



World Health
Organization

WHO EURO/FPI Project Update September 2023

Welcome to the WHO EURO/FPI Project update for the month of September. While the project implementation is now at full speed, the mid-term review is approaching fast. Partners are investing time and resources in building partnerships and seeking synergies with other FPI-project members and beyond. This is for example evident in the close collaboration between MCU and EMS and all implementing partners on processes development and capacity building efforts which strongly contributes to one of the key objectives of the project: “Institutional sustainability and national ownership by the relevant Ukrainian authorities”.

Medevac Coordination Unit

The Medevac Coordination Unit (MCU) reports on tangible improvements to the repatriation system. The development of processes and guidelines, supported by Deutsche FlugAmbulanz and WHO, is making progress. The tools are used on a daily basis, they are examined and adapted when required, to best suit their purpose. The MCU supported the Medical Evacuation of 107 patients and the return of 69 patients in the month of September.

A key matter currently being addressed by the MCU are the specifics around qualitative medical documentation when patients return to Ukraine, as this not only ensures appropriate follow-up care but also the necessary social and financial support the patients need.

The MCU and it’s work was covered extensively by Ukrainian media with multiple print and TV media coverages in the last month.

In September, the Athena WAC hotline, supporting Ukrainian citizens with orientation for cancer treatment, received 325 calls of which 126 were referred to the MCU for potential treatment abroad. Breast cancer continues to be the most prevalent group of callers that seek support from of the hotline operators.



1 - Evacuation of 17 patients and 7 family members to Medical HUB Jasionka for future transportation by Norwegian team to Germany, France, Netherlands, and Norway. (Volodymyr Ananievych, Lviv EMS, Sept. 2023)

Burns- and Surgical care support

Global Response Medicine (GRM) finished a month-long training rotation early September. Twenty clinicians from the 3 different burn centres received training on treatment of burns-patients. GRM is further coordinating with the Ministry of Health and burn specialists from EU and others to discuss a holistic approach, aiming to improve burn care and coordination of the centres in country.

Surgical training was provided to 25 specialists clinicians in the Dnipro region.

A cohort of 8 clinicians was selected for an emergency medicine fellowship in conjunction with the Kharkiv Medical University and Kharkiv Regional Hospital. The cohort has received two rounds of training to date with a third in process currently (October) for the development of civilian emergency medicine in the region.



2 - Kharkiv Oblast frontline hospital physicians receive point of care ultrasound training from Global Response Medicine. (Andres Dias, GRM, June 2023)

Repatriation Support

Five repatriations to the Medevac hub in Jasionka were safely carried out by Deutsche Flugambulanz. The process for these repatriations is going well, using both commercial and ambulance flights and

under the permanent coordination of the MEDEVAC Coordination Unit. The cooperation with operational partners involved, including the Lviv Emergency Medical Services and the MEDEVAC Hub Jasionka continues to show good cooperation.



3 - Repatriation Missions of Ukrainian Patients (Sept. 11th 2023, ops@deutscheflugambulanz.de)

Cross-border Transport

The Lviv Emergency Medical Services, in coordination with the Ministry of Health, continue to ensure all cross-border transport for the international referrals of Ukrainian citizens, including both the MEDEVAC and repatriation movements. Most transports go over Rzeszow in Poland, with support of the MEDEVAC Hub Jasionka, but transports are also ensured from Krakow, Warsaw, and other cities in Poland. Patients are then handed over for further treatment and rehabilitation at the Western Area Health Hub in Lviv.

Lviv EMS are exploring the options for longer-range missions. This would mean that ambulance vehicles from Lviv can pick up patients from a selected number of countries, with respect for the comfort and the safety of the patient and the staff involved. This service extension could become a viable alternative to existing repatriation mechanisms if a sustainable resourcing system can be identified.

The EMS team received a new ambulance bus with 3 stretchers and 22 seats, donated by the Government of Norway. Training with the new bus was organised in Poland in early September with support from the EU and WHO. The bus is fully equipped for the monitoring and continued treatment of patients, including for those severely injured/sick.



4 - Ukrainian medical professionals are learning to use a lift to up- and off-load patients on stretchers (Anna Kavouras, WHO, Sept.2023)



5 - Bed-side training for Ukrainian medical professionals the Medical Simulation Center of the Medical College of Rzeszow. Preparing a patient for transportation. (Anna Kavouras, WHO, Sept.2023)

Critical Care Patient Transport

Artesans ResQ continues to deepen their collaboration with local healthcare institutions in Dnipro and the surrounding region. This collaboration is crucial as it provides essential information about critical care transportation, competence levels, and the existing processes. These insights serve as vital components of Artesans ResQ ongoing work.

Artesans ResQ prepared the first of a series of training courses on ICU/critical care transfers. This included a successful test run in collaboration with Médecins Sans Frontiers which generated significant attention and interest in their training concept.



6 - Cross organizational handover in the Eastern Ukraine MEDEVAC between MSF and Artesans-ResQ (Jonathan Vinke, Artesans ResQ, Aug.2023)

Project Management

The Project Management Team is strengthening data visualisation and support the MEDEVAC Coordination Unit with information management tools as well on the support on rehabilitation-efforts.

The teams' work was split between direct technical and managerial support to all implementing partners, coordination with external partners, especially DG Sante and Echo and preparations for the upcoming Mid-term project review.



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