

Ukraine Emergency

Situation Report #5



21 March 2022

Covering the period from 14 to 21 March

Highlights

- UNFPA is scaling up its response with partners to safeguard the health and rights of women and girls, including to give birth safely and to live free from violence and abuse.
- The first shipment of interagency emergency reproductive health kits arrived in Ukraine and will be delivered in war-affected areas with supply shortages.
- With more than 10 million people displaced by the crisis, UNFPA is supporting the health and safety of displaced women and children, who constitute the majority of those on the move and face increased risk of gender-based violence.



3.5M

Refugee arrivals from Ukraine



9.4M

Women of reproductive age in Ukraine



265,000

Estimated number of pregnant women in Ukraine at start of military offensive



80,000

Estimated number of births in the next 3 months

Situation Overview

- Ongoing hostilities in Ukraine continue to drive unprecedented levels of displacement both inside the country and across international borders. An estimated 10 million people have fled their homes. Nearly 6.5 million are forcibly displaced within Ukraine, nearly 3.5 million have fled to neighboring countries. Most of the displaced are women and children who need safety and support every step of the way.
- Eastern Ukraine continues to bear the brunt of the war, with continued reports of targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure, including health infrastructure and health workers. 44 health facilities have been destroyed or damaged, and nine health staff were killed, according to the World Health

Organization (WHO). People experience limited access to health services in many areas due to ongoing shelling, destroyed road infrastructure and transport.

- Many GBV facilities—including crisis rooms, day care centers and shelters for GBV survivors, especially those in Eastern Ukraine— are being used for internally displaced populations (IDPs).

Humanitarian Needs

- As of 20 March, an estimated **3.5 million people** had left Ukraine primarily to Poland (around 2 million or 60%), Romania (500,000), the Republic of Moldova (350,000), Hungary (300,000), Slovakia (250,000), and the Russian Federation (230,000) - figures rounded off - while others moved towards various other European countries. The last week saw a significant increase in the numbers of refugees arriving in Romania and the Republic of Moldova [[UNHCR portal](#)].
- The risks of GBV, human trafficking, and sexual exploitation and abuse have risen exponentially both within and outside Ukraine.
- Women and girls need continued access to sexual and reproductive health services throughout conflict and displacement, including access to safe delivery, family planning services, clinical management of rape and STI/HIV care, as these needs continue and can expand during crisis.
- Disruption to essential medical supply chains for sexual and reproductive health commodities must be mitigated to ensure uninterrupted access to lifesaving sexual and reproductive health services.
- As the conflict continues, the risk of development or exacerbation of mental health problems, including anxiety, posttraumatic stress disorder and depression, increases.

UNFPA Humanitarian Response

UNFPA teams in Ukraine and neighboring countries continue to scale up life-saving assistance to meet the dire needs of the women and girls affected by the war both within Ukraine and in neighboring countries hosting refugees. UNFPA is coordinating its response through its personnel located in different critical parts of Ukraine, including Lviv, Uzghorod, Dnipro, and Kyiv. UNFPA is co-leading the **Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) working group** and **Gender Based Violence (GBV) sub-cluster** in Ukraine and Moldova to ensure coordination and prioritization of the urgent needs of women and girls, and other vulnerable people.

Ukraine

- UNFPA procured Interagency Emergency Reproductive Health (IARH) kits that contain essential drugs, supplies and equipment to be used for the provision of priority reproductive health services in war-affected areas with supply shortages. The first shipment of 183 IARH kits arrived in Lviv and will be shipped to seven hospitals and two mobile teams across four provinces (oblasts) as agreed with the Ministry of Health and in coordination with key health partners. The IARH kits provide supplies to meet the lifesaving needs of approximately 500,000 people seeking basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care, family planning, sexually transmitted infections and clinical management of rape.
- Printed and started disseminating over 450,000 leaflets for IDP women, containing critical information on GBV and trafficking, as well as SRH and GBV services.
- Procured and distributed over 330 female essentials packs to IDP women with children, older persons, pregnant women and women with disabilities through father-friendly spaces (Tatohubs) in Odesa, Vinnitsia, Poltava, and Zaporizhzhia. An additional 2,000 female essentials packs are expected to arrive in the coming days to Uzghorod, to be shipped to most affected cities in the East (Kharkiv Dnipro, Poltava).
- Re-organizing its pilot life-skills programme targeting girls with intellectual disabilities, in discussion with their parents, so that their education is interrupted as little as possible by the war.

- Led first SRH Working Group under the Health Cluster on 15 March, which was attended by 12 organizations.
- Led second GBV sub-cluster meeting under the Protection Cluster on March 17, attended by over 50 participants. Selected a new implementing partner in Lviv to create a safe space for young people and other vulnerable populations.
- Provided direct support to, and closely coordinated with, the Logistics Cluster, working to address gaps in availability of essential medical logistics infrastructure
- The PSEA task force, co-chaired by UNFPA, has disseminated PSEA communications materials (in English, Ukrainian and Russian) to all IASC organizations, as well as information on Community Based Complaints Mechanism (CBCM) and GBV services available. A mapping exercise of specialized GBV services is being finalized. Awareness raising materials will be distributed at the border, in partnership with WHO, particularly in areas where there are a large number of IDPs and in neighboring countries.

Moldova

- UNFPA delivered supplies (tents, tables, power banks) to **support young volunteers** engaged in assisting refugees, particularly women and girls, at the Moldova - Ukraine border checkpoints.
- Provided psychological support services for women and youth refugees, including referral to SRH and mental health services jointly with the "Youth Friendly Health Clinic" Network.
- Currently procuring mobile clinics, emergency interagency reproductive health kits, additional dignity kits, ultrasounds and PPEs to address the urgent needs of refugee women and girls and health service providers. Initiated the procurement of wheelchairs for refugees with locomotor disabilities and older persons.
- Produced information materials on SRH and GBV prevention to be distributed at border crossing points and in refugee placement centers.
- The country office expects new recruitment as part of the scale-up and will ensure that new personnel are properly on-boarded and trained on PSEA; UNFPA has shared with all PSEA network members the list of Implementing Partners we work with in country and at the border; we are working on raising awareness of refugees to ensure they know their rights and how to report should an incident happen (communication materials are being updated). UNFPA deployed the regional gender specialist and PSEA focal points to support GBV and PSEA efforts.

Belarus

- UNFPA works closely with the Belarus Red Cross Society (BRCS), the main organization designated by the Government to register refugees at the border point, which serves 218 people, including 75 women and 10 persons with disabilities as of 17 March. Specifically, UNFPA developed a training on GBV in humanitarian crises targeting Red Cross specialists and volunteers, who provide psycho-social support to the Ukrainian refugees at the border reception points.
- Continued advocacy with the Ministry of Health to ensure that all refugees have access to medical consultations, and, if necessary, to specialized medical aid through subspecialty consultations. Received confirmation that all medical assistance to refugees is provided free of charge on an equal basis with citizens of the Republic of Belarus. In addition, UNFPA was informed that refugees are provided with accommodation and food based on their needs.
- Provided hygienic supplies and thermal underwear to over 100 refugees from Ukraine's Jewish community, including 34 women, some of them pregnant or breastfeeding, who are hosted by a local charity.

- UNFPA is co-chairing the PSEA task force: prevention and response activities were conducted prior to the war and are in place; a gap in GBV assistance services has been identified and the office will work with the Red Cross to ensure basic services can be delivered as needed. The Minister of Health announced that medical care will be provided to refugees free of charge including emergency care and essential services.

UNFPA Funding Requirement - Total US\$32 Million



\$32 M required



17% funded

- \$18 million for Ukraine, \$12 million for Moldova, and \$2 million for other neighboring countries for the six-month period March-August 2022
- UNFPA solicits funds through the [Flash Appeal](#) (coordinated by OCHA) and the [Regional Refugee Response Plan \(RRP\)](#) (led by UNHCR), and through direct appeals to donors including through [individual giving campaigns](#).
- 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.

Communications & Media Coverage

UNFPA continues advocacy and external media engagement to highlight the situation of women and girls in Ukraine and contributes to joint UN communication and advocacy plans on the Ukraine crisis. The following are a selection of key media interviews:

- [ABC News](#). Interview with Dr. Natalia Kanem, UNFPA Executive Director, "We are there to protect life on the journey." 16 March 2022
- [BBC Mundo](#). Interview with Jaime Nadal, UNFPA Representative Ukraine. "Russia and Ukraine | Sexual violence, human trafficking and childbirth in deplorable conditions: the extreme risks facing Ukrainian women" 18 March 2022
- [Sky News](#). The Sarah-Jane Mee Show Interview with Dr. Natalia Kanem, UNFPA Executive Director. "Giving birth during a conflict can be deadly." 15 March 2022
- [Sky News](#). The Early Rundown. Interview with Jaime Nadal, UNFPA Representative Ukraine. "We are highly concerned for women who have been displaced by the war." 15 March 2022

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