WHO’s Health Emergencies Programme lead, visited various locations in Ukraine. A number of monitoring visits and strategic meetings with health-care leaders were organized in regions most affected by the war, such as Sumy, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhya and Poltava.

On 16 April, WHO in Ukraine hosted a special mission from WHO/Europe and WHO in Ukraine to address the emergency response efforts and crucial priorities for 2024, particularly in response to the ongoing conflict. The mission in Kyiv commenced with
a meeting with Serhii Dubrov, First Deputy Minister of Health in Ukraine, and Ihor Kuzin, Deputy Minister of Health and Chief State Sanitary Doctor of Ukraine, initiating discussions about current initiatives and forthcoming priorities.

On 17 April, the three-level WHO team visited Sumy region to observe two modular clinics set up by WHO in 2023. One of them, located in Khukhra, functions as the only primary health-care facility in the area since shelling destroyed the original clinic in March 2023. The other, near Okhtyrka, serves as a base for an emergency medical response team whose original base was compromised in the winter.

On 18 April, in Zaporizhzhya oblast, the WHO team embarked on a series of visits to gain a better understanding of the region’s pressing needs. The visits included meetings with local authorities and emergency medical services staff, as well as a visit to a hospital rehabilitation unit. The objective was to tailor WHO’s plans according to the region’s requirements.
The day began with discussions with Governor Ivan Fedorov and the local health authorities to assess the region’s medical situation and prioritize WHO’s assistance in areas such as mental health, strategic supply management, physical rehabilitation, laboratory capacity expansion, and surveillance enhancement.

Subsequently, the WHO team visited the rehabilitation unit of a Zaporizhzhya oblast clinical hospital, which is part of WHO’s flagship partnership with ATscale for the provision of assistive technologies. Since 2023, the rehab team has been conducting training programmes for hospital staff, encompassing multidisciplinary rehabilitation team training, as well as specialized sessions on hand therapy and splinting.

On 19 April, the WHO team visited Kharkiv region to install a back-up modular boiler plant at the Chuguyivska Central Hospital to support the hospital’s functioning in emergency conditions. WHO also visited a primary health-care centre in Rogan village, which provides primary health-care services to over 18 000 people, including internally displaced people.
Data quality workshop in Kyiv

During the 15-month implementation of the Health Resources and Services Availability Monitoring System (HeRAMS) in Ukraine, significant challenges regarding data collection, resource availability and gaps in the availability of health services have been identified. Interviews with officers and administrators revealed issues such as significant staff turnover, high workload exacerbated by a lack of automation skills and additional tasks in emergency settings, and the use of outdated hardware and unlicensed software, leading to inefficiencies in producing required outputs.

To maintain the momentum of the HeRAMS project, it is crucial to ensure that Informational Analytical Centers are adequately equipped and have the necessary capacities. Enhancing data quality and promoting data literacy at subnational health authority level is crucial for informed decision-making and effective health-care management, aligning with broader emergency management strategies in Ukraine. Strengthening data literacy also supports Ukraine’s European Union accession efforts and contributes to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.
A two-day HeRAMS data quality workshop held on 15 and 16 April marked the initiation of a broader data literacy programme. Over 70 participants from all Ukrainian oblasts attended, engaging in activities such as data verification, peer review, and data collection improvement planning. The workshop emphasized the use of Microsoft Excel automation tools for efficient data management and cleaning, along with skills for integrating diverse data sources and deriving insights.

The workshop participants were divided into teams, with no participants from the same oblast on the same team. The event provided a brilliant opportunity for experience sharing and networking between otherwise entirely separate parts of the Ukrainian medical statistics system.
Informing the collective health response: recent Health Cluster information products

An essential requirement for an efficient humanitarian health response is access to timely, dependable, and comprehensive information. To this end, the Ukraine Health Cluster has recently released three public health information products. These tools support Health Cluster partners in collecting, analysing and disseminating data that inform priority setting, and the implementation and measurement of progress against the Cluster strategy and agreed results.

One of these releases is the updated **2024 Dashboard** designed to monitor partner presence and performance against the agreed 2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan targets, visualize data such as the number of people reached with health assistance, and generate comprehensive reports on various aspects of the health response by region. Updated monthly, this dynamic dashboard supports field coordination and facilitates a response analysis based on the most recent data reported to the Cluster.

The second public health information product is the monthly Health Cluster Bulletin, most recently released on 19 April 2024 (**#3 March 2024**). The bulletin provides an overview of the main public health needs, key health information, including trends, and activities of Cluster partners. Published in English and Ukrainian, the bulletin motivates partners to participate actively and share information.
Since the intensification of airstrikes in December 2023, the Health Cluster and the Ministry of Health of Ukraine have been monitoring partner support to local health authorities following attacks on hospitals, health-care facilities, residential buildings, and other civilian infrastructure. In response to the increase in attacks, a biweekly ad hoc infographic visualizes the affected regions, attacks on health care as reported to the Cluster, and partners supporting local authorities in the response (see the most recent infographic here). As of 30 April 2024, Health Cluster partners complemented the efforts of first responders to reach an estimated 3447 people with humanitarian health assistance.

Information management strategies facilitated by the Health Cluster contribute to better strategic collaborative efforts by improving the speed and accuracy of information delivered, creating a shared frame of reference that enables decision-makers to coordinate and plan response programming based on a clear understanding of response capacities.
**KEY FIGURES**

**Key humanitarian numbers**

- **319**
  - Attacks on Health Care reported by WHO SSA tool

- **7,800,000**
  - People in need

- **3,800,000**
  - People targeted by Health Cluster partners

- **3,522,045**
  - Internally displaced persons (IDPs)
Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) provider refresher training

WHO in Ukraine has recently retrained 13 Ukrainian staff with a refresher training organized every six months. Serving as first responders in each WHO hub, these custodians are trained to address exposures such as unprotected sexual contact, rape, and needlestick injuries.

Following the training, WHO conducted a Q&A session on where to find HIV testing services, including self-testing, and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), in Kyiv and throughout the country. Access to services such as HIV testing, PEP and PrEP is essential for people who are sexually active. WHO has also shared a list of clinics and hospitals that provide PEP services.

For HIV self-testing, both oral fluid-based (mouth swab) and blood-based (finger prick) options are available in Ukraine. One WHO-prequalified product, OraQuick, can be ordered online. A tutorial video in Ukrainian on how to use OraQuick can be found here.

For further information, courtesy of the Ukrainian Public Health Center, the following resources are available:

- [https://findart.phc.org.ua/](https://findart.phc.org.ua/) (online platform on the website of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention)
- [https://t.me/HIV_AIDS_bot](https://t.me/HIV_AIDS_bot) (chat bot on Telegram)
- 0 800 500 451 (nationwide hotline for HIV/AIDS issues)
- 0 800 500 335 or 116 123 (national hotline for the prevention of domestic violence, human trafficking and gender discrimination)

Additionally, there is a video on PEP from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

For those interested in relevant guidelines, the European AIDS Clinical Society guidelines are recommended. WHO guidelines on PEP can be found here, and British guidelines are available here.
Learning on WHO’s online platform continues in Ukraine amidst war

Health workers in Ukraine continue to rely on WHO’s free online public health courses as a resource as they face wartime challenges providing medical care to those in need.

Participation in OpenWHO.org courses in Ukraine has steadily increased since the first Ukrainian-language course was launched in June 2021, and more than 50% of the Ukrainian learners identify as health-care workers. The OpenWHO platform hosts 34 courses in Ukrainian on a dedicated learning channel in partnership with the WHO Country Office in Ukraine.

In total, OpenWHO courses have nearly 20,000 enrolments from Ukraine, of which almost 14,000 are in Ukrainian-language courses. When courses are available in both English and Ukrainian, learners from Ukraine prefer to participate in the Ukrainian-language courses, even though the English version is available sooner than the translation, highlighting the importance of multilingual learning.

Among learners from Ukraine, the five most popular courses are on cholera, COVID-19 infection prevention and control, hand hygiene, COVID-19 epidemiology, and medical device reprocessing. The popular introductory cholera course had nearly a 285% increase in enrolments from Ukraine in a one-month period, reflecting a higher risk of outbreak during the war due to water and sanitation infrastructure disruptions. The measles outbreak course is the sixth most popular among Ukraine learners, likely linked to the risk of outbreak from health-care service and immunization disruptions.
KEY FIGURES

Key operational numbers

Health Facilities reached

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 16 and 17</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>134</td>
<td>561</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

People provided with supplies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 16 and 17</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36 286</td>
<td>352 467</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Supplies distributed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 16 and 17</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20.2 MT</td>
<td>361.2 MT</td>
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</table>

Interagency convoys conducted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 16 and 17</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
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</table>
WHO Representative
Incident Manager
Health Emergencies Lead

Contact us

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