SITUATION UPDATE: UKRAINE CRISIS

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www.hearttoheart.org

On February 24, 2022, Russia invaded its neighboring country of Ukraine. Major attacks have been reported across Ukraine, including in the capital, Kyiv, spreading widespread fear and panic that forced many people into shelters and subways as air raid sirens rang out in the streets of the capital. Russian troops have quickly expanded their presence across Ukraine, with military clashes ongoing in other major cities in northern, eastern and southern parts of the country.¹

According to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, in the first five days, 56 missile strikes and 113 cruise missiles were launched in Ukraine by Russian forces. This included missile attacks on the city of Kharkiv, a residential area with no military facilities. ² The attack has been widely condemned by world leaders.

The exact death toll of Ukraine's Russian invasion is unclear, but the UN human rights chief said 102 civilians have been killed and hundreds wounded – warning that figure was likely a vast undercount.³ Russia's ongoing invasion and military aggression is causing a refugee crisis as mostly women and children flee their homes the fighting. Men aged 18-60 are currently banned from leaving the country. More than 500,000 refugees have fled Ukraine to neighboring countries the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) said Monday.⁴

Significant infrastructural damage has left hundreds of thousands of people without electricity or water, while bridges and roads damaged by shelling have left communities cut off from markets for food and other basic supplies. The most pressing humanitarian needs are emergency medical services, critical medicines, health supplies and equipment, safe water for drinking and hygiene, and shelter and protection for those displaced from their homes.⁵

Heart to Heart International (HHI) has a long history of providing aid to the people of Ukraine, starting with an aid shipment worth $6 million in 1994. HHI has sent more than 60 aid shipments in the years since.

To address the current crisis, HHI's disaster response team has been coordinating with partners and other organizations to determine the most critical needs and is ready to deliver hygiene kits and medical supplies to those affected by the crisis. HHI is also preparing to deploy an Advance Response Team to the region to assess the needs on the ground and partner with local organizations supporting refugees.

“While none of us know exactly what lies ahead, we do know there will be a terrible human price to pay for the conflict,” HHI CEO Kim Carroll said. “Heart to Heart International has provided humanitarian aid to Ukraine in the past, and we are watching events closely and coordinating with our partners and partner organizations to determine when and how we will provide support to the people of Ukraine.”

https://www.hearttoheart.org/ukraine-crisis/

¹ https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2022-02-26_Ukraine_Situation%20Report%20%231.pdf
⁴ https://www.cnn.com/europe/live-news/ukraine-russia-news-02-28-22/h_ed609b521bd0bafa88e8dc26c54160a5e
⁵ https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2022-02-26_Ukraine_Situation%20Report%20%231.pdf