

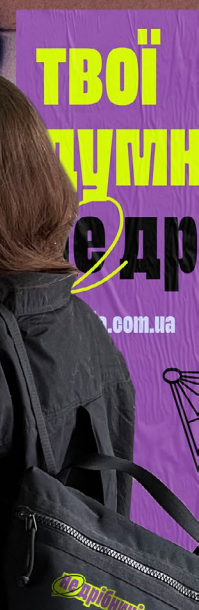


LOCAL ACTION FOR GLOBAL CHANGE: A PIONEERING WAVE OF HACKATHON HEROES

Learning about the unique aspects of project management and gaining the skills for successful project application are essential to engage communities in the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV). In August, UNFPA, with financial support from the Government of Canada and USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, organized two offline hackathons called "Icebreakers: Creating a World Free from Domestic Violence." These hackathons brought together 49 participants who had previously taken part in UNFPA's online or offline events focused on establishing early-warning mechanisms for GBV.



At the end of the hackathons, eight teams presented their project proposals with targets, timelines, communication strategies, budgetary needs, and plans for monitoring and evaluation. All participants were invited to finalize and submit proposals for evaluation after the event to have a chance to receive financial and expert support in implementing their projects. The participants enthusiastically used this opportunity by submitting 15 project applications, taking a step nearer to zero tolerance of GBV in their communities. In September, UNFPA plans to hold two more events to spark a new wave of GBV prevention initiatives.



NO TRIVIA: A YEAR OF SUPPORT

In 2022, UNFPA relaunched the “No Trivia in Relationships” project. Supported by the UK Government, the project expanded its content and presence on new platforms to address Ukraine’s safety challenges. The updated platform has been helping teenagers for over a year by providing professional psychological counselling through a Telegram chatbot. Teenagers can use the chatbot to perform an emotional check-up, identify challenges, access helpful materials, and have individual sessions with psychologists. These sessions are free, anonymous, and conducted through messaging in the chatbot.

More than 6,000 teenagers have received 12,649 consultations in the last 12 months. These consultations are provided by a team of 15 psychologists. The most common requests are related to parent-child misunderstandings, peer relationships, personal mental health concerns, romantic relationships, and anxiety.

In addition to psychological counselling, the “No Trivia” project also provides educational materials and resources to help teenagers better understand healthy relationships and spot warning signs of abuse on its Instagram page. The project aims to empower young people with the knowledge and skills to build healthy relationships and prevent GBV in their lives.

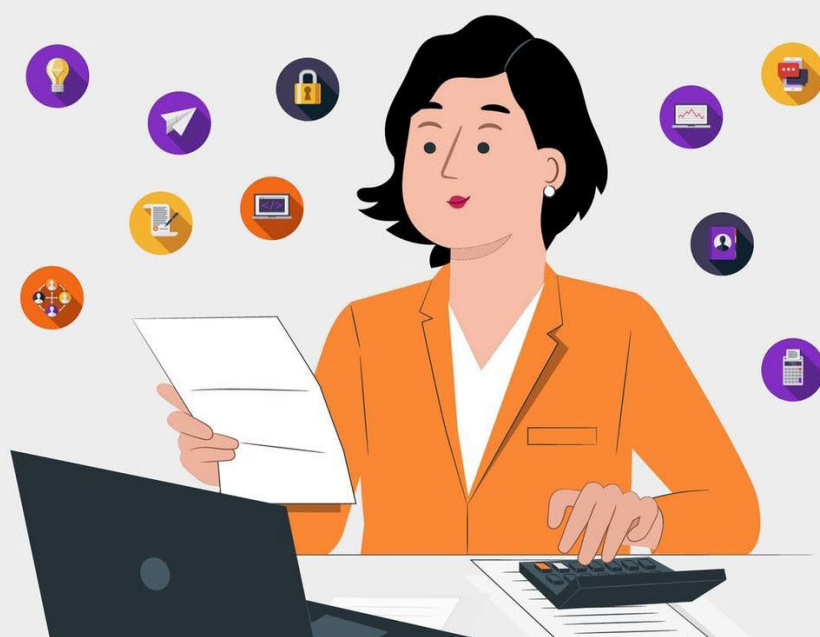
Project pages: [Website](#) [Instagram](#) [Telegram-bot](#)

EMPATHY AND ECONOMY: MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER

In a collaborative effort to empower women in vulnerable situations and drive Ukraine's economic resurgence, UNFPA "VONA Hubs" and the Ministry of Economy have launched a transformative initiative focused on gender equality and economic self-sufficiency.



ЕМПАТІЯ ТА ЕКОНОМІКА: СПІЛЬНИЙ РУХ ВПЕРЕД



The project aims to support and empower 100 women in various regions where "VONA Hubs" operate. This includes women who have been affected by violence, internally displaced persons, and individuals with disabilities. The targeted areas are Kyiv, Zaporizhzhia, Lviv, Chernivtsi, Uzhgorod, Lutsk, Dnipro, and Odessa, as well as the Online hub addressing diverse needs. Participants will receive comprehensive training, internship, and employment opportunities in essential fields such as technology, healthcare, customer service, logistics, information technology, and construction professions.

Local hubs have received over 150 applications for training, and recruitment is ongoing. Two courses have already been launched, with 30 participants. "Test drives" are also available to help clients decide on suitable jobs. Additionally, UNFPA has received 20 initial applications from businesses, as the ongoing partner search process will extend for over two weeks. By backing this initiative, these businesses are not only investing in the future of Ukraine, but also making a positive impact on the lives of women who are working hard to overcome the challenges they face.

BUILDING SOLID FOUNDATIONS FOR MUNICIPAL SYSTEMS



Understanding the theoretical and practical aspects, as well as the responsibilities of each city, community, organization, or service, is crucial for a strong GBV response and prevention system and efficient assistance provision to survivors. In August, the initial training module for experts and consultants on establishing a GBV response and prevention system was held. A total of 40 participants from 25 cities in Ukraine had the opportunity to visit specialized support services for survivors and engage with professionals in this field, including representatives from the Kyiv City State Administration.

The training was conducted by UNFPA in collaboration with the public organization "Association of Experts in Prevention and Response to Gender-Based Violence" and the city authorities as part of the project "Cities and Communities Free from Domestic Violence" with the support of the Governments of the UK and Canada. Their understanding of the key components in establishing a local system for preventing and addressing domestic violence means these experts are now prepared to offer valuable recommendations, proposals, and support for developing and implementing local strategies, action plans, and measures in the field of domestic violence prevention and response at an advanced level.



COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE FOR GBV SURVIVORS OPENED IN FASTIV



In August, a day-care centre specifically designed for individuals who have experienced domestic or gender-based violence was established in Fastiv, Kyiv region. The facility, supported by USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, is also equipped with a crisis room and works in conjunction with a mobile team of psychosocial support that operates within the town. This interconnected network of services plays a crucial role in expediting the provision of support to the survivors.

Most of the trainings were done in partnership with women and girl-friendly spaces, known as "Vilna," and one training was held at the "VONA" career hub. Participants were able to establish connections with relevant services for vulnerable women and girls, gain an understanding of their functions, and broaden their knowledge on the importance of preventing violence. All agreed that the situation can only be improved through collective efforts—by changing social norms to prevent GBV and domestic violence.



UNFPA Programme on GBV Response and Prevention is implemented with the support of the governments of the United Kingdom, Canada, USA, Finland, Belgium, France, Norway, Australia, Sweden, Spain, Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (OCHA), Denmark, Estonia, European Union (ECHO), Iceland, Ireland, and Czech Republic.

