

Health emergency in Ukraine and refugee-receiving and -hosting countries, stemming from the Russian Federation's aggression

The Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly, having considered the report by the Director-General requested in decision WHA78(10) (2025) on the implementation of resolution WHA75.11 (2022);¹ recalling further the decision contained in resolution WHA75.11 that continued action by the Russian Federation to the detriment of the health situation in Ukraine, at the regional and global levels, would necessitate that the Health Assembly should consider the application of relevant articles of the Constitution of the World Health Organization; recognizing the unprecedented challenges resulting from the Russian Federation's continued aggression against Ukraine, which poses a severe threat to global public health security; condemning in the strongest terms the Russian Federation's deliberate and systematic attacks against Ukraine's electricity, heating and water supply systems, as well as other critical energy infrastructure indispensable to the civilian population and essential for the functioning of healthcare facilities and the uninterrupted delivery of life-saving health services, and recognizing the severe and prolonged public health consequences of such attacks, particularly during winter periods; acknowledging the essential work of WHO, its implementing partners, and other humanitarian organizations in addressing the health and humanitarian impacts of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine, and the wider region; acknowledging the ongoing efforts relating to the recovery of Ukraine's healthcare system, including efforts supported by WHO, other United Nations agencies, international financial institutions, and domestic and private sectors, and guided by Ukraine's health system development strategy 2030 and the WHO strategy on response, recovery and reform for the period 2024–2030; recognizing that a comprehensive and sustainable recovery of Ukraine's healthcare sector will require international support for further restoration, reform and long-term healthcare system strengthening, including investment in rebuilding medical infrastructure, supply of essential medicines and equipment, and enhancing mental health and psychosocial support services for the affected population; highlighting the role of the Ukraine recovery conferences as key international platforms for mobilizing, coordinating and sustaining investments in Ukraine's health sector and broader human capital recovery; recognizing further the scale of destruction and damage to healthcare infrastructure, including hospitals, primary care facilities, laboratories, blood services, pharmacies and public health institutions, and the resulting disruption to essential health services, immunization coverage, maternal and child health services, noncommunicable disease management, tuberculosis and HIV services, emergency care and rehabilitation; noting with grave concern that attacks on Ukraine's healthcare increased by 20%

¹ Document A79/10.

in 2025 compared to the previous year, further exacerbating disruption to essential services and increasing risks to patients and health workers;² recalling the findings of the fifth Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment, jointly conducted by the Government of Ukraine, the World Bank Group, the European Union and the United Nations, which estimates nearly US\$ 588 billion in recovery and reconstruction costs over the next decade, with the health sector facing extensive infrastructure damage, significant service delivery losses and substantial recovery and reconstruction needs, including in primary healthcare, mental health and rehabilitation, workforce support and health emergency preparedness;³ recognizing further that the continued Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine has placed extraordinary and sustained pressure on domestic financing for health, increasing reliance on emergency reallocations and external assistance, heightening risks of disruption to essential health services and financial hardship, and underscoring the need to prioritize and protect health sector financing in order to sustain progress towards universal health coverage,

Decided:

- (1) to condemn in the strongest terms the Russian Federation's continued aggression against Ukraine, including attacks on healthcare facilities documented via the WHO Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care, as well as widespread attacks affecting civilians, including children, and critical civilian infrastructure that have led to heavy casualties, and hampered access to healthcare services;
- (2) to express serious concerns over the continued health emergency in Ukraine and refugee-receiving and -hosting countries, including the negative impact on the mental health and psychosocial well-being of the population of Ukraine, triggered by the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine, as well as its wider than regional health and humanitarian impacts including, inter alia, significant numbers of refugees fleeing Ukraine; the risks of radiological, biological and chemical events and hazards; and the exacerbation of an already significant global food security crisis;
- (3) to highlight that the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine continues to constitute exceptional circumstances, causing a serious impediment to the health of the population of Ukraine, as well as having regional and wider than regional health impacts;
- (4) to draw attention to the severe and multifaceted impact of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine on persons in vulnerable or marginalized situations, especially women, children, young people, internally displaced persons, persons with disabilities, older persons, and survivors of all forms of violence, including gender-based violence, former combatants, prisoners of war and civilian detainees, and to underline the urgent need for accessible rehabilitation, long-term care, prosthetics and assistive technologies, trauma care, and community-based mental health services;
- (5) to call for respect for, and protection of, the sick and wounded consistent with the 1949 Geneva Conventions and with broader international humanitarian law, including the immediate and unconditional repatriation of all seriously wounded and seriously sick

² [Attacks on Ukraine's healthcare increased by 20% in 2025](#). Media release. Copenhagen: World Health Organization; 2026 (accessed 15 May 2026).

³ [Ukraine Fifth Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment. Main report February 2022–December 2025](#). Washington DC: World Bank; 2026 (accessed 15 May 2026).

prisoners of war as well as the release and repatriation of wounded and sick civilian detainees;

(6) to urge the Russian Federation to immediately cease any attacks against critical infrastructure across Ukraine, including hospitals and other healthcare facilities, which have resulted in reduced access to essential services such as the provision of healthcare, water, sanitation and energy, leading to devastating consequences for the civilian population, and to fully respect and protect all medical personnel and humanitarian personnel engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, the sick and wounded, civilians, health and humanitarian aid workers, and healthcare systems;

(7) to urge the relevant Member States to adhere to international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as applicable, and WHO norms and standards, and also to allow and facilitate safe, rapid and unhindered access to populations in need of assistance by staff deployed by WHO on the ground, and by all other medical and humanitarian personnel;

(8) to recognize the urgent need for the reconstruction of Ukraine's healthcare system as well as the development and implementation of long-term strategies in this regard, including for mental health and psychosocial support programmes, rehabilitation services for war victims, enhanced disease prevention and control measures, health security, antimicrobial resistance, and sustainable health financing, and to call upon Member States, international organizations, donors and partners to support initiatives in a coordinated manner aimed at rebuilding healthcare infrastructure, ensuring the training and retention of medical personnel, and improving healthcare services, particularly in war-affected regions and safeguarding adequate and predictable financing to ensure continuity of essential health services and progress towards universal health coverage;

(9) to request the Director-General:

(a) to continue to implement resolution WHA75.11, entitled "Health emergency in Ukraine and refugee-receiving and -hosting countries, stemming from the Russian Federation's aggression";

(b) to continue to work with the Government of Ukraine, international organizations, and partners to facilitate and coordinate efforts for the restoration and strengthening of Ukraine's healthcare system, including efforts to reconstruct medical facilities and train healthcare personnel, as well as to scale up health sector and cross-sectoral interventions and programmes to invest and improve population health;

(c) to report to the Eightieth World Health Assembly in 2027, through the Executive Board at its 160th session, on the implementation of resolution WHA75.11, including an assessment of the direct and indirect impact of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine on the health of the population of Ukraine, as well as the related regional and wider than regional health impacts including the adverse effects on the attainment of the objective and functions of WHO.

Sixth plenary meeting, 22 May 2026
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