

Dear colleagues,

In light of the fast pace and extremely difficult nature of events unfolding in Ukraine, the WHO team is working closely with governments, partners, including through ECO-ASCO's Special Network, and international agencies on the Impact of the War in Ukraine on Cancer.

To this end, we aim to send you short biweekly updates on our activities, which are focused primarily on:

- 1) gathering **intelligence on human and service cancer care capacity** for Ukrainian patients in Ukraine, in neighbouring countries, and in the wider European region,
- 2) **coordinating activities** with Ministries, wider WHO and UN, and
- 3) **advocacy and outreach** to ensure effective collaboration and that the critical needs of Ukrainian cancer patients are understood, monitored and addressed.

We wish to acknowledge the financial support of the American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Foundation, St Jude Children's Research Hospital and the European Society for Medical Oncology to enable our work. If you want to contact the team directly, please feel free to email us at eurocancer@who.int. We thank ECO, ASCO, civil society organisations and all of our partners for your continued hard work and support. Our team continues to raise the plight of Ukrainian refugees with cancer at EU and Regional level to ensure cancer care is kept on the political agenda.

Carina Ferreira-Borges, on behalf of the WHO Emergency cancer response team

1. UKRAINE OVERVIEW

- The overall situation continues to deteriorate across Ukraine. To date, **over 18 million people have been affected** by the conflict. According to the latest government data compiled by UNHCR, **over four million refugees** have left Ukraine for surrounding countries in the last five weeks of the conflict, with 58% of them in Poland, followed by Romania, Moldova, and Hungary as well as many other countries.
- Ukraine is experiencing **essential medicine stockouts** and supply chain disruptions. WHO cancer response team, working alongside partners, is supporting **procurement for cancer medicines** Ukraine and neighbouring countries, assessing needs, sharing criteria, agreeing on prioritisation and working with key stakeholders. The context for providing cancer care in Ukraine remains extremely challenging. A high number of International NGOs are currently operating there – increasing potential impact and also highlighting the importance of coordination. These **international NGOs have had a valuable role**.
- WHO continues to work closely with the **Ministry of Health (MoH) of Ukraine** to identify gaps and needs in the country's health system, medical evacuations and support response activities. WHO is engaging with health partners, suppliers, and procurement and logistics partners to deliver general medical supplies to the hardest-hit areas across Ukraine.

KEY STATISTICS

>18 mil people affected by conflict

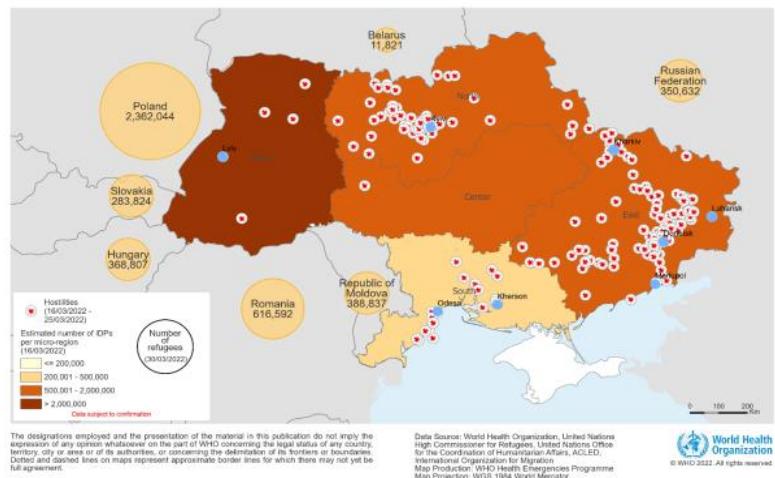
160,000 diagnosed with cancer each year in Ukraine (2020)

>100 attacks on health care facilities

2. CANCER CAPACITY ASSESSMENT

- Context:** Capacity data is essential to lead funding decisions and direct resources to where they will be most effective. Each country has different capacity – staff, cancer centres, availability of coordinated care, oncological equipment, and medication – and is able to cope with various levels of demand.
- WHO situational analysis:** WHO has developed a **rapid facility assessment questionnaire** that maps current situation of cancer care, with an initial focus on countries who have received the highest volume of refugees. This tool is also to be deployed in Ukraine to understand current capacities to maintain and deliver cancer care.
- Alignment with partners:** WHO is working with UN agencies including that International Atomic Energy Agency and other partners, such as the ECO-ASCO Special Network and Global Radiotherapy Coalition, to coordinate and collect additional intelligence on the situation in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. **WHO thanks these partners for their collaboration.**
- Outputs:** Intelligence gathered will
 - **map the flow of Ukrainians diagnosed cancer** and track where and how they are moving internally and on to other countries with the aim of ensuring promoting coordination, and enabling clinical care as part of wider humanitarian assistance.
 - **be captured at regular intervals** and shared with all of our partners; this ongoing monitoring and analysis will define needs as they evolve, and how those needs can be optimally addressed.
- Anticipating support:** COVID-19 caused disruption to health services across the European Region, including cancer services, adding to existing backlogs. The current conflict is adding further strain to already stretched services and staffing in many countries. To date, the number of refugees with cancer arriving to neighbouring countries has been largely manageable. However, Poland and Moldova, who have received the largest number of refugees from Ukraine and are experiencing the most impact on health services, require additional support.
- Moldova mission:** The team is preparing a mission to Moldova (11–14 April) to undertake a rapid needs assessment of cancer services and provide strategic advice on the management of Ukrainians with cancer. The immediate objectives are:
 - To review and validate a requested procurement list; provide feedback based on needs and sustainability.
 - To develop a process for coordinated procurement with defined roles for the stakeholders.
 - To conduct a rapid needs assessment of current capacity to manage the burden and re-evaluate ability to respond in the context of the current humanitarian crisis.
 - To discuss progress made in the National Cancer Control Program and anticipated adaptations inclusive of the care for Ukrainian refugees.

Figure 1. Distribution of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees in Ukraine and neighbouring countries as of 30 March 2022



3. WHO TEAM

Two Ukrainian consultant oncologists, Dr Slava Kopetskyi and Dr Mykola Zubaryev from Ukraine's National Cancer Institute, have recently joined the WHO Emergency cancer response team to provide expertise on the Ukrainian health system and to assist with mapping cancer service facilities and capacity gaps during the ongoing conflict.

WHO Emergency cancer response team

Chair: Carina Ferreira-Borges, Strategic Advisor NCD Management, WHO Regional Office for Europe	André Ilbawi, Cancer control officer and focal point, WHO Headquarters
Roberta Ortiz Sequeira, Cancer Control Officer, WHO Headquarters	Maria Lasierra Losada, Technical Officer, Cancer Management, WHO/Europe
Allison Ekberg, Health Policy Adviser, Cancer Management, WHO/Europe	Benjamin O. Anderson, Medical Officer, Cancer Control, WHO Headquarters
Andrii Skipalskyi, Technical Officer, WHO Country Office, Ukraine	Slava Kopetskyi, National Cancer Institute, Ukraine
Mykola Zubaryev, National Cancer Institute, Ukraine	Richard Sullivan, Co-director, Conflict and Health Research Group, King's College London
Rolando Camacho, Consultant, Cancer Management, WHO/Europe	Filipa Alves da Costa, Public Health Specialist, WHO European Office for Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases
Felipe Roitberg, Consultant, Cancer Management, WHO HQ	Torgyn Issa, Pan-European Leadership Academy participant, Cancer Management, WHO/Europe
Maebh Ní Fhallúin, Communications Consultant, Cancer Management, WHO/Europe	

4. RELEVANT LINKS

- [WHO/Europe weekly external situation reports on Ukraine](#)
- [WHO/Europe news on Ukraine](#)
- [WHO latest information on Ukraine Emergency](#)
- [WHO news on Ukraine](#)
- [WHO Guidance Note for Medical Supply Donations](#)
- [ECO-ASCO Special Network: Impact of the War in Ukraine on Cancer](#)
- [WHO/Europe's United Action Against Cancer pan-European cancer movement](#)
- [Inside the war: life in Ukraine \(BMJ IJGC, 08 April 2022\)](#)
- [Health impacts of the Russian invasion in Ukraine: need for global health action \(Lancet 31 March 2022\)](#)
- [Resilience and perseverance under siege: providing cancer care during the invasion of Ukraine \(Lancet Oncology, 25 March 2022\)](#)
- [Conflict in Ukraine and its impact on cancer care \(Lancet Oncology, 11 March\)](#)