# **Regional Situation Report**

Ukraine Regional Humanitarian Crisis

Region:	Eastern Europe & Central Asia				
Emergency type:	Conflict				
Start Date of Crisis:	24 February 2022				
Date Issued:	13 February 2025				
Covering Period:	1 October to 31 December 2024				
Contact Persons:	Florence Bauer, Regional Director, UNFPA EECARO, fbauer@unfpa.org Jens-Hagen Eschenbaecher, Regional Communications Adviser, UNFPA EECARO, eschenbaecher@unfpa.org Eddie Wright, Communications Specialist, UNFPA HQ, ewright@unfpa.org				

## **Key Figures**

16.8M Total people in need<sup>1</sup>

4M Women of reproductive age in need<sup>2</sup>



2.6M Young people (10-24) in need<sup>3</sup> 2.2M People with disability in need<sup>4</sup>

1.8M Total people targeted by UNFPA<sup>5</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The total people in need includes 14.6 mln people living in Ukraine and 2,2 Ukrainian refugees living in European countries that are part of the Regional Refugee Response Plan as per the Ukrainian Humanitarian Need and Response Plan 2024 (HNRP) and the Ukrainian Refugee Response Plan 2024 (RRP) respectively.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>The number was calculated based on the population structure presented in the Common Operational Datasets (CODs) 2023 for the Ukrainian population and 2023 Multi-Sector Needs Assessment for the Ukrainian refugees residing in the EU countries included in the 2024 Refugee Response Plan. Out of 4 million women of reproductive age, 3.2 million are in Ukraine and nearly 800,000 are residing in EU countries. <sup>3</sup> Out of 2.6 million young people in need, 2.1 million reside in Ukraine and 500,000 are hosted in the EU countries as per the above source.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> It is estimated that the rate of people living with disability out of total people in need living in Ukraine and the Ukrainian refugees living in European countries amounts to 14% and 6% respectively.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> According to UNFPA contributions to the inter-agency plans, including HNRP 2024, RRP 2024 and others.



## **Highlights**

- Across the crisis region, UNFPA reached over 345,980 people (97% in Ukraine) with sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services and around 113,370 people (92% in Ukraine) benefited from gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, risk mitigation and response services.
- The full-scale war in Ukraine enters its fourth year in 2025, with continuous hostilities driving further displacement. Ukraine's healthcare system is buckling under the weight of over 2,209 documented attacks since February 2022, jeopardizing the lives of both patients and healthcare providers. These attacks, coupled with power outages, psychological distress from constant shelling, and rising costs, are creating a humanitarian crisis within a crisis.
- UNFPA published its **2025 Appeal for the Regional Response to the Ukraine Crisis**, which details funding requirements of \$94.4 million to ensure uninterrupted SRH and GBV services in Ukraine and neighbouring countries and to build long-term resilience.

#### Ukraine

- In an effort to bolster the healthcare system, **25 regional perinatal centers and maternity hospitals** were equipped with high-frequency ventilation units and essential lifesaving drugs, enhancing their capacity to provide critical neonatal care. Furthermore, the basement of the maternity hospital in Kherson City underwent a full renovation, improving its functionality and safety.
- UNFPA supported the establishment of **13 municipal service delivery points to enhance access to GBV prevention and response services in areas most affected by the war**, in partnership with the respective municipalities. This brings the total number of UNFPA-supported service delivery points (SDPs) providing GBV prevention and response services to 396.
- Approximately **1,300 pregnant and breastfeeding women received cash assistance** for sexual and reproductive health and protection needs, while another **7,500 received maternity kits** containing essential supplies for mothers and babies.
- UNFPA played a crucial role in developing legislation addressing conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) in Ukraine by providing technical expertise to ensure adherence to a survivor-centered approach. The law lays the foundation for survivors to exercise their rights and mandates the development of detailed procedures for providing GBV services.

#### Neighboring countries

- In Moldova, UNFPA provided **financial health coverage for nearly 5,000 Ukrainian refugee women** aged 18 to 55 years, ensuring access to healthcare, with 30% receiving specialized and emergency hospital services, which often incurs high costs.
- UNFPA developed a **roadmap for improving GBV services in the Republic of Moldova,** accompanied by a 3-year social investment plan.
- In November, **UNFPA scaled-up its services in Belarus by establishing 2 new safe spaces for women and girls with disabilities** to increase their access to life-saving services and information, bringing the total of safe spaces established by UNFPA and its partners in the country to 6.
- The Safe You app was officially launched in Poland, in partnership with Impact Innovations Institute's Initiative (IMINI) Foundation and Feminoteka Foundation. The app is a virtual safe space with instant



access to life-saving assistance, vital support resources, a support community, and essential information about available services.

- UNFPA partnered with the Polish Migration Forum (PMF) and provided **cultural and trauma sensitive birthing classes to refugee couples**. To expand this initiative, UNFPA also trained SRH providers across Poland in these specialized skills.
- UNFPA's partner in Slovakia, the League for Mental Health (LFMH), conducted a **10-week campaign to** raise awareness about GBV and support services, reaching around one million people.
- In 2024, UNFPA secured US\$73.7 million <u>of the \$105 million needed</u> to reach its target populations, leaving a **funding gap of \$31.3 million.** This shortfall limited UNFPA's ability to deliver vital services, particularly for vulnerable groups in conflict-affected areas, in the full scope of what was envisaged in the 2024 HNRP and RRP.

#### **Situation Overview**

- As of December 2024, an estimated 6.8 million people have been forced to flee Ukraine, with nearly 6.3 million refugees (93%) of them hosted in European countries.<sup>6</sup>
- Hostilities in front-line areas of Donetsk and Kharkivskarom forced around 40,000 people to flee their homes to safer parts of the country.<sup>7</sup> The number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Ukraine remained high at approximately 3.7 million, showing a slight increase since September.<sup>8</sup>
- A total of **2,209** <u>attacks</u> on Ukraine's health care system have been documented since February 24, 2022, resulting in devastating consequences for both healthcare workers and patients. Furthermore, power outages caused by attacks on energy infrastructure are severely impacting healthcare facilities in Ukraine. Simple tasks like moving patients between floors become complex during power outages, as generators often lack the capacity to run elevators. Moreover, smaller clinics, facing insufficient backup power, have been forced to reduce or reschedule their services.<sup>9</sup>
- Constant shelling is severely affecting the **mental health and stress levels of Ukrainians**, leading to an increase in childbirth complications.<sup>10</sup> Additionally, health providers in active conflict zones and areas with large displaced populations are grappling with rising costs driven by inflation and currency depreciation, compounded by inadequate funding.<sup>11</sup>
- The Regional Socio-Economic Inclusion Survey (SEIS) report indicates that **access to healthcare remains a critical concern in the EU countries hosting Ukrainian refugees.**<sup>12</sup> While employment and livelihood support are the top priorities, health services rank as the second most important need for 33% of households surveyed. This echoes the findings from 2023, where 34% of households placed health among their top three needs. Healthcare is the primary concern for people in half of the countries surveyed, specifically Bulgaria, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, and Latvia.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> UNHCR Operational Data Portal (Ukraine), December 2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> OCHA Situation Update, November 2024, <u>https://response.reliefweb.int/ukraine/humanitarian-bulletin</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> IOM, Ukraine —<u>Internal Displacement Report</u> — General Population Survey, October 2024. <u><sup>9</sup> Attacks on Ukraine's Energy Infrastructure</u>; Harm to the Civilian Population, September 2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> UN News, <u>Global perspective Human st</u>ories

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Results of costing for provider payments in primary health care in Ukraine: technical report. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Pending publication.



- Around half of refugees in the EU neighboring countries have conducted **short-term visits to Ukraine** at least once since their displacement started, out of which 33% have done so to avail of health services.<sup>13</sup>
- The 2024 SEIS report reveals worrying GBV trends and low awareness of GBV support services, leading to a decrease in disclosures and help-seeking in refugee-hosting countries.<sup>14</sup> Financial constraints and lack of trust in service providers limit access to essential services, especially healthcare. Women report significantly higher concerns about technology-facilitated GBV and sexual harassment in shared accommodation settings. Women in less regulated or private accommodation arrangements express fear of discrimination and persecution. This highlights the importance of prioritizing the creation and implementation of targeted interventions to address the specific safety and security needs of women.
- The UNFPA youth needs assessment revealed **challenges for youth in Ukraine**, such as high unemployment due to job shortages and skills mismatch; significant barriers to mental health support including stigma (37%) and lack of awareness (26%); widespread GBV with limited access to services, almost half (40%) of respondents reporting to have experienced or witnessed GBV; and poor access to sexual and reproductive healthcare, particularly contraception.<sup>15</sup>

## **UNFPA Response**

#### Ukraine

- Over 336,000 women and girls were reached with SRH services delivered through UNFPA-supported health facilities. This includes access to specialized SRH care, contraceptives and pharmaceuticals through a network of 151 barrier-free gynecologic cabinets, 26 mobile reproductive health units, 3 mobile maternity units and 26 primary health care facilities.
- Around 1,300 pregnant and lactating women in five oblasts Kharkivska, Donetska, Khersonska, Mykolaivska, and Zaporizka — received cash assistance to help cover critical sexual and reproductive health and protection needs. Another 7,500 pregnant and lactating women received maternity kits that provide new mothers and their babies with essential supplies for postpartum care and newborn health.
- UNFPA is making significant efforts to strengthen the national health system, including upgrading 25 regional perinatal centers and maternity hospitals with high-frequency ventilation units and essential lifesaving drugs to enhance neonatal care. In Kherson city, UNFPA renovated the maternity hospital basement into a functional bunker, equipping it with two surgical rooms, a patient room for up to 15 patients, and a newborn room, greatly improving maternal and neonatal care capacity. Additionally, UNFPA has trained over 800 health workers in emergency SRH services, including MISP implementation, clinical management of rape, and HIV prevention through pre-exposure prophylaxis.
- In October, UNFPA and the Ukrainian Ministry of Health held the first <u>Conference</u> on "Current Issues in Sexual and Reproductive Health Amid Demographic Crisis", which served as an important platform for discussing strategic initiatives aimed at enhancing the accessibility of medical services and adapting the healthcare system to new challenges arising from the war.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> UNHCR, Lives on hold: Intentions and Perspectives of Refugees, Refugee Returnees and IDPs from Ukraine #6, November 2024, page 7

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Pending publication.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> UNFPA Ukraine youth assessment conducted in the 4th quarter of 2024 across 11 communities in Dnipropetrovsk, Luhansk and Donetsk regions captured the views of 338 young people.



- Over 103,700 people received integrated GBV prevention, mitigation and response services through UNFPA-supported SDPs (such as 30 women and girls safe spaces, 45 Crisis Rooms, and 20 Shelters, as well as 64 Daycare Centres, 108 mobile psychosocial (PSS) teams) and thanks to 116 case managers for GBV survivors and people of risk of GBV. These services include psychosocial support, legal and information counseling, with high demand among vulnerable populations, particularly in regions with high concentrations of IDPs, such as Western and Central Ukraine. Additionally, over 95,000 people were reached with awareness-raising activities and lifesaving GBV information.
- Around 14,600 dignity kits were distributed to women and girls along the contact line and in areas most affected by the war through UNFPA-supported SDPs and centralized United Nations (UN) interagency convoys.
- UNFPA is enhancing access to GBV prevention and response services in high-risk areas where security conditions have deteriorated. This includes establishing one static safe space in Mykolaiv and deploying two mobile PSS teams in Sloviansk and Kramatorsk at the request of local authorities. In partnership with nine municipalities, UNFPA has also supported 13 municipal SDPs offering GBV programming for women, girls, and other vulnerable groups, including survivors and those at risk. Additionally, a Community Resilience Center in Kremenchuk, Poltava oblast has been set up to foster youth initiatives while providing support to women and vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities.
- In November 2024, UNFPA in collaboration with UN Women expanded the TatoHubs network to include new hubs in Chernivtsi, Dnipro, and Mykolaiv, now covering 13 cities. The network promotes responsible fatherhood and gender equality, and fosters resilience, GBV prevention, psychosocial support, and social cohesion for war-affected families, including IDPs and veterans.
- UNFPA expanded its efforts in supporting **young people's mental health and resilience** by hiring five new community liaison coordinators (in Odesa, Chernihiv, Sumy, Mykolaiv, and Kharkiv), strengthening local engagement, and capacitating 40 trainers-of-trainers with practical tools for working with youth in communities.
- UNFPA contributed to the development of **legislation addressing conflict-related sexual violence** (CRSV) in Ukraine through expert insights and reviews. UNFPA contributions shaped Law No. 4067-IX on the Status of Survivors of Sexual Violence Related to the Armed Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and Urgent Interim Reparations (adopted on 20 November 2024), which lays the foundation for survivors to exercise their rights and mandates the development of by-laws, including standards for social service delivery and procedures for the comprehensive rehabilitation of survivors. Additionally, UNFPA contributed to Government Resolution No. 1321, which standardizes support services for survivors nationwide via the Survivor Relief Centers.
- UNFPA supported certified training programmes on transitional justice with an integrated CRSV-response component and interagency coordination, aimed at enhancing functional referrals and providing comprehensive support in GBV cases, including domestic violence and CRSV. Engaging 138 partners within the GBV prevention and response system, these programmes were conducted in collaboration with and at the request of the government through the UNFPA-supported GBV Prevention and Response National Training Center, with representatives of female and male survivors serving as facilitators.



- To mark the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence and to raise public awareness about gender-based violence, UNFPA launched a **multi-faceted campaign** to educate and engage people in preventing and responding to GBV through <u>social media posts</u>, <u>a public run</u>, and <u>a solidarity event</u>.<sup>16</sup>
- The UNFPA-run Mentalochka <u>podcast</u> reached around **775,000 listeners** across various social media platforms with **essential mental health information**. During this period, four new episodes focusing on mental health topics for youth were released and recordings of two community outreach sessions in Odesa and Kharkiv were made available for free on the platform. Additionally, a communication strategy was finalized to increase the podcast's visibility in both cities.

#### **Republic of Moldova**

- Around 10,000 people were reached with SRH services at UNFPA-supported health facilities, including 101 hospitals and primary healthcare centers around the country and a SRH mobile clinic for youth.
  1,000 pregnant and lactating women benefited from specialized non-food items (NFI) kits/maternity kits enabling them to better care for their children and meet their immediate postnatal needs.
- Under the joint UN agreement with the National Health Insurance Company, UNFPA ensured **crucial financial health coverage for 3,608 Ukrainian refugee women aged 18 to 55 years** registered with a family doctor enabling access to primary healthcare, pre-hospital healthcare, and outpatient compensated drugs and medical products. **Another 1,353 women received coverage for health** specialized and/or emergency hospital services, which are often highly expensive.
- UNFPA continues to strengthen the national health system by enhancing emergency medical response and healthcare training. As part of these efforts, three Type C neonatal ambulances were donated to the Ministry of Health, equipped with state-of-the-art medical technology to ensure the safe transfer of newborns to specialized care facilities. Additionally, UNFPA upgraded two health facilities – the National Centre for Pre-Hospital Emergency Care and the Bălți Clinical Hospital – with modern teaching equipment, including manikins and anatomical models, to improve hands-on training for obstetric and gynecological care. To further enhance emergency response, 60 healthcare providers were trained in obstetric emergency management in crisis situations.
- UNFPA conducted an assessment to evaluate the **quality of services provided by healthcare facilities to survivors of sexual violence and rape.** Based on the assessment's results, UNFPA developed a Normative Act on Services for Survivors of Sexual Violence and Gender-Based Violence aiming to standardize the organization and functioning of Units for Assistance to Survivors of GBV, including sexual violence, within Hospital Emergency Departments.
- UNFPA launched a comprehensive **information campaign to raise awareness about cervical cancer prevention** and available services, including the Pap test, and HPV vaccination. This initiative engaged different channels, including <u>social media</u>, countrywide television and radio channels, and <u>awareness-raising events</u> conducted in partnership with the Free Trade Unions Association "PUBLICSIND".
- More than **9,000 women and girls from vulnerable refugee and host communities accessed GBV** prevention and response services in 20 static Safe Spaces (located in Refugee Accommodation

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Every year, the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign – which begins on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on 25 November and runs through International Human Rights Day on 10 December – is marked to raise awareness and inspire action to combat it.



Centers, border crossing points, train stations and UNHCR community centers), 11 mobile safe spaces and nine women-led organizations who benefitted from UNFPA mini-grants of US\$ 5,000 each.

- **15 Ukrainian refugees benefitted from cash assistance** aiming to reduce their GBV risks, by securing an accommodation and/or meeting their basic needs, and safeguarding individuals from resorting to negative coping strategies or returns to unsafe environments.
- Over 1,300 dignity kits were distributed to women and girls enhancing their access to essential hygiene products and personal care items along with information on sanitary waste disposal, menstrual health and hygiene, and available GBV-related support services. Additionally, some refugee women received winter kits, including essential items such as warm clothing, blankets, and other items to enhance their safety and well-being during the winter season.
- UNFPA launched the <u>Safe at Home Initiative</u> in two regions with the highest concentration of refugees, aiming to strengthen home care services to prevent and address GBV among refugees with limited mobility. The pilot focuses on enhancing access to life-saving services and information.
- UNFPA applied a multi-pronged approach to **improve access to GBV services for refugees and host communities** that aligns with the broader refugee response. UNFPA focused on ensuring that services are inclusive and address the specific vulnerabilities of refugee women and girls, particularly those with disabilities and at high risk of GBV; data-driven; and sustainable. This includes:
  - **Developing a roadmap and a 3-year social investment plan** ensuring that improvements in GBV services are systematically integrated into both national reforms and the refugee response framework. This alignment enhances the sustainability and effectiveness of interventions.
  - Strengthening national data collection, piloting a performance assessment of service providers, and developing a comprehensive Compendium of Indicators—including disability and refugee-specific disaggregation—ensuring that GBV services are responsive to the diverse needs of survivors, including refugee women and girls.
  - Increasing the capacity of 240 GBV community social workers and specialists on <u>GBV in</u> <u>Emergency</u> to improve their knowledge on applying a survivor-centered approach in services, adopting stress management strategies and effective monitoring tools. This directly benefits both refugees and host communities, ensuring quality service provision and improved support mechanisms.
- During the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, a series of impactful **communication campaigns reached over 1,200 people.** These campaigns employed diverse strategies to raise awareness, promote community resilience, and inform people about GBV support services. Key initiatives included:
  - **"Do Not Blame the Clothes":** This campaign fostered dialogue among 200 young people about sexual violence, challenging victim-blaming narratives and emphasizing that clothing choices never justify violence.
  - GBV Awareness Campaign: Building on training for community social workers and specialists, two videos were released on social media (<u>Video 1</u>, <u>Video 2</u>) raising awareness of available GBV services reaching over 1,000 people.



## Belarus

- During the reporting period, **over 200 individuals were reached with GBV programming,** including PSS services, recreational and social activities, and SRH referrals for at least 110 women to services in Brest, Gomel, Vitebsk oblast and Minsk city.
- In November, UNFPA scaled-up its services and, in partnership with the Belapdiimi Civil Society Organization, **established two safe spaces for women and girls with disabilities** to increase their access to life-saving services and information.
- UNFPA equipped its safe spaces with 21 tablets that will facilitate the provision of **digital literacy classes.** This initiative targeting women of older age and those with disabilities provides access to digital literacy training and online resources, enabling women of older age to gain essential skills, enhance their employment prospects, stay connected with support networks, and ultimately rebuild their lives with greater independence and dignity.

## **Neighbouring EU Countries**

#### Poland

- To mark the 16 Days of Activism campaign, UNFPA officially expanded the Safe You app (https://safeyou.space/en) to Poland together with the IMINI Foundation and the local counterpart, Fundacja Feminoteka (Poland). The launch event was attended by the Polish Minister for Equality, the Armenian Ambassador in Poland, representatives from various embassies, including the United States, France, Finland and Sweden and many social actors in Poland.
- UNFPA's partner, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Feminoteka, supported **39 women from** refugee and host communities with GBV risk mitigation and response activities through the Rape Crisis Center. Services include provision of individual psychosocial support, legal counselling and referral to other specialized services.
- Since October, UNFPA expanded access to culturally and trauma sensitive maternal health information and services for Ukrainian refugees, thanks to the newly established partnership with the Polish Migration Forum (PMF). The forum offered individual and group counseling, conducted childbirth education classes and infant first aid training in both Russian and English, ensuring that expectant and new parents have the knowledge and skills they need to prepare for childbirth and postnatal care for the new mothers and their infants. Additionally, the PMF conducted a 2-day training of midwives and medical professionals working in public hospitals and health centers, enhancing their understanding of medical and cultural factors impacting refugee health and leading to more effective and culturally sensitive care.

#### Romania

UNFPA partners managing the <u>SafeYou</u> app, IMINI Foundation and Sensiblu Foundation, updated the <u>platform</u> with new modules aiming to improve service mapping and delegate the crucial task of contacting the police to a trusted contact via the "Assign Call to Police" feature. These improvements strengthen SafeYou's ability to connect individuals at risk with critical resources and support, ultimately contributing to a safer environment.



- The SafeYou team participated in a Job Fair, which successfully engaged young people and highlighted the app's valuable resources, particularly the "Emergency button" feature. The conversations revealed that Ukrainian refugees tend to first seek informal guidance from trusted friends and online services before seeking help from the authorities for disclosure of GBV cases, which is in line with other assessments in the region (either due to stigma, mistrust or language barriers), emphasizing the need for complementary support systems like SafeYou that could be further scaled up in remote or unsafe/conflict affected areas.
- The SafeYou team took an innovative approach to raise awareness about GBV during the 16 Days of Activism through a comprehensive strategy that leveraged social media and influencer marketing that reached over 3,000 people. A key element of this strategy was a community engagement campaign encouraging users to share their personal GBV experiences through creative mediums like short stories and poems.
- The technical team of the East European Institute of Reproductive Health (EEIRH), a UNFPA partner, expanded the content of the distance learning medical education programme on Family Planning available on the <u>VIC platform</u>, with one module fully aligned with existing <u>international guidance</u> on providing sexual and reproductive health and rights services for women and young persons with disabilities. A total of 76 health professionals completed the online training and received the certificates from the Romanian College of Physicians.
- To ensure GBV services are accessible to and better respond to the specific needs of people with disabilities, EEIRH trained 67 GBV and non-GBV service providers. The training focused on providing services in a way that respects the rights of people with disabilities and included checking if the services were easily accessible to them.

#### Slovakia

- UNFPA partner LFMH conducted a 10-week campaign to raise awareness about gender-based violence and support services, including the Helpline Nezabudka. LFMH used (i) social media outreach promoting the helpline via the <u>"Love shouldn't hurt"</u> platform, (ii) media appearances in several national TV shows and a podcast discussing how to recognise early signs of emotional GBV, and how to access support services through the helpline, and (iii) an influencer campaign by collaborating with 8 influencers and releasing 4 videos, which further amplified its message. The campaign achieved impressive results, reaching approximately one million people across Slovakia.
- The "Living Library" initiative, which raises awareness about gender-based violence, has expanded its reach to three new regions in Slovakia: Nitra, Senica, and Bratislava. This initiative features real-life stories of individuals affected by violence, creating a safe environment for participants to learn and to speak out against violence and seek support.



## **Results Snapshots region wide**



**345,980** People reached with SRH services

**113,370** People reached with GBV prevention, mitigation and response activities



1,315 People reached with Humanitarian Cash & Voucher Assistance for GBV and SRH

Non-food items (such as dignity kits and



## maternity kits) distributed to individuals Results Snapshots by country

20,800



**312** Health facilities supported



**129** Safe Spaces for women and girls supported



**5** Youth Spaces supported



**1,730** People trained on GBV and SRH-related topics

		Ukraine	Rep. of Moldova	Belarus	Neighbouring EU Countries
<b>(</b>	People reached with SRH services	336,000	9,700	200	80
<sup>ي</sup> ې	People reached with GBV prevention, mitigation and response activities	103,700	9,300	80	290
Q	People reached with awareness-raising and life-saving information	95,000	5,400	170	2,400
	People reached with Humanitarian Cash & Voucher Assistance for GBV and SRH	1,300	15	-	-
(†	People trained on GBV and SRH-related topics	1,180	300	-	250
	Health facilities supported	206	102	3	1
	Safe Spaces for women and girls supported	95	26	4	4
	Youth Spaces supported	-	5	-	-
NFI	Non-food items (such as dignity kits and maternity kits) distributed to individuals	18,300	2,300	200	-



#### **Coordination Mechanisms**

## 🗘 Gender-Based Violence

#### Ukraine

- During October December 2024, 87 operational partners of the GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR) chaired by UNFPA reported **reaching 238,459 individuals**, including GBV survivors and those at heightened GBV risk (85% female, 15% male, 23% children, 59% adults aged 18-65, 18% older people aged over 65) including IDPs (25%) and non-displaced conflict-affected people (75%) including returnees. Predominantly vulnerable women and girls but also men and boys have been reached in 103 raions of 24 oblasts with concentration in the East, North and South of Ukraine through a variety of GBV services.
- The GBV AoR partner organizations **strengthened the capacity of 2,035 GBV service providers** to meet GBViE minimum standards and 953 non-GBV humanitarian actors on GBV risk prevention and mitigation.
- In December, the GBV AoR GBV Case Management Working Group, led by UNFPA in partnership with UNICEF and UNHCR, organized four **five-day GBV case management training courses** across Ukraine, equipping 78 NGO and government social workers with skills to deliver survivor-centered care. This initiative fostered collaboration between NGOs and government staff while aligning with the Ministry of Social Policy's efforts to develop a national GBV case management methodology.
- In East and South Ukraine, the transit centers for evacuees, where the GBV AoR coordinates partners' responses, were **affected by active hostilities**. The GBV AoR, along with CCCM, Protection, and WASH clusters, completed two joint inter-cluster Safety Audits in collective sites in Odesa and Mykolaiv regions accommodating a high number of IDPs.
- The Outreach Working Group initiated discussions and developed a **standardized information package for Dignity Kit distribution** to ensure a consistent approach and incorporates all critical life-saving information nationwide.
- During the 16 Days of Activism campaign, the GBV AoR organized a series of webinars focused on **mainstreaming GBV risk mitigation** that were attended by 1,213 participants. These webinars were conducted in collaboration with the CCCM Cluster, FSL Cluster, Cash Working Group, NORCAP, and GBV AoR partners.

#### **Republic of Moldova**

 UNFPA, as the co-chair of the GBV sub-Working Group alongside UNHCR, in partnership with Empowered Self Defense Europe, conducted a training-of-trainers workshop on self-defense and conflict de-escalation for <u>29 front-line service providers</u>, including representatives of local NGOs, particularly women-led organizations. The training equipped participants with essential skills in self-defense and conflict de-escalation, enhancing their safety and resilience while working in challenging environments.



#### **Neighboring EU countries**

- In Romania, UNFPA's partner EEIRH continues to co-lead the GBV Case Management (GBV CM) Task-force alongside ANES, the National Institute for Equality between Men and Women. EEIRH took the lead to standardize and improve services for survivors of GBV by developing standard operating procedures to align existing GBV services, protocols and information management systems with international standards on GBViE. The first consultation meeting with key stakeholders was conducted in November.
- In Poland, UNFPA partner IRC along with its co-chairs of the GBV SWG and CMR/IPV Task Force (UNHCR, WHO, and Fundacja Feminoteka), conducted a **policy and advocacy event to raise awareness about the recently amended law on the crime of rape**. During the event, participants mapped the necessary steps for the entry into force of the law in February 2025, and identified a strategy on how to further improve the policy by developing a joint advocacy statement. The event was attended by 19 participants representing over 10 different civil society organizations, including UN Agencies (UNHCR, WHO), Polish women-led organizations, refugee-led organizations and an organization defending the rights of the Ukrainian Roma community.

#### Sexual and Reproductive Health

#### Ukraine

- UNFPA, as the chair of the SRH Technical Working Group (SRH TWG), organized a roundtable in Kyiv titled "Advancing Midwifery in Ukraine: Current Challenges and Future Strategies". The event convened experts from WHO and relevant stakeholders to evaluate the state of midwifery in Ukraine, review findings from regional assessments, and formulate recommendations to strengthen midwifery education, workforce capacity, and highlighted the crucial role of midwives, aligning efforts with regional strategies for achieving universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals. These recommendations were summarized in the Position Paper on Investment in the Midwifery Model of Care in Ukraine, informed by the global WHO publication "Transitioning to Midwifery Models of Care: Global Position Paper".
- The SRH TWG completed a comprehensive desk review of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in Ukraine in order to assess strategic objectives outlined in the WHO Action Plan for Sexual and Reproductive Health: Towards Achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Europe. It included a quantitative analysis of data from MedStat, E-Data, the National Cancer Registry of Ukraine, and international sources like the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021. Additionally, the qualitative analysis reviewed national laws, clinical guidelines, and relevant publications to identify strengths, challenges, and gaps. The findings led to actionable recommendations aimed at guiding reforms and aligning Ukraine's SRHR practices with international standards.



#### **Republic of Moldova**

• UNFPA continues to prioritize SRH issues in the discussions and actions of the Health and Nutrition Working Group, agreed during the quarterly meetings attended by representatives of the Ministry of Health, the National Health Insurance Company, UN agencies, and other relevant humanitarian actors.

#### **Neighboring EU countries**

• In Romania, UNFPA contributed to the SRH Working group which is led by WHO. UNFPA's participation was crucial to ensure SRH is highlighted as essential amongst the health areas.

### ✗ Other working groups led by UNFPA

#### Neighboring EU countries and Republic of Moldova

UNFPA, as part of the regional Socio-Economic Inclusion Survey (SEIS) analysis group, led the development of the GBV chapter within the Protection and Accountability report and contributed significantly to the Health and Wellbeing report covering 10 countries (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Slovakia). The reports are expected to be published in the first quarter of 2025.

#### Belarus

• As a part of the Inter-Agency Refugee Taskforce, UNFPA advocated for the SRH and GBV needs of refugee women and girls, and maintained its leadership role in addressing complex cases related to providing support to older people from Ukraine.

## **Outreach Highlights**

<u>To survive in your own house</u>: read Halyna's story to see how she found safety and support at UNFPA-supported Daycare Centre after enduring 15 years of abuse.

<u>"It's frightening that there are strikes in Odesa, but we saw that other women are giving birth here, so we decided to go ahead</u>": Odesa's Regional Maternity Hospital has become a refuge for women who, despite all the challenges, choose hope and the continuity of life.

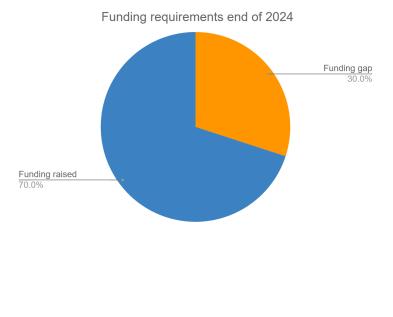
New Lives Under Protection: Supporting Mothers and Newborns During Crisis. Read the story of <u>Yulia</u>, a Ukrainian refugee, who gave birth in an upgraded health facility.



## Funding Status end of 2024

EECA region	Ukraine	Republic of Moldova	Belarus	Poland	Romania	Slovakia	Regional Coordination	Total
Funding required	\$75,000,000	\$23,649,264	\$660,000	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,752,000	\$105,061,264
Funding received	\$48,383,698	\$21,478,545	\$376,908	\$1,078,746	\$978,585	\$544,439	\$857,877	\$73,698,798
Funded	65%	91%	57%	54%	98%	54%	49%	70%

In 2024, UNFPA required \$105 million to address the GBV and SRH needs of its target populations and received 70% of the funding.



## **Recent bilateral donors to UNFPA**

Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, European Union, France, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), and the US Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM).

In addition, UNFPA received financing support from individual donors via the Individual Giving Programme,the private sector ), and various United Nations pooled funds.

Many of these donors gave through the UNFPA Humanitarian Thematic Fund.

For 2025, the need remains critical, with \$94.4 million required for urgent needs in Ukraine and the refugee response in the region. As of the date of publication of this regional sitrep, UNFPA has secured \$36.8 million from its donor partners, representing 39% of its 2025 regional appeal.