

## KEY FIGURES

**25,000**

Information cards on gender-based-violence resources distributed in conflict areas

**11,000**

Deliveries assisted with UNFPA reproductive health kits

**21**

Mobile teams deployed to provide psychosocial support and outreach to the most vulnerable

**409**

Police staff trained on management of cases of gender-based violence

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE OVERVIEW

UNFPA provides humanitarian assistance to save lives, ensure access to reproductive health care, and offer support to survivors of gender-based violence in Ukraine's conflict-affected areas, focusing on women and girls.

## UNFPA'S HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTIONS

- ▶ Strengthening national mechanisms to better respond to gender-based violence
- ▶ Reaching out to the most vulnerable conflict-affected populations through mobile teams offering psychosocial support
- ▶ Supplying maternity clinics and other health service providers with reproductive health kits to guarantee safe deliveries under difficult circumstances
- ▶ Equipping healthcare providers with kits to treat survivors of gender-based violence
- ▶ Conducting quality fast-track training of service providers, medical and psychosocial support staff, police and other critical responders on how to deal with cases of gender-based violence



← Elena, 31 and nine months pregnant, in the maternity centre in Kramatorsk, East Ukraine. Heavy shelling led her, her husband and their 3-year-old daughter to flee their home in Makiivka in Donetsk region. After a complicated delivery of her first child she is waiting for a scheduled C-section. Photo: Maks Levin/UNFPA

## Supporting pregnant women in conflict-affected areas

The large majority of registered internally displaced people are women and children who have been forced from their homes and communities with very few resources or strategies for coping with the economic hardships and growing stress they face. Among them are pregnant women who travel across the contact line to deliver their children in maternity centres and hospitals in the government-controlled areas.

Women undertake this dangerous and difficult journey because hospitals back home may be destroyed, lacking supplies for safe deliveries, or understaffed due to many doctors and nurses leaving the conflict areas. In addition, they want birth certificates for their children that are recognised by Ukraine. Maternity centres in the government-controlled areas, and especially those close to the contact line, feel the additional pressure of coping with increased patient numbers at pre-crisis budget, resource and staff levels. Since the beginning of the crisis, UNFPA has sent reproductive health kits to health centres and hospitals in the conflict-affected areas that have been used for an estimated 7,800 normal deliveries

and 3,200 complicated deliveries, including C-sections and miscarriages. In addition, 38,000 disposable kits for obstetric-gynaecologic check-ups have been supplied directly to women through outreach services and health facilities. With support from the United Kingdom and the United States, UNFPA has been able to expand its efforts to support health facilities, including through increasing capacities for treatment of sexually transmitted infections and addressing cases of sexual violence. It also partners with the International Medical Corps (IMC), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Red Cross and others on joint trainings and support to mobile clinics that provide outreach to women in need.



Zhanna receives support from Novi Den, a local NGO which works on preventing HIV and providing services to HIV-positive individuals among drug users, sex workers and other vulnerable groups.  
Photo: Maks Levin/UNFPA

## GENDER BASED VIOLENCE – BREAKING THE SILENCE

Zhanna\*, 36, is an HIV-positive mother of two who lives in Donetsk region. She says she contracted HIV when her then-new partner raped her. She is one of the very few women speaking out about such experiences. Even before the conflict, incidents of sexual and gender-based violence often went unreported in Ukraine due to shame, stigma, a fear of retribution and a lack of trust in the legal, medical and social support systems. The conflict has made things even worse. Zhanna decided to speak out because she wants things to change, for women who have experienced violence or feel threatened to have a safe place they can go, day or night. ‘I was pleading [with my partner] to stop. But he didn’t. I felt ashamed and I did not tell anyone,’ Zhanna says. ‘Only when I got pregnant the second time and was screened during a regular check-up did I find out I was HIV positive.’ Women and girls like Zhanna need to receive lifesaving health care as soon as possible after experiencing sexual violence in order to avert preventable consequences, such as unwanted pregnancies and life-threatening infections like HIV. UNFPA is providing post-rape treatment kits to service delivery points such as maternity hospitals, family planning centres and AIDS centres. These kits include lifesaving access to emergency contraception, post-exposure prophylaxis and antibiotics for treatment of sexually transmitted infections, and basic tools for health personnel to conduct gynaecological examinations. UNFPA’s work also includes training health personnel on clinical management of rape and strengthening the referral pathway with a focus on making services survivor-centred.

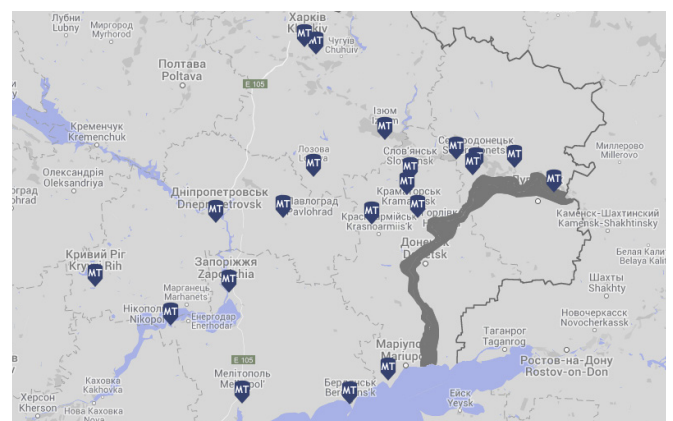
\* Name has been changed to protect identity.

## Mobile teams - reaching people where they are

Many people in the conflict-affected areas, including women, men, boys and girls, have witnessed, experienced or taken part in violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, and are traumatised as a result. If left untreated, traumatic experiences can have long-term impacts on individual lives and threaten entire generations and communities. Starting 1 November 2015, UNFPA has deployed 21 mobile teams to provide psychosocial support to populations in the five regions most affected by the conflict. Each team consists of two psychologists and one social worker, all trained on crucial elements of psychosocial support in conflict contexts and sensitised on the need to reach out to the most vulnerable communities. The mobile teams are equipped with information materials and resources on referral mechanisms and contact information of staff in local service-provider centres. While working hand-in-hand with local service providers, the mobile teams have the strategic advantage of being able to reach out to people where they are – in rural areas and communities, sometimes far away from city centres. They are also equipped with the newest technology, including electronic tablets for filling out intake forms to simplify anonymous data collection, disaggregated by sex, location and age. This strengthens results monitoring. In their first days of operation, the mobile teams dealt with 76 cases of violence in the regions of Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk. Almost all (96 per cent) of the clients were female, most between 25 and 36 years old. In 38 per cent of cases a safety plan was created with relevant service providers, or other actions were taken to ensure the client’s safety. The mobile teams are currently funded until May 2016 and efforts are on-going to secure co-funding from local authorities and other donors. Results will be continuously monitored and used to inform decisions about the expansion of teams to additional locations based on increased needs for psychosocial support.

### Mobile team locations

The boundaries and names shown and designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.



### UNFPA

Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted every childbirth is safe and every young person’s potential is fulfilled