

Emergency response in Ukraine and surrounding countries

Regional consultations with the regional focal points of UN Agencies, the Red Cross Movement and INGOs in the WHO European Region.

Previously the “Regional WHO-UN-Red Cross coordination platform for COVID-19”, the **Regional WHO-UN-Red Cross coordination platform for Emergencies** is a World Health Organization (WHO) initiative built on a stakeholder-wide technical platform as a regional mechanism for convening briefings with UN Agencies, the Red Cross Movement and other international non-governmental organizations (INGO’s) to identify areas of alignment between activities, complementarity of mandates, and possible joint strategies in response to emergencies in the WHO European Region.

The Regional WHO-UN-Red Cross coordination platform for Emergencies, as a work-stream of the issue-based coalition for health (IBC-Health), facilitates information exchange and coordination at the regional level to enhance inclusive, multi-stakeholder engagement at the country level, ensuring a multi-sectoral response to emergencies. The platform also emphasizes and relies on two-way communication, with key information and insights made available by colleagues at the country level, as well as at the regional level.

The platform will serve as a forum for joint discussions across emergency focal points on activities, and sharing of relevant guidance, frameworks and resources regarding ongoing emergencies in the WHO European Region.

The goal of discussions on this platform is to facilitate a tightly coordinated and harmonized multi-sector response that saves more lives, reaches beyond the health sector to support a holistic, inclusive response and recovery, and informs the Incident Management Support Team (IMST) and IBC.

Attendance is open to focal points to this platform, which have been appointed by Regional Directors of all engaged agencies and organizations, as well as members of the issue-based coalitions for health (IBC-Health), its various workstreams, other IBCs and relevant stakeholders on a meeting-by-meeting basis.

Objectives and expected outcomes:

The primary focus of forthcoming meetings will be on the ongoing Grade 3 emergency response in Ukraine, as well as preparedness and response activities and updates from surrounding countries impacted by the flow of refugees from Ukraine. Meetings will be convened on a regular basis to inform regional-level partners of key strategies, priorities and plans among agencies and organizations regarding the affected Member States and to further discuss, exchange information and coordinate regional-level activities.

The expected outcomes of the proposed coordination meetings include:

- Enhanced coordination and dialogue between health and non-health related agencies on country-specific matters, and provision of multi-sectoral input to the health needs and challenges of individual countries;
- Information sharing across Platform members, the IBC-Health and other IBCs to ensure all partners are up to date with ongoing emergency response activities and developments;
- Defined action points and possible next steps regarding Regional support based on discussion outcomes, identified challenges, best practices and opportunities for enhanced coordination and collaboration.

A provisional agenda for each session will be circulated prior to the meeting date and suggested priority topics and discussion points are welcomed and encouraged from all stakeholders.