

UNFPA Regional Response to Ukraine Emergency

Situation Report #23



Reporting period from 1 January to 31 March 2024 | Released on 17 May 2024



224,400

people reached with GBV information, referrals and services



82,100

people reached with psychosocial support activities



33,400

people reached with SRH information, referrals and services

Highlights

- Across the region, over **224,400**, women, girls, men and boys – including older persons, youth and people with disabilities – received tailored prevention, mitigation and life-saving response services on gender-based violence (GBV) and **33,400 people** had access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information and services.¹
- **14 new service delivery points** (SDPs) started operating across Ukraine, providing specialized assistance for those affected by GBV, increasing the total number of UNFPA-supported SDPs across Ukraine to 130.
- Several **initiatives supporting youth and older persons** took place in Moldova, including the opening of the first Active Center for older persons and the start of operations of a new UNFPA mobile clinic addressing healthcare barriers for adolescents and youth.
- UNFPA continues to expand awareness and access to GBV and SRH services in EU countries bordering Ukraine, including through a **new partnership with Safe You**, an innovative, evidence-based digital app addressing GBV in all contexts through protection, prevention, and awareness.



Born into war: A newborn receives care near the frontline in Ukraine

¹ The UNFPA Regional Response to the Ukraine Emergency covers Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, European Union (EU) countries bordering Ukraine (Romania, Poland and Slovakia) and Belarus. The regional estimated figure of people served refers to beneficiaries who may have received more than one service.



14.6 million
people in need in
Ukraine



3.7 million
internally displaced
people in Ukraine



6.47 million
refugees in
European countries

Situation Overview/Humanitarian Needs

- The number of Ukrainian refugees has increased slightly over the past months to over **6.47 million**, with 92 per cent of them recorded across Europe.
- Within Ukraine, an estimated **3.7 million** people are **internally displaced**, and **5.56 million have returned** (both IDPs and refugees). Returnees continue to face significant challenges due to limited access to income-generating opportunities, family separation and overall insecurity.
- In **Ukraine**, an estimated **7.8 million** people need health assistance, and **11.5 million** need protection assistance and services, including **2.5 million** who need GBV prevention and response services.
- The escalation of violence has exacerbated existing GBV risks for women and girls, men and boys across the country, while also creating new risks including conflict-related sexual violence and risks regarding sexual exploitation and abuse in refugee-hosting countries.
- The escalation of hostilities, including indiscriminate bombardments and attacks aimed at civilians and civilian infrastructure, continues to cause widespread damage across Ukraine, and obstructs humanitarian access and operations.
- The attack on the Sumy residential area on 13 March occurred close to a **UNFPA's Mother & Child Centre**, terrifying women and children visiting the centre. UNFPA's mobile Psychosocial Support Teams immediately **mobilized** to offer support and dignity kits.
- **The 2023 GBV Safety Audit** results highlight ongoing risks in gender-based violence in Moldova for both refugees and the host community, especially women and girls. These risks include technology-facilitated GBV, intimate partner violence, trafficking, and incidents in private accommodations and public spaces like transportation. Certain groups, including persons with disabilities, Roma women, and adolescent girls and boys, face elevated GBV risks. Refugee women and girls are notably vulnerable to GBV when dealing with private landlords, as seen in reported instances of harassment or exploitation.
- The preliminary findings of the 2023 Multi Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) to which UNFPA actively contributed at national and regional levels corroborate these results in the wider regional response, including in neighbouring EU countries. The main reported barriers limiting women's and girls' access to services (including SRH and GBV-related services) are a lack of awareness about availability, lack of trust in providers, stigma and feelings of shame, language barriers, access challenges due to the area of residence (urban vs. rural), and cultural barriers.
- The **2024 Regional Refugee Response Plan** (RRP) – launched in January 2024 – estimates that \$1.1 billion is required to address the needs of 2.2 million refugees in the region. The plan includes strong references to sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence, and the protection sector (including child protection and GBV) represents more than 30% of the total financial requirements. It also mentions the need to strengthen coordination mechanisms through partnerships with government and local partners in Poland, Romania, and Slovakia.

UNFPA Humanitarian Response in Ukraine*

- Over **191,500** women, girls, men and boys received tailored GBV prevention, mitigation and response services during the reporting period, including mobile psychosocial support teams, safe spaces, survivor relief centers, municipal specialized services, crisis rooms, shelters, day-care centers, GBV case management, dignity kits, cash assistance, women career hubs, and online platforms and chatbots for information-sharing.

- Mobile reproductive health teams and SDPs conducted **nearly 60,000 consultations**, including 41 cases of clinical management of rape (CMR).
- **14** additional SDPs began providing specialized assistance for those affected by GBV across Ukraine, including conflict-related sexual violence in Donetsk, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ternopil, Khmelnytskyi, Cherkasy, Chernivtsiy, and Chernihiv oblasts. UNFPA has established a total of **130** SDPs across the country since the start of the war.
- UNFPA delivered **29** infant incubators to perinatal and tertiary level medical facilities.
- In collaboration with partners, UNFPA distributed **2,070** winterized dignity kits with tailored essentials for women and girls.
- UNFPA opened **two** new Day-care Counseling Centers with crisis rooms in Ternopil and Kharkiv oblasts, bringing the total number of these centers across the country to 46. These centers provide a safe and accessible space for survivors to receive comprehensive and free assistance in comfortable conditions. These services include counseling with a psychologist and a social worker, primary legal assistance, and information about other services available to GBV survivors.

UNFPA Humanitarian Response in Neighboring Countries

Moldova*

- During the reporting period, over **16,800** women, girls, men and boys received tailored GBV prevention, mitigation and response services. These services included static and mobile safe spaces, case management, referrals, cash assistance, dignity kits and vouchers for hygiene products.
- UNFPA together with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection launched the development of national GBV Case Management Standard Operating Procedures with the aim of providing quality care to survivors from refugee and host communities.
- UNFPA provided financial support to the National Health Insurance Company of the Republic of Moldova, to cover the cost of **SRH-related services provided by hospital healthcare facilities** to women and girls refugees (aged 18-55 years) from Ukraine with Temporary Protection (TP), or in the process of obtaining TP status. During the first two months of the year, **83 women received SRH services** at the state hospitals.
- UNFPA supported **39 healthcare facilities** by providing essential gynecological instruments for interventions, to improve availability and quality of obstetrical and gynecological care.
- More than **27,000 young people** in Cahul district, including Ukrainian refugees, now have access to free and confidential medical care, sexual and reproductive health counseling, and psychological support right in their own communities, through the newly established **UNFPA mobile health clinic**. Operated by the "Health for Youth" Association and the Youth Clinic Network in the Republic of Moldova, the clinic aims to address healthcare barriers for adolescents and youth.
- As part of the UNFPA supported menstrual health and hygiene program, **41 Youth Clinic health centers and 24 Youth Centers** across the country have been equipped with dispensers containing free sanitary pads for girls. Overall, over 200,000 teenage girls and young women, including refugees, who attend these centers annually will have access to free menstrual hygiene products.
- Shaped by advocacy efforts by UNFPA and partners, the recently launched **Population and Housing Census** will provide data about the number and demographic characteristics of the refugees residing in the Republic of Moldova.
- UNFPA and partners supported the launch of the **first Active Ageing Center** in the Ungheni region, which will be a hub for activities targeting older persons relating to health, nutrition, digital skills, sports and art, as well as intergenerational dialogue. The center already welcomes 150 members, including refugees, and will be replicated across the Republic of Moldova enriching the lives of older persons.
- UNFPA continues the **"University for the Third Age" (UV3) initiative**, a pilot project with the government and Moldcell Foundation, and so far enrolled 64 older persons, including refugees from Ukraine, in university courses on digital skills and intergenerational communication.

- Aligned with the Inter-Agency Winterization Plan, UNFPA, in joint efforts with WFP, UNHCR, and UNICEF, is supporting the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection on providing **cash assistance to pregnant and women breastfeeding** affected by the crisis. As a result, **1,260 households** with pregnant or women breastfeeding benefited from this service. Additionally, **1,800 older persons** with a pension of less than 3,000 Moldovan lei received cash disbursements in line with the UN2UN Agreement with WFP on CASH support programme for vulnerable older persons, also called the Silver Fund.

EU countries bordering Ukraine

- UNFPA Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office conducted in-country missions to Poland, Slovakia and Romania to participate in the launch of the 2024 RRP, engage in inter-sector and inter-agency meetings to strengthen partnerships, ensure prioritization of SRH and GBV in programmes, policies and budgets and assess challenges related to restrictive legislation related to SRH and GBV service provision and overall health-system gaps.
- In **Slovakia**, UNFPA has partnered with the NGO League for Mental Health (LFMH) to increase access for both Ukrainian refugees and host populations to psychosocial support, safe referrals and case management through mobile teams and a dedicated helpline.
- In **Romania**, UNFPA has extended a long-standing partnership with the East European Institute of Reproductive Health (EEIRH) to provide technical and coordination support to the Romanian Government in its humanitarian response relating to GBV and SRH. EEIRH will continue to focus on strengthening the capacity of service providers for quality provision of GBV Case Management and Clinical Management of Rape and Intimate Partner Violence in GBV-integrated service centers across the country. Additionally, EEIRH is piloting good practices and tools for providing support to women and girls with disabilities who are at risk of GBV. Recognizing challenges for refugees to access free-of-charge contraceptives as part of essential SRH services, EEIRH is rolling out training for service providers that includes aspects of supply management as well as clinical counseling on contraceptives.
- UNFPA engaged in a **new partnership with Safe You**, an innovative, evidence-based app addressing GBV in all contexts through protection, prevention, and awareness. Through the mobile app and an AI-driven web platform, Safe You works to streamline prevention programmes and ensure safety and access to resources for all women. Based on a well-established partnership between UNFPA and Safe You, and successful roll-out of the app in Armenia and Iraq, Safe You has engaged women-led and Ukrainian-led organizations in Romania to ensure localization. The app roll-out in the country is expected in June, followed by rollouts in other EU countries in the coming months.

Belarus

- During the reporting period, over **160** persons in the Brest oblast, **150** persons in the Gomel oblast (women, older people and persons with disabilities) and **90** women in Vitebsk oblast benefited from individual psychosocial support services, including psychological first aid and counseling services.
- At least **120** women, over **60** older people and **20** persons with disabilities were referred to adequate services and support, particularly for medical care, employment, temporary shelter, food and hygienic goods.
- **2** Crisis Centres operated by the Red Cross in Brest City and Vitebsk City and, supported by UNFPA, provided accommodation, specialists' support and counseling for **20** Ukrainian women.
- **270** refugees across the whole country were reached with recreational and social activities. Refugees of older age from Ukraine engaged in socializing activities organized by UNFPA at Orange Safe Spaces to address the experiences of GBV-related trauma. Activities included digital literacy, healthy aging, yoga and art therapy classes. In addition, UNFPA organized meetings facilitated by specialists from the health and social care departments where older age people in Brest municipalities could raise their concerns.

* *More information is available by clicking on the resources below.*

Coordination

- UNFPA continues to lead SRH and GBV coordination mechanisms at national and regional levels to ensure prevention, risk mitigation and response mechanisms are in place in Ukraine and across Poland, Romania, and Slovakia.
- UNFPA continues to co-lead the Regional GBV Working Group dedicated to the Ukraine Response, along with UNHCR and Voice Amplified, with national and international organizations representing the refugee hosting countries engaged in the 2024 Refugee Response Plan.
- During the reporting period, UNFPA led the GBV Task Force within the Multi Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) Working Group to complete the GBV analysis of the 2023 MSNA report across Bulgaria, Czechia, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. The assessment report is a key tool to advocate for adequate resources to address the needs of vulnerable communities in the region. Additionally, UNFPA significantly contributed to the Health Task Force within the MSNA Working Group and ensured SRH was highlighted as one of the essential health components for refugees.

Future Plans

- In Ukraine, UNFPA will continue to reach those in most need by maintaining its support and prioritizing frontline areas. UNFPA will also proceed with the selection of primary healthcare facilities to implement the midwife task-shifting initiative aimed at increasing the role of midwives in most affected frontline communities. UNFPA will equip the selected health facilities with supplies to ensure gynecological care at the primary health level. The Joint UNFPA and French Government initiative on supporting police to build an effective model for DV/GBV response under circumstances of war will be implemented in Sumy and Dnipropetrovsk regions, with a further potential to extend the project to other regions. UNFPA will launch in May the “Voices from Ukraine”, a qualitative GBV analysis which aims to amplify the experience of GBV survivors. The research, conducted in close collaboration with Ukraine’s GBV Areas of Responsibility partners, will contribute to identifying the risks and forms of GBV that need to be mitigated throughout the humanitarian response; identifying barriers to safely access GBV services and humanitarian assistance; and galvanizing financial support to address GBV.
- In Belarus, UNFPA will focus on strengthening the capacities of frontline service providers to provide essential SRH and GBV services and psychological and psychiatric assistance to refugees. UNFPA will also continue developing partnerships and referral mechanisms with other protection and assistance actors. Future plans include the expansion of the Orange Safe Spaces network to include GBV and SRH service referrals, humanitarian assistance, psychosocial support and mobile services, ensuring accessibility for people with disabilities. UNFPA will also support national service providers’ capacities to improve access to and quality of SRH services, identify and support people with disabilities and women with multiple vulnerabilities. UNFPA will continue delivering hygienic kits and underwear to refugees in Brest, Gomel and Vitebsk regions through the existing Orange Safe Spaces.
- In Moldova, UNFPA will continue strengthening the SRH and emergency healthcare system through the upgrade of the perinatal centers and specialized SRH hospitals. UNFPA will also continue GBV prevention and response, including case management and cash assistance. The bodyright campaign will also continue, focusing on social media and youth outreach.
- In EU countries, UNFPA, in partnership with SafeYou and the support of ANES, will roll out the [SafeYou app](#) to facilitate access to information and services for GBV survivors, starting in Romania. The planned SRH training on contraceptive counseling in Romania to strengthen the provision of free-of-charge access to contraceptives will be rolled out in Q2. In Slovakia, UNFPA will organize a GBV-in-Emergencies training in partnership with UNHCR and LFMH, in order to improve the quality of GBV prevention programmes and

response services. UNFPA will continue working with new partners, promoting localized responses, in order to prevent and mitigate GBV and strengthen access to quality SRH information and services through contextualized programmes. UNFPA will continue to strengthen national and regional coordination mechanisms and give a voice to the women, girls, men and boys who need SRH and GBV information and services.

UNFPA Funding Requirement for 2024



**US \$105 million
required**



**Approx 35% funded
as of March 2024**

- [UNFPA's 2024 Appeal for the Regional Response to the Ukraine Crisis](#) was launched on 21 December 2023 and seeks \$105 million in funding to provide life-saving SRH and GBV interventions and supplies.
- As of March 2024, UNFPA's 2024 regional appeal was approximately 35 per cent funded.
- The OCHA-led [Humanitarian Need and Response Plan](#) for Ukraine and the UNHCR-led [2024 Regional Refugee Response Plan](#) were released in January 2024, including UNFPA funding requirements.

Media, Communication and Advocacy

- [Refugee escapes the war](#) to deliver safely in Chisinau hospital, Moldova.
- [Born into war](#): Caring for babies near the frontline in Ukraine.
- [Appalling news in Odessa](#), UNFPA delivers psychosocial support and counseling to families affected by attacks.
- [Irina, from Odessa, gives birth in Cahul hospital in Moldova](#). More than 23,000 women gave birth safely in UNFPA supported hospitals in Moldova.

UNFPA greatly appreciates the generous support of donors and the tireless efforts of partners in responding to the needs in Ukraine and the region.

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