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# EMERGENCY RESPONSE – UKRAINE

MÉDECINS DU MONDE – GREECE

# HIGHLIGHTS

1. MdM-Greece initiated operations at the border point of Siret in Romania, on 10.03.2022 and retains permanent presence in the area since then.
2. A Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) has been deployed to Siret as well as a team of medical and programmes' staff including one GP, one gynecologist and one pediatrician. To date, a total of 12 health volunteers in teams of 4 members have taken turns supporting the operation of the MMU
3. MdM-Greece provides emergency PHC support on Siret border while it also visits and supports 7 hospitality centers for Ukrainian citizens set up in the vicinity of Siret. During the first 15 days of operation, MdM-Greece catered for a total of 420 patients in transit. These included cases with mild symptoms (*cold, flu etc*) but also chronic patients in need of more complex treatment and medication.
4. MdM-Greece has collected approx. 50 tons of NFIs (*mostly medicines and medical consumables*) so far and has already dispatched 4 humanitarian missions to Ukraine, escorting the relief items. The first MdM-Greece humanitarian mission was also supported by the Municipality of Katerini with an additional 5 tons of relief items.
5. On 24/03/2022 Médecins du Monde – Greece delivered 25 tons of humanitarian aid to the Ukrainian people in coordination with the Lviv Region and HELPUKRAINE.
6. The last load of MdM-Greece humanitarian aid was escorted by the Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs in Odessa on 03.04.2022
7. MdM-Greece collaborates with Lviv and Chernivtsi local authorities and with HELPUKRAINE regarding the dispatching of relief items to hospitals and health centers inside Ukraine



## ROMANIA – SIRET BORDER POINT

In addition to patients with chronic, non-communicable diseases such as cardiac problems and diabetes mellitus, there is a need to support patients with diagnosed epilepsy and mental disorders who are experiencing a sudden interruption of their treatment. A significant number of cases among the travelling population need emergency psychological support (PFA) due to stress and panic attacks. As days go by, MHPSS related needs, challenges and gaps become more acute. Mild antidepressants have been administered by the MdM-Greece medical team, following clinical evaluation and collaboration with psychologists on the spot. Priority needs expressed by people on the move include subsequent transportation, transit accommodation, first aid and the provision of personal protective equipment. These needs are currently being met by humanitarian actors present at the borders and in the temporary transit centers. So far, the situation

in Siret is well organized and the border area is functioning as a crossing point. At the beginning of last week (22–30 March) a gradual decrease in flows entering from Ukrainian territory into Siret was observed, while since Saturday 26.03.22 there was a slight increase.

So far, no unaccompanied minors have been observed, but the coordination team and local authorities recommend special attention and vigilance to identify possible unaccompanied minors. In any case, the administrative region of Suceava faces shortcomings in terms of health services and provisions, as the regions in the north of Romania are generally poor.

During the last week of March, about 4,500 people were crossing the Siret border on a daily basis, (*most in their own private cars*).



# INSIDE UKRAINE: CHERNIVTSI

Chernivtsi is the largest city in the south of Ukraine, with a permanent population of 250,000 people located 45 km away from the border point of Siret/Romania. 9–12 km long convoys continue daily, while waiting time to enter Romania can last from 2 to 20 hours.

Following the bombing of a convoy on 18 March, which resulted in 2 deaths, shelling also took place as near as 40 km from the town of Chernivtsi. The road network has been heavily damaged, blocking large vehicles and trucks from delivering humanitarian aid. It is therefore necessary to split humanitarian loads into smaller vehicles in order to reach the most inaccessible and remote areas.

The current people on the move seem to belong to the poorer social strata while economic hardship is now more evident as the price of diesel inside Ukraine has reached 8 euro per liter. In addition, travel bans have been stepped up, while the Ukrainian authorities are also banning the wounded and those without passports from leaving the country.

These conditions have led to the overcrowding of **500,000 displaced citizens** in the city of Chernivtsi, who are expected to cross the Siret border into Romania.

There are already problems across the country, in terms of infrastructure, administrative procedures and delays in movement, including in the Ukrainian south. As long as the armed conflict in the west con-



tinues, further challenges for people on the move are expected. Registration offices have been set up inside the city of Chernivtsi, in charge of registering IDPs arriving from other cities. It is also reported that there are shortages of medicines, injectables and insulin, primarily in the north of Ukraine.



# MDM-GREECE RESPONSE PLAN

MdM-Greece has ensured funding, supplies and staff to remain operational until the end of April and it is currently appealing to its donors in order to continue emergency operations for a period of 3 months.

The organization's plan is 3-fold and consists of the following axes:

- 1. Health & Protection at the border-crossings:** MdM-Greece wishes to maintain its presence and health operations at the border point of Siret while continuing to assess other border crossings inside Romania and Moldova in view of scaling up presence and support
- 2. Cross-border operations:** MdM-Greece plans to continue its emergency, cross-border operations inside Ukraine, dispatching relief items for people in need in collaboration with Lviv local authorities (*in the north*) and Chernivtsi local authorities (*in the south*). In collaboration with other chapters of MdM International network, MdM-Greece also plans to scale up (*material*) support to hospitals in need inside Ukraine
- 3. Emergency Support of Ukrainian refugees arriving in Greece:** MdM-Greece has already set up an Emergency Help Desk inside its premises in Athens. The desk is manned by experienced social workers and psychologists and tasked to provide urgent, needs-tailored support to Ukrainians arriving in Greece, including:
  - Administrative functions and benefits: issuance of social security number, tax number, unemployment card, disability certification, benefit payments, etc.
  - Social counselling: briefing/orientation, housing support, employment promotion and linkages to the labor market
  - Monitoring and facilitating the enrolment of children in schools
  - Provision of interpretation from Ukrainian or Russian to Greek and vice versa
  - Health awareness and promotion of routine immunization
  - Covid-19 protection and support
  - Management of referrals and interface with the National System
  - Provision of material assistance (*NFIs*)



In the months to come, MDM-Greece will strive to scale up operations inside Greece by:

1. Sustaining and expanding the operation of the Helpdesk
2. Operating specialized health care services for displaced Ukrainian citizens in the regions of Attica and central Macedonia (*including health care and epidemiological surveillance of patients suffering from chronic and noncommunicable diseases, pediatric check-ups, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, neo-natal and ante-natal care, health promotion and health education through community awareness and information activities*)
3. Providing needs-tailored psychological support and case management services, including psychological first aid, individualized psychological assistance and psychoeducation sessions, awareness raising and information on mental health issues, (social) empowerment & resilience building.







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