One year ago this month, Russia invaded Ukraine, resulting in the largest refugee crisis in Europe since World War II. Today, millions remain displaced, and 17.7 million people need humanitarian assistance. Homes and businesses have been damaged or destroyed, and more than 700 attacks on Ukraine’s health care system have been reported since the start of the war.

People living in Ukraine face barriers to care: a shrinking health workforce (due to safety concerns and displacement), rising health care costs, declining or disappearing incomes and displacement. The World Health Organization reports roughly one-third of people in active combat zones or Russian-controlled areas cannot access the medicines they need. Children and adults are going without vital vaccines, and people with chronic conditions – such as diabetes or dementia – have suffered dangerous interruptions in care.

Americares is meeting the health needs of children and adults affected by the war through its support of health centers and organizations in Ukraine, as well as Poland, Romania and Slovakia. Over the past year, Americares has provided aid valued at more than $70 million to 74 partner organizations assisting those caught in the humanitarian crisis.

In the coming months, Americares will continue to support local organizations with medicine, medical and relief supplies and technical support, including training and mental health and psychosocial support.

Americares is focusing its response in four areas:

- Medicine and relief supplies
- Mental health
- Power and heat
- Safeguarding and protection

Americares emergency response team in Kraków, Poland, is coordinating shipments of medicine and supplies into Ukraine. Since the start of the invasion, Americares has shipped more than 300 tons of medicine and relief supplies – valued at more than $63 million – to health facilities and first responders in Ukraine.

In addition to essential medicines, Americares has supplied critical medical supplies, including wound care supplies, trauma kits and diagnostic equipment to our partners. For example, through the Institute of Emergency Medicine in Poland, Americares provided handheld Butterfly iQ ultrasound probes to 15 hospitals in Ukraine, including the regional hospital where pediatric anesthesiologist Aleksji Obolonskij works, saving the lives of young trauma patients.

"Over the past month, we have transported children several times from the city of Nikopol. […] It was artillery and rocket fire every day,” says Obolonskij, “I remember one boy, 4 years old, who suffered from an abdominal injury and had signs of shock. With the help of a Butterfly iQ ultrasound, we were able to diagnose internal bleeding in time, and the child, who had a ruptured liver capsule, was urgently taken to the operating room. The child’s life was saved." To learn more about this essential delivery, click here.

At the same time, Americares Medical Outreach program has supported 20 trips by U.S.-based volunteer medical teams to Poland, Romania and Ukraine with more than $3.3 million in donated medicines and medical products.
Americares supports social service and mental health organizations in Ukraine and Poland so they have the infrastructure, as well as the technical and professional skills to ensure they can meet immediate and long-term needs. To support the mental health of people affected by the war, Americares has provided program support to partner organizations in Poland, Romania and Ukraine totaling more than $600,000. Americares has also supported crisis intervention sessions for internally displaced people, military personnel, veterans and refugees.

With Americares assistance, our partners have also trained frontline clinicians in therapy techniques that address the unique trauma of war for both children and adults. And to increase the capacity of local organizations, Americares staff have hosted education sessions for local partners to help them improve and expand mental health services for the community. To read more, click [here](https://www.americares.org/).
Power and Heat

Ukraine’s energy infrastructure has come under frequent attack. Millions of people have been left without electricity, water or heat, making generators one of the greatest health needs. While medicines and supplies remain of utmost importance, power is often the missing link as temperatures drop to freezing.

Americares has committed to provide power and heating equipment to partners in Ukraine by donating generators or providing financial support. Americares has funded more than 50 generators for Ukrainian health facilities to ensure they can operate during power cuts.

Americares is also delivering more than 500 heaters and 175 boilers to hospitals and other facilities. And in one embattled city in eastern Ukraine, Americares supported five community warming points with woods stoves and blankets. Each location can provide warm shelter for up to 150 people at a time. To learn more, click here.

Safeguarding and Protection

Americares helps partners prevent human trafficking, sexual and gender-based violence and exploitation and abuse of vulnerable people affected by the war. Additionally, Americares helps partners support the needs of people who face discrimination and marginalization. Americares has supported organizations in Poland, Romania, Slovakia and across Ukraine with funding for more than 20 safeguarding and protection projects.

For example, to help evacuate an estimated 3,000 people with disabilities from Ukraine, Americares is partnering with the World Institute on Disability to create a virtual Emergency Operations Center, where people with disabilities can access the information they need securely and safely. And in Romania, Americares partner eLiberare is training police officers, social workers and humanitarian staff working with refugees to identify and report human trafficking. Americares funding will also support housing and other services for at-risk refugees in the country.

Displaced women and refugees from Ukraine and other war-affected areas are particularly vulnerable to physical and sexual violence. Feminoteka, an Americares partner in Poland, raises awareness about violence against women and provides counseling and resources to survivors. With support from Americares, Feminoteka created a traveling exhibit promoting its helpline for women fleeing Ukraine.

“The financial support of Americares helped us organize a tour of our exhibition promoting our helpline for Ukrainian women,” says Feminoteka CEO Joanna Piotrowska. “This allowed us to reach many more refugee women who need our help.”