

Regional Response to the Ukraine Crisis

UNFPA REVISED APPEAL 2023



17.6M

People in need in Ukraine, including 5.1M IDPs



6.3M

Refugees in host countries



US\$103M

Regional funding requirements

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

CONTEXT – UKRAINE AND REFUGEE RESPONSE CRISIS

The full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia has taken a toll on the lives of millions of women and girls who have been forced to flee Ukraine, on those displaced within the country, on those who have lost their families, their homes, their livelihoods and on those who are now the sole providers for their families. As of June 2023, an estimated 6.3 million¹ people have been forced to flee Ukraine. An additional 5.1 million² are internally displaced. Inside the country, an estimated 14.6 million people need health assistance and 14.7 million people require protection assistance and services; out of which, 3.6 million people will need gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response services. On 6 June 2023, the destruction of the Kakhovka Dam caused massive flooding, leaving behind an unconfirmed number of civilians killed and injured and forcibly displacing thousands. This disaster has significantly worsened the already dire humanitarian situation in Kherson and Mykolaiv regions.

- **Women and girls affected by war are at increased risk of life-threatening GBV**, including sexual and physical violence, trafficking, exploitation and abuse, intimate partner violence and of 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, continues to work 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, 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 According to [UNHCR Operational Data Portal](#)

² According to [IOM snapshot report](#) published in June 2023

UNFPA REGIONAL RESPONSE TO THE WAR IN UKRAINE FOR 2023

As humanitarian needs intensify, UNFPA continues to work with local, national and international partners to respond to health and protection demands and to ensure the delivery of life-saving SRH services and supplies, as well as to ensure the provision of multi-sectoral mechanisms and services to prevent, mitigate, and respond to GBV, including conflict-related sexual violence.

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 the GBV sub-sectors and SRH working groups in refugee-hosting countries, particularly in Belarus, Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia.

Building on the humanitarian, development and peace triple-nexus approach, UNFPA will continue to support local actors in building individual, community, and institutional resilience and livelihoods by enhancing the capacity of both national SRH and GBV services to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of the response. Partnerships with women-led organizations is central to this approach.

UNFPA 2023 FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Sectors	Ukraine	Refugee receiving countries		2023 total requirements
		Moldova	Other countries & regional coordination & support	
SRH	26,125,000	10,900,000	3,938,000	40,963,000
GBV	48,000,000	10,100,000	3,937,000	62,037,000
Total (US\$)	74,125,000	21,000,000	7,875,500	103,000,000

The total amount requested by UNFPA for 2023³ is \$103 million. This includes \$74.1 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 directly affected by the crisis such as Belarus, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, and for regional coordination and technical assistance.

These funding requirements are 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), with the exception of an additional \$4 million required for UNFPA's June 2023 flood response in Kherson.

³ Funds needed in 2022 totalled \$75.6 million out of which \$54 million (75 per cent) were mobilized.

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 – \$74.1 million

Key interventions include:



Together with the national authorities of Ukraine, **leadership 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, hotline, online platforms, and mobile applications.



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 health care.



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



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



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.



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



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

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.



Implementing 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.



Increasing 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, 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 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, and 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 war, as well as international and national civil society organizations in those countries, UNFPA requires funding to ensure that these partnerships continue to sustain and expand much-needed life-saving GBV and SRH services during this continued crisis.

Russia's full-scale invasion of 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. Recovery of the medical supply chain will take significant time. 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.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE FEBRUARY 2022

UNFPA Humanitarian Response in Ukraine

UNFPA has a long-standing field presence in Ukraine and, since 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. Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion in February 2022, [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 psychosocial mobile teams, specialised facilities for GBV survivors, mobile maternity unit, 24 mobile reproductive health units, and 65 service delivery points for women and girls](#)** to increase access to life-saving GBV and SRH services.
- Delivered more than **[170 metric tons of reproductive health kits](#)** to over 70 hospitals and perinatal centres.

- **Supported 24 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 linkage to SRH services across Ukraine.
- **Delivered psychosocial support to more than 24,000 people** through PSS mobile teams, information on GBV risk mitigation to 78,431 people (around 88 per cent women) and online consultations with over 24,000 people (around 76 per cent women) via the national hotline.
- **Established 28 'Vilna' women-friendly spaces**. 'Vilna' spaces provide various services, including legal and psychological counselling, medical support, and vocational training.
- **Established seven offline "VONA" Women Career Hubs** in Ukraine through which approximately 5,300 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.
- Working together with the Government of Ukraine, UNFPA has **established 11 Survivor Relief Centres** in areas receiving high numbers of IDPs. As an effective 'entrypoint' for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence to receive assistance, SRCs are also open for all people affected by the ongoing war, where they can receive medical, legal, and psychological assistance, in addition to lifesaving referrals.
- 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 in Refugee-Hosting Countries

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 services and SRH 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 nexus and a community-based response. In addition, UNFPA has:

- **Led 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 surgery theatres, Intensive Care Units and delivery rooms** in seven regional maternity and two specialized hospitals to ensure 15,500 safe births annually.
- **Established 28 safe spaces** (20 static and 8 [mobile](#)) reaching over 30,643 [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 30,500 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 Belarus, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia:

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

- **Opened two crisis centres in Belarus providing safe accommodation and psychosocial services** to Ukrainian refugees, focusing on women and older persons.
- **Established a network of Safe Spaces in Belarus** in three regions with the highest numbers of refugees to provide essential psychosocial and GBV-related services to approximately 3,000 women, older persons and persons with disabilities.
- **Established four Women and Girls Safe Space across Romania**, providing psychosocial support and information on sexual and reproductive rights as well as referrals to health providers when needed.
- Supported the **establishment of a crisis centre in Poland**, the first of its kind, providing comprehensive tailored care to survivors of GBV.
- Partnered with hospitals, psychologists and Belarus Red Cross volunteers to **establish a referral system for refugees** and facilitate access to essential psychological, medical, social and legal support.
- As a part of the Inter-Agency refugee taskforce **UNFPA took a leading role in coordinating the preparation of inter-agency joint training sessions** for service providers and volunteers providing assistance to Ukrainian refugees in Belarus. The idea of the joint UN training is to provide frontliners with the necessary baseline knowledge and skills to adequately and effectively prevent and respond to GBV and provide gender-sensitive services and referral to specialized GBV and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) services for GBV survivors seeking assistance.
- **Participated in the different regional coordination mechanisms** such as the Regional GBV Working Group, the Refugee Health Extension and relevant GBV, SRH and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Working Groups.
- **Assessed access 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.
- UNFPA jointly with other UN agencies and partners, lead training sessions **on Clinical Management of Rape and Intimate Partner Violence (CMR/IPV)**, in Slovakia and Romania. Over 40 professionals have now integrated a pool of skilled health care providers (HCP), clinical managers and mental health



providers who are sensitized to and can provide comprehensive, empathetic and confidential survivor-centered referrals and services.

- **Distributed dignity kits, including hygienic supplies** and other essential items like underwear and accessories, through the Safe Spaces.
- **Supported Ukrainian GBV survivors and their families** in secure accommodation and provided access to mental health support, case management, reproductive health care and livelihoods.
- 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 Hungarian and Romanian NGOs** to respond to the needs of SRH and GBV in humanitarian settings. UNFPA also supported **Belarus 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.

For more information, please refer to UNFPA's regional [website](#).

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