



Força Ukraine Brief September, 2023

Situation Overview

- Significant gap in training remains for pre-hospital medical providers
 - No USG-support within Ukraine
 - Normally a Department of Defense Initiative
 - Outside of the scope of other USG Organizations/Departments
 - Pre-hospital providers (males) cannot leave Ukraine without special permissions
 - Currently no organic capability within Ukraine to teach advanced pre-hospital skills
 - Most training being provided by small groups of volunteers
 - Areas of focus near larger cities or hospital-based, not at or near front lines
- The Força Foundation (US-Based 501(c)3) partnered with the Ukrainian American Medical Support Initiative (UAMSI) to provide pre-hospital trauma training in areas of highest need/lowest density of training
 - Primary goal to ensure all have basic pre-hospital trauma training
 - Advanced intervention training for approved advanced providers, informed by changes to Ukrainian laws and reality of the situation on the ground:
 - Field whole blood transfusion
 - Chest decompression
 - Tourniquet conversion

Areas of Operation

- Training provided in areas of maximal need and impact:
 - Eastern Ukraine near current front lines
 - Donetsk Region
 - Farthest east point any team had traveled to provide advanced pre-hospital trauma training (5 miles from active front)
 - Dnipro, a main hub in Eastern Ukraine
 - Kyiv
- Red circles (map) show areas of training



Team Composition

- Physician/Trainer: Steve Donnelly, MD (Emergency Medicine/Family Practice)
- Paramedics/Lead Trauma Trainers: Emily Mudick (Paramedic/Firefighter), Arthur Bruck-Fincher (Paramedic/Firefighter)
- Interpreters: Stan S., Viktoriia B., Bohdan F.
- Team Lead/Alternate Trainer: Mike Piet (Paramedic)
- All team members had previous experience in Ukraine



Budget and Spending

- Total budget: \$36,162.57
 - Exclusively raised from individual donations, predominantly in \$50-100 range
 - 90 unique donors
 - Two angel donors covered additional costs
 - Travel, movement, food, lodging
 - Interpreter pay
- Total cost of mission: \$35,351.68
 - Medical Equipment: \$14,937.46
 - Donation to a local maternity hospital in Odessa: \$2,000
 - Interpreters: \$10,800.00
 - Meals and Incidentals: \$1,273.15
 - Transportation: \$2,899.87
 - Lodging: \$1677.39
 - Fuel: \$844.57
 - Vehicle Maintenance/Donation: \$875
- Focus on providing medical equipment from local vendors
- Based on findings, additional funding needed for long-term effort



Impact

- 28 total days of training conducted by Advanced Level Providers (MD, Paramedics)
- 750 individuals trained
 - Cost per individual trained, \$44 (total participants/total mission cost)
 - Provided cutting edge training (field whole blood) not otherwise widely available
- \$20,000 medical/cold weather material donated
 - Most material was locally acquired
 - 250 locally made, high quality Dnipro Tourniquets
 - 100 decompression needles
 - 300 Israeli bandages
 - 250 packages of combat gauze
 - 150 chest seals
 - 1 Joint Operation Surgical Pack
 - 350 IV gauges
 - 150 Thermal blankets
 - 5 SAM IO drivers/31 SAM IO needles
 - 5 surgical cric kits



True Impact

In Priyutny, a tank hit our trench, wounded my comrades, he was wounded in the thigh and legs, he screamed, when I applied the tourniquet, he said enough, I, as you taught, rolled the tourniquet 2 more times, as you taught, and then evacuated, as your guy with the tattoo taught hands... The guy is alive, I'm not lost, thank you

24 Channel | Ukraine news

! Combat medics will be able to transfuse to...

! The government allowed blood transfusions for combat medics, but only after appropriate training.

Before that, only people with a medical education had such a right. Now military personnel will also have it.


To do this, they need to undergo a special training program on the basics of transfusion therapy.

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terrible war In Pokrovsk, the death toll has increased to...



The number of victims as a result of the Russian shelling of Pokrovsk has increased to 67. Among them - 29 police officers, 7 rescuers, 2 children. It is also known about 7 dead.

Currently, they are resuming the demolition of rubble there - at night, the work was suspended due to the threat of repeated strikes.

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Good day. Bohdan, I want to thank You, Mike, Emily and Steve for the great courses in medicine. I personally have received a lot of useful knowledge which was already used by me yesterday.



We are 15 km from the border with Belarus already. Yesterday I put an IV bag on a guy from my platoon. Everything worked out great and I hit the vein with the first attempt. P.S. The backpack is cool (very useful). Thank you again 🧡

Focus

- Training reflected unique realities of the conflict in Ukraine
 - New guidance from the Government of Ukraine on Field Whole Blood Transfusions (left) and Tourniquet Conversion (right) due to prolonged field care
 - Força team among the first to provide trainings on these topics, to include in areas of active hostilities
- Secondary focus to provide as much medical equipment as possible
 - Individual First Aid Kits (IFAKs) continue to be poorly resourced, lacking key items
 - Standard issue (left), after Força restock (right)
 - Partnered with local vendors to purchase items made in Ukraine (Dnipro TQ, Paramedic UA)
 - Supported the local economy
 - Ensured maximal impact of donor dollars
 - Provided superior equipment available in Ukraine



Findings

- Continued need for advanced level training for pre-hospital providers
 - Ukraine one of the most heavily mined countries in the world
 - Threats include mines, cluster munitions, unexploded ordnance, missiles
 - Current and future injuries in civilian populations will continue to be analogous to combat wounds, necessitating providers with advanced pre-hospital trauma training
- Advanced training almost exclusively conducted by small groups of volunteers
 - USG response limited by inability of DOD to be present in Ukraine
 - Pre-hospital training outside of the purview of most USG organizations
 - Absence of codified, large-scale training efforts in advanced pre-hospital trauma care and interventions
- Tactical Emergency Casualty Care or Tactical Combat Casualty Care as a model for pre-hospital care must be evolved to meet the reality of the situation on the ground in Ukraine
 - Applications for future US conflicts with near-peer/peer adversaries

Way Ahead for 2024

- The Força Foundation remains committed to a recurring presence in Ukraine to ensure continued training opportunities for pre-hospital providers
 - Propose a recurring presence in Ukraine starting JAN 2024 for CY 2024
 - Two months on/one month off in quarterly iterations
 - Focus remains on pre-hospital trauma training with potential to add in MEDEVAC from the front lines
- Cost estimate for one year of training with a goal of 5,000 providers trained: \$325,000
 - Medical equipment: \$50,000
 - Travel: \$30,000
 - Interpreters: \$100,000
 - Trainers: \$100,000
 - Incidentals: \$10,000
 - Lodging: \$20,000
 - Ground transport/fuel: \$35,000



References and Further Reading

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