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UNFPA – Country programmes and related matters

United Nations Population Fund

Country programme document for Ukraine

Proposed indicative UNFPA assistance: \$9.5 million: \$2.5 million from regular resources and \$7.0 million through co-financing modalities and/or other resources, including regular resources

Programme period: Five years (2018-2022)

Cycle of assistance: Third

Category per decision 2013/31: Pink

Proposed indicative assistance (in millions of \$):

Strategic plan outcome areas		Regular resources	Other resources	Total
Outcome 2	Adolescents and youth	0.8	2.0	2.8
Outcome 3	Gender equality and women's empowerment	1.4	5.0	6.4
Programme coordination and assistance		0.3		0.3
Total		2.5	7.0	9.5



I. Programme rationale

1. Ukraine currently ranks 84th on the Human Development Index (with a score of 0.743), as a high human-development nation. Yet with a per capita income of \$2,640, it is a lower middle-income economy, where 23 per cent of the population are poor, according to national poverty criteria. Since gaining independence in 1991, Ukraine's population has decreased by over 17 per cent, largely due to emigration as well as a below-replacement total fertility of 1.51 children per woman. Average life expectancy at birth (2015) was 66.4 years for men and 76.3 years for women, a significant difference related to lifestyle choices.

2. Since November 2013, Ukraine has experienced significant upheaval, including armed conflict in the Donbas region, which has resulted in parts of Ukraine being under de facto control of armed formations from certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine. Apart from large casualties, the conflict has also driven massive population displacement (estimated at between 0.8 and 1.7 million). Internally displaced persons, many of them women and young people, remain among the most vulnerable people in Ukraine, at risk of falling victim to violence and abuse.

3. The Government of Ukraine is guided by the national strategy for sustainable development, Ukraine 2020, which includes government and economic reforms, including administrative decentralization. In this context, UNFPA will seek to contribute to the empowerment of young people in the social, political and economic spheres of the country, and advance the cause of gender equality in all its dimensions.

4. Young people represent 15.2 per cent of the population. A significant proportion have left Ukraine in search of better opportunities, portending future fiscal and labour shortages as well as weakening the country's potential to invigorate itself economically, politically and socially. Youth from disadvantaged groups (whether by place of residence, income, displacement or disability status) are particularly at risk of being left behind. The National Youth Programme 2016-2020 makes a clear case for investing in young people; and local governments are greatly interested in investing in young people in order to entice them to stay and contribute to their local communities. UNFPA has built considerable expertise in the empowerment of young people at the local level; this was confirmed by the country programme evaluation, which recommended that UNFPA expand its activities at the subnational level.

5. Sexual and reproductive health services are generally available in Ukraine but their quality and accessibility vary. The adolescent pregnancy rate remains stubbornly high by European standards (27.3 per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years). Young people with disabilities continue to face significant barriers in terms of realizing their sexual and reproductive rights, placing them at higher risk for negative health outcomes. The HIV prevalence rate of 0.9% (2016) is high by regional standards, and most new HIV infections occur in people under the age of 30. The past two years have also seen an increase in sexually transmitted infections among young people. UNFPA has facilitated the development of life-skills-based sexual and reproductive health education curricula and introduced a syndromic approach to treatment of sexually transmitted infections, among other things. In coming years, it will be necessary to focus on access and quality of care especially for young people, particularly those not in school or unemployed or living with disabilities.

6. Stereotypical gender roles are deeply engrained in Ukrainian society. In 2016, Ukraine ranked 69th on the Global Gender Gap Index (with a score of 0.7), with gender wage gap of 25 per cent (2015), while the gender ratio of parliamentary seats was 12 to 88 (2014). Much has been done recently, including with UNFPA support: combating gender stereotypes through media campaigns; mandatory training for public servants on gender-sensitive approaches to public administration; improving the national gender machinery, including for reporting on international conventions. The UNFPA evaluation team recommended that gender be more systematically embedded in all areas of work, particularly by making it an integral part of other sectoral policies. In coming years, efforts will focus on reducing gender inequalities at home and in schools and workplaces, where stereotypes are both formed and perpetuated.

7. One in five Ukrainian women has experienced gender-based violence, while one in twelve women (8 per cent) has survived sexual violence. The Istanbul Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women is yet to be ratified by Ukraine, and there is as yet no integrated, national system of referrals and comprehensive services for gender-based violence survivors. UNFPA has been recognized for having mounted a successful response in providing services to survivors in humanitarian settings, including by building integrated, multisector referral systems at local level. This has created an opportunity to scale up this initiative in eastern Ukraine and create a national system for combatting gender-based violence for all of Ukraine.

II. Programme priorities and partnerships

8. The proposed country programme for Ukraine has been developed with the participation of government counterparts, academia, civil society and international development partners. It is aligned with the draft national 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, the Ukraine-United Nations Partnership Framework for 2018-2022, and the national sustainable development strategy, Ukraine 2020, through which the country has identified as a priority the investment in young people, including through healthy lifestyles and employable life skills. Likewise, the Concept of the State Programme on ensuring equal rights and opportunities of women and men (2012) and the National Action Plan on United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2016) have identified the importance of eliminating all barriers to women's full participation in social, economic and political life, including an end to violence against women.

9. Based on the consultative processes that identified the comparative advantage of UNFPA, the country programme will seek to bring about lasting change in the ways young Ukrainians prepare for their adult lives, particularly with respect to their outlook on sexuality, gender equality and non-discrimination, and in the ways society makes such choices possible. Within the current social and political context of Ukraine, it is understood that progress on UNFPA-supported national development goals will most likely be achieved by investing in the abilities of young people, especially young women and girls, so that they can make responsible choices about their lives, including their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, by contributing to the legal and social adoption of more equitable gender norms, including the right to live free from stereotypes, coercion and violence. To support these goals, UNFPA will engage primarily through advocacy and policy dialogue, at national and subnational levels. Given Ukraine's European ambitions, an integral part of UNFPA support will be through knowledge management, particularly on good practices and the adoption of international norms and standards, along with limited capacity development to key counterparts, particularly related to the lingering effects of the humanitarian crisis. As recommended by the programme evaluation, the country office will expand its work at subnational level, and seek synergies with relevant initiatives of other development partners.

10. The proposed programme will operate on a number of assumptions: that the conflict in eastern Ukraine will not intensify, as it might divert resources towards humanitarian response; that a favourable social and political climate towards gender equality will persist; and that there is continuing interest from the private sector and traditional donors to financially and technically contribute to the programme. Given the country's lower middle-income status, national sources are expected to provide the bulk of the resources necessary to accomplish the country programme objectives. The country strategies of a number of donors, including Canada, Denmark and the United Kingdom, underscore the importance of combating gender-based violence in Ukraine.

11. The programme will seek to create broad-based partnerships, at national and subnational levels, to deliver and sustain the planned results. This includes technical assistance on Ukrainian legislation, to bring standards in line with international best practices; targeted communications to specific groups of beneficiaries; and promoting evidence-based decision-making based on improved platforms for dialogue. Civil society and academia have been long-standing partners for UNFPA, and partnerships

with United Nations agencies will be pursued where synergies are cost-effective. UNFPA will also seek to establish partnerships with the media and the private sector, based on shared values and comparative advantages. The country office will continue to promote national implementation as the preferred mode of delivery of the programme.

A. Outcome 2: Adolescents and youth

12. Output 1: Evidence-based and inclusive national and subnational policies and programmes for young people that advance sexual and reproductive health, reduce risks and vulnerabilities, expand opportunities, and promote youth participation for the full realization of their potential, including in humanitarian settings. The programme will focus on the needs of adolescent girls, young people with disabilities and those who have suffered from armed conflict, as well as key populations for HIV prevention. It will foster policy and programmatic change: (a) promoting healthy lifestyles among young people to reduce the risks of unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, (b) improving sexual and reproductive health services for young people with disabilities and young key populations; (c) supporting platforms to promote the participation of young people in decision-making processes related to their lives; (d) promoting life skills to allow young people to become more socially active, politically engaged and economically resilient; and (e) advancing the youth and peacebuilding agenda, in support of United Nations Security Council resolution 2250. UNFPA will engage in policy dialogue with national and subnational government entities, to ensure that young people have priority access to relevant health and social services; create space for young people to participate in programme design and monitoring; and provide technical assistance in the design of curricula and medical protocols and for the operationalization of Security Council resolution 2250.

B. Outcome 3: Gender equality and women's empowerment

13. Output 1: Strengthened national and subnational partnership frameworks in place for reducing gender inequalities in social, economic and political spheres of life. The programme will provide policy advice and foster partnerships among governmental agencies, civil society and the private sector to advance women's rights. It will focus on: (a) reducing gender stereotypes that shape gender roles at home and at work, including through education of adolescents and male involvement; (b) fostering solutions to empower adolescent girls and women, including women with disabilities, to claim their rights and voice their needs; and (c) exploring gender disparities from an economics angle. UNFPA will engage, inter alia, in dialogue with national and subnational authorities and the private sector to help reconcile productive and reproductive roles; foster broad-based coalitions to engage in public campaigns to reduce gender stereotyping; advance gender-sensitization of school textbooks; and provide technical assistance for the integration of gender-sensitive approaches in the mandatory curricula of mid-level civil servants.

14. Output 2: Strengthened national gender-based violence prevention and response mechanisms, including in humanitarian settings. The programme will improve coordination and referral pathways among gender-based violence services, expand their scope and focus on prevention. It will address gender-based violence by: (a) improving national and local policy and regulatory frameworks; (b) developing capacity, especially at local level, to comprehensively address gender-based violence, including through data management; (c) generating demand for services in response to gender-based violence and by working with aggressors; and (d) strengthening partnerships to address and sustainably fund gender-based violence prevention and response nationwide. UNFPA will advocate for investments in budgets and capacities to sustain the multisectoral systems now in place in some regions, and that they be expanded to others; advocate for the adoption of legal frameworks at national and local levels; provide technical assistance to partners to embed gender-based violence prevention elements in their operations, and for the design and operationalization of a national system for gender-based violence case management.

III. Programme and risk management

15. Country programme objectives are linked to national priorities, and success is therefore premised on leadership by government partners – including the ministries of health, social policies, youth and sports, interior, and education – as well as local governments. The Ministry of Health has been designated the Government Coordinating Agency. The country office will seek additional financial resources from the corporate sector and bilateral and multilateral donors, and through government co-funding. Early signs indicate an overlap of key components of the country programme with priorities of the Governments of Canada, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The country office has engaged in discussions with the Government, including at subnational level, to identify areas for co-investment, and it has identified some private-sector entities with potential interest in sponsoring elements of the country programme. Unless the humanitarian crisis persists, the likelihood of humanitarian funding is low.

To deliver the proposed programme results, the country office will need to change the current human resources structure and profiles. It will require a team with strong networking and advocacy skills as well as technical skills in the core areas of gender and young people, partnership development, resource mobilization and communications. Skilled operations staff round out the team profile, particularly in order to grow the investment portfolio. The country office currently has five minimally staffed sub-offices, all located in the eastern part of Ukraine due to the ongoing humanitarian crisis; these are subject to review as the crisis evolves.

16. Major risks for successful programme delivery include political volatility and underfinancing. The former risk will be mitigated through refocusing programme delivery to the subnational and community levels, where possible risk impact is relatively lower than that at the central level. The underfinancing risk will be addressed through diversified partnership development and resource mobilization, particularly by seeking multi-year commitments.

17. This country programme document outlines UNFPA contributions to national results, and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at the country level. Accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarters levels with respect to country programmes are prescribed in the UNFPA programme and operations policies and procedures, and the internal control framework.

IV. Monitoring and evaluation

18. The country office will develop a monitoring and evaluation plan, in line with UNFPA Strategic Plan requirements. Assistance may be adjusted in the event of an emergency. The country office will earmark funds to implement monitoring and evaluation activities, which will be conducted in partnership with Government and other partners. The primary source of social and economic data is the State Statistics Service of Ukraine and key international databases, as well as results of national and regional research in areas related to the programme. UNFPA will contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of the UNDAF, being responsible for several indicators as per the agreed matrix. To address data gaps, UNFPA will collaborate with Government, United Nations agencies and leading research organizations to conduct national and regional surveys in the main areas of work of the programme.

RESULTS AND RESOURCES FRAMEWORK FOR UKRAINE (2018-2022)

<p>National priority: Sustainable Development Goals 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11 and 16: Good health and well-being; Quality education; Gender equality; Decent work and economic growth; Reduced inequalities; Sustainable development of towns and communities; Peace, justice and strong institutions.</p> <p>UNDAF outcome 1: By 2022, all women and men, especially young people, equally benefit from an enabling environment that includes a labour market, access to decent jobs and economic opportunities.</p> <p>Indicator: Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training. Baseline (2015): 17.7%; Target (2020): 17.0%.</p> <p>UNDAF outcome 2: By 2022, women and men, girls and boys, equitably benefit from integrated social protection, universal health services and quality education.</p> <p>Indicators: Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods. Baseline (2012): 47.8%; Target (2022): 55%. Proportion of population aged 15-49 years who had more than one sexual partner in the past 12 months who reported use of condom during their last intercourse, by gender. Baseline (2012): women 49.9%, men 45.8%; Target (2022): women 55%, men 50%.</p>				
UNFPA strategic plan outcome	Country programme outputs	Output indicators, baselines and targets	Partner contributions	Indicative resources
<p>Outcome 2: Adolescents and youth <u>Outcome indicator(s):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of young women and men aged 15-24 years who correctly identify ways of preventing sexual transmission of HIV and who reject major misconceptions about HIV transmission <i>Baseline: 49.9% (women), 45.8% (men); Target: 60% (women and men)</i> Percentage of women and men aged 15-49 years who had more than one sexual partner in the last 12 months and who reported use of condom during their last intercourse <i>Baseline: 53.3% (women), 69% (men); Target: 60% (women), 80% (men)</i> 	<p><u>Output 1:</u> Evidence-based and inclusive national and subnational policies and programmes for young people that advance sexual and reproductive health, reduce risks and vulnerabilities, expand opportunities, and promote youth participation for the full realization of their potential, including in humanitarian settings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of new youth policies and programmes at national and sub-national levels based on data evidence regarding youth demographics, needs of young people and inequalities in exercising their rights <i>Baseline: 0%; Target: 100%</i> Number of municipalities with operational platforms/mechanisms that address youth health and well-being and ensure youth participation in elaboration, implementation, and monitoring of local development programmes <i>Baseline: 1; Target: 20</i> Share of new policies regarding sexual and reproductive health, at national and subnational levels, that reflect the needs of people with disabilities <i>Baseline: 0%; Target: 100%</i> 	<p>Ministries of Health; Youth and Sports; local authorities; Association of Cities of Ukraine; Mayors Club; UNICEF; International Labour Organization; World Health Organization; Institute for Demography and Social Studies; community-based organizations; non-governmental organizations; youth networks; private sector</p>	<p>\$2.8 million (\$0.8 million from regular resources and \$2.0 million from other resources)</p>
<p>National priority: Sustainable Development Goals 3, 4, 5, 10 and 16: Good health and well-being; Quality education; Gender equality; Reduced inequalities; Peace; justice and strong institutions.</p> <p>UNDAF outcome 3: By 2022, women and men, girls and boys participate in decision-making and enjoy human rights, gender equality, effective, transparent and non-discriminatory public services.</p> <p>Indicator: The share of people who reported that they had personally faced discrimination or harassment based on discrimination over the last 12 months, in the total number of group, by sex, age, locality type. Baseline (2015): 9%; Target (2022): 7%.</p> <p>UNDAF Outcome 4: By 2022, communities, including vulnerable people and internally displaced persons, are more resilient and equitably benefit from greater social cohesion, quality services and recovery support.</p> <p>Indicators: Share of survivors of physical or sexual violence who sought help. Baseline (2014): 32 %; Target (2022): 50%. Proportion of women and girls subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence in the last 12 months, by form of violence. Baseline (2014): 17% (any form), 8.8% (physical), 2% (sexual), 14% (psychological). Target (2022): 15% (any form), 6% (physical), 1% (sexual), 10% (psychological).</p>				
Outcome 3: Gender equality and	<u>Output 1:</u> Strengthened national	• National standard for gender review of school	Ministries of Social	\$1.65 million

<p>women's empowerment</p> <p><u>Outcome indicator(s):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of women and men aged 15-49 years who believe a husband is justified in beating his wife/partner under certain circumstances <i>Baseline (2012): 2.9% (women), 9.4% men;</i> <i>Target: Decrease by 50%.</i> Share of women and men who believe there are 'women's' and 'men's' occupations <i>Baseline (2012): 72%;</i> <i>Target: 60%</i> Share of new school textbooks that underwent gender review according to national standards <i>Baseline: 0%; Target: 100%.</i> 	<p>and subnational partnership frameworks in place for reducing gender inequalities in social, economic and political spheres of life</p>	<p>curricula developed <i>Baseline: No; Target: Yes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of municipalities implementing new community-based initiatives and programmes on women's empowerment and participation and male engagement <i>Baseline: 0; Target: 20</i> Number of new studies on gender stereotypes, roles, gaps and inequalities to inform policy and decision-making processes <i>Baseline: 0; Target: At least 2</i> 	<p>Policies; Education and Science; National Academy of Public Administration; Equal Opportunities Caucus; Institute for Demography and Social Studies; UNDP; UN-Women; non-governmental organizations; civic society organizations</p>	<p>(\$0.65 million from regular resources and \$1.0 million from other resources)</p>
	<p><u>Output 2:</u> Strengthened national gender-based violence prevention and response mechanisms, including in humanitarian settings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of regions implementing intersectoral coordination mechanisms for gender-based violence prevention and response <i>Baseline: 20%; Target: 100%</i> Number of municipalities (with 200,000+ population) that include gender-based violence response in their development policies/programmes and allocate resources to provide services (shelters, safe spaces, psycho-social assistance) <i>Baseline: 2; Target: 20</i> 	<p>Ministries of Health; Social Policies; Education and Science; Internal Affairs; UN-Women; World Health Organization, professional associations; academic institutions; private sector</p>	<p>\$4.7 million (\$0.7 million from regular resources and \$4 million from other resources)</p>