

## World Physiotherapy humanitarian support for Ukraine

Dear colleagues.

The situation is moving fast in Ukraine. We have been in contact with our member organisation the Ukrainian Association of Physical Therapy / Українська Асоціація фізичної терапії and will continue to support our colleagues and friends in the association in any ways we can.

This email is to update you on some of the activities World Physiotherapy is involved with and to ensure we continue to manage resources effectively and avoid any duplication of effort.

It is clear World Physiotherapy has a significant role in coordinating efforts and ensuring activities continue to be based on identified needs.

### Resources

On Monday we put out a statement of support for the people of Ukraine. You can read the statement here: [Statement about Ukraine | World Physiotherapy \[1\]](#) We have created a webpage of humanitarian resources for Ukraine. We will update this webpage regularly: [Humanitarian support in Ukraine | World Physiotherapy \[2\]](#)

### Member organisations

We have been meeting and communicating with our member organisations in Poland, Hungary and Romania to offer support around displaced people. There is an evolving medical crisis in these countries/territories which border Ukraine and, as bombing continues, people with rehabilitation needs will replace displaced people. The Polish Chamber of Physiotherapists [3], our member organisation in Poland, has created a humanitarian portal to support housing and accommodation and assistance in transport from the border for Ukrainian physiotherapists or their families: [Help for Ukrainian physiotherapists from Polish colleagues is launched - National Chamber of Physiotherapists \[4\]](#)

### Advocacy

We have been meeting and communicating with staff from WHO (Geneva) and WHO Europe, and taking part in roundtable discussions with key rehabilitation international non-government organisations. These include: WHO, WHO Europe, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Humanity & Inclusion, Momentum (previously UCP Wheels, World Physiotherapy's partner on projects in Ukraine and Tajikistan), Physiopedia, AO Foundation, and USAID. Discussions this week have focused on three key areas:

- Resources

- \* Early Rehabilitation in Conflict and Disasters [5] (endorsed by World Physiotherapy and available here: [Humanitarian support in Ukraine | World Physiotherapy \[2\]](#))

- \* HI/UKEMT patient information leaflets

- \* ICRC rehabilitation leaflets
- \* ICRC Physio Reference Manual on Fracture immobilisations [6]
- \* broader clinical guidelines that include rehabilitation, such as Paediatric Blast Injury [7], ICRC War Surgery Volumes 1 [8] and 2 [9], and the AO/ICRC Limb Injuries [10] handbook.

- Training

- \* Humanity & Inclusion and their partners (AO Foundation) designed an online training to accompany their field handbook for rehabilitation professionals who are new to working in conflict, disaster response, and humanitarian emergency settings. This is available here:

- <https://get.disasterready.org/early-rehabilitation-conflicts-disasters/> [11]

- \* Physiopedia is developing a Rehab in Emergencies course that will be available soon

- Translation

- \* World Physiotherapy is working with AO Foundation to prioritise translation of Early Rehabilitation in Conflict and Disasters [5] into Polish and Russian or Ukrainian.

- \* Physiopedia is planning to translate their Rehab in Emergencies course into Ukrainian.

- \* Other partners are looking to translate the patient resources into Ukrainian.

## Support

Many of us may want to be actively involved in Ukraine or neighbouring countries/territories. Please remember the physiotherapy is a regulated profession in Europe. We have separately met with staff from WHO Europe and colleagues from World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) and International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO). WHO Europe is developing a strategy to engage and deploy rehabilitation professionals in partnership with key international non-government organisations, such as Humanity & Inclusion and ICRC. We will continue to work in close collaboration. If and when there is call for volunteers to provide emergency rehabilitation then we will provide details to member organisations to identify appropriately qualified individuals.

At this time this is not an identified need. If this changes then we will provide you and you and your members with this information.

Jonathon Kruger  
Chief executive officer

Links:

-----

[1]

<https://world.physio/news/world-physiotherapy-statement-about-ukraine>

[2]

<https://world.physio/humanitarian-support/humanitarian-support-ukraine>

[3] <https://world.physio/membership/poland>

- [4] <https://kif.info.pl/rusza-pomoc-dla-ukrainskich-fizjoterapeutow-od-polskich-kolegow/>
- [5] [https://hi.org/sn\\_uploads/document/36199-Humanity--Inclusion-Clinical-Handbook-web\\_1.pdf](https://hi.org/sn_uploads/document/36199-Humanity--Inclusion-Clinical-Handbook-web_1.pdf)
- [6] <https://shop.icrc.org/download/ebook?sku=4030.02/002-ebook>
- [7] [https://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/research-centres-and-groups/centre-for-blast-injury-studies/PBIP-BlastInjuryManual2019\\_I\\_web.pdf](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/research-centres-and-groups/centre-for-blast-injury-studies/PBIP-BlastInjuryManual2019_I_web.pdf)
- [8] <https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/assets/files/other/icrc-002-0973.pdf>
- [9] <https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/assets/files/publications/icrc-002-4105.pdf>
- [10] [https://www.aofoundation.org/-/media/project/aocmf/aof/documents/icrc/a field guide low res.pdf](https://www.aofoundation.org/-/media/project/aocmf/aof/documents/icrc/a%20field%20guide%20low%20res.pdf)
- [11] <https://get.disasterready.org/early-rehabilitation-conflicts-disasters/>
- [12] <https://world.physio/>
- [13] <http://www.world.physio/resources/covid-19-information-hub>