

Ukraine and Refugee Response Crisis: UNFPA APPEAL 2023



17.7M

People in need in
Ukraine, including
6.5M IDPs



7.8M

Refugees in
host countries



US\$99M

Required for Ukraine
and the region

Valentina, 29, from Ukraine, gives birth at the Municipal Clinical Hospital in Chisinau, Moldova. Photo: UNFPA Moldova/Eduard Bizgu.

CONTEXT – UKRAINE AND REFUGEE RESPONSE APPEAL

The war in Ukraine has taken a toll on the lives of millions of women and girls who have fled Ukraine, on those displaced within the country, on those who have lost their homes, their families, their livelihoods and on those who are now the sole providers for their families. As of December 2022, an estimated 7.8 million¹ Ukrainian people have fled to other parts of Europe. An additional 6.5 million are internally displaced. An estimated 14.5 million people need health assistance and 11.5 million people require protection assistance and services inside the country; out of which, 3.7 million people will need gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response services. Ukraine saw this season's first snow in November, just days after new attacks on energy infrastructure caused widespread blackouts and disruption of heating and water supplies. Power issues in Ukraine have spilled over to neighbouring countries causing further blackouts, increasing the cost of heating, and stretching the capacity of families to afford basic services.

- **Women and girls affected by the war are at increased risk of life-threatening GBV**, including sexual and physical violence, trafficking, exploitation and abuse, intimate partner violence and are often denied access to essential services, resources and goods.
- **Access to health care, including sexual and reproductive health (SRH) care, and social services remains extremely challenging** as attacks have resulted in disrupted services, security concerns, damaged health-care infrastructure, restricted mobility, and broken referral and supply chains.
- Restricted access to health services threatens the lives of women of reproductive age who have pregnancy-related complications and life-threatening infections and who require family planning services to avoid unintended pregnancies.
- UNFPA, the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency, is working with governments and partners to scale up the **delivery of life-saving multi-sectoral SRH and GBV information, services and supplies**, including the provision of clinical management of rape (CMR) and psychosocial support services, winterized dignity kits and targeted cash assistance for women and girls and other vulnerable groups in Ukraine and refugee-hosting countries, including older persons and persons with disabilities.

¹ <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/ukraine/> [accessed on 19 December 2022]. Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the respective inter-agency planning documents.

UNFPA RESPONSE TO THE WAR IN UKRAINE for 2023

As humanitarian needs intensify during winter, UNFPA continues to work with local, national and international partners to respond to health and protection demands, ensure the delivery of life-saving SRH services and supplies, and guarantee the provision of multi-sectoral mechanisms and services to prevent, mitigate and respond to GBV, including conflict-related sexual violence. Particular attention is paid to the hardest to reach areas and to those left furthest behind.

As the leading agency for GBV and SRH in emergencies, UNFPA will continue to ensure the coordination of the GBV Sub-Cluster, under the Protection Cluster, and the SRH Technical Working Group under the Health Cluster in Ukraine, both at national and local levels. UNFPA will also continue to be a key player, along with UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, in the coordination of and participation in the GBV and SRH working groups in refugee-hosting countries.

Building on the humanitarian, development and peace nexus approach, UNFPA will continue to support established systems and local actors in building community resilience and livelihoods by enhancing the capacity of both national SRH and GBV services to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of the response.

UNFPA 2023 FUNDING REQUIREMENT

Sectors	Ukraine	Refugee receiving countries		2023 total requirements
		Moldova	Other countries & regional coordination & support	
SRH	25,125,000	10,900,000	3,938,000	39,963,000
GBV	45,000,000	10,100,000	3,937,000	59,037,000
Total (US\$)	70,125,000	21,000,000	7,875,000	99,000,000

The total amount requested by UNFPA for 2023² is \$99 million. This includes \$70.1 million for support inside Ukraine and \$28.9 million for the refugee response, out of which \$21 million is for Moldova, and \$7.9 million is required for other countries affected by the crisis, including regional coordination and technical assistance.

These funding requirements are also included in the [2023 Global Humanitarian Overview](#), [UNFPA's 2023 Humanitarian Action Overview](#), the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan for Ukraine and the 2023 Regional Refugee Response Plan for countries neighbouring Ukraine (released in January 2023).

² Funds needed in 2022 totalled \$75.6 million out of which \$61 million (80 per cent) were mobilized (provisional data as of December 2022)

Maternity hospitals in Poltava and Cherkasy received ambulances to deliver essential sexual and reproductive health services to the most remote parts of Ukraine.
Photo: UNFPA Ukraine.



2023 PLANNED RESULTS

Ukraine – \$70.1 million

Key interventions include:



Leadership with national authorities of **the GBV Sub-Cluster and the SRH Working Group** under the protection and health clusters.



Provision of essential GBV response services, including mobile psychosocial support teams, survivor relief centres, crisis rooms, safe spaces, hotlines and online information platforms.



Distribution of life-saving cash assistance to GBV survivors and pregnant and postpartum women. Provision of medical vouchers to women in need of essential SRH services.



Provision of critical SRH services, including medications and clinical supplies to maternity hospitals, mobile SRH clinics and rural SRH service delivery points.



Continuation and **expansion of the network of “women career hubs”** and related programmes for economic empowerment focused on GBV survivors and women at risk.



Assistance for various **youth empowerment initiatives aimed at building skills and developing resilience** focused on the most vulnerable young people.



Provision of population estimates to strengthen nexus and recovery planning.



Support for the national health system with the **long-term supply of essential medicines and commodities** to secure uninterrupted access to family planning and for the prevention of maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality.



Leadership, coordination and technical support for **CMR training and services**.

Moldova – \$21 million

Key interventions include:



Co-leadership with UNHCR of the GBV Sub-Working Group to ensure prevention, mitigation and response mechanisms are in place.



Provision of safe spaces for refugee women, youth and older people and offering essential psychosocial support, referrals and dignity kits.



Implementation of cash assistance programmes and strengthening existing governmental social assistance programmes for lactating and pregnant women and GBV survivors from refugee and host communities to ensure social cohesion.



Upgrade of eight perinatal hospitals at the regional level (including those close to the border) with life-saving equipment and medical supplies to provide quality SRH services to both refugees and the host community. Strengthen 15 blood bank facilities by providing essential equipment for critical medical conditions.



Strengthening of national capacities to address sexual violence, including CMR.

Other Refugee-Hosting Countries – \$7.9 million

Key interventions include:



Support SRH and GBV coordination mechanisms in countries hosting refugees to ensure the mapping of GBV actors, establish and disseminate effective referral pathways for GBV response services and capacity-building of service providers with a focus on the CMR.



The **provision and scaling up of existing safe spaces and crisis centres** to ensure access to information and referral to available GBV and SRH services and rights. The provision of psychosocial support and mobile services to respond to the needs of women and girls and other Ukrainian refugees in host communities (including older people and people with disabilities).



Strengthening of support for women and girl survivors of GBV, including the provision of dignity kits, cash assistance, temporary accommodation, referral to mental health services, case management and SRH services.



Technical assistance to partners and governments in other countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, whose populations and services are either directly or indirectly affected by the war in Ukraine. This could be due to a variety of reasons: an influx of refugees, inflationary pressures, a rise in interest rates, or a looming economic recession leading to the exacerbation of inequalities and increased risks for the most vulnerable people.



UNFPA mobile teams provide social and psychological support in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine. Photo: Maryna Vladimirova.

UNFPA CALL TO PARTNERS:

UNFPA requires long-term flexible funding to respond to the needs of the population in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. All levels of funding are solicited. Most urgently, UNFPA needs funding to continue providing life-saving SRH services, including CMR, prepositioning and distribution of essential supplies; and to scale up the provision of life-saving services for survivors of GBV, including conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). Working together with the governments of Ukraine and other countries affected by the crisis, as well as international and national civil society organizations in all countries, UNFPA requires funding to ensure that these partnerships continue to sustain and expand much-needed life-saving GBV and SRH services during the winter months and into 2023.

The war in Ukraine has significantly damaged the medical supply chain within the country. Disruption of the manufacture and supply of medicines has led to increased costs and reduced the availability of high-quality health services. The medical supply chain will need significant time to recover. Since the start of the war, UNFPA has

supported the SRH supply chain in Ukraine by using Inter-Agency Reproductive Health Kits and other medical infrastructure and supplies. Thanks to the support of donors, UNFPA is making this process more sustainable with the bulk procurement of pharmaceuticals and medical devices. Until the local supply chain recovers, multi-year funding will be essential to ensure the uninterrupted delivery of life-saving medicines. Multi-year flexible funding will also allow UNFPA and its partners to plan ahead, swiftly adapt to the rapidly changing situation, and continue strengthening local capacities to enhance humanitarian preparedness and emergency response.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2022

UNFPA Humanitarian Response in Ukraine

UNFPA has a long-standing field presence in Ukraine and, since the start of the war in February 2022, has built upon its existing network of shelters, centres and crisis rooms to provide GBV services throughout the country. UNFPA's work ensures that women and girls can access quality, multi-sectoral and life-saving services, including psychosocial support, temporary shelter, cash assistance and CMR for GBV survivors. In response to needs resulting from the war, [UNFPA](#) has:

- **Led the [GBV Sub-Cluster](#) and the [SRH Technical Working Group](#)** alongside government agencies, ensuring that a coordinated approach to GBV and SRH services is undertaken by all response partners, that referral pathways are established, and communication and integration with other clusters and working groups are maintained.
- **[Scaled up its interventions and geographical coverage](#)**, offering health and protection services, **[deploying mobile clinics, health teams and mobile safe spaces for women and girls](#)** to increase access to life-saving GBV and SRH services.
- Delivered more than **100 metric tons of SRH supplies** to over 50 hospitals and perinatal centres, sustaining services covering over 7 million people.
- **Supported 27 facilities**, including shelters, crisis rooms, counselling centres, a national hotline and more than 100 mobile psychosocial support teams to assist GBV survivors and women and girls at risk of violence, and to link them to SRH services across Ukraine.

- **Provided psychosocial support to 10,000 people** through mobile teams, information on GBV risk mitigation to an estimated 43,000 people (around 86 per cent women) and online consultations with over 27,000 people (around 78 per cent women) via the national hotline.
- Established five offline Women Career Hubs in Ukraine through which approximately 3,500 women affected by the war, including those displaced from their homes, have received career advice and psychological support. An [online platform](#) continues to offer crucial assistance to those who cannot visit in person.
- Supported the Government of Ukraine to **enhance protection and response to CRSV** within the Framework on Cooperation on Prevention and Response to CRSV. Together with the Government, UNFPA co-lead a sub-group on comprehensive service provision to CRSV survivors.



Delivery of Inter-Agency Emergency Health Kits to a maternity hospital in Dnipro, Ukraine.
Photo: UNFPA Ukraine/Mark Kachuro.

UNFPA Humanitarian Response to Refugees

Since February 2022, UNFPA has scaled up activities in Moldova and other countries neighbouring Ukraine in response to the influx of Ukrainian women and girls seeking refuge. UNFPA's primary focus has been to support inter-agency coordination, prioritize GBV response and SRH services in the humanitarian-development nexus response and address the life-saving needs of women and girls, youth, older people and people with disabilities.

In Moldova:

The majority of refugees are placed in communities and are hosted by families or in refugee accommodation centres. Therefore, UNFPA has focused on the humanitarian, development, peace nexus and a community-based response. In addition, UNFPA:

- Has been **leading the Intersectoral GBV Sub-Working group** jointly with UNHCR, which supported the first [GBV safety audit](#), a rapid [GBV risk assessment in the cash and voucher assistance](#) and an analysis of the [GBV legal framework of the Republic of Moldova and the mandatory reporting requirements](#) in the country.
- Strengthened the national SRH system by **upgrading and adding additional surgery theatres and delivery rooms** in 7 regional maternity and 2 specialized hospitals to ensure 15,000 safe births annually.
- **Established 24 safe spaces** (20 static and 4 [mobile](#)) reaching over 13,000 [women](#), [youth](#) and [older persons](#) with psychosocial support, information and GBV referral services.
- **Delivered supplies and post-rape kits to 41 health facilities** to respond to [the needs of refugees and the host](#) population of 450,000.
- **Distributed over 18,000 dignity kits**, winterized and adapted to the needs of older persons, boys and pregnant and lactating women.
- Provided **cash assistance for the health and nutritional needs** of almost 1,000 lactating or pregnant refugee women and delivered additional social assistance payments to the most vulnerable pregnant and lactating Moldovan women (11 per cent - 3,300 women). Provided cash assistance for the health and nutritional needs of almost 1,000 refugee lactating and pregnant women and delivered additional social assistance payments to the most vulnerable pregnant and lactating women from Moldova (11 per cent - 3,300 women).

In Other Refugee-Hosting countries:

UNFPA worked with the Center for Reproductive Health, the East European Institute for Reproductive Health, the International Planned Parenthood Federation, the Red Cross and their local partners. Together they:

- **Opened two crisis centres providing safe accommodation and psychosocial services** to Ukrainian refugees, focusing on women and older persons.
- **Established a network of Orange Safe Spaces** to provide essential psychosocial and GBV-related services to women, older persons and persons with disabilities.
- Partnered with hospitals, psychologists and Red Cross volunteers to **establish a referral system for refugees** and facilitated access to essential psychological, medical, social and legal support.
- Supported **Red Cross volunteer coordination and management**, including building their capacities on SRH and GBV-related services and preventing emotional burnout when working in difficult circumstances.
- **Assessed access to and understanding of SRH and GBV services** for refugees and presented briefings to the humanitarian response community.
- Conducted a series of multi-country interviews with key stakeholders in Poland, Romania and Slovakia to **document barriers faced by refugees in accessing SRH and GBV services** for analysis and publication.
- Supported Ukrainian GBV survivors and their families by providing a safe house and access to mental health support, case management, reproductive health care and livelihoods.
- Reached vulnerable women and girl refugees with dignity kits, essential hygiene items and other necessities (including critical items for winter weather)
- Provided tailored information on available SRH and GBV services, referral support and transport to gynaecological services including Ukrainian language interpretation.
- Coordinated with the Romanian Ministry of Health to establish five national working groups, including public health policies on SRH and family planning, guidelines and protocols, medical structures and staffing, access to contraceptive products, the logistical information system and education and communication activities.
- Together with the National Agency for Equal Opportunities, UNFPA helped to build the capacities of local NGOs to respond to the needs of SRH and GBV in humanitarian settings.



UNFPA mobile teams distributed dignity kits in the city of Ternopil, Ukraine. Photo: UNFPA Ukraine.

For more information, please refer to UNFPA's [regional](#) situation reports, and humanitarian snapshots in [Ukraine](#) and [Moldova](#).

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