

# Health across the Frontline

Access for internally displaced  
people and communities divided  
from health services by the war in  
east Ukraine

Lily Hyde

# The war has devastated health infrastructure in Donbas

- 139 of 247 medical facilities damaged by the conflict
- Less than 60% staffing of medical facilities in government-controlled areas



# **WHO estimates that 2.2 million people in eastern Ukraine are in need of essential, life-saving healthcare services**

- **Government Controlled Areas:** problems with primary healthcare access; referrals; tertiary services now on the other side of the frontline have not been replaced; no budget for healthcare for IDPs.
- **Non-Government Controlled Areas:** problems with supplies of vaccines, medications, laboratory reagents and equipment; staffing shortages; huge need for mental health services

**About a million people cross the frontline  
each month for work, family reasons, and  
services like healthcare**



# Healthcare provision is a propaganda and 'soft power' opportunity for the de facto authorities in non-government controlled areas



ГУМАНИТАРНАЯ ПРОГРАММА  
ПО ВОССОЕДИНЕНИЮ НАРОДА ДОНБАССА

# **Problems in accessing health services for IDPs and people crossing the frontline**

- **expenditure (money and time)**
- **discrimination**
- **bureaucracy**
- **not enough services**

# Positive examples of healthcare collaboration across frontlines

- HIV and TB
- Opioid Substitution Therapy
- Other countries: Moldova and Georgia



# **The impact of Ukrainian health reform on health across the frontline**

- IDPs can now choose family doctors irrespective of place of registration**
- Will be difficult to reintegrate health structures currently on non-government controlled areas**