

CRISIS INFO

Ukraine MF Emergency Response

February 2024

MSF IN UKRAINE



Working predominantly in the south and east, MSF teams are providing assistance to the Ukrainian populations by filling in the gaps of the healthcare system caused by the war.

- Mobile clinics teams are providing primary healthcare, mental health counselling and psychoeducation services, as well as sexual and reproductive healthcare, particularly in areas close to the frontlines.
- Medical donations, including medical kits, equipment and medicine to hospitals and medical facilities with shortages.
- Trainings about secondary healthcare, including psychiatric care training, mass casualty trainings and mental health to healthcare staff.
- Physiotherapy and post-surgery care, and psychological support for war-wounded and injured patients, as well as physiotherapy trainings for staff in rehabilitation wards at hospitals supported by MSF teams.

- Supporting the emergency care and intensive care unit as well as supporting the surgical capacity of hospitals near the frontlines in Donetsk and Kherson regions.
- Medical referrals and evacuation from ambulances and mobile clinics.

| Staff | Areas |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 international staff • 323 locally hired staff | <p>East:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kharkiv region, including Izium • Dnipropetrovsk region • Donetsk region Pokrovsk an ambulance service that still conducts referrals from Kostiantynivka and Selydove in Donetsk region. <p>South:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mykolaiv region • Kherson region <p>Central:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vinnytsia • Cherkasy • Zhytomyr <p>Ambulance service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bases in Apostolove (near Kryvyi Rih city), Dnipro (Dnipropetrovsk region), Pokrovsk (Donetsk region), Zaporizhzhia. • Takes patients from Kostiantynivka, Kramatorsk, Sloviansk, Izium, Pokrovsk, Selydove • Brings patients to Pavlohrad, Dnipro, Kharkiv, Kryvyi Rih, Kyiv, Zaporizhzhia |

Evacuations and referrals: ambulances and train.

MSF has 15 ambulances and we were running a medically equipped train to transfer patients, both capable of transporting those in critical condition. Due to a shift in the war's dynamic, whereby patients stay in eastern Ukraine, rather than being referred to the west, our activities using the train have wound down.

Ambulance referrals: Donetsk, Kherson, Dnipropetrovsk region.

| Train: Key figures from 28.03.2022 – 31.10.2023 | Ambulances: Key figures from in 2023 |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of trips: 137 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of patient referrals: 10,542 |



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of patients: 3,808 • Patients in ICU Wagon: 310 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of patients with violent trauma: 57% |
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Given the continued strain on the healthcare system in Ukraine, and with a continued flow of patients needing referrals due to trauma injuries related to violence, especially in the Donetsk, Kherson, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia regions, MSF ambulance teams refer patients to other hospitals where patients can receive the appropriate care. Near the frontlines in the east and south, the healthcare system is struggling to cope with both the old and new emerging medical needs caused by the fighting. To support the healthcare system, MSF was running a medical evacuation train and ambulances to evacuate patients from overburdened Ukrainian hospitals close to the frontlines to safer Ukrainian hospitals with more capacity.

Mobile clinics: primary healthcare, mental health support, sexual and reproductive health

Locations: Donetsk, Kherson, Zaporizhzhia and Kharkiv.

| Mobile Clinics: Key figures from 2023 |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health consultations: 12,724 (not including group sessions) • Primary health consultations: 59,567 • Sexual and reproductive health consultations: 3,806 |

The war has had a devastating impact on the continuity of care for those with pre-existing conditions, such as diabetes and hypertension, and the mental health of people after experiencing fear, isolation and fighting – both for internally displaced people and those still living near the frontlines. With thousands of internally displaced people living across Ukraine in shelters and lack of healthcare staff and destroyed healthcare facilities near the frontlines, people’s access to healthcare has been severely disrupted.

To ensure continuity of care and respond to the emerging mental health needs, MSF mobile clinic teams of psychologists, doctors and health promoters are supporting patients and communities with medical consultations, psychological consultations, medical and non-medical donations, and supporting the capacity of the healthcare system by reconstruction of health facilities and training healthcare staff.

In regions heavily affected by the fighting, such as in the Donetsk, Kherson and Mykolaiv, especially in the areas that are near the frontlines most of MSF’s mobile clinic patients are elderly people, who are either unwilling or unable to leave their homes. MSF doctors have consistently seen a high prevalence of chronic illnesses such as hypertension, diabetes, heart disease and epilepsy – many of which are diseases that if uncontrolled can have long-term consequences on health and require continuous care. Through our mobile clinics in the Kherson and Mykolaiv regions, we have also begun screening for tuberculosis.

Emergency department, intensive care unit and surgical interventions

Locations: Kherson city, and surge capacity support for Kostiantynivka and Selydove hospitals in Donetsk region,

| Secondary healthcare: Key figures in 2023 |
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- Emergency room consultations: **1,991**
- Surgical interventions (both assisted and performed by MSF): **479**
- Patients admitted to ER due to violent trauma: **588**

Near the eastern and southern frontline areas, people are experiencing incredible hardship as daily shelling and fighting persists. MSF is seeing patients with traumatic injuries from shelling, bomb and shrapnel blasts. At the same time, as health facilities are coping with emerging and increased needs, patients injured in car accidents or those with non-communicable diseases (for example, cardiovascular emergencies), are still prevalent.

In Kherson city, an MSF medical team supports surgical and trauma activities. From July 2022 until December 2023, MSF was supporting Kostiantynivka hospital, where our teams set up an Emergency Department, two beds in the ICU and one operating room on the ground floor of the hospital to run a contingency trauma facility. However, given the continued shelling of Kostiantynivka, there is no longer a constant MSF presence there. A mobile emergency response team for mass casualty incidents remains ready to respond in both Kostiantynivka and Selydove.

Most of the patient admissions have been related to violent trauma. 17 per cent of patients coming into the emergency departments where MSF worked in 2023 (in Kostiantynivka and Kherson) were deemed to be “red cases”, meaning that there is an immediate life threat to the patient and that the treatment window should be within 30-60 minutes of first medical contact. The MSF staff aim at alleviating the burden on the healthcare system and specifically on the trauma centres, by triaging and stabilising patients. The staff assess the needs, determine the urgency, and depending on the needs, stabilise them and refer to in-hospital department, to emergency damage-control surgery or refer them to other Ministry of Health hospitals.

Rehabilitation: Physiotherapy and psychological care

Locations: Kyiv city, Vinnytsia city, Cherkasy, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv and Sumy

| Physiotherapy: Key figures from 2023 |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physiotherapy sessions: 4,393• Number of patients: 292 |

A huge number of people have suffered severe injuries caused by the war. Without adequate, early post-surgical treatment, their recovery may remain incomplete or take much longer than necessary, affecting their lives and weighing on an overwhelmed system. MSF teams are supporting the Ukrainian healthcare system with specialisation and training in physiotherapy and post-operative care, as well as psychological consultations. Rehabilitation and mental health services were not particularly developed in the healthcare system prior to the war, but now there are a huge number of people with major injuries and the need for post-operative care is enormous; the trauma patients we see are at risk of developing long-term medical problems or permanent disabilities without proper care.

MSF have provided both theoretical and on-the-job physiotherapist training to the staff involved in physical rehabilitation of war-wounded patients in different areas until recently, but now it only continues with a training programme at a hospital in Kharkiv city.



MSF also run an early rehabilitation project for war wounded in Cherkasy and Zhytomyr regions. In the Ministry of Health hospital in Cherkasy, the team supports incoming war wounded patients. Using a multidisciplinary approach with physiotherapy, psychological and nursing care. In addition, trainings and technical support is given to hospitals in Zhytomyr.

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) Centre: comprehensive psychological care for post-traumatic stress

Location: Vinnytsia

| PTSD treatment – Key figures from 01.05.2023 – 31.12.2023 |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of counselling sessions: 778• Number of patients: 237 |

In 2023, MSF started providing specialised psychotherapeutic services for people experiencing war-related post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms in Vinnytsia. A newly custom designed mental health centre was opened in September this year. MSF offers psychological sessions for both individuals and members of the patient’s support network. Our specialists provide them with techniques to help reduce and prevent worsening of symptoms, increase coping skills, improve interpersonal functionality, and decrease consequences of traumatic stress.

A specially trained mental health promotion team is responsible for community engagement and mobilisation through partnerships with key organisations and other health providers in Vinnytsia city. In addition, we train relevant staff (medical doctors, psychologists, social workers, etc.) in partner organisations, and medical staff in primary healthcare centres in referral criteria to MSF services.

Other MSF activities across Ukraine: Donations, Training, Health Promotion (HP) and Tuberculosis (TB)

Locations: Zhytomyr and Dnipropetrovsk region, Vinnytsia

In the northwest of Ukraine, the MSF tuberculosis (TB) project in Zhytomyr that ran for five years has closed. At the end of 2023, the Biosafety Level 3 Lab was handed over to the Ministry of Health. However, in Kherson and Mykolaiv regions, MSF is continuing some TB activities, providing screening of suspected TB cases through mobile clinics.

Since the beginning of 2023, MSF has made more than 624 donations (amounting more than 2 million EUR) of medicines, medical consumables and equipment, hygiene kits and blankets.

In the same period MSF made 197 medical donations (amounting for around 900,000 EUR) to 100 health facilities (hospital and primary healthcare centres) in the oblasts of Poltava, Sumy and Kharkiv (northeast), Ivano-Frankivsk and Zakarpattia (west), Kirovohrad, Zhytomyr, Kyiv (centre) and Mykolaiv and Kherson (south).

Also in 2023, MSF made donations in Lviv and the eastern and southern regions on the frontline amounting to a total of 574 260 Euros. MSF also made 45 304 Euros in donations and spent 68 173 Euros in construction costs on health care structures.



Also between the start of 2023 and January 2024, MSF carried out mental health trainings with 189 groups and a total of 2 785 people; as well as trainings on physiotherapy with 82 groups and a total of 192 people in the oblasts of Poltava, Kharkiv, Kirovohrad and Mykolaiv. These trainings were addressed to medical professionals and specialists.

MSF HISTORY IN UKRAINE

- **1999 – 2005: HIV/AIDs and prevention of mother-to-child transmissions.** Odesa, Mykolaiv and Simferopol.
- **2011 – 2015: Drug-resistant tuberculosis treatment activities in pre-trial detention centres and prisons.** Donetsk region. *In September 2015, the Humanitarian Committee of the self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic refused permission for MSF to work in Luhansk, and in October 2015, MSF received official notification from the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic of the withdrawal of its accreditation to work in DPR.*
- **2014 – 2015: Primary healthcare and mental health support through mobile clinics and medical donations to hospitals.** More than 40 cities in northern Luhansk and Donetsk region. *Self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic issued a notification to MSF at the end of 2015 to withdraw and stop activities in Donetsk and Luhansk.*
- **2015 – 2022: Primary healthcare and mental health support through mobile clinics. Buffer zone of Mariupol and Kurakhove, and Volnovakha.** *Based in Mariupol and Kurakhove, teams worked near the frontlines and areas controlled by Ukraine in Orlivkse, Stepanivka, Starohnativka, Berdianske and Pavlopil.*
- **2015 – 2017: Drug-resistant TB treatment in pre-trial detention centres.** *Mariupol and Dnipro.*
- **2017 – 2022: Expansion of mobile clinics to southern parts of Donetsk oblast.** *Activities stopped due to escalation of war in February 2022.*
- **2017 – 2020: Hepatitis C treatment to people co-infected with HIV and medical personnel infected with Hep C in line of work in the Mykolaiv region.** *Due to the spread of Covid-19, MSF decided to close activities in March 2020.*
- **2018 – 2023: DR-tuberculosis treatment.** Zhytomyr region.