



BY PORTABLEULTRASOUNDMACHINES.CO.UK

Ultrasound machines for Ukraine: IsraAID and Portable Ultrasound Machines

At Portable Ultrasound Machines it is important to us that our work makes the greatest difference possible for practitioners and those benefitting from the multiple uses to which ultrasound machines can be put. We jump at the chance to work with charities and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) making a positive impact on the world. In the first of our series of global case studies we shine a spotlight on IsraAID¹, an international humanitarian NGO, and our recent role in supporting their work.

IsraAID: supporting people affected by humanitarian crisis

IsraAID's mission is to support people affected by humanitarian crisis. From earthquakes and hurricanes to epidemics and forced displacement, the international humanitarian NGO partners with local communities around the world to provide urgent aid, assist in recovery and reduce the risk of future disasters. Based in Israel and founded in 2001, it has worked in emergency and long-term development settings in over 60 countries and has around 200 staff worldwide.

The challenge: responding to crisis in Ukraine

On the 24th February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine. Since then, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has recorded 16,784 civilian casualties in the country², with over 7.8 million refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe³. Within two days of the outbreak of war, IsraAID launched its response. This included partnering with local NGOs and authorities in Tulcea, Romania, creating a Humanitarian Logistics Hub to streamline aid donations and ensure supply chains of essential humanitarian items including medical supplies, clothes, and food, to southern Ukraine.



IsraAID Humanitarian Logistics Hub, Tulcea.
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This has enabled IsraAID to process donations from anywhere in the world and send them on towards Ukrainians in urgent need. In addition to urgently needed food and clothes, the hub and partnership also helps ensure Ukrainian hospitals have effective access to essential medical supplies, including those donated by IsraAID directly. Together with international partners, IsraAID has delivered over \$30 million worth of essential aid to date.

As part of this response - and in dialogue between IsraAID, local communities, healthcare professionals and other NGOs operating in Ukraine - it became clear that medical ultrasound machines were urgently required. There was a need to both replace those machines that had been lost in the conflict, and also to add to existing supplies given the increased emergency demand. Once sourced these then needed to be distributed to those areas of greatest need via IsraAID's hub.

¹ <https://www.israaid.org/>

² <https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2022/11/ukraine-civilian-casualty-update-21-november-2022>

³ <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>

Our role

Having secured donations to fund the purchase of the essential machines, IsraAID found challenges in sourcing them through their usual channels,



Kai Xin KX5600 supplied by Portable Ultrasound Machines © PUM 2022

IsraAID therefore searched for a UK-based supplier, making contact with PUM.

We were delighted to be contacted by IsraAID to assist. It was clear to us that the response required was highly time-critical, and the most competitive price possible for the equipment was essential. In addition, information and guidance from our team of experienced professionals to ensure the equipment and supplies met requirements and had the appropriate accessories was provided immediately.

We were able to supply 10 Kai Xin KX5600 portable ultrasound units with accompanying probes, within 24 hours. Crucially, we were also able to provide delivery in-person directly to a London Airport to ensure that the equipment arrived safely and could be carried on the chartered flight to the distribution hub leaving at a fixed time.

The impact

The ten machines were distributed across Ukraine via the IsraAID hub to healthcare settings in various frontline settings. Of those machines in use, feedback was 100% positive with their impact felt particularly in the fields of obstetrics, cardiothoracic and emergency trauma response.

For IsraAID, Joe Serkin said *“It was really fortunate that we came across PUM. They were extremely service driven, immediately understanding our urgent needs, and jumping into action to support us. They went above and beyond to ensure the timely delivery of these critically needed machines. They had the equipment needed readily available and were an excellent partner for this cause”*.

PUM's Catherine Stowell said *“It was fantastic to be able to use our resources here at PUM to support another charitable mission to Ukraine. When crises like this occur (and with Covid19 and the invasion of Ukraine, the world has endured a lot of tragedy recently), it's easy to feel a sense of helplessness. Being able to put our ultrasound experience to good use is highly rewarding for the whole team”*.

What next?

You can find out more about the work of IsraAID [here](#). If you are able to make a donation - however large or small - to support their ongoing work in Ukraine, you can do so directly [here](#). In addition to the work highlighted above, IsraAID are focusing on a winter-specific response. They will deliver 90,000 thermal items for vulnerable civilians, equip mobile medical clinics with winter-specific items like thermometers and COVID-19 & flu tests, install and maintain heating infrastructure across the country, and provide essential mental health support in partnership with Ukraine's First Lady.



Members of the IsraAID and PUM teams meeting to hand over the machines © PUM 2022

If you work in the humanitarian aid sector and feel PUM might be able to support you with equipment or training, please don't hesitate to contact us via phone, email or online chat. We would be delighted to discuss your requirements and provide no-obligation information and advice.

Contact us!

Please find our contact details below:



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