

WHO FINANCING INTERVENTION IN HEALTH-RELATED EQUIPMENT PROJECTS IN UKRAINE: A STRATEGIC EVALUATION

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Ivanova R.Yu. WHO financing intervention in health-related equipment projects in Ukraine: a strategic evaluation.

This article looks at the World Health Organization (WHO) financing in the healthcare system of Ukraine within the context of military conflict and its consequences. The research elaborates on the important financing plans, funds provision, and emergency measures the WHO has undertaken in order to support the provision of critical healthcare services in Ukraine. It emphasizes the organization's role in healthcare reconstruction, epidemic preparedness, and structural changes in the war-impacted area.

WHO provided funding in three broad categories: an urgent emergency response, rebuilding health policies, and providing restorative health infrastructure. The organization has committed considerable resources to the rehabilitation of trauma services, mobile health units, and mental health services for internally displaced persons. Furthermore, WHO's programs have made it possible to institute vaccination campaigns against trivialized illnesses of measles, tuberculosis, and poliomyelitis which endangers many because of the displacement caused by war and the ungodly living conditions.

WHO funding aimed to improve the healthcare procurement and supply system of Ukraine so that essential medicines, vaccines, and other medical supplies and equipment are delivered to the neediest regions. Additionally, WHO prepared funding from a global perspective, which aims to facilitate cooperation in overcoming a health emergency and reinforce the health system's resilience during extended conflict periods.

This analysis highlights the importance of global institutions in resolving public health crisis and offering necessary medical aid to people affected by conflicts. The WHO's aid in Ukraine gives short-term relief, but also helps to ease the prospective healthcare reforms for Ukraine in the European Union which requires long-term relief. Further studies need to address the effects of these interventions over time and formulate powerful financing strategies for healthcare in war torn areas.

Key words: World Health Organization, global health policy, international organization, healthcare reform, emergency response, medical services, international law, Ukraine, finance law.

Іванова Р.Ю. Фінансування ВООЗ проектів з обладнання для охорони здоров'я в Україні: стратегічна оцінка.

У статті розглядається фінансування Всесвітньою організацією охорони здоров'я (ВООЗ) системи охорони здоров'я України в умовах військового конфлікту та його наслідків. Дослідження детально описує важливі плани фінансування, фінансування та надзвичайні заходи, вжиті ВООЗ для підтримки надання критичних медичних послуг в Україні. Він підкреслює роль організації у відбудові охорони здоров'я, готовності до епідемії та структурних змінах у постраждалих від війни території.

ВООЗ надала фінансування у трьох широких категоріях: термінове реагування на надзвичайні ситуації, відновлення політики охорони здоров'я та забезпечення відновлення інфраструктури охорони здоров'я. Організація виділила значні ресурси на реабілітацію травматологічних служб, мобільних медичних пунктів і служб психічного здоров'я для внутрішньо переміщених осіб. Крім того, програми ВООЗ зробили можливим започаткувати кампанії вакцинації проти тривіальних хвороб кору, туберкульозу та поліомієліту, які загрожують багатьом через переміщення, спричинене війною та нечестивими умовами життя.

Фінансування ВООЗ було спрямоване на покращення системи закупівель та постачання медичних послуг в Україні, щоб основні ліки, вакцини та інші медичні вироби та обладнання доставля-

лись у найбільш потребуєчі регіони. Крім того, ВООЗ підготувала фінансування з глобальної точки зору, яка спрямована на сприяння співпраці в подоланні надзвичайних ситуацій у сфері охорони здоров'я та зміцнення стійкості системи охорони здоров'я під час тривалих періодів конфлікту.

Цей аналіз підкреслює важливість глобальних інституцій у вирішенні кризи громадського здоров'я та наданні необхідної медичної допомоги людям, які постраждали від конфліктів. Допомога ВООЗ в Україні дає короткострокове полегшення, але також допомагає полегшити майбутні реформи охорони здоров'я України в Європейському Союзі, які потребують довгострокового полегшення. Подальші дослідження потребують усунення наслідків цих втручань з часом і розробки потужних стратегій фінансування охорони здоров'я в охоплених війною районах.

Ключові слова: Всесвітня організація охорони здоров'я, глобальна політика охорони здоров'я, міжнародна організація, реформа охорони здоров'я, реагування на надзвичайні ситуації, медичні послуги, міжнародне право, Україна, фінансове право.

Statement of the Problem.

As a result of the current military conflict, Ukraine has suffered a lot of damage to its healthcare infrastructure. This has caused a disruption in the medical supply chain, limited access to essential services, and worsened public health issues. Moreover, the wide-scale displacement has put even more strain on Ukraine's healthcare systems, resulting in a higher need for emergency medical care, trauma care, and mental health services. To help mitigate these healthcare disruptions, international and local aid organizations, especially the WHO, have provided essential financial help and assisted in the allocation of medical resources and the recovery of the health sector.

One of the most pressing problems in Ukraine's healthcare sector is the loss of medical supplies and the destruction of the healthcare facilities as a consequence of the war. In the conflict-affected area, there are a lot of hospitals and clinics which have either been damaged or are non functional. As a consequence, the government and humanitarian agencies have had to resort to setting up emergency field hospitals and mobile medical units. In addition, mass vaccination campaigns and disease prevention efforts are greatly needed due to the increasing rate of infectious diseases like tuberculosis, polio, and measles.

Moreover, the issue of mental wellbeing among the displaced persons and frontline staff has worsened and has been further complicated by prolonged exposure to war-related trauma. In regards to healthcare recovery, the more complex psychological programs, mental health contractions, and medical staff training in trauma care have become parts of the whole system strategy. This strategy, however, is not complete without addressing issues of health staff wellbeing which has been neglected for too long time.

All these make it necessary to understand THE WHO's funding approaches and actions in the country related to healthcare response, medical infrastructure recovery and development in the context of subsequent sectorial resilience for possible analysis. This scoping study sets out to assess the health financing response to the crisis in Ukraine and propose a system of sustainable healthcare financing for the post-conflict recovery of Ukraine.

The state of problem solving.

This study seeks to evaluate the financial strategies and intervention mechanisms WHO utilized in Ukraine's healthcare sector. It intends to analyze the sufficiency of these financial expenditures in meeting emergency medical care, rehabilitating health system infrastructure, and performing comprehensive reforms within the health sector. The study also aims to assess the implications of funding healthcare in the post-conflict zones and attempt to devise financing schemes that are applicable in other crises around the world. At the same time, the study will evaluate the collaboration of WHO with other international agencies, governments, and non-governmental organizations to formulate optimum approaches for future health interventions in devastated countries. The research on the financial approaches of WHO contributes to the wider range of international health financing issues of conflict-affected countries and formulates directions for improving global healthcare system's robustness towards shocks in conflict-affected regions.

The aim of the research.

The evaluation of financial spending by WHO in conflict-prone areas has received considerable attention in literature and reporting. An analysis of the International Organization's expenditures will also reveal the role of WHO's underwriting for global health emergencies alongside financing reports, policy implementation critiques, and emergency mobilization evaluation reports. The organization's financing mechanisms such as voluntary and assessed contributions have been studied vis-a-vis funding for preparedness for the pandemic, epidemic response, and post- conflict recovery programs.

There seems to be no shortage of literature on WHO's management of systemic public health emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic, Ebola pandemic, and natural disasters. Nonetheless, there seems to be even less attention to documented efforts of WHO in the delineated regions, especially dealing with finances aimed at reconstructing the healthcare systems and providing mental healthcare to the population affected by the conflict.

In terms of Ukraine, there are available evaluation reports from WHO and partner organizations that detail expenses related to the financing of emergency care and system support during the stabilization phase. On the contrary, understanding how funds are spent, the enduring effect of health financing in Ukraine, and the WHO-economy integration are some of the numerous known gaps. Furthermore, examining the other countries remains will aid in understanding what works best in providing funding in the backdrop of humanitarian crisis.

Main Material.

The budgeting and financing for health on a global scale is also the core mandate of the World Health Organization (WHO). It has thrust a lot of resources into the strengthening of health systems, eliminating epidemic diseases, and dealing with crisis response. These components constitute WHO'S financial mechanisms for low income, conflict sensitive and world disease eradication programs. Since the beginning of the war between Russia and Ukraine in 2022, WHO has broadened the scope of its financial and operational assistance to Ukraine, which has allowed for the provision of the health services in the midst of infrastructure damage and widespread displacement.

The Health Emergency Appeal for 2025, by WHO, sets health priorities in Ukraine around three crucial areas:

1. Emergency health response,
2. Health system recovery,
3. Reform processes in the health sector [1].

This paper explores the financings strategies, measures taken with regard to allocation of funds to control the epidemic and illucits the differences in financial contributions between Ukraine and the other nations, as well as between the different regions in Ukraine regarding budgetary support, emergency response, and healthcare reforms. WHO's financing initiatives were carried out through

WHO's funding is a mixture of assessed and many voluntary contributions. They also have a regular and predictable fund because of their assessed contributions. The UNEC's main source of finances are: Assessed contributions: Compulsory contributions from 194 member states. These are the main component of WHO's budget. Voluntary contributions: Funds received from governments, multilateral agencies or private individuals like the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Contingency funds: Funds allocated for public health emergencies, outbreaks of disease and crises of humanitarian nature [2]. The WHO's Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan is a crucial funding aspect. It enables prompt financial support to be allocated for pandemic actions, implementing vaccine drives, and establishing healthcare capabilities. In 2024, the WHO specified \$5.2 billion for global health emergencies, and out of that, \$1.8 billion was allocated towards combating infectious disease outbreaks [3].

The WHO focuses on the management of epidemics by ensuring adequate funding for disease tracking, vaccines, and quick response to outbreaks in the allocated funds. Fund Allocation for Emergency Epidemics:

- Response to COVID-19: Between the years 2020-2023, the WHO spent \$10.8 billion on the COVAX initiative, diagnostic testing, and global vaccine strategies [4].
- Ebola Response Plans: In the support of rapid response teams in the DR Congo, Uganda, and Guinea, WHO spent \$500 million in 2022 [5].
- Cholera and Malaria: Water sanitation and vector control, and mass vaccination campaigns in Africa and South Asia were supported by a \$1.2 billion investment by the WHO in 2024 [6].

The International Health Regulations (IHR) emergency fund has assisted in the quick funding of newly arising infectious illnesses like monkey pox, which funding of \$800 million was allocated by the WHO in 2023 [7].

The military conflict in Ukraine is damaging the healthcare sector, which means humanitarian assistance is needed immediately. The WHO's Humanitarian Appeal for Ukraine identified 9.2 million individuals needing health services and allocated USD 68.4 million for response actions [8]. At hand, WHO undertook the following actions: budgetary assistance for Ukraine is provided through the Financial Strategy for Ukraine 2023, Health Sector Recovery Plan 2022-2024, and further appeals for Ukraine.

WHO's Ukraine Budgetary assistance, health sector recovery plan, and other relevant response plans are based on the following pillars:

1. Emergency medical services: Improving trauma care and strengthening frontline medical services.

2. Restoration of health services: Supplementing public health, mental health programs, and essential medical care.

3. Further reforms: bringing Ukraine's health system into alignment with EU directives to ensure health systems integration sustainability [9].

For Ukraine, the 2025 budget allocates the following: USD 41.3 million to trauma care and emergency rehabilitation services. USD 16.9 million to medical supply chains, pharmaceuticals, and health logistics. USD 5 million to health governance and surveillance [10].

Ukraine's conflict-affected regions, specifically Donetsk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia are severely underserved in healthcare infrastructure, personnel, and emergency medical services. The following objectives are included in WHO's 2025 strategy:

- Emergency Trauma Care: WHO has earmarked USD 25 million for the provision of field hospitals, mobile emergency units, and trauma centers.
- Infectious Disease Prevention: WHO conducts extensive anti-measles, tuberculosis, and polio vaccination campaigns in areas with conflict.
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS): WHO has a goal of training 5,000 health professionals to extend mental health programs for the displaced in Ukraine [11].

One of the core achievements this year was the deployment of 28 modular primary healthcare units in Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, and Odesa which are expected to serve approximately 120,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) [12].

The WHO has maneuvered its strategy towards global health financing, particularly in conflict settings such as Ukraine, which demonstrates the need for continuous investment in the emergency response, disease mitigation, and rehabilitation of the health system. This approach encompasses the psychosocial trauma, infectious diseases, and mental health funding which illustrates the commitment of WHO to humanitarian healthcare and the maintenance of health system resilience in fragile states. In the future, stronger international collaboration and deepening aid promises will be essential in meeting the health system challenges and consolidating the health systems around the world.

Conclusion.

The World Health Organization's engagement with Ukraine healthcare assists the country in accessing funds and sustaining public health services. Ukraine's health infrastructure is directly challenged by the ongoing war on terrorism, and the deep psychological trauma and ill health caused by it calls for immediate international healthcare assistance strategies. It is noted that WHO has extended massive funding in 2025 to support emergency aids while simultaneously undertaking gradual disruptions systemic rehabilitation and complex restructuring agendas. Ukraine in its current state would require prompt funding for essential services like primary healthcare, psychological attention and trauma deemed necessary by the World Health Organization. This funding guarantees that conflict ridden individuals receive the necessary healthcare. Furthermore, WHO's pivotal supporting role in enhancing public health in Ukraine and medical infrastructure rehabilitation puts him at the forefront of spearheading EU centered reforms in healthcare.

As such, WHO does not only tackle healthcare services gaps, but keeps herself to address an emerging need to intervene globally in health crises situations. With Ukraine Healthcare policy integration within the EU paradigm, the country's sustainability in the health sector can be strengthened with appropriate experts. The emphasis of this purposeful action is on international collaboration to strategically finance and tackle health problems.

In the future, it will be important to analyze how WHO funds its activities and find innovative ways to finance healthcare services in the regions afflicted by conflict. Strengthening financial resilience, ensuring transparency, and fostering international collaboration will be critical in meeting future global health challenges. As Ukraine reconstructs its healthcare system, the ongoing engagement and funding from WHO will be crucial in anchoring and advancing the national health system towards modern needs, and consequently, improving the health of millions.

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