

Project Title	UNFPA Appeal for Ukraine
Donor	Belgium
Name of Implementing Agency	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
Country	Ukraine
Total Award Amount	EURO 2 000 000
Reporting Period (Final report)	5 December, 2022 - 31 December, 2023
Contact Person	Nina Bagayeva, Programme Associate, Resource Mobilization and Partnerships, UNFPA Ukraine, bagayeva@unfpa.org

1. Executive summary

With the generous support of Belgium, UNFPA has strengthened life-saving and life-sustaining gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response services to women, girls, men, and boys in crisis-affected areas in Ukraine. UNFPA has contributed to enabling and supporting a localized humanitarian response and has worked with local implementing partners and public institutions, to support the delivery of GBV services from household-level to referral level facilities.

2. Situational context

Due to the unabating war in Ukraine, which directly impacts movements of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and spontaneous returns, the need to sustain GBV emergency services persisted throughout the reporting period. Given the continued refocus of national and local authorities on defence, a significant resource gap in terms of both funding and skilled service providers persisted. In many instances there was a substantial need to bring GBV services to the people given access barriers relating to security, in addition to ensuring effective referral pathways.

3. Programme implementation - *Gender-based Violence*

Capacity development in CRSV response via National Training Center

To enhance the quality of support for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), professionalization of services is key. With the support of Belgium, a series of trainings were conducted on the specifics of GBV/CRSV response for Ukrainian service providers via the National Training Center (established in June 2023 within a memorandum with High School of Public Governance). The National Training Center aims to serve as an integrated educational space, contributing to the professional development and improvement of the qualifications of public servants and service providers in prevention and response to GBV, including domestic violence and CRSV.

Through the project support, the National Training Centre developed and certified a series of the training programmes on GBV response: (1) training on multi-sectoral response in GBV; (2) professional training programmes on domestic violence; (3) training programme on operation of daycare centers providing psychosocial support for GBV survivors; (4) training programme on operation of mobile teams of social and psychological support to GBV survivors; (5) training programme on organization of shelters for GBV survivors. All aforementioned certified training programmes for public servants and service providers cover CRSV as an integrated part of GBV response.

By the end of 2023, 57 public servants, 88 local authority officials, and 50 social service specialists had increased their awareness on GBV/ CRSV response via participation of the certified training programmes of the National Training Centre.

Support to Municipalities for Enhancement of GBV Specialized Services

During 2023, support through enhancement with furniture and equipment, and/or refurbishment, was provided to 23 specialized GBV services in 12 regions throughout Ukraine.

During the reporting period, the ongoing war continued to exacerbate vulnerabilities, increase displacement, and heightened the risk of violence, making specialized GBV services vital for women and girls. With Belgium's support, GBV survivors had access to services all over the country amidst the war.

To ensure that the needs of women and girls at risk were covered, the UNFPA GBV field team collected requests from communities seeking enhancement or establishment of specialized services for GBV survivors. Upon receiving the request, the team conducted a technical review of the premises and existing services, had discussions with local authorities and their motivation to provide GBV response, and subsequently presented the request via the regional GBV AoR working group meeting to coordinate efforts with other GBV humanitarian partners. UNFPA also established an internal commission based on the predetermined criteria (large number of IDPs, lack of capacities to support existing services, high level of staff migration and burn out, work in close proximity to the frontline).

The following support was provided based on the needs assessment: A day center in the Poltavaska region (Dryzhzhyna Hreblya); two day centers with crisis rooms in the Kharkivska region (Balakliya and Valky); a mobile team in the Kirovohradska region (Haivoron); a primary consultative service in the Lvivska region (Zhovkva); in the Mykolaivska region a mobile team (Veselynove) and a day center with a mobile team (Pervomaisk); in the Odeska region a primary consultative service (Bilhorod-Dnistrovskiy) and mobile team (Artsyzy); a primary consultative service in the Dnipropetrovska region (Pidhorodnenska); day centers with crisis rooms in the Chernivetska region (Sokyryany) and Donetska region (Novohrodivka); a shelter in the Khmelnytska region (Medzhybizh); and a shelter in the Kyivska region (Tomashivka); in the Vinnytsia region two primary consultative services in Bar and Teplyk hromadas; a shelter in Babchyntsi, and; a municipal mobile team in Vinnytsia city.

Results achieved

- Five certified training programmes on GBV/CRSV for public servants, and service providers issued within of National Training center on GBV response
- 195 public servants, local authority officials, and social service specialists increased their awareness on GBV/ CRSV response
- The *'Manual on multi sectoral response to GBV'* was developed and published

Survivor Relief Centres

SRCs are services for people, who are affected by war, who may face sexual violence, and need comprehensive assistance and support in host communities. Situated in the most common destinations for IDPs, SRCs are an accessible 'one-stop-shop' service where a person can receive all needed information, and can have access to GBV case management, including for CRSV. Since the opening of the first SRC, the service model has proven its effectiveness amidst the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine caused by the ongoing war. With the support of Belgium (co-funded), people affected by the ongoing war have had access to timely and much-needed protection services.

Results achieved

- The first SRC was inaugurated in June 2022 in Zaporizhzhia. The network of SRCs gradually expanded, with new facilities opening in Lviv, Dnipro, and Kyiv within the same year. In 2023, an additional seven SRCs were established in Chernivtsi, Poltava, Kropyvnytskyi, Odesa, Mukachevo, Kherson, and Kharkiv, bringing the total number of SRCs to eleven by the end of 2023.
- 20,010 people received assistance at SRCs in 2023 (as of December 2023). Throughout the operating period of the SRC network (from June 2022 to December 2023), 27,392 people received assistance: 78% were women and 22% were men. In total, over 38,000 services were provided.
- Internally displaced persons received 79% of the total number of services provided at the Centres.
- The leading type of service is social (51%). Psychological services for adults are in second place (20%), followed by case management of gender-based violence (11%), psychological services for children, and legal services (9% each).
- Over 80 specialists at the SRCs regularly undergo various training sessions and supervisions. In particular, in 2023, basic and specialized trainings on working with survivors of CRSV were held for specific categories of specialists, including social workers, case managers, psychologists, and lawyers.
- Over 11,500 dignity kits were distributed among SRC clients.
- On the 19 of June 2023, on the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, UNFPA launched an information campaign to raise awareness of people about CRSV, and services offered by SRCs. A social media video released before the launch of the campaign highlighted the feelings and emotions experienced by survivors of CRSV, as well as the importance of getting support from loved ones, as well as seeking professional help. 25 million people were reached by these information campaigns. The campaign included several creative activations such as: (In)visible Stories, (Un)existing Products, (Un)noticeable Stories. The promotional video of the SRC information campaign was broadcast 1,236 times during the 'United News' telethon. There were 514 media mentions of SRCs on TV, radio, and online resources. Advertising for the SRCs was placed in Ukrainian Railways trains.
- UNFPA employed a national expert to provide guidance and technical expertise, develop methodological materials, and set work standards for SRCs. The expert also led activities to enhance coordination mechanisms for a more effective response to CRSV.
- Regular monitoring visits were conducted to track trends and developments, ensuring continuous assessment and identification of emerging trends and patterns.

Challenges:

- Providing assistance to child survivors of CRSV. Limited expertise poses challenges in delivering specialized care.
- Supporting individuals who experienced CRSV while in captivity or under occupation. Insufficient expertise complicates effective support.

- Delivering assistance online to those in occupied territories. Adaptation to online formats presents security and access challenges.
- Lack of financial aid available for male survivors of CRSV.
- Need to engage with families of veterans.
- Need to engage with families of individuals in captivity.
- Providing services not only to urban citizens, but also in rural areas. Requires outreach capabilities to rural communities.

Lessons Learned:

- Enhanced training and capacity building are crucial to effectively support child survivors and individuals with specific CRSV experiences.
- Developing and implementing online service delivery methods requires adaptation and accessibility considerations.
- Addressing the financial needs of male survivors of CRSV is essential for inclusive support.
- Engaging with families of veterans and individuals in captivity strengthens holistic support frameworks.
- Establishing mobile service units expands access to remote communities, ensuring equitable service delivery.

4. Human story/ Visibility coverage

“Home became the most dangerous place in the world for me”: story of Tetiana, a survivor of conflict-related sexual violence

