



#SOS_KHERSON: LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

In the aftermath of the devastating floods caused by the destruction of the Kakhovka Dam on 6 June 2023 the UNFPA has been providing swift and effective humanitarian assistance to affected communities in Ukraine. UNFPA has responded quickly and with a strong focus on meeting the urgent needs of the most vulnerable groups, such as girls, women, and older adults. Additionally, UNFPA's services have remained present on the ground and expanded their reach, providing vital assistance and aid to the communities affected by the disaster.



The Survivor Relief Centre in Kherson is currently offering aid and support to flood survivors. They provide a range of services including social, psychological, and legal assistance to help survivors rebuild their lives. The "Vilna" women-friendly space in Kherson is also helping people affected by the calamity. Despite the facility being severely affected itself, staff are still assisting evacuees both online and in person. They offer psychological support through both group and individual sessions and visit hospitals, shelters, and schools to stay connected with the community. Additionally, UNFPA's psychosocial mobile teams in Mykolaiv and Odesa are providing critical support to flood survivors. They provide a range of services, including psychological, medical, and legal assistance to help survivors cope with the aftermath of the disaster.

UNFPA is distributing dignity kits containing essential hygiene items for women and girls affected by floods, prioritizing their well-being and preserving their dignity in this crisis. UNFPA is grateful to donors and other partners whose contributions make these critical humanitarian interventions possible.

[Read more](#)



SUPPORTING THE STRONGEST

On 19 June, the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, the Office of the Vice Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration and UNFPA launched a joint information campaign. The campaign's purpose is to raise awareness about sexual violence associated with war and inform Ukrainians about the option of seeking help from Survivor Relief Centres (SRCs). These centres are located in 11 cities across Ukraine and offer free social and psychological assistance to those affected by the war, including survivors of sexual violence. Additionally, SRCs provide information and assistance on humanitarian and medical aid, offer information and assistance about temporary shelter and provide help with legal issues for internally displaced persons.



At the beginning of the campaign, a social video was released to portray the emotions and experiences of individuals who had been rescued from sexual violence associated with conflict. The video emphasizes the significance of supporting survivors and seeking professional help. A few days after its launch, the campaign received media attention and was mentioned in more than 30 media outlets. It was also featured in six live interventions on national news.

[Watch video](#)



To commemorate this day, an "Acting for the Benefit of Survivors" event was held with the support of First Lady Olena Zelenska. During the event, officials, including the Vice Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, the Prosecutor General of Ukraine, the Human Rights Commissioner of the Verkhovna Rada, and the Deputy Representative of UNFPA in Ukraine, discussed their efforts at responding to and preventing conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). They stressed the significance of providing adequate training to professionals to offer effective assistance to survivors and the necessity of establishing a system for immediate interim reparations for survivors of sexual violence associated with war.

The event was organized by the Office of the Vice Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, the Government Commissioner for Gender Policy, with support from UNFPA, UN Women in Ukraine, and other partners.

EXPANDING THE NETWORK OF NATIONWIDE SERVICES

COMPLEX SERVICE IN CHERVONOHRAH

In late June, a day-care centre with a crisis room for survivors of GBV was established in Chervonohrad city. The centre offers social, psychological, and legal assistance to GBV survivors and individuals at risk. The crisis room provides a secure space and comprehensive support for GBV survivors with children for up to 10 days.

The centre's team collaborates with community leaders, police departments, educational institutions, healthcare providers, child welfare services, and free legal aid bureaux. This not only enhances service provision to GBV survivors, but also positions the facility as a central component of the system for GBV response and prevention in the region.



NEW PLACE OF SUPPORT

A week earlier, a new space called "Vilna" opened in Kyiv, providing women and girls with various opportunities to engage in sports, dance, Ukrainian or English language lessons, lectures, and more. These activities serve a deeper purpose: to foster a sense of community and build loyal friendships. For internally displaced persons, it can aid in adjusting to a new place and provide a sense of belonging. For those who have experienced any form of violence, it can encourage them to seek help. That's why the Vilna space also provides specialized services and psychosocial support related to GBV for women and girls.



STRONG FOUNDATION FOR STRONGER RESPONSE

A significant step has been taken to establish the National Training Centre on Combating Domestic and Gender-Based Violence. UNFPA has signed a memorandum of cooperation with the High School of Public Governance to train and enhance the skills of professionals involved in implementing policies. This involves creating standard certification programmes, supporting a knowledge base, and establishing a system for the continuing professional development of specialists. The parties will also collaborate to develop a national training system, organize joint training events, and work with relevant government bodies and local authorities to implement state gender policies.

PLAY FOR CHANGE: UNFPA'S BOARD GAME FOR COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

UNFPA has created a board game named "Icebreakers" aimed at transforming social norms and preventing GBV in communities. The game offers a fun way to comprehend and study the different stages of change in social norms, with the primary objective of preventing domestic and gender-based violence. Through playing the game, initiative teams can develop and execute practical projects in their communities.



"Icebreakers" represents the difficult process of changing social norms, much like breaking apart hard, unyielding ice requires the assistance of icebreakers. This is not a task that can be accomplished alone. Therefore, the game is also about individuals coming together with a shared ideology to work towards a world without GBV.

Twenty-six experts in Kyiv were trained to facilitate the Icebreakers board game on 26-27 June and 3-4 July. The game was promoted on UNFPA's social networks and there was high demand for both training and copies. Trained participants brought the game to their communities, where the first teams played. UNFPA will gather feedback to improve the game, which serves as an investment in educating and mobilizing community activists to prevent domestic violence and change social norms.



JUNE IN NUMBERS

OVER 800,000 PEOPLE

viewed the film "Behind the Silence" during its premiere, on national TV, and online. The documentary highlights the experiences of GBV survivors and service providers in Ukraine during the war. Its aim is to raise awareness about the issue and about available support. The film demonstrated how the war has affected the dynamics of requests for help, as many survivors were too ashamed or scared to seek support.

OVER 10,000 REQUESTS

have been received by the "No Trivia" Project's Telegram chatbot from teenagers since its launch in August 2022. Consultations are offered by a team of 15 psychologists. The most frequent requests are related to problems with romantic relationships, peer relationships, parent-child misunderstandings, and personal effectiveness concerns.



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.

