

26 February 2022

Situation Overview

Since the beginning of the military offensive, the situation in Ukraine remains volatile with hundreds of reported casualties and injuries, and damage to infrastructure, homes and health facilities. The President of Ukraine declared a state of emergency on 25 February, and the State Border Control announced that males aged 18-60 were prohibited from leaving the country. According to IOM and UNHCR more than 100,000 people have been displaced within Ukraine, and at least 50,000 have crossed into neighboring countries (as of 25 February), adding a regional dimension to the crisis.



The conflict is exacerbating an already ongoing humanitarian crisis in eastern Ukraine, caused by an armed conflict now in its eighth year, which had already taken a heavy toll on women and families, disrupting lives, straining health and coping mechanisms, and leaving vulnerable people dependent on humanitarian assistance. In eastern Ukraine, some 2.9 million people had already been in need of humanitarian assistance prior to the current escalation of the conflict.

UNFPA Preparedness and Response

UNFPA currently has 2 international and 43 national personnel in Ukraine. The Country Office remains operational and is preparing to increase operational capacity to deliver lifesaving sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services and supplies, prevent and respond to gender-based violence (GBV) and provide psychosocial support.

Over the last few months, UNFPA has actively contributed to efforts of the United Nations in Ukraine to strengthen preparedness efforts and adapt response capacities based on the four scenarios outlined in the Inter-Agency Contingency Plan. In Ukraine, as well as other countries in the region, including in Belarus and Moldova, UNFPA has collaborated closely with the Ministries of Health and other partners to assess joint capacities and readiness to implement the

Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) in crisis, and design action plans to improve preparedness.

UNFPA is updating its Response Plans in Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova, adapting response strategies and priorities to respond to SRH and GBV-related needs of the local population, IDPs and refugees with a focus on women and girls.

Humanitarian professionals, specialists in gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health, humanitarian coordination, logistics, communication and operations are currently being identified in partnership with stand-by partners to bolster response capacity.

Prior to the escalation of hostilities, UNFPA operated across 22 out of 24 oblasts (administrative units), including eastern Ukraine (Donetsk and Luhansk Government-Controlled Areas, GCA), and worked with over 25 implementing partners from government/local authorities, civil society, private sector companies, etc, mostly at district and municipality level. Out of those, 7 provided GBV and/or SRH services specifically in eastern Ukraine.

UNFPA had strong working relations with health authorities, especially along the contact line of Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts and two partners running SRH mobile teams, as well as organizations managing Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE) response, risk mitigation and prevention programmes, with a particular focus on response services and information.

Regional: Neighboring Countries

As of 25 February, an estimated 50,000 people had left Ukraine and entered neighbouring countries, primarily Poland and the Republic of Moldova, and in smaller numbers to Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Belarus.

UNFPA has Country Offices in the Republic of Moldova and Belarus; both offices are actively engaged in all interagency contingency planning activities and are reprogramming to respond to the immediate SRH and GBV-related needs of the refugees.

UNFPA is working to ensure that refugees, most of whom are women and children, including GBV survivors, can access life-saving, quality, and well-coordinated SRH and GBViE response services that meet their needs. Special attention will also be paid to vulnerable groups, including older persons.

UNFPA is partnering with the respective governments and UN agencies to strengthen GBV and SRH sub-sector coordination at national and sub-national levels. As the situation evolves and the needs become clearer, UNFPA will work alongside the governments, including in countries member of the European Union, to ensure that existing SRH and GBV-related services are available and accessible by all refugees, and will support their scaling up if needed.

In EU countries such as Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania, UNFPA is ready to provide advisory services to governments, Ministries of Health, local authorities and all humanitarian actors like UNHCR, WHO, the Red Cross national societies and NGOs. UNFPA will work in an advisory capacity with EU partners to ensure that SRH and GBV-related services are prioritized and available for all refugees.

In the Russian Federation, UNFPA is also ready to assist the Government and local authorities to ensure that SRH and GBV-related services are provided and available to refugees, including by strengthening coordination mechanisms, support service providers to deliver quality services to all, and make sure that refugees are aware of the availability of services.

Financial needs

The total amount required, as of 26 February 2022, to respond to the needs of the people affected by the crisis both in Ukraine and in neighboring countries and to strengthen the capacities of SRH and GBV service providers is rapidly increasing and is currently estimated to be close to **USD 20 million**.

UNFPA has allocated USD 1.5 million from its emergency funds to allow immediate, life-saving SRH and GBV interventions to respond to the acute needs of the most affected people from the onset of this crisis.

UNFPA also engaged in the Flash Appeal process led by OCHA for the response in Ukraine and in the Regional Response Plan for Refugees led by UNHCR.

UNFPA is engaging with multiple donors to ensure that from the earliest phase of this crisis, the continuity and scale-up of lifesaving SRH and GBV-related services are prioritized.

Ukraine

UNFPA requires a total of **USD 18 million** for the next 9 months for health and protection services and supplies to meet the needs of affected women and girls and young people.

For UNFPA-led **GBViE** interventions, an estimated **USD 12 million** will be needed for the next 9 months, focusing on leading and strengthening GBV sub-cluster / sub-sector coordination at national and sub-national levels in conflict-affected areas, and scaling up and ensuring the provision of quality life-saving services for GBV survivors and women and girls at risk. The programme will focus on lifesaving medical and psychosocial support service provision, service availability and risk education efforts, and advocacy and support for GBV risk mitigation efforts across the humanitarian response.

To address the **SRH** needs of the affected population, an estimated **USD 6 million** is needed for the next 9 months. The interventions will focus on the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP)

for SRH in crisis and include provision of SRH services (such as family planning and HIV/STI management) through mobile clinics; support referrals and strengthen local capacity on clinical management of rape and intimate partner violence, support pregnant women and girls with health care and referrals to emergency obstetric and newborn care, and ensure that drugs and equipment are available to continue provision of life-saving SRH services.

Republic of Moldova

In the Republic of Moldova, UNFPA immediately allocated USD 50,000 to meet the most pressing needs of refugees and mobilized internally to support the government and partners in their coordination and response efforts.

As of 26 February, the initial additional needs are estimated at **620,000 USD** to strengthen GBV and SRH services and sub-sectoral coordination. Surge personnel are being deployed to support these efforts and help with a further assessment of the situation.

The coordination of the assistance is managed by the Government. There are three refugee camps established in the country, one in the capital Chisinau, and other two close to the border. Many social groups/movements, private companies and individuals mobilized and expressed willingness to help and provide in-kind support to the refugees. UNFPA is procuring dignity kits, which will be distributed in the week starting 28 February.

Belarus

In Belarus, an estimated **USD 430,000** is needed for a similar refugee response. UNFPA financial needs may increase if the number of refugees is higher than initially anticipated.

Communication

On 24 February, UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem issued a [statement](#) to draw public attention to the escalation of conflict in Ukraine, its impact on women and girls and the work of UNFPA. Advocacy efforts continue across channels.

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