**PEOPLE AFFECTED**

3.9 million  People affected  
156 000  Internally Displaced (UNHCR)  
5000  People wounded

**HEALTH SECTOR**

- 15 hospitals damaged
- 20 health facilities closed

**Major health risks**

- Insufficient access to emergency and primary health care
- Water-borne and communicable diseases with low vaccination coverage and intermittent water supply
- Mental health disorders
- Aggravation of risks with winter approaching

**FUNDING**

**Health Cluster**  
US$ 14 million requested  
US$ 0 received  
100% funding gap

**WHO**  
US$ 7.8 million requested  
US$ 40 000 received  
99.5% funding gap

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**Current Situation**

Heavy fighting continues between the Ukrainian army and Pro-Russian insurgents in the eastern part of Ukraine, mainly in the areas in and around the cities of Donetsk and Luhansk. The population within the affected areas is facing serious security threats along with a lack of access to water, health care and electricity. In the absence of law enforcement, there has been widespread looting and destruction of health care facilities. The conflict has displaced thousands of people inside and outside the country, with almost four million people estimated to be affected.

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) have dispersed over the whole country and lack a unified registration system. This has consequences for health care as people in Ukraine cannot have access to health services if they are not registered. Shelter also poses urgent health concerns, as there are no available resources for winterization.

**Health risks**

Access to health care is a critical issue. The people in Luhansk and Donetsk are cut off from the rest of the country by heavy fighting and have limited access to health services. Up to 70% of health care workers have fled, and insecurity is preventing patients from accessing health facilities. Many health facilities have been damaged, looted or destroyed, and some lack water and electricity, severely hampering their functionality. The operational health structures are experiencing shortages of essential medicines, equipment and consumables. Currently the health facility in the Donbas region operates with only 30% of surgical and obstetric capacity.

Availability and access to diagnostic tests and treatment for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and drug users have also been negatively affected. Care
for people with non-communicable diseases, TB, as well as HIV have become very limited. It is estimated that TB patients are getting only 1 out 4 drugs needed, a situation fuelling drug resistance.

It is believed that up to 400 000 IDPs in other areas of the country are without access to health services. Until now 155 800 people have registered with UNHCR as internally displaced, and more than 520 000 have fled the country. The already fragile Ukrainian health system is now completely overstretched in the areas with high IDP density and health service provision is insufficient. Vulnerable groups, such as the Roma, children, pregnant and lactating women, the elderly and disabled are at high risk with the health system's limited capacities. Medicines and consumables stocks are being completely depleted, and there is a lack of well-trained and equipped doctors and nurses. Over half of all IDP shelters (60%) lack the basic infrastructure for winter, putting the inhabitants at further risk for health concerns in the coming winter months.

The risk of outbreaks of communicable diseases remains high, particularly as water supplies are intermittent. Vaccination coverage in the entire country is low therefore, the risk of outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases is also high. With the fighting continuing, more people will be displaced and returnees as well as IDPs will become more vulnerable with the approaching winter.

Mental health support is needed for the affected population, especially IDPs and people returning to their homes in the Donbas region. The ongoing state of uncertainty and escalating violence as well as the loss of family members, friends, property and livelihoods is taking a heavy toll on the population’s mental health.

### Health Cluster and WHO Interventions

The collaboration between the health sector and the Ministry of Health is strong. The main constraints impeding the scale up of interventions are the lack of health sector funding and importation restrictions on medicines.

WHO has been able to respond through:

- Procurement of essential medicines, including emergency drugs, consumables, vaccines and minor equipment for the national health care system. Emergency Health Kits were procured and currently await import clearance.
- Working with partners to expand the scale of the national early warning system for infectious disease outbreak prevention and control, mainly in the affected areas and IDP hosting areas.
- Provision of technical assistance to MoH and other health partners.
- Providing effective leadership for the health sector, including coordinating working groups on mental health and on the health

### Health priorities:

1. Restoring access to primary, secondary and tertiary health care in the affected and IDP hosting areas.
2. Provision of essential drugs, medical supplies and medical equipment.
3. Strengthen community-based mental health/psychosocial support services for people affected (IDPs and returnees).
needs of minorities (particularly for the Roma population).

- Deployment and training of Health Impact Specialists in the affected areas to gather first-hand information on health needs, gaps and response activities. Also, Roma Health Mediators, who collate information on status and needs have been trained and deployed.
- Launch of a web-based Health Impact System platform for assessing health services and monitoring disease trends.

### Funding Requirements

The health sector is requesting US$ 14 million.

WHO is appealing for US$ 7.8 million for its planned activities:

- Targeted humanitarian response according to needs in affected areas: US$ 5,000,000
- Early recovery of health care services in post-conflict areas: US$ 2,470,000
- Provision of technical support to the Government: US$ 60,000
- Monitoring and assessment of the national health system in affected areas and nation-wide: US$ 210,000

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**56** active health partners

**15** WHO Staff in the *WHO Country Office in Kiev (2 Internationals and 5 NPOs)*

**G 2** WHO Emergency Response Framework grading of the emergency