Situation Overview
UNFPA has been managing programmes in Ukraine and Moldova since 1997 and 1995 respectively and continues to provide ongoing support amidst the war with a focus on meeting the emergency needs of women and girls and supporting their rights, health and dignity. UNFPA is also offering technical and programme advisory services to neighbouring EU Member States receiving refugees.

As the war in Ukraine intensifies, people are fleeing to safety at a rapid pace. Over 2.5 million people have fled to neighbouring countries, and that figure may rise to more than 4 million by July. The majority of those fleeing are women and children who urgently need life-saving support for their physical and mental wellbeing. At the start of the war, an estimated 265,000 women were pregnant in Ukraine, and 80,000 will give birth in the coming 3 months. There continue to be heartbreaking reports of women giving birth in basements and bomb shelters without adequate medical support. There is an urgent need to prioritise health and protection services to reduce suffering, save lives and support those affected.

Current UNFPA actions
UNFPA, together with partners, is focusing on sexual and reproductive health (SRH), including maternal and newborn health; and protection from gender-based violence (GBV), predominately for women and girls and the most vulnerable. As the UN sexual and reproductive health agency and lead of the gender-based violence sub cluster, UNFPA is playing a key coordination role. UNFPA is repurposing its existing health and protection programmes in Ukraine and surrounding countries to provide emergency response services to meet urgent needs. As humanitarian access expands, UNFPA will expand interventions, to increase the number of partners and locations offering health and protection services (service delivery points) in the coming days and weeks, including mobile clinics. UNFPA is using its existing network of shelters, centres and crisis rooms with GBV services, established before the start of the military offensive, to respond to the needs of women fleeing their homes. UNFPA is expanding critical health services including psychosocial support and specialist services to pregnant and other women affected by GBV who are in transit or whose services have been disrupted.
Example activities that are planned or ongoing in Ukraine and Moldova

- Distribution of essential health and medicine supplies for service delivery points, including emergency reproductive health kits, medical supplies for maternal health and other non-food items requested by health and other state facilities.
- Distributing hygiene kits (including menstrual supplies) to women on the move and specialised hygiene supplies for pregnant and breastfeeding women.
- Establishing mobile health teams offering specialist services staffed with medical personnel in maternal health, sexual reproductive health and psycho-social support.
- Additional staff required for mobile teams: midwives, doctors, pharmacists, counselors, outreach workers, youth coordinators, guards and ambulance drivers.
- Training local frontline health personnel with basic life-saving reproductive health knowledge.
- Expanding existing services provided in shelters and centres in Ukraine for women affected by violence, to provide support to women affected by the conflict and related emergency needs.
- Maintenance and expansion of 24/7 toll-free telephone hotlines in Ukraine for women to seek advice and support for their safety and protection.
- Dissemination of handouts among women and girls on the move and in host communities with information on support for protection, and reproductive health.
- Providing cash assistance (digital or cash-in-hand) to women on the move so they can prioritise their immediate needs (food, shelter, supplies).

UNFPA Call to Partners:

UNFPA urgently needs flexible financing to scale its operations in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. All levels of funding are solicited. Most urgently UNFPA needs financing to procure essential medical supplies and deploy additional trained personnel to deliver life-saving services. UNFPA has the networks and partners ready to receive goods and services but requires funding to provide specialist and emergency services.

The combined funding needed is $32 million; $18 million Ukraine and $12 million Moldova, and $2 million for other neighbouring countries for the six month period March - August 2022.

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