

CDC established a country office in Ukraine in 2010 and continues to work closely with the Ukraine Ministry of Health (MOH), the Public Health Center of Ukraine (UPHC), and other partner organizations to build and strengthen the country's core public health capabilities. These include data and surveillance; laboratory capacity; workforce and institutions; prevention and response; and policy, communications and diplomacy. Priority program areas address public health systems, emergency response, HIV, antimicrobial resistance, immunization, and to meet its obligations under International Health Regulations (IHR 2005). Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, CDC has mobilized technical and financial resources to support the resilience and continuity of the public health systems. This includes efforts to halt the spread of antimicrobial resistant pathogens among the war wounded throughout the Ukraine health system, western Europe, and beyond.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Data & Surveillance

- Established scalable digital solutions for rapid monitoring of microbiology laboratory data and antibiotic use at hospital and aggregate-levels



Laboratory

- Trained laboratory staff in biosafety, security, and genomic sequencing alongside developing the national plan for biosafety cabinet certification, inspection, and maintenance



Workforce & Institutions

- Supported training for 44 public health professionals who graduated from the Advanced Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) since 2018



Prevention & Response

- Deployed rapid responders to support the mitigation of emerging health threats resulting from the Russian attack against the Nova Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant in 2023



Policy, Communications & Diplomacy

- Developed strategies to address vaccine hesitancy, vaccine safety surveillance, and risk communication alongside developing recommendations and control measures for measles and polio

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

In 2022, Ukraine accepted the designation as an Intensive Support Partner (ISP) Country for Health Security by the U.S. National Security Council. CDC's global health security work in Ukraine focuses on supporting Ukraine to strengthen the country's public health system and address leading public health threats. The 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine marked a pivotal moment for the resiliency of the Ukraine public health system. With support from CDC, efforts to leverage detailed action plans on disease surveillance, laboratory systems, workforce development, biosafety and biosecurity, immunization, and other critical areas have been prioritized for system continuity and health service provision. CDC focuses on partnering with Ukraine across the following initiatives:

National Public Health Institutes

CDC assisted Ukraine's MOH to strengthen the UPHC, which serves as an organizational home for Global Health Security programs and activities. In 2022, with support from CDC and other interagency partners, Ukraine passed key legislative reforms to facilitate greater coordination and cohesion across the public health and health system at the regional level.

Workforce Development

In 2018, CDC supported the establishment of the Advanced FETP in Ukraine. This is an intensive two-year training program to prepare graduates for leadership roles in public health at the national level. In 2021, a Frontline FETP was established to provide three-month training for local and community-level health workers. Since 2021, Ukraine has also participated in the Eastern Europe and South Caucasus Intermediate FETP. Despite the ongoing war with Russia, Ukraine has maintained engagement in FETP and leveraged the program to address the acute needs of the public health system and for internally displaced Ukrainians.

CDC also supports Ukraine, in collaboration with the Association of Public Health Laboratories, to implement the Global Laboratory Leadership Program (GLLP). The Ukraine GLLP launched in 2021 and models a One Health approach that recognizes the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment.

HIV

Through PEPFAR, CDC partners with Ukraine to strengthen its HIV response by enhancing treatment access, ART optimization, and retention, particularly for key populations like people who inject drugs. Efforts include scaling up PrEP for high-risk groups, preventing mother-to-child transmission, and improving data-driven programming with robust surveillance and information systems. CDC also supports the development of HIV laboratory networks and quality management systems to improve care and outcomes for people living with HIV.

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)

Ukraine's high pre-war rates of AMR, including carbapenem-resistant organisms (CRO), have worsened due to increased traumatic injuries and strained healthcare. CRO infections are spreading within Ukraine's hospital system and among patients transferred to Western Europe and U.S. military facilities. CDC collaborates with Ukraine's MOH, UPHC, and partners to strengthen AMR prevention and detection, enhance microbiologic and genomic testing, improve infection control, and develop digital monitoring systems.

Immunization

Ukraine's low immunization coverage, worsened by COVID-19 and the war, has increased the risk of vaccine-preventable diseases. CDC supports Ukraine's MOH by strengthening leadership and management capacity, improving partner collaboration and coordination, revising immunization policies, addressing vaccine hesitancy, enhancing vaccine safety surveillance, and advancing risk communication strategies.

