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# MDM-GREECE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

APRIL 2022

# HIGHLIGHTS

1. MdM-Greece initiated operations at the border point of Siret in Romania, on 10.03.2022.
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 **40 health volunteers in teams of 4**, have taken turns supporting the operation of the MMU.
3. MdM-Greece provides comprehensive PHC support & protection (*including emergency aid and MHPSS support*) on the Siret border while it also visits and supports **7 hospitality centers** for civilians fleeing the war in Ukraine, set up in the vicinity of Siret. Up to now, MdM-Greece's field medical team has catered for a total of more than **1.500 patients in transit**. These include cases with mild symptoms (*cold, flu, faint, etc*), emergency situations (*wound care*) but also chronic patients in need of more complex treatment and medication.
4. MdM-Greece has collected approx. **60 tons of NFIs** (*mostly medicines and medical consumables*) so far and has already dispatched **6 humanitarian missions** to Ukraine, escorting the relief items.
5. The largest delivery took place on 24.03.2022, when Médecins du Monde – Greece **delivered 30 tons of humanitarian aid** to the internally displaced people in Ukraine, in coordination with the Lviv Region and HELPUKRAINE.
6. MdM-Greece in collaboration with the **Hellenic Aid Department of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs** has supported the southern-eastern region of Odessa, transferring loads of humanitarian aid (*NFIs, medicines and medical consumables*) in early April.
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.
8. More than **1.300 internationally displaced people** arriving in Greece have received support and health services in Athens and Thessaloniki (*including social counseling and orientation, connection to the NHS and distribution of NFIs and food kits*).
9. So far, **13.000 people** have been directly benefited by MdM-Greece intervention, while the organization's catchment is estimated at **~400.000**.





# 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.

## Daily incidents may vary, while they mostly include:

- Chronic patients (*diabetes, high pressure*) that haven't been able to buy/find their medication
- Bacterial infections
- Patients experiencing dehydration from long driving/waiting hours
- Children with respiratory problems

A significant number of cases among the traveling population needs 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. During late March, a gradual decrease in flows entering from Ukrainian territory into Siret was observed, which remains the same to this day.

The coordination team and local authorities recommend special attention and vigilance to identify possible unaccompanied minors. The administrative re-

gion of Suceava faces shortcomings in terms of health services and provisions, as the regions in the north of Romania are generally poor.

Due to the rise of prices inside Ukraine, internally displaced people that remain in southern Ukraine are crossing the Romanian border, in order to buy gas and essential goods, as well as basic medicines, and then return back to Ukraine.

The local hospital of Siret receives approx. **30 people from Ukraine on a daily basis** (15–20 adults, 5–10 minors). Most incidents concern cardiovascular diseases or minor traumas. Due to lack of medical equipment the most severe cases are transferred to other hospitals in Romania.

In the month of April, the flow of people crossing the Siret border was **more than 1.000 on a daily basis** (women, children and elderly persons, most in their 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. Long convoys continue daily, while waiting time to enter Romania **can last from 15–20 minutes up to 3 hours.**

Following the bombing of a convoy on 18 March, which resulted in **2 deaths**, shelling also took place 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.

Currently, 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 authori-



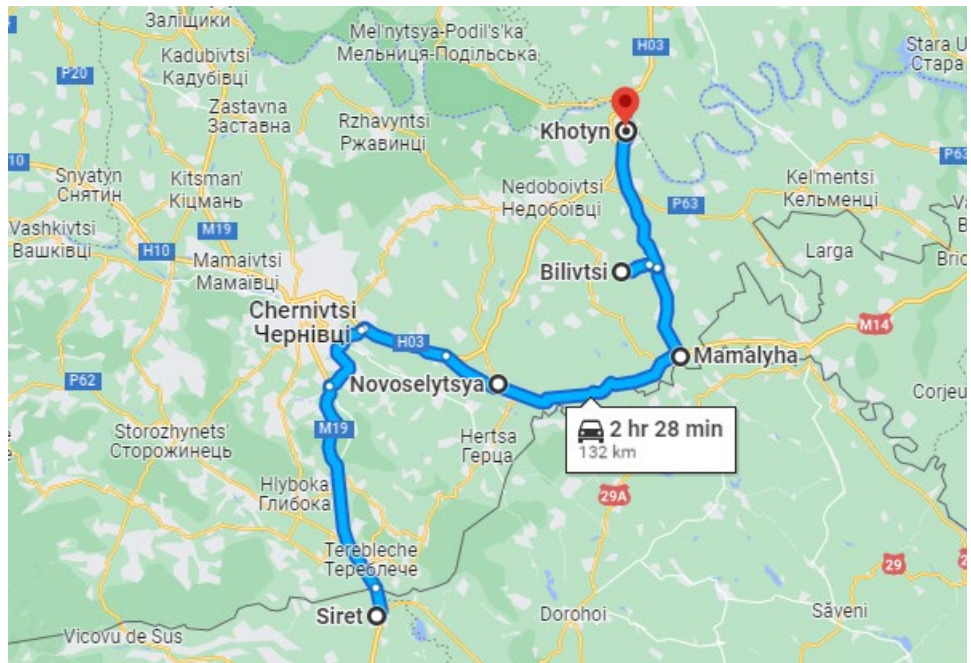
ties are also banning the wounded and those without passports from leaving the country. These conditions have led to the overcrowding of **500.000 displaced citizens** in the city of Chernivtsi, who are expected to cross the Siret border into Romania.

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 east continues, 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.





**Picture 1.** The route that the MdM-Greece team is currently following in order to offer health services and support inside Ukraine. In detail:



**Picture 1:** MdM-Greece cross border route of intervention

**NOVOSELYTSYA REGION** (1 main city, 10 villages)

**Resident Population:** 30.000 (50% of Moldovan origin)

**IDPs:** 2.500 people residing in temporary hospitality places such as schools. Most have arrived from Donetsk

**Crossings:** Since the beginning of war, more than 20.000 people have crossed the area on their way out of the country

**Local hospital's main needs:** Medical equipment and Medicines

**MAMALYHA REGION** (~10 villages and main city in proximity of Romanian and Moldovan border)

**Resident Population:** 10.000 people

**IDPs:** 1.000: 200 sheltered in temporary hospitality structures, 800 hosted in local people's houses. 1/3 are children. Most have arrived from Donbas

**Crossings:** Since the beginning of war, more than 5.000 people have crossed the area on their way out of the country

**Local health center's main needs:** Medical equipment and Medicines

**KHOTYN REGION** (1 main city, 9 villages)

**Resident Population:** 20.000 people

**IDPs:** 4.000: 400 sheltered in temporary hospitality structures (such as schools and churches), 3.600 hosted in local people's houses. Most have arrived from Kharkov, Dnipro, Kherson and Luhansk

**Khotyn Local hospital:** A total of 97 IDPs inpatients during the last month. X>15% increase in daily visits.

**Main needs:** Mobility (ambulances), Medical Equipment, Medicines, Medical Staff, specifically Gynecologist, pediatrician. To be noted that medical equipment and staff from the area have been moved to Eastern Ukraine to respond to the increasing health needs there.



**Picture 2:** Ambulance at the Khotyn Local Hospital

# MDM-GREECE RESPONSE PLAN

MdM-Greece has ensured funding, supplies and staff to remain operational until the end of June 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 west*) 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 refugees fleeing the war to 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 internationally displaced people from Ukraine arriving in Greece, including:
  - **Administrative functions and benefits:** issuance of social security number, tax number, unemployment card, disability certification, benefit payments, etc.
  - **Social counseling:** 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*)





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ΚΟΣΜΟΥ

ΜΑΤΕΡΙΝΣΚΙ  
ΤΑ ΔΙΤΥΑΧΙ  
ΚΛΙΝΙΚΑ

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