

# UNFPA Regional Response to Ukraine Emergency

## Situation Report #21



Reporting period from 1 September to 31 October 2023 | Released on 15 November 2023



**58,500**

People reached with GBV information, referrals and services



**20,300**

Mental health and psychosocial consultations



**44,600**

People reached with SRH information, referrals and services



UNFPA Safe Spaces provide a lifeline to refugees with disabilities in Moldova through support and belonging. Photo: UNFPA/Ion Pleș

### Highlights

- UNFPA and its partners trained more than **3,300** health professionals and over **1,100** gender-based violence (GBV) specialists during the reporting period, enhancing the quality and accessibility of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and GBV services in Ukraine and neighbouring refugee-hosting countries.
- Nearly **1,000** dignity kits were distributed as a first entry point for further GBV and SRH service provision and assistance in Ukraine and Moldova.
- **109** mobile psychosocial teams across Ukraine delivered psychosocial counselling to over **13,000** women and girls, men and boys, and vulnerable populations, including over **17 per cent** of people with disabilities.
- UNFPA continues to support an expanding network of Women and Girls Safe Spaces: **29** across Ukraine, **33** across Moldova—including **11** mobile units— and **three** in each Romania and Belarus, focusing on refugees and host communities, including women, youth, older persons, and people with disabilities.



**17.6 million**

People in need in Ukraine



**3.6 million**

Internally displaced people in Ukraine



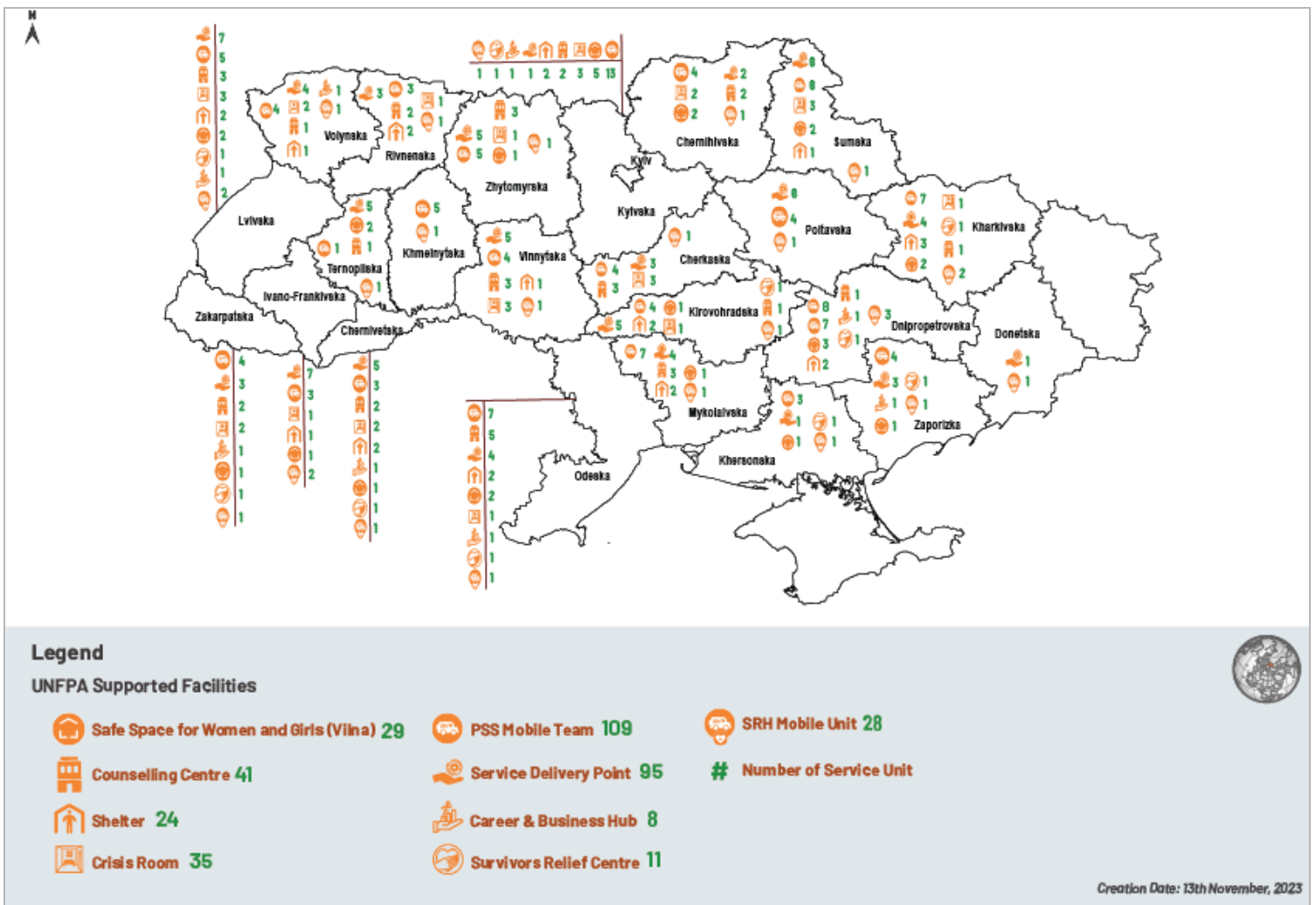
**5.8 million**

Refugees in European countries

## Situation Overview/Humanitarian Needs

- As of October 2023, an estimated **6.2 million** people have been [forced to flee](#) Ukraine, with **93 per cent** of them hosted in European countries—representing **5.8 million** refugees.
- An estimated **3.6 million** people are [internally displaced](#) within Ukraine—a decrease from the earlier figure of 5.1 million. This decline is primarily attributed to the significant [return](#) of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their usual areas of residence. However, their sustainable reintegration faces significant challenges due to safety issues, family separation, and limited access to income-generating opportunities.
- Inside [Ukraine](#), an estimated **14.6 million** people need health assistance, and **14.7 million** need protection assistance and services, including **3.6 million** who need GBV prevention and response services. The [ongoing return](#) of IDPs is exacerbating needs. UNFPA has also engaged in winterization planning along with UNHCR and UNICEF for **1.7 million** people in [Ukraine](#) and **222,000** in [Moldova](#).
- Ongoing heavy bombardments and frontline fighting in eastern and southern Ukraine [continue to impact humanitarian access](#), making the delivery of humanitarian assistance more complex and unpredictable.

## UNFPA Humanitarian Response in Ukraine\*



- UNFPA's **cash assistance programme** for GBV survivors has benefitted **109** women in the reporting period.
- **Two** new **Daycare Counselling Centres** opened in Vinnytsia and Dnipropetrovsk in September and October, increasing the total to **41** centres.
- In September, **one** new **Mobile Reproductive Health Unit** (MRHU) began operations in Kherson oblast (region), bringing the total to **28** MRHUs across **23** oblasts in Ukraine. During the reporting period, MRHUs conducted **25,744** consultations. Additionally, **one** mobile maternity unit is also operating in Kharkiv oblast, providing comprehensive emergency obstetric care.
- UNFPA opened **one** additional **Career and Business Hub** in Odesa, bringing the total to **eight** hubs. These hubs provide career, financial, and professional advice to women at risk of or survivors of GBV.
- UNFPA continues to support **95 Service Delivery Points** (SDPs) located in hospitals, primarily in maternity facilities, where healthcare professionals provide specialized and confidential assistance to those affected by GBV, including conflict-related sexual violence. The SDPs also aim to ensure accessible and comfortable services for people with disabilities.
- **109 mobile psychosocial teams** were deployed, providing **13,047** psychosocial consultations in September and October 2023.
- In collaboration with the Government of Ukraine, UNFPA continues to support **11 Survivor Relief Centres** (SRC), assisting **2,706** people with psychosocial support and lifesaving referrals in the reporting period, including healthcare and legal aid.
- UNFPA continues to support **29 Women and Girls Safe Spaces** that provide services to GBV survivors and those at risk of violence. These spaces offer services that complement those available through SRCs and the Career and Business hubs, with a focus on mental and physical well-being, especially for women and girls.
- UNFPA continues to operate a toll-free, confidential, 24/7 **psychological support line for men** as part of its GBV prevention strategy. A year after its [launch](#), in October 2023, the hotline has received 9,000 calls from men seeking support for psychological issues, including work-related stress, relationship problems, war distress, and anger management.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Interior and the National Police of Ukraine, UNFPA continues to run a **mobile application** to protect women at risk of domestic violence or GBV. Since its launch in 2022, the [application](#) has been downloaded over 37,000 times, allowing users to alert the national police of their location and immediate need for assistance.

## UNFPA Humanitarian Response in Neighbouring Countries

### Moldova\*

- **7,413** individuals engaged in activities offered by the Static and Mobile **Safe Spaces**, with **5,482** women, **851** young people, and **1,080** older persons participating. These Safe Spaces provide info sessions and life skills development programmes—including hygiene, mental health, relationship-building, sexuality education, GBV prevention, Romanian language courses, and recreational activities. For [refugees with disabilities](#), these spaces are particularly vital, offering skills, support, and a sense of community.
- In October, the Moldovan Ministry of Health, with UNFPA's support, [launched](#) a **network of multisectoral support units for GBV survivors**, providing integrated medical, psychological, and legal support.
- The Republic of Moldova hosted a global meeting organized within the framework of UNFPA's Global Program for Comprehensive Reproductive Health Education for Adolescents and Youth, uniting **60** experts from **18** countries. For one week, participants exchanged experiences and best practices in reproductive

health education for adolescents and youth, including those with disabilities, young people living with HIV, and young refugees.

- Together with the Moldovan Ministry of Education and Research, UNFPA hosted an [event](#) on **life-skills education for youth empowerment and job readiness**, including young refugees from Ukraine.

### EU countries bordering Ukraine

- In Romania, UNFPA and its partner, EEIRH, continue to support the Ministry of Health to strengthen the family planning network and the National Agency for Equality of Opportunities between Women and Men in mentoring Centers for Intervention for Sexual Violence Survivors in **ten** cities across the country.
- Through the **Women and Girls Safe Space** in Baia Mare, Braşov and Târgu Mureş (Romania), UNFPA and its partner continue to provide rights-based, gender-sensitive and disability-inclusive GBV and SRH services for Ukrainian refugees. During the reporting period, **519** Ukrainian women and girls benefitted from individual and group services, and WGSS psychologists delivered **328** individual psycho-social counselling sessions.
- In September, UNFPA and its partner mobilized **a pool of journalists** from Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia to build their capacity to cover GBV stories effectively and in line with ethical standards. The training was held in Romania, highlighting the unique challenges faced by GBV survivors and advocating for improved response and support mechanisms.
- A three-day regional training of trainers (ToT) on **Clinical Management of Rape (CMR)** and **Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)** management was organized in Romania with **16** health professionals from Romania and Slovakia. An online two-day refresher course preceded it to consolidate prior learning. This ToT is part of UNFPA's regional strategy to improve the capacity of national counterparts and service providers to provide quality CMR and IPV services to refugees and local communities.

### Belarus

- UNFPA continues to support **three Orange Safe Spaces**, offering specialized medical care for older people in Brest and entrepreneurship info sessions to refugee women in Vitebsk.
- During the reporting period, **144** persons in Brest, **176** women, older people and people with disabilities in Gomel, and **45** older women in Vitebsk benefitted from **psychosocial counselling** tailored to their needs.
- **119** women, including older people and people with disabilities, were **referred** to adequate services and support, particularly for medical care, employment, temporary shelter, food and hygiene supplies.
- **Crisis Centres** operated by the Red Cross and supported by UNFPA in Brest and Vitebsk provided accommodation, specialized support and counselling for **two** Ukrainian families in Brest and **seven** Ukrainian women in Vitebsk.
- During the reporting period, art therapy classes—provided at the Orange Safe Spaces and Crisis Centres supported by UNFPA—benefitted **29** Ukrainian older people with mental health support to prevent dementia.

*\* More information is available by clicking on the resources below.*

Ukraine Country  
Snapshot #25

Ukraine Country  
Snapshot #26

Moldova Country  
Newsletter Sep 2023

Moldova Country  
Newsletter Oct 2023

## Coordination

### Ukraine

- In September, UNFPA organized two conferences in Lviv and Kyiv for SRH Mobile Health Units operating in these areas. The conferences brought together medical professionals and coordinators from 23 oblasts to exchange best practices for improving coordination with local municipal and health authorities, enhancing patient flow, and addressing financial and administrative challenges.

### Moldova

- UNFPA co-leads the GBV Sub-Working Group (SWG) with UNHCR to coordinate GBV prevention, mitigation and response, targeting Ukrainian refugees and host communities. The GBV SWG is conducting its second Safety Audit and updating six referral pathways in six regions, including the Northern, Southern and Central regions, Chisinau, as well as two border areas, Palanca and Otaci.
- UNFPA has been instrumental in prioritizing SRH and GBV issues in the discussions and actions of the bi-monthly meetings of the Health Working Group, attended by representatives of the Ministry of Health, the National Health Insurance Company, most UN agencies, and other relevant humanitarian actors.
- UNFPA signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) with the Ministry of Internal Affairs to continue strengthening GBV prevention and response.

### EU countries bordering Ukraine

- In Poland, together with the Refugee Health Extension and the CMR-IPV Taskforce, UNFPA is monitoring the SRH and Reproductive Rights situation for refugees to determine activities, needs and challenges of the humanitarian actors in the field of SRH for women, young people and key populations.
- In Poland, Romania and Slovakia, UNFPA, through its Regional SRH and GBV in Emergencies Specialists, is contributing to key inter-agency fora, including the health and protection working groups in each country and relevant sub-working groups on SRH, GBV, and CMR.

### Belarus

- As a part of the Inter-Agency Refugee Taskforce, UNFPA took the lead in cooperating with the International Committee of the Red Cross to address specific complex cases related to the provision of support to older people from Ukraine.

### Regional response

- During the reporting period, UNFPA's Roving GBV and SRH Specialists conducted consultations with key stakeholders in Poland, Romania and Slovakia to map GBV and SRH needs and priorities as part of the preparation for the 2024 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP). Thanks to UNFPA, the 2024 RRP includes strong references to SRH and GBV and the need to continue strengthening coordination mechanisms, including through partnerships with government and local partners in Poland, Romania, and Slovakia.
- UNFPA co-leads the regional GBV SWG in collaboration with UNHCR and Voice Amplified, having contributed to the revision of 2024 RRP Regional GBV indicators, thematic sessions with GBV SWG partners across the regional response and preparation of the 16 Days of Activism activities in the region.
- UNFPA regional GBV and SRH emergency specialists visited Kyiv, Ukraine, in September and October, accompanied by colleagues from the UNFPA Humanitarian Response Division, to lead a five-day CMR-IPV training followed by a three-day ToT. The events were attended by a total of 39 participants, comprising

clinical staff from Dnipro and UNFPA Ukraine country office staff. Both sessions were organized in cooperation with the UNFPA Ukraine CO and the SRH Working Group.

## Future Plans

- UNFPA is working with its partners in Poland to deliver the CMR and IPV training in November 2023 for frontline healthcare providers to improve the quality of care for survivors. In addition, a survey on Health Facility Readiness and Facility Staff Friendliness for CMR-IPV and GBV service provision was developed to assess the baseline for future programmes, which will be released in late 2023.

## UNFPA Funding Requirement for 2023



**US\$103 million  
required**



**80% funded as of  
October**

- UNFPA's [2023 regional appeal](#) for Ukraine, Moldova, and other neighbouring countries seeks a total of US\$103 million in funding to provide life-saving SRH and GBV interventions and supplies.
- The OCHA-led 2023 [Humanitarian Needs Overview](#) and [Humanitarian Response Plan](#) for Ukraine and UNHCR-led [2023 RRP](#), which include UNFPA funding requirements, were officially released in early 2023.
- As of 31 October, the UNFPA Ukraine and Refugee Response Appeal for 2023 was 80 per cent funded. This appeal is under review—aligning with the individual country appeals led by UNHCR in 2023—to consolidate the upcoming UNFPA Ukraine and Refugee Response Appeal for 2024 to be released in early 2024.

## Media, Communication and Advocacy

- Youth health education in Moldova: [global practices shared in a meeting](#) among experts from 18 countries.
- UNFPA gathered a [series of stories from the field](#) with the voices of refugees and practitioners in Moldova.
- An [airstrike](#) significantly damaged a UNFPA-supported facility for survivors of domestic violence in Ukraine.
- UNFPA trained Ukrainian service providers in [responding to gender-based violence during the war](#).

---

UNFPA greatly appreciates the generous support of donors and the tireless efforts of partners in responding to the needs in Ukraine and the region.

*For further information, please contact*

- **Florence Bauer**, Regional Director, UNFPA Eastern Europe and Central Asia, [fbauer@unfpa.org](mailto:fbauer@unfpa.org)
- **Jens-Hagen Eschenbaecher**, Regional Communications Adviser, [eschenbaecher@unfpa.org](mailto:eschenbaecher@unfpa.org)
- **Eddie Wright**, Communications Specialist, Media and Communications Branch, [ewright@unfpa.org](mailto:ewright@unfpa.org)

