

HEKS-EPER staff unload food for hot meal distribution
Kharkiv, Ukraine
March 28, 2022



**HEKS
EPER**
Bread for all.

UKRAINE

HEKS-EPER UKRAINE

Activity Map



HEKS-EPER in Ukraine

In response to the February 24th, 2022 invasion of Ukraine, HEKS-EPER deployed an emergency response team to establish critical activities in frontline locations. By early April, HEKS-EPER Ukraine had a 25-strong team stretching across six different oblasts with **active multi-sectoral interventions in four oblasts assisting thousands of people in hot spots.**

HEKS-EPER chose Odesa for its country office, deciding to have a **forward-based presence** for its intervention. The decision was based off factors such as absence of other INGOs and UN agencies, proximity to areas of unmet need, possible logistical supply chains and likelihood of escalating human suffering.

While most INGOs and UN agencies had a strong presence in eastern Ukraine and Kyiv before the war, and then shifted to the west after the outbreak of war, **the south and centre remained largely absent of major INGO or UN presence** in the weeks following the February 24th invasion. HEKS-EPER therefore saw a chance to fill the gaps in humanitarian response. The needs in southern Ukraine have been widespread from the first days of the war, as it has been one of the major theatres of the conflict.

To engage with unmet needs in other areas of Ukraine, HEKS-EPER also established activities in Kharkiv using the rail network to transport basic food and medical supplies. **HEKS-EPER now seeks to expand its activities to meet even greater needs.**

Activities

Hot Meals

Utilizing the abundant stock of fresh food in Odesa and functioning rail network, HEKS-EPER sends weekly food deliveries to its kitchens in Kharkiv. Through these kitchens, **HEKS-EPER feeds an average of 3,300 people every day with hot meals**, either through hot meal distribution points in schools or through a network of drivers delivering hot meals to people residing in metro stations and other makeshift bomb shelters in areas of heavy fighting. Many of these people reside in these subterranean bunkers for weeks and rely solely on aid from those brave enough to bring it.

Food basket delivery

For small numbers of vulnerable people who are unable to access distribution points HEKS-EPER distributes food packages with food for one week. **HEKS-EPER reaches approximately 250 HHs a week** with this highly targeted assistance. HEKS-EPER is also establishing an emergency stock of food packages to position in forward locations like Mykolaiv and Zaporizhzhia for quick distribution to newly accessible areas and to aid evacuated populations.

Medicine delivery

HEKS-EPER additionally delivers medical consumables to hospitals and highly immobile beneficiaries in Kharkiv (for the same reasons stated above). All medical requests are checked by HEKS-EPER's medical coordinator. **Some of these beneficiaries are in areas along the frontline only accessible by bicycle**, so HEKS-EPER staff make the arduous journey to deliver these life-saving goods to hard-to-reach areas.



Beneficiary receiving food package
Kharkiv, Ukraine
March 28, 2022



Combined medicine
and food distribution
Kharkiv, Ukraine
March 30, 2022

Activities (continued)

Multi-purpose cash assistance



HEKS-EPER has begun MPCA in three different oblasts (see map) with a current targeted caseload of 1,000 beneficiaries in total, each receiving the equivalent of 200 EUR (combined value of three tranches of the MPC transfer value designated by the Cash Working Group).

In Kherson, HEKS-EPER teams are selecting individuals greatly affected by the war in close collaboration with social services. The humanitarian situation in the city has deteriorated sharply since it became the first city to be captured by Russian forces in the invasion, and HEKS-EPER is one of the only INGOs operating there. In Mykolaiv and Zaporizhzhia, HEKS-EPER is selecting families whose members have been injured in the war or those whose homes have been destroyed in fighting.

Hygiene kit distribution



HEKS-EPER quickly realized that its hot meal interventions in basement and metro shelters in Kharkiv should be complemented by WASH activities and emergency hygiene kit distribution, as hygiene conditions in these areas are inhumane and largely not being responded to. HEKS-EPER has distributed 432 hygiene kits to a Kharkiv metro shelter with high WASH needs (see right).

Sub-grants



HEKS-EPER is awarding grants to registered national NGOs providing emergency humanitarian assistance in key locations. Each NGO has been selected based on their geographic coverage and scope of operations, aligning with or complementing HEKS-EPER responses in support of the most heavily, conflict-impacted populations. Areas of coverage include Berdiansk, East Mykoliav, Kherson and Kharkiv.

Hot meal distribution in HEKS-EPER Joint Kitchen
Kharkiv, Ukraine
March 28, 2022



A metro shelter where HEKS-EPER has distributed hygiene kits
Kharkiv, Ukraine
March 28, 2022



Hot Meal Distribution Pictures

Hot meal distribution in shelter
Kharkiv, Ukraine
April 5, 2022



Hot meal distribution in shelter
Kharkiv, Ukraine
April 5, 2022



Hot Meal Distribution Pictures

Hot meal distribution in HEKS-EPER Joint Kitchen
Kharkiv, Ukraine
April 5, 2022



Hot meal distribution in hospital
Kharkiv, Ukraine
April 5, 2022



Hot Meal Distribution Pictures

Hot meal distribution in shelter
Kharkiv, Ukraine
March 30, 2022



Hot meal distribution in shelter
Kharkiv, Ukraine
March 30, 2022

