

EMERGENCY SITUATION REPORT

WHO COUNTRY OFFICE IN UKRAINE

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WHO Country Office in Ukraine - WHO ERF GRADE 3

Over-the-counter (OTC) kit distribution intervention – improving access to medicines for people in hard-to-reach areas

The ongoing war in Ukraine has made it difficult to access to vital health-care services and supplies, particularly for people living close to conflict zones. These challenges include limited access to medications and pharmacies as well as concerns over the affordability of medicines in areas deemed high- or very high-risk due to ongoing hostilities. To address this issue, the WHO Country Office in Ukraine has launched an initiative to distribute OTC health-care kits to people living in these high-risk areas.

The purpose of the OTC kits is to provide health-care supplies and medications, focusing particularly on the needs of older people. The kits include medications for noncommunicable diseases that can be purchased without a prescription. The kits are designed to help people to manage common health issues and minor ailments independently.

The kits contain items approved for OTC purchase in Ukraine and informative brochures on how to use the contents effectively, along with health advice to promote healthy behaviours and disease prevention. A total of 1200 OTC kits have been prepared for distribution to families in 14 locations that are difficult to reach, including Kherson oblast and other front-line areas. Each kit is intended to support two people for a period of six months and contains items with a shelf life of over 24 months. After distribution, follow-up visits will be conducted to assess the impact of the initiative.



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Report on Dnipropetrovsk laboratory activities from 30 January to 16 February

In January, to enhance laboratory testing services during the ongoing war, WHO facilitated the provision of 34 units of advanced laboratory equipment to 16 clinical diagnostic and bacteriology laboratories across 12 hospitals and centres in Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Poltava, and Zaporizhzhya regions. The donated equipment included fully automated five-part differential haematology instruments and electrolyte analyzers, which offer a comprehensive assessment of the blood status and electrolyte levels in the human body. These advanced solutions are expected to improve patient outcomes by enabling swift identification and notification of critical, life-threatening conditions to health-care providers.

The equipment came with sufficient supplies to cover the first three months, and installation was followed by comprehensive laboratory staff training to ensure proficient operation. Additionally, biosafety cabinets were provided to bacteriology laboratories to improve pathogen culture quality and mitigate potential exposure risks in the laboratory environment, with certification ensuring compliance with safety standards.



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This significant contribution was made possible through funding from the Government of Germany.

Furthermore, WHO facilitated the delivery of kits and consumables to newly established polymerase chain reaction laboratories at public health and perinatal centres in Kharkiv and Sumy regions. These items are intended for the detection of toxoplasmosis, other agents, rubella virus, cytomegalovirus and herpes simplex virus infections in newborns and their mothers. The delivery will be followed by benchwork training for laboratory staff, scheduled to take place in the coming weeks. Once again, this initiative was facilitated through funding from the Government of Germany.

Oncology prevention, diagnostics, and emergency medical teams of the Odesa hub

A meeting between the deputy director of the health-care department of Country Office and the Odesa Regional Department of Health to discuss the establishment of an oncology screening programme tailored to the needs of Odesa region. The goal was to determine how the WHO hub can contribute to this initiative. The meeting focused on the need to strengthen primary health care and create an emergency response plan for the region.

Subsequently, discussions with the Regional Emergency Service of Odesa region revolved around planning response strategies and coordinating future actions, including the creation of communication materials to provide guidance for the residents.

Efforts are also under way to deliver medical supplies to hospitals and primary health-care care centres in Mykolayiv and Kherson regions, especially in areas heavily affected by attacks. This initiative aims to enhance emergency preparedness and improve health resilience among the local population.

KEY FIGURES

Key humanitarian numbers



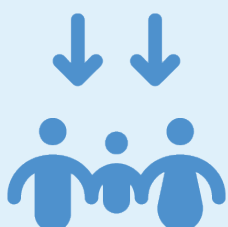
131

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)

WHO in Ukraine continues to support the development of a system of specialized rehabilitation care for spinal cord injuries

WHO in Ukraine committed to support the establishment of a specialized rehabilitation system for people with spinal cord injuries. This phase of rehabilitation begins in the neurosurgical or intensive care units of hospitals. In January and February, WHO extended support on acute rehabilitation for rehabilitation specialists from Volyn and Khmelnytsky regional hospitals.

The training was facilitated by a multidisciplinary rehabilitation team from the National Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Centre at Rivne Regional Hospital for War Veterans, affiliated with the International Spinal Cord Society. The trainers had previously received training from WHO consultants in 2023.

Participants received comprehensive theoretical knowledge and practical skills essential for mitigating secondary complications and performing primary rehabilitation assessments and prognoses. WHO plans to extend these training sessions to all Ukrainian health-care facilities that provide neurosurgical care for spinal cord injuries, in collaboration with operational partners.

This initiative is supported by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, which provided the necessary funding.



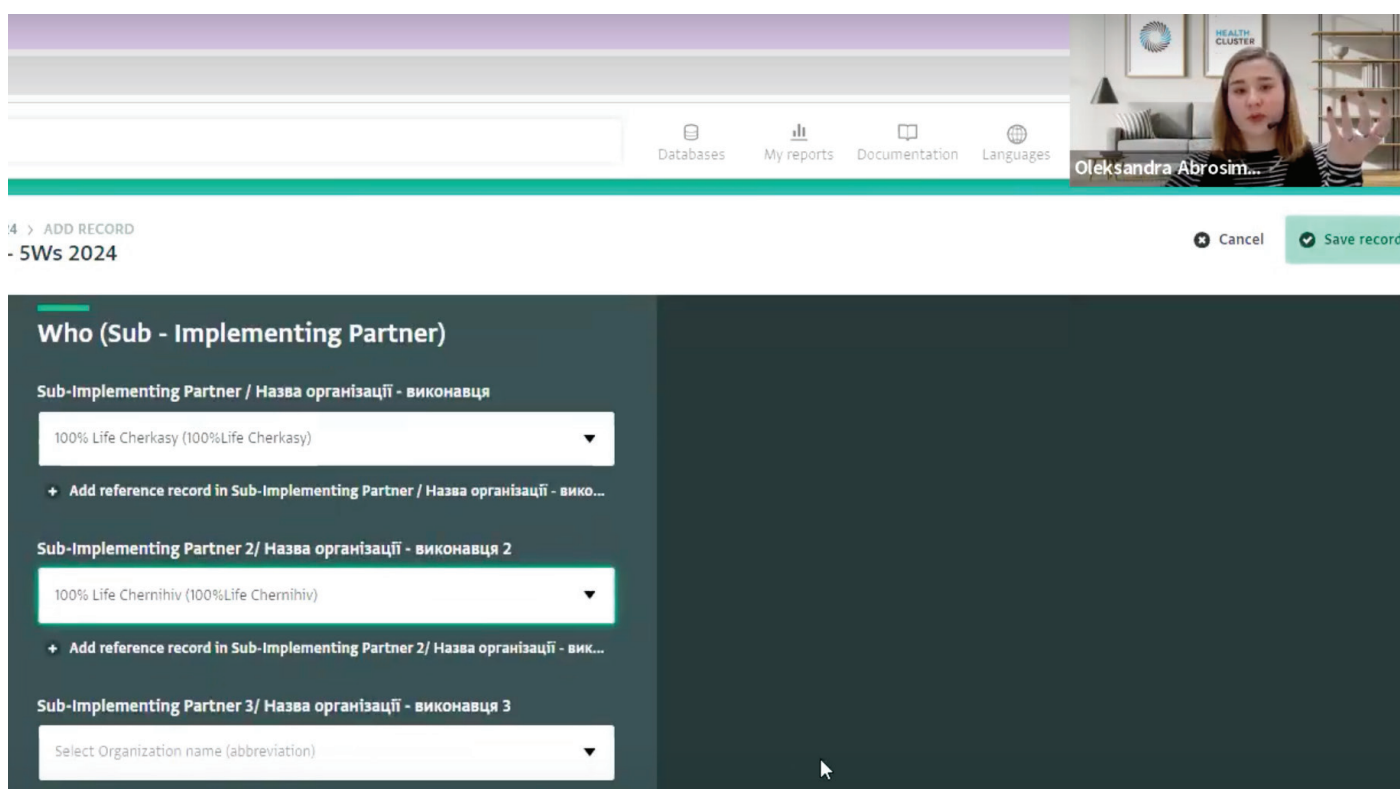
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Health Cluster ActivityInfo clinics held to enhance reporting in 2024

The Health Cluster in Ukraine, a coalition of over 300 health partners, is actively engaged in the humanitarian health response, with a mandate to report initiatives as per the membership requirements. Systematic reporting of partner activities is essential for monitoring activities against the health targets set in the Humanitarian Response Plan. For 2024, the online platform ActivityInfo is the primary tool for documenting activities under the 2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP), aiming to assist approximately 3.8 million people by the end of the year.



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To improve reporting efficiency and partner familiarity with ActivityInfo, the Health Cluster conducted two virtual clinic sessions on 8 February, in both English and Ukrainian, with over 130 partner organization representatives attending. These sessions, organized in collaboration with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), provided detailed guidance on using the ActivityInfo platform, including account management, data entry and verification, and using the data to create information management products to support the humanitarian response in Ukraine.

Following the clinics, the Health Cluster made the relevant materials available on the ReliefWeb website, including guidance documents, training presentations, and recordings. The Health Cluster coordination team continues to offer guidance and support for reporting through email. Data collection for the first round of 2024 Health Cluster HNRP activities, covering January and February 2024, started on 13 February and will continue until 5 March.

KEY TAKEAWAY POINTS

1. ActivityInfo is the sole reporting platform for 2024 HRP monitoring (ENG & UKR)
2. Reporting on a minimum monthly basis
3. Reporting deadline - for January & February activities by **5th of March**. Future Deadlines by COB 5th of every new month
4. Materials will be published at Health Cluster website: <https://response.reliefweb.int/ukraine/health>
5. Incremental reporting of beneficiaries
6. Priority oblasts: Sumska, Kharkivska, Luhanska, Dnipropetrovska, Donetska, Khersonska, Mykolaivska and Zaporizka Oblasts.
7. RMM: Some sub -activities require population groups, age and gender disaggregation of beneficiaries (HE101, HE102) while HE103, HE104, HE105 require only total # of beneficiaries. For HE201 additional indicators are asked



KEY FIGURES

Key operational numbers

Health Facilities reached

Week 6 and 7

72

Overall

232

People provided with supplies

Week 6 and 7

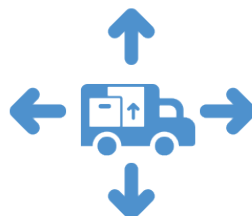
117 682

Overall

189 090

Supplies distributed

Week 6 and 7

83.8 MT

Overall

160 MT

Interagency convoys conducted

Week 6 and 7

1

Overall

5

WHO Representative
Incident Manager
Health Emergencies Lead

Contact us

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