



Photo: USAID LHSS Project/Ukraine

# UKRAINE

## LOCAL HEALTH SYSTEM SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT

USAID's Local Health System Sustainability Project (LHSS) supports the Ministry of Health in Ukraine to expand people's access to health services through telemedicine, while building the national health system's resilience.

For nearly ten years Ukraine has advanced comprehensive health reform, aiming to improve health outcomes of its citizens, increase the health system's efficiency, and provide financial protection from high out-of-pocket payments. This reform included massive changes in health financing, decentralization, rationalization of institutional and government roles, and increased opportunities for private sector engagement in the health system. A facet of this effort has been the development of telemedicine to strengthen transparency and efficiency in the health sector, reduce opportunities for corruption, and expand access to quality health services. Since the Russian full-scale invasion in February 2022, telemedicine has become a critical tool to maintain Ukrainians' access to health care.

### APPROACH

LHSS works with government stakeholders and local partners at all levels to establish the foundation for institutional arrangements and capacity to govern and ensure telemedicine is safely and sustainably offered to the population. The project works with the Ministry of Health (MOH) to rapidly deploy telemedicine solutions to ensure Ukrainians' uninterrupted access to health services. LHSS aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Strengthen telemedicine governance, policies, and financing by generating knowledge of telemedicine in Ukraine to inform the Government of Ukraine (GOU) decision-making, supporting the creation and implementing of a shared national vision for telemedicine development, and defining financing and purchasing arrangements.
- Advance equitable and sustainable access to health services by accelerating access to telemedicine among vulnerable groups, identifying synergies with local private sector entities to

expand telemedicine reach, and designing an enabling environment for telemedicine systems to be interoperable with the eHealth system.

- Strengthen the GOU's capacity for managing offers to use private sector telemedicine solutions during wartime and rapidly implement these solutions to meet Ukrainians' urgent health needs.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- The MOH established the country's first interagency working group focused on unifying fragmented telemedicine initiatives and governance to expand access to telemedicine. Convening private and public sector stakeholders, the group created a national Telemedicine Development Strategy and Operational Plan for 2023–2025. The GOU approved these documents in July 2023. They provide a vision for telemedicine growth in the country, and specify technical, policy, and resource needs to scale up the use of teleconsultations, telemetry, and teleradiology.
- A new law providing a legal framework and foundation for the broader use of telemedicine services in medical care and rehabilitation was signed by the president of Ukraine in September 2023. It allows for telemedicine integration into primary, emergency, specialized, palliative, and rehabilitation care to expand access to quality services in these areas.
- To transform the newly established legal framework into practical steps, draft amendments to the MOH orders and Cabinet of Ministers resolutions that regulate the provision of primary, emergency, specialized, palliative, and rehabilitation care introduce telemedicine as a tool aimed at enhancing access to and quality of medical care.
- The number of health benefits packages offering the option of telemedicine through the National Health Service is expected to increase from 10 in 2022 to 31 in 2024.
- The MOH has successfully leveraged telemedicine solutions and equipment donated by private companies valued at over \$3.6 million.
- As of September 2023, the MOH established six public-private partnerships to improve access to services for Ukrainians' urgent wartime health needs. More than 324 health facilities have been connected to telemedicine solutions, and over 1,250 health providers have been trained to use the technology. This rapid expansion has enabled providers to conduct over 7,000 telemedicine patient consultations in LHSS-supported regions.

## ACTIVITY DETAILS

- **Name:** Local Health System Sustainability Project in Ukraine
- **Duration:** October 2021 – August 2024
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**Local Health System Sustainability Project in Ukraine** is part of the global Local Health System Sustainability Project, a USAID initiative to help countries achieve sustainable, self-financed health systems that offer quality health care for all. Led by Abt Associates, the project strengthens local capacity to sustain strong health system performance, supporting a path to self-reliance and resilience. Learn more here: [www.LHSSproject.org](http://www.LHSSproject.org).