

**APRIL 2024**



**AMMUNITION AID:  
KOSOVO'S  
CONTRIBUTION TO  
UKRAINE'S DEFENCE**

**WRITTEN BY: MARINA TOVAR**



**WRITTEN BY**

MARINA TOVAR

**EDITED BY**

JAKE GASSON

**SUPERVISED BY**

SYUZANNA KIRAKOSYAN

---

## Introduction

The announcement made by Ejup Maqedonci, Kosovo's Minister of Defence, during the 20th Meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group on 19 March 2024 is a significant development in the ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia. Kosovo's pledge to provide military aid to Ukraine underscores the country's political alignment with both the European Union (EU) and the United States (US) and its willingness to join collective efforts in support of Ukraine's defence. Kosovo has committed to supply two military aid packages, which includes essential resources such as trucks, tactical vehicles, armoured personnel carriers, and mortar artillery shells. This is the first time the country has provided military assistance to Ukraine. Amidst Ukraine's acute shortage of ammunition, a confluence of factors including the political deadlock in the US Congress and production constraints in Europe have accentuated the severity of this situation. This prompts a closer examination whether Kosovo's military aid package, though undoubtedly valuable, sufficiently grapples the enormity of Ukraine's ammunition crisis.

## Kosovo's Military Aid Package

Kosovo's Minister of Defence announced at the 20th Meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group (UDCG) held on 19 March 2024 that Kosovo would provide military aid to Ukraine (Tril, 2024). In the context of the UDCG, whereby more than fifty countries coordinate their efforts to assist Ukraine in its war against Russia, Kosovo will contribute to Ukraine's defence by providing two military aid packages. The 20th Meeting's primary discussion topic was ammunition and its provision, with several countries, including Germany, providing aid packages, including artillery shells of 155mm, 152mm, 105mm, and other calibres (Rubryka, 2024).

Kosovo's first military aid package contains trucks, tactical vehicles, and armoured personnel carriers that were planned to be delivered in the last week of March (Durova, 2024), but will be delivered on the week of 8 April 2024 (Kosova Press, 2024). Details on the truck and tactical vehicle models from the first aid package remain undisclosed. However, Kosovo acquired logistical and armoured vehicles from the US and Turkiye, entailing those logistical trucks like MB Man, Iveco Trakker, or equipment like Mercedes Benz G-Class, M1117 Guardian, or BMC Vuran could be among Kosovo's contributions of the first package (Army Recognition, 2024). The inclusion of trucks, tactical vehicles and armoured personnel demonstrate Kosovo's commitment to enhancing Ukraine's mobility and troop transport capabilities, which are essential for manoeuvre warfare and logistical support. Following this, the second military aid package will provide mortar shells, contributing to Ukraine's urgent needs in terms of ammunition (Army Recognition, 2024). The second aid package's emphasis on ammunition reflects the primary importance of ammunition for Ukraine outlined at the 20th UDCG.

---

## **Kosovo's Alignment with EU efforts**

Kosovo's announcement marks the first time that the 'partially recognized state' has provided military assistance to Ukraine (Tril, 2024), aligning its efforts with those of its partners, the European Union and the United States. This reflects Kosovo's political support to Ukraine since February 2022, when the Parliament of Kosovo approved a resolution condemning Russia's invasion and expressing its willingness to host 5,000 Ukrainian refugees (Euractiv, 2022). Following the Parliament's declaration, Kosovo aligned itself with the EU's sanctions regime against Russia in March 2022, approving several packages of sanctions against Russia on several occasions, including the latest one in July 2023. Kosovo's decision to provide military aid to Ukraine aligns with a more practical intentionality to support Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity efforts and showcases Kosovo's active engagement with multilateral forums aimed at addressing security challenges.

Ukraine's shortage of artillery ammunition has profound implications for Ukraine's ability to defend itself and advance its efforts in countering Russian attacks. The current situation whereby the US Congress is unable to provide military assistance to Ukraine due to disagreements between Democrats and Republicans, coupled with the lack of production capacity in Europe, is resulting in a critical shortage in artillery ammunition. This shortfall comes at a critical moment when Ukraine is also experiencing shortages of front-line personnel. These elements combined will likely afford Russia a significant battlefield advantage, as evidenced in Avdiivka.

While Kosovo's military aid packages contribute to reducing Ukraine's ammunition crisis, they cannot address the magnitude of Ukraine's shortage. The scale of the conflict and the disparity in resources between Russia and Ukraine requires a coordinated and sustained effort from Ukraine's allies, including the US and the EU, to bolster Ukrainian defence capabilities by ramping up production of ammunition to match Russian production.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, Kosovo's provision of military aid to Ukraine represents a commendable step towards improving Ukraine's defence capabilities. However, amidst Ukraine's acute shortage of ammunition and the relentless production of Russian ammunition, the effectiveness of Kosovo's aid package alone remains limited. The disparity in artillery munition production between Russia and Ukraine, coupled with the scale of the conflict, necessitates a coordinated and sustained effort from Ukraine's allies to comprehensively address Ukraine's ammunition crisis. While Kosovo's contribution showcases the country's commitment to Ukraine, it evidences the urgent need for broader strategic initiatives to ramp up the production and distribution of artillery ammunition to match Russia's capabilities. As Ukraine continues to face challenges, including the limitation of personnel, Ukraine's partners remain indispensable in ensuring its sovereignty.

---

## Bibliography

Army Recognition. (2024, March 22). *Kosovo announces first delivery of military aid package to Ukraine*. Army Recognition. [https://www.armyrecognition.com/defense\\_news\\_march\\_2024\\_global\\_security\\_army\\_industry/kosovo\\_announces\\_first\\_delivery\\_of\\_military\\_aid\\_package\\_to\\_ukraine.html?utm\\_content=cmp-true](https://www.armyrecognition.com/defense_news_march_2024_global_security_army_industry/kosovo_announces_first_delivery_of_military_aid_package_to_ukraine.html?utm_content=cmp-true)

Durova, D. (2024, March 20). *Kosovo to transfer military aid to Ukraine for the first time: two packages announced at one*. Oboz.ua. <https://eng.obozrevatel.com/>

Euractiv. (2022, March 4). *Kosovo parliament passes resolution on Ukraine, will accept 5000 refugees*. Euractiv. [https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/short\\_news/kosovo-parliament-passes-resolution-on-ukraine-will-accept-5000-refugees/](https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/short_news/kosovo-parliament-passes-resolution-on-ukraine-will-accept-5000-refugees/)

Kosova Press (2024, April 7). *Maqedonci: Kosovo is sending trucks and armored cars to Ukraine this week*. *Kosova Press*. <https://kosovapress.com/en/article?id=525731>

Lillis, K., Bertrand, N., Liebermann, O. and Britzky, H. (2024, March 11). *Exclusive: Russia producing three times more artillery shells than US and Europe for Ukraine*. *CNN*. <https://edition.cnn.com/2024/03/10/politics/russia-artillery-shell-production-us-europe-ukraine/index.html>

Rubryka. (2024, March 20). *Kosovo to send armored vehicles and mortar shells to Ukraine*. *Rubryka*. <https://rubryka.com/en/2024/03/20/ukrayina-otrymaye-vid-kosovo-bronemashyny-vantazhivky-ta-minometni-snaryady/>

Tril, M. (2024, March 20). *Kosovo announces its first-ever military aid packages for Ukraine*. *Euromaidan Press*. <https://euromaidanpress.com/2024/03/20/kosovo-announces-its-first-ever-military-aid-packages-for-ukraine/>

Watling, J. (2024, February 19). *The peril of Ukraine's Ammo Shortage*. *Time*. <https://time.com/6694885/ukraine-russia-ammunition/>