

Russia Shifts Domestic Health Spending to Occupied Ukraine – Vedomosti

August 07, 2023



A clinic in Berdsk, Novosibirsk region. **Kirill Kukhmar / TASS**

Russia has reallocated healthcare spending from dozens of its regions to build and repair hospitals in the occupied territories of eastern Ukraine, the *Vedomosti* business daily [reported](#) Monday, citing a government [decree](#).

Sixty-one out of 85 Russian regions — including annexed Crimea and the federal city of Sevastopol — saw cuts of some 2.4 billion rubles (\$24.8 million) worth of federal subsidies used to finance the construction of new clinics and the purchase of medical equipment, according to the report.

Russia's Health Ministry told *Vedomosti* that the funds were “redistributed” following discussions with regional health administrations.

As a result, Ukraine's Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions, which Moscow annexed last year, received subsidies worth 1.02 billion rubles (\$10.5 million) for building or repairing clinics, as well as buying new equipment, *Vedomosti* said.

Related article: [In Photos: In Russian-Occupied Mariupol, Locals Try to Return to Everyday Life Amid the Ruins](#)

Overall, Russia's federal project on modernizing primary healthcare is set to spend 88.8 billion rubles (\$910 million) in 2023 and 550 billion rubles (\$5.7 billion) for 2023-25.

In January, President Vladimir Putin ordered the government to redistribute budget transfers among regions based on their ability to absorb the allocated funds, *Vedomosti* said.

The 1.02 billion rubles pledged to clinics in occupied Ukrainian territories comes amid Moscow's efforts to rebuild towns and cities its forces had assaulted during the course of its full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Russia's Health Ministry has asked regional health authorities to [recruit doctors and nurses](#) to work in the occupied regions of Ukraine, according to an internal document published in January.

Authorities previously launched a campaign to [recruit](#) essential workers for the "reconstruction" of eastern Ukrainian territories occupied by its forces and devastated by the war.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2023/08/07/russia-shifts-domestic-health-spending-to-occupied-ukraine-vedomosti-a82079>