



Ukrainian Red Cross branch provides medical and psychosocial support in the town of Teofipol for both internally displaced people and locals. © IFRC

HEALTH AND CARE OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Ukraine and Impacted Countries Emergency Appeal (28/02/2022 - 31/12/2025)

IFRC is helping respond to growing health and care concerns as a result of the conflict in Ukraine, with lack of medical supplies, healthcare staff and critical infrastructure worsening every day.

Needs analyses both in Ukraine and in receiving countries have identified medication and medical supply shortages particularly concerning people with non-communicable diseases; health facility damage and destruction; interrupted access to essential health services; low vaccination uptake; unsafe and/or unsanitary living conditions; and depleted health systems and resources. After two years of responding to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, national health systems are also struggling to meet increasing demands.

IFRC is a leader in the provision of humanitarian health and care services, whether it is through the mobilisation of emergency field hospitals in different configurations such as mobile health clinics, delivering and training others in first aid, preventing the spread of communicable diseases or promoting healthy habits through our unparalleled volunteer network.

With this Health and Care Operational Strategy, we set out to addressing the needs identified above by both delivering and ensuring access to direct health services and products; strengthening the responding National Societies' capacities in health and care and advancing their auxiliary role in their countries; as well as coordinating with internal and external partners.

DID YOU KNOW?

As of late September, 2022, 978 healthcare facilities in Ukraine are estimated to have been damaged or destroyed, making it increasingly difficult for people to access the medical services they need.¹

¹ Kyiv School of Economics - [KSE Institute's infrastructural damage report as of September 2022](#)



IFRC'S HEALTH AND CARE STRATEGIC PILLARS AND PRIORITY ACTIONS:

STRATEGIC PILLAR 1

Institutional strengthening of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners in emergency and community health preparedness and response at the regional and National Society level:

Through this pillar, we seek to support and enhance:

- Capacity for disease prevention, health promotion and primary health service delivery in the region
- Capacity in health emergencies preparedness and response, including epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, in the region
- Capacity for Cash-for-Health outcomes in the region

STRATEGIC PILLAR 2

Support to all impacted Red Cross Societies in the delivery of health services:

Specific support to impacted National Societies within the region will be under the leadership of the relevant National Societies, and will be adapted to each of their Country, and specifically Health, plans. Through this pillar, we seek to support and enhance:

- Delivery of and support to emergency health services, including epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response
- Delivery of and support to community-based and primary health services
- Delivery of Cash-for-Health programming
- Capacity development of National Societies and advancement of their auxiliary role

STRATEGIC PILLAR 3

Coordination and Humanitarian Diplomacy for Health outcomes:

Through this Health and Care Operational Strategy, IFRC seeks to advocate for access to appropriate and acceptable health services for all displaced persons, irrespective of their background or status. We also seek to support National Societies in their efforts to coordinate their operations as part of this response, both internally with Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners, and externally with key Health partners.



Hungarian Red Cross' emergency health unit is on duty along the border helping people from Ukraine, among them children and pregnant women. Most patients are suffering from fatigue, stress or chronic diseases.
© Tamara Vukov



CASE FOR SUPPORT

While the ongoing crisis in Ukraine has drawn extraordinary levels of support from inside and outside the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, additional capacity and resources are necessary to ensure that the National Societies and the communities will receive the needed support. The operational budget will facilitate the establishment of the necessary HR structure at national, sub-regional and regional levels. It will also include workshops, capacity building activities for staff and volunteers, integration and development of tools and protocols.



Ukrainian Red Cross staff in Uzhhorod provide first aid training for a local NGO. © IFRC

Contact us

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While this strategy is intended to guide IFRC's sectoral response throughout the duration of the Ukraine and Impacted Countries operation, we will remain flexible and adaptable, which means adjustments to the strategy may be made if deemed necessary to best meet changing and evolving needs in this protracted crisis.