UNFPA Regional Response to Ukraine Emergency
Situation Report #18

Reporting period from 1 March to 30 April 2023; Released: 17 May 2023

71,400 People reached with GBV information, referral and services
16,300 People reached with mental health and psychosocial support
27,980 People reached with SRH information, referral and services

Highlights
● UNFPA continued to support 52 Safe Spaces in Ukraine and Moldova.
● Over 42 metric tons of Inter-Agency Reproductive Health Kits were delivered to maternity hospitals in Ukraine.
● UNFPA handed over 60 vehicles donated by the US Government to local partners to support psychosocial mobile teams in Ukraine.
● Over 7,000 essential needs, hygiene and dignity kits were distributed in Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus.
● At least 7,700 people in need received psychosocial counselling from 100 psychosocial mobile teams deployed across Ukraine.

17.6 million People in need in Ukraine
5.4 million Internally displaced people in Ukraine
8.1 million Refugees in European countries

A worker from a PSS Mobile Team supported by UNFP and its partners in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine
UNFPA/ Maryna Vladimirova
Situation Overview/Humanitarian Needs

- As of April 2023, an estimated 8.1 million Ukrainians had fled to other parts of Europe, of which over 5 million are registered for temporary protection or similar national protection schemes. Currently, Poland is the largest refugee-hosting country with 1.5 million refugees from Ukraine recorded. An additional 5.4 million Ukrainians are recorded as internally displaced.
- Within Ukraine an estimated 14.6 million people require health assistance, the response currently targets 7.8 million people of which 52 per cent are women.
- An estimated 3.6 million people are in need of GBV prevention and response services. The response aims to assist at least 1 million women and girls across the country.
- In the last two months, at least 12 attacks on healthcare facilities were reported.
- Access in nongovernmental controlled areas continues to be highly restricted and safety concerns, particularly involving mines and explosive remnants of war remain the main barriers in terms of humanitarian access.
- UNFPA continues to work with partners to ensure access to Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and Gender Based Violence (GBV) services for women and girls in most regions of Ukraine and in neighbouring countries to address the evolving humanitarian situation.

UNFPA Humanitarian Response in Ukraine

- During the reporting period, UNFPA launched 19 additional "Vilna" women-friendly spaces in Ukraine, bringing the total to 28. These spaces provide services such as legal and psychological counselling, medical support, and vocational training.
- In the last two months, six new Mobile Health Units (MHUs) started operating in Chernihiv, Donetsk, Kirovograd, Kherson, Kryvyi Rih and Ivano-Frankivsk. During the reporting period, 19,650 consultations were provided to women and girls by MHUs. One mobile maternity unit is also operating in the Kharkiv oblast, providing comprehensive emergency obstetric care.
- 24 UNFPA-supported specialized facilities for GBV survivors were operational, and one new Survivor Relief Centre (SRC) opened in Mukachevo in Western Ukraine. Currently, 11 SRCs are operating, serving as an effective entry point for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence to receive assistance.
- The mobile GBV application had 15,000 active users as of April 2023. This innovative technology allows survivors and those at risk to safely notify the national police of their location and urgent need for help. Since its launch in 2022, the app has been downloaded 35,000 times. The application is a joint initiative with the Ministry of Interior and the National Police of Ukraine.
- A total of 989 state service providers participated in 34 workshops on preventing and responding to gender-based violence across 19 regions of Ukraine. The training sessions covered a wide range of topics related to GBV, including domestic violence and conflict-related sexual violence, and survivor rights.

UNFPA Humanitarian Response in Neighbouring Countries

Moldova

- UNFPA continues to support 28 Safe Spaces in 30 regions across Moldova, including eight Mobile Safe Spaces to conduct outreach activities targeting the refugees and host communities.
• At least 8,550 new individuals were reached through the static and mobile Safe Spaces targeting women. Information sessions recorded close to 3,880 participants in total, and 2,650 referrals were made to available specialized and non-specialized GBV services. Over 2,600 psychological support consultations were provided, and over 1820 individuals received first line services at the Safe Spaces in the borders of the Railway station.

• Static and mobile Safe Spaces reached close to 4,500 youth and almost 6,360 older persons through informational sessions, life skills development programs that include basic knowledge on hygiene, mental health, building relationships, sexuality education, GBV prevention, Romanian language and recreational activities.

• In the reporting period, 225 professionals from hospitals’ emergency departments, community mental health centres, and forensic medicine centres were trained through offline training on "Interdisciplinary Approach to Clinical Management of Rape: Questions and Answers" at the Institute of Mother and Child.

Belarus

• During the reporting period, over 210 persons in the Brest oblast and close to 260 persons in the Gomel oblast benefited from tailored psychosocial counselling.

• At least 330 women, over 200 older people and 17 persons with disabilities were referred to adequate services and support, particularly for medical care, employment, temporary shelter, food and hygienic goods.

• A Crisis Centre operated by the Red Cross in Brest City and supported by UNFPA provided accommodation, specialists’ support and counselling for 4 Ukrainian families with children and an older Ukrainian woman.

• A new Safe Space opened in the Vitebsk region at the end of April.

Poland

• During the reporting period, six women and three children stayed at a shelter and received support by Feminoteka, a local partner of the Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR). Additionally, three adult survivors and five children are being supported through community housing.

• In March, two team members from Feminoteka went on a study trip to Ireland to visit two long-standing rape crisis centres and a safe shelter, aiming to learn from their decades of experience in setting up and running these services. The purpose of the trip was to support the development of similar services in Poland.

• In total, 58 calls were answered by the helpline set up by UNFPA partners and at least 300 refugees received services or referrals.

Romania

• UNFPA, in collaboration with the National Agency for Equality of Opportunities between Women and Men (ANES) and with the support of the World Health Organization (WHO), organized six two-day introduction courses on CMR and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) during the reporting period. The training courses were conducted by UNFPA's partner, the East European Institute for Reproductive Health (EEIRH), at ANES-established Centers for Intervention for Rape Survivors. A total of 168 professionals from various healthcare sectors participated in the training.
COORDINATION

Ukraine

- Two successful conferences were held with doctors from eleven medical health units across Ukraine. Medical professionals gathered to exchange best practices for providing quality care in challenging environments, particularly in underserved communities.
- UNFPA, conducted 34 workshops on preventing and responding to gender-based violence for a total of 989 state service providers across 19 regions of Ukraine.
- 118 medical providers received training via the ‘Women's Health and Family Planning’, a UNFPA national implementing partner. 89 providers were trained on the topic of disability.
- To improve the quality of CMR within the national healthcare system, UNFPA conducted a five-day CMR IPV training. The training, held in Kyiv, brought together 30 participants from various facilities across the country. UNFPA remains committed to building the technical capacity of Ukraine’s healthcare professionals.
- Together with local authorities, UNFPA continued decentralizing humanitarian emergency GBV coordination in order to maximize reach and impact. The first GBV Sub-Cluster regional meeting in Poltava was held on 27 March.
- A new forum, Subnational South/East WG, was launched in mid-April with the objective of bringing together operational partners who work across multiple locations in the most war-affected territories.

Moldova

- The GBV Sub Working Group (SWG) continues to run a joint campaign with UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF and UN Women to promote the available support services to survivors of GBV and groups at risk of GBV featured on the front page of this Snapshot.
- During this period, the GBV SWG conducted a training session on Mainstreaming GBV Risk Mitigation Measures into programs, reaching 19 participants representing the Alliance of Active NGOs in the field of Child and Family Social Protection (APSCF).
- The GBV SWG continues to update six referral pathways mapping service providers in the northern, southern and central regions, Chisinau, and two border areas, Palanca and Otachi. The GBV referral pathways are disseminated to humanitarian actors and service providers to ensure timely support to survivors.
- The GBV SWG also continues to promote the GBV Pocket Guide on how non-GBV actors can support survivors, featuring Romanian and Russian language versions.

Belarus

- As a part of the Inter-Agency Refugee taskforce, UNFPA took the lead in coordinating the preparation of joint training for service providers and volunteers providing assistance to Ukrainian refugees.

Poland

* More information is available in the country snapshots below.
UNFPA supported WHO Poland in enhancing the government's Health Book, a reference of health services provided to refugees. UNFPA integrated women and young people's health and adjusting the manual from thematic (nutrition, mental health, etc.) to a life-course approach (mothers and newborns, children, adolescents, etc.).

UNFPA raised awareness of Clinical Management of Rape (CMR) principles and UNFPA's planned training support among stakeholders during the health and protection coordination, including the CMR task force.

UNFPA intervened during Poland Health Sector coordination meetings on the integration of SRH in the MHPSS work and sensitization of individual language translators on gender and sexual health.

Through the Refugee Health Extension (RHE), UNFPA is monitoring the SRHR situation in Poland for refugees through bilateral meetings, field visits and review of existing partners’ assessment to determine activities, needs and challenges of humanitarian actors on the field of SRH for women, young people and key populations.

FUTURE PLANS

UNFPA is conducting a 5-day training on CMR-IPV in Romania. This training will happen from May 15-19 in collaboration with EEIRH, WHO and UNICEF. A Training of Trainers (ToT) is also planned as part of the ongoing efforts of UNFPA to build capacity and ensure the effective transfer of knowledge and skills.

UNFPA will organise a communication mission to Romania in May to visit the four WGSS. Several meetings with community liaisons, Ukrainian refugees, local authorities, and healthcare professionals will be organized to collect content that showcases the impact of UNFPA's implementing partners' work on the ground and amplify the voices of affected communities.

In Poland, Femoniteka, a partner of the Center for Reproductive Right (CRR), will organize a conference at the end of May with representatives from rape crisis centres in Ireland, UK and Spain to mark the opening of its new Rape Crisis Centre in Warsaw.

UNFPA Funding Requirement for 2023

$99 M required 51% funded

UNFPA released its 2023 regional appeal for Ukraine, Moldova and other neighbouring countries seeking a total of $99 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 (the UN Refugee Agency)-led 2023 Regional Refugee Response Plan, which includes UNFPA funding requirements, were officially released in early 2023.
As of 30 April, the UNFPA Appeal for Ukraine was 51 per cent funded, which includes funds committed for ongoing projects started in 2022.

MEDIA, COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY

- Read how a Telegram channel provides a lifeline to refugee mothers in Moldova
- The UK Ambassador in Ukraine recently visited the “VONA” career hub in Lviv. “VONA hubs” are supporting the economic empowerment of women who are GBV and domestic violence survivors. Read the testimony of Natalya about breaking the cycle of violence.
- UNFPA delivered 60 vehicles provided by the US Government to help survivors of gender-based violence across Ukraine.
- The findings of a large study on the impact of war on youth, supported by UNFPA, was presented in April 2023.
- A brochure containing information on all specialized services of UNFPA implemented throughout Ukraine as of March 2023 was published.

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

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