

2 March 2022

Highlights

- UNFPA is supporting Ukraine and neighboring countries hosting refugees to safeguard the health and rights of women and girls, including to give birth safely and to live free from violence and abuse.
- With an estimated **265,000** pregnant women in Ukraine and **80,000** expected to deliver over the next three months, UNFPA will scale up life-saving reproductive health services.
- Women and girls are at higher risk of gender-based violence and other forms of exploitation during crises. UNFPA will ensure the provision of quality life-saving services for GBV survivors and women and girls at risk.



Situation Overview

Six days after the start of Russia's military offensive, the number of civilian casualties and damage to critical infrastructure continues to grow, triggering severe humanitarian needs in the hardest-hit areas and displacement. Ongoing hostilities continue to disrupt local supply chains and access to food and other basic items.

Humanitarian Needs

- An estimated **7 million people** are displaced within Ukraine, especially in the western part of the country. As of 1 March, an estimated **677,000 people had fled** to neighboring countries, to Poland, Hungary, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, while others moved towards other European countries.
- In the first 4 days of the conflict, more than 80 deliveries in Kyiv and 100 deliveries in Kharkiv were reported to have taken place in shelters, subways and maternity units operating under extremely difficult conditions. Of the estimated 265,000 pregnant women in Ukraine, 80,000 are expected to deliver in the next three months.

- While some maternity wards and shelters for survivors of gender-based violence in Kyiv and Kharkiv are functional, implementing partners in Eastern Ukraine (Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia regions) are either unable to start humanitarian interventions due to security risks or lack of resources, operating without electricity, water, fuel, and food. Some key services such as the national hotlines for GBV survivors are still functioning.
- In the Eastern Conflict Area (ECA), the broader network of partners established prior to the current conflict is still present on the ground with a limited number of staff, including some working remotely. UNFPA is exploring opportunities to address emerging needs and coordinate the response.
- The majority of refugees in all countries are women, children and older persons. Men between the age of 18 and 60 are not allowed to leave the country, even when they have very young children or accompanying a pregnant woman.
- In Moldova, a single Crisis Management Center was set up by the Government to coordinate assistance efforts with international organizations, private entities and volunteers. There are more than 60 refugee centers established in the country, and triage camps set up at the borders. Many social groups/movements, private companies and individuals have mobilized and expressed willingness to help and provide in-kind support to the refugees.

UNFPA Humanitarian Response in Ukraine and neighbouring countries

- UNFPA, UN agencies and humanitarian partners are preparing to rapidly scale-up operations in Ukraine and have mobilized emergency financing to facilitate an effective, broad and timely humanitarian response across all affected areas.
- The UNFPA Ukraine Country Office has been reprogramming its activities and some of its resources in order to be prepared to increase its 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. UNFPA stays in direct contact with its partners and health facilities in the whole country.
- UNFPA is also adapting its programme in western Ukraine to respond to the growing needs of the population, with an increasing number of people being displaced from Kyiv and other regions, as they are trying to find safer places.
- Moreover, UNFPA received a request from the Ministry of Social Policy for the delivery of Non Food Items (NFI)s, including dignity kits, for nearly 7 million IDPs.
- UNFPA Country Offices in the Republic of Moldova and Belarus are actively engaged in all interagency contingency planning activities and are reprogramming to respond to the immediate SRH and GBV-related needs of 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 GBV 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.

Moldova

- In Moldova, UN is coordinating a number of response sectors, including on protection (including GBV), health (including SRH) and Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA).
- UNFPA initiated efforts addressing the most pressing needs of refugees and supporting the government and partners in their coordination and response efforts. The UN Country Team (UNCT), including UNFPA, is working closely with the Government to meet the required needs.
- UNFPA procured **1,300 dignity kits**, which will be distributed on 2 March to refugee centers to reach women and girls in need.
- UNFPA, as part of the UN technical group on health, is currently assessing the information needs on SRH/GBV for women and girls, including pregnant women, and planning the elaboration of targeted information materials (posters, leaflets) to be distributed at the borders and in the refugee centers.

Belarus

- UNFPA has joined the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) in Belarus along with other heads of agencies. Chaired by UNHCR, the RCF serves as a platform to coordinate an inter-agency response among the partners already present on the ground, and possibly engage new partners.
- UNFPA also coordinates its response work through the Interagency UN Task Force created initially for the response to the influx of Iraqi migrants at the end of 2021, and will apply its capacities, experience and partnership for addressing the needs of refugee women and girls arriving from Ukraine.
- UNFPA works closely with the Migration Department of the Ministry of Interior under the RCF umbrella and is an active member of joint preparedness and response efforts.
- UNFPA is revising GBV and SRH communication materials with PTSD experts to provide to all refugees information on available SRH and GBV services.

Other countries neighboring Ukraine

For countries in the EU such as Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania, UNFPA is ready to provide advisory services (if funds are secured) to ensure that SRH and GBV-related services are prioritized and available for all refugees.

UNFPA Funding Requirement - Total US\$20 Million

An initial **US\$20 million** is required by UNFPA to address the initial needs of women and girls and other vulnerable people affected by the crisis in Ukraine and in neighboring countries. This amount will be revised shortly, taking into consideration the deterioration of the situation and the increasing level of SRH and GBV-related needs, both in Ukraine and in neighboring countries.

UNFPA contributed along with other UN agencies and humanitarian partners to the coordinated Humanitarian [Flash Appeal](#) for Ukraine and the [Regional Refugee Response Plan \(RRP\)](#) for neighboring countries, to accelerate a comprehensive and multisectoral approach.

UNFPA is engaging with multiple donors to ensure that from the earliest phase of the crisis, the continuity and scale-up of lifesaving SRH and GBV-related services are prioritized. An [individual donation webpage](#) dedicated to the Ukraine response was activated.

Communications and Advocacy

UNFPA is working in coordination with the UN system to amplify the voices of women and girls, to make known their needs and situation, and to advocate for their rights, safety and dignity. Here is [UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem's statement](#) on the crisis and a [short video by UNFPA Ukraine Representative Mr. Jaime Nadal](#) that were widely shared through UNFPA social media along with other advocacy efforts that continue across channels.

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