



Presentation

“Restoring Water Supply Systems: From Needs to Results”

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OUR RESPONSE: UKRAINE

Impacts of war



The full-scale war in Ukraine has been devastating on so many levels. Thousands of civilians have been killed and injured. Millions of Ukrainians were forced to flee the country. Millions more remain displaced inside the country.

Ukraine's critical infrastructure has been regularly targeted and attacked. This includes apartment blocks, schools, health facilities, business centers, shopping centers and power plants. Power cuts and electricity shortages have become "the new normal" in Ukraine. Every aspect of daily life and business is affected.



OUR RESPONSE: UKRAINE

Water Supply



The targeted attacks have also resulted in extensive damage to Ukraine's water-supply infrastructure and to its sanitation, irrigation and ecosystems. Millions of people are coping with unreliable and inadequate water supply and sanitation services.

The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Cluster—or WASH Cluster of UN agencies and international organizations—estimated that some 9.6 million Ukrainians have been lacking essential water supply and sanitation services this year. Damage to the water and sanitation sectors has been calculated at almost \$4 billion. The total cost of the reconstruction and recovery between 2024 and 2033 is estimated to be \$11.1 billion.



OUR RESPONSE: UKRAINE

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)



International Medical Corps' response to the full-scale war covered a wide range of activities—water supply, sanitation, hygiene and environmental protection. Our immediate responses to attacks and displacement included the distribution of bottled water and hygiene kits. Then came the rehabilitation of water and sanitation services and the drilling of boreholes to provide alternative water sources.

Last year, our WASH team adopted a more hybrid approach. We continued distributing bottled water and hygiene kits close to the frontlines. We also operated mobile water treatment units (MWTUs) and a Cash for Hygiene (C4H) program. Both programs were successful—because of how necessary they were and because they were both cost-effective interventions.



OUR RESPONSE: UKRAINE

Our Experience



Inclusion — We implement our rehabilitation projects with the principle of inclusion in mind. This includes helping to make health facilities accessible to persons with disabilities.

Improved capacity — We have built the capacity to implement major projects. These include drilling boreholes, installing water-treatment systems and refurbishing bomb shelters.

Environmental considerations — We have progressed in our response, for example, from distributing bottled water to using mobile water treatment units. We also install insulation in health facilities to help them save heat and money.

Coordination — International Medical Corps serves as co-lead of the WASH Cluster for southern Ukraine.

Adaptation to context — We align our priorities with the Ukrainian government's long-term plans. We also move toward European Union standards in reconstruction and modernization.



OUR RESPONSE: UKRAINE

WASH-Nexus Approach



International Medical Corps is committed to increasing its investment in humanitarian-development nexus programming.

Our aim is: “To provide a multisectoral integrated health response in Ukraine that supports populations and civil institutions in early recovery settings while building and preparing capacities for transition to local ownership.”

Our WASH-Nexus approach has more value-added benefits:

- It combines critical health and WASH program delivery.
- Localization — working in partnership with local authorities is central to the approach.
- The multi-sectoral, holistic approach is cost-effective.
- Capacity, track record and reputation — we can scale up and replicate proven WASH-Nexus concepts in Geographical Focus Areas based on multi-stakeholder partnerships and in line with the national policies and plans.
- Evidence, learning and innovation — we collaborate with universities, research institutes and enterprises.
- A best-practice platform — WASH-Nexus partners ensure our best practices meet national and international standards.
- Developing innovative technologies and guidelines.
- Supporting Ukraine’s and donors’ health and reconstruction priorities.

Thank You

