



ONE YEAR OF SUPPORT:

SURVIVOR RELIEF CENTRES CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARY WITH EXPANSION AND EXPERIENCE SHARING

In July, on the first anniversary of the launch of Ukraine's Survivor Relief Centres (SRCs), a series of significant developments showcased their growing impact on assisting those affected by sexual violence during the war.



STATIONARY SURVIVOR RELIEF CENTRE LAUNCHES IN KHARKIV

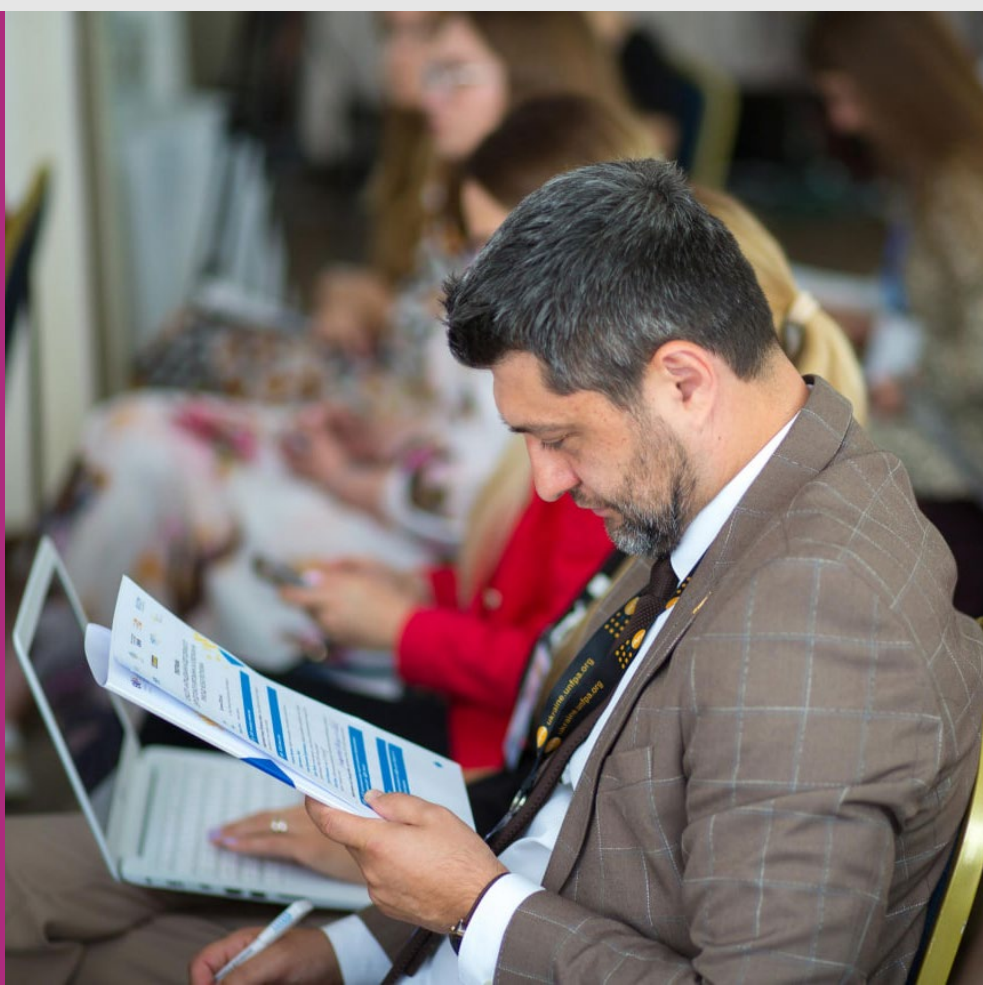
In Kharkiv, a stationary SRC was officially opened with the participation of representatives from UNFPA, the Government of Ukraine, and the Kharkiv Regional Administration. It is the tenth stationary centre of its kind in Ukraine. The centre's team will collaborate with colleagues from the mobile centre. The mobile SRC has been operating in Kharkiv since autumn 2022 and has already provided aid to over 1,000 residents of the Kharkiv region.



WORKSHOP IN LVIV STRENGTHENS INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

The SRCs celebrated their anniversary with a workshop in Lviv, showcasing impressive progress and adaptability. The main focus was on exchanging experiences and establishing similar centres abroad. The workshop, titled “Developing Survivor Relief Centre Models for Ukrainians Abroad: Czech Republic Example,” brought together experts to devise a model for centres aiding Ukrainians facing violence in foreign countries. With 11 operational facilities in Ukraine, the centres have gained valuable experience in providing assistance to survivors, including those who have experienced sexual violence during conflict. The insights shared during the workshop will pave the way for the centres to expand beyond national borders.

Survivor Relief Centres were set up to address the challenges of war. The centres operate at the initiative of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, with the support of the Government Commissioner for Gender Policy, in partnership with UNFPA, and with financial support from the governments of Belgium and France. At SRCs, both internally displaced persons and local residents can receive psychosocial assistance, legal advice, and information on various issues. In addition, specialists at the centres provide comprehensive, specialized assistance in cases of conflict-related sexual violence and ensure that survivors have access to the assistance they need.



EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH ENTREPRENEURIAL ENDEAVORS

On 25 July 2023, the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine and UNFPA organized a workshop titled "Opportunities for Women's Entrepreneurial Initiatives in 2023". The event targeted women who have faced difficult life circumstances, including domestic and gender-based violence (GBV), as well as female veterans and military spouses.

02

МІНІСТЕРСТВО
ЕКОНОМІКИ
УКРАЇНИ

ГРАНТОВА ПРОГРАМА
«ВЛАСНА СПРАВА»

Можливість отримати до 2250K для розвитку
або створення власного бізнесу з обов'язком
працевлаштувати 1 або 2 осіб

11,3K


2 891

подали заявки з початку
програми — з 1 липня 2022 року


жінок отримали
грант

47% від усіх заявок

51% від усіх успішних заявок



податись можна
за посиланням



Tetyana Berezhna



During the workshop, Tetiana Berezhna, Deputy Minister of Economy of Ukraine, presented the interim results of the "Vlasna Sprava" grant programme and highlighted grant opportunities, including the programme for family members of military personnel. Yana Tvereza, a business expert from "VONA hub", discussed the hub's resources for women's entrepreneurial initiatives, such as individual support, educational programmes, psychological services, consultations for grant applications, and mini-grants.

The participants' enthusiasm and engagement during the workshop demonstrated the positive impact of such events. UNFPA expects to receive more grant applications and that even more new entrepreneurs will take advantage of the resources offered by "VONA hub" and state grants to turn their dreams into businesses, despite any challenges they may face.

VONA HUB'S IT EDUCATION: PAVING THE WAY TO ECONOMIC FREEDOM FOR WOMEN



Since June 2022, 650 women who have faced difficult life circumstances or suffered from domestic/gender-based violence have successfully completed IT courses with the support of the career hub "VONA"

For over two years, UNFPA has partnered with IT schools to provide vulnerable women with education. Recently, Beetroot Academy courses in Kyiv brought together students and graduates of the programme to share insights and discuss current topics in the IT market. Among them were "VONA hub" clients, who underwent an initial interview with a career advisor to examine their opportunities and their motivation for learning. The hub introduced them to representatives of the IT school for further cooperation.

Thanks to the support of the governments of Sweden and the United Kingdom, more and more women have the opportunity to acquire new competitive professions and achieve economic independence through employment.



KNOW, PREVENT, ACT: EQUIPPING LOCAL AGENTS FOR CHANGE



After conducting 26 online sessions with nearly 400 activists, the “Domestic and Gender-Based Violence: Know, Prevent, Act” training transitioned to an offline format. Thanks to financial support from the Government of Canada, eight two-day trainings were held in June and July in the cities of Khmelnytskyi, Cherkasy, Kamianets-Podilskyi, Uzhhorod, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ternopil, Zhytomyr, and Lutsk.

Throughout this period, 170 activists, NGO workers, and opinion leaders increased their awareness of issues related to domestic and gender-based violence, gained inspiration, and acquired useful resources and tools for implementing projects in this field. Participants engaged in discussions on ways to prevent violence, drew parallels between societal stereotypes and real stories of violence survivors, examined the destructiveness of myths, and identified individual actions to reduce violence.



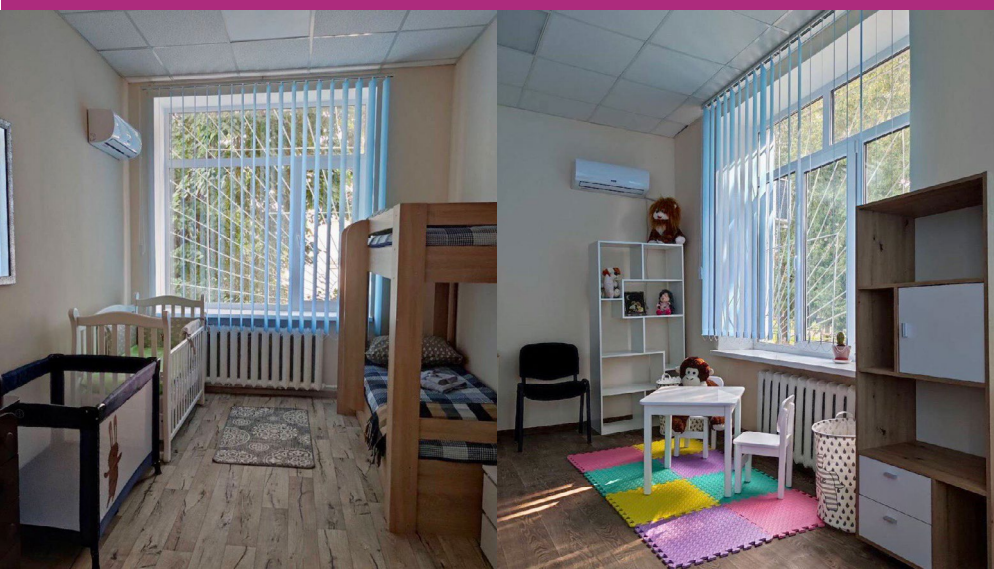
Most of the trainings were done in partnership with women and girl-friendly spaces, known as “Vilna,” and one training was held at the “VONA” career hub. Participants were able to establish connections with relevant services for vulnerable women and girls, gain an understanding of their functions, and 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.

EXPANDING THE NETWORK OF NATIONWIDE SERVICES

In July, a renovated day-care centre for psychosocial assistance opened in Ternopil, with support from the Government of Canada. The centre includes a crisis room for survivors of GBV or domestic violence, providing a safe and accessible space for survivors to receive comprehensive and free assistance in comfortable conditions. In case of need, a survivor can be placed in a crisis room, which is a temporary shelter that allows them to stay for up to 10 days. The community has provided a space of 206.9 square meters for the operation of the centre, which can serve up to 50 people simultaneously.



On 12 July 2023, with the support of the Government of Sweden, a crisis room has been established in Zaporizhia to assist individuals affected by GBV or domestic violence. The room provides women with round-the-clock assistance and, if necessary, offers them the opportunity to move to a long-term shelter. The crisis rooms are equipped with everything necessary for temporary accommodation with children and can accommodate up to 10 people at a time.



With the support of USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, another day-care centre with a crisis room opened in Nizhyn in July. The centre consists of two rooms that can accommodate up to four people. It provides shelter for individuals during the most difficult moments of their lives.

INNOVATION IN ACTION: BLOCKCHAIN AND CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

UNFPA has introduced a programme to provide cash assistance to survivors of GBV through case management. The aim is to incorporate unconditional cash assistance into the GBV case management toolkit to help survivors and at-risk groups address their priority needs, immediate risks, and identified vulnerabilities in a dignified, safe, and survivor-centred way. In July, 32 cases received support through cash via case management.



This programme is a part of the Project "Strengthened Provision of Emergency, Lifesaving Gender-based Violence and Sexual Reproductive Health Services in Ukraine," implemented by UNFPA with financial support from USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance.

In order to provide digital cash assistance to women at risk of GBV, UNFPA has collaborated with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the United Nations International Computing Centre (UNICC) to incorporate an innovative and award-winning blockchain solution, where applicable. This programme, designed for ease of use by recipients, allows the most vulnerable population groups to discreetly convert the assistance into dollars, euros, or the local currency at any global MoneyGram location, as well as transfer the money to a personal bank account.

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.

