



ENTERPRISES OF HAPPINESS LAUNCH THEIR WORK

In March 2021, after months of rigorous preparations, two very special businesses opened their doors to clients. A photo & video studio “ENJi – Light and Shadow” in Kherson and a beauty salon “GG Space” (short from “Good Girls Space”) in Mykolaiv are the first social entrepreneurship initiatives for GBV survivors.

Both business projects started as a bold idea of a local CSO which applied for participation in the UNFPA new strand of economic empowerment for GBV survivors, launched with the UK Government support in October 2020. Emerging successful from competitive selection, the CSOs received expert guidance and funding from UNFPA to turn their business ideas into reality.

In **Kherson**, the startup is an ambitious visual content studio that provides a wide range of photo and video production services and plans to develop video content for social media. In **Mykolaiv**, the business project “GG Space” is a unique place for comfort comprising a beauty salon, café and co-working space.

“After taking the ‘nail aesthetics’ course and getting a job, my life has changed for the better. I couldn’t even believe that I would do what I like with such willingness, and be able to become a nail care master in such a wonderful place. This is where I am filled with strength and become independent. I can spend my earnings on everything I need or like. Finally, I would like to say to everyone who are still living in an abusive situation: everything that suddenly changes our lives is not a coincidence. Take the first step and get out of the horror in which you live. You deserve a better life!” – Angelica, “GG Space” employee, GBV survivor.

Both initiatives have already employed 10 women-survivors of GBV who excelled in professional training organised by UNFPA Women Career Hub. The startups will also donate a share of revenues for the work on GBV response in their cities.

The enterprises are the first social entrepreneurship projects in Kherson and Mykolaiv. They set an example for business and inspire the local community to be more supportive of GBV survivors. Providing employment to survivors of domestic and gender-based violence, the startups enable them to gain economic autonomy to break the vicious circle of violence.

Three more social entrepreneurship initiatives started their operation with UNFPA support in **Lviv, Vinnytsia and Poltava**. Even though their official launch had to be re-scheduled in the context of deteriorating epidemiologic situation in cities, the startups already have commercial orders. Stay tuned to hear more about them in new editions of the Newsletter.

LEAVING NO SPACE FOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT



STANDUP

Being surrounded by people, despite common expectation, does not guarantee safety from abuse. As revealed by UNFPA 2020 Survey, 42% of Ukrainian women have experienced sexual harassment in public places. Even though widespread and psychologically traumatic, the problem of sexual harassment is rarely brought up in Ukrainian society. To raise awareness of this breach of personal boundaries and its unacceptability, in November 2020, UNFPA launched a **photo project "Not Limitless"**. The project tells stories of 14 women who have experienced sexual harassment in public. Displayed offline and online, "Not Limitless" attracted much attention of Ukrainians. UNFPA received requests from cities to exhibit the 14 photo stories and, thus, the "Not Limitless" project was placed in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Mariupol and Melitopol. More cities are lining up to host the exhibition. The next stop of its national tour is Berdiansk where people can explore the photo stories in April.

The online exhibition "Not Limitless" can be visited at bit.ua/2020/11/nebezmezhnist/.

UNFPA also aspires to equip Ukrainians with knowledge and tools to stop and prevent sexual harassment in public places. UNFPA Ukraine partnered with L'Oreal Paris to implement an international educational programme Stand Up. Launched on 8 March, the programme aims to teach women and men to effectively combat harassment in public places. Anyone interested can gain valuable insights and helpful tips by taking a simplified 15-minute training on standup-ukraine.com or signing up for a 1-hour interactive webinar from qualified trainers of UNFPA Ukraine.

The programme plans to **train thousands of Ukrainians** to effectively **address sexual harassment in public**. Sign-up for training to become one of the champions to protect personal boundaries and dignity in public places.

SPECIALISED SUPPORT TO GBV SURVIVORS NEAR THE CONTACT LINE

"It is important that every person, every citizen of Ukraine, from cities, towns and communities feel protected...Such shelters should be opened in all Ukrainian cities, and especially those near the contact line", says Olha Revuk, Deputy Minister of Social Policy.



Kreminna, a town located close to the contact line in the east of Ukraine, became the first municipality in Luhansk region to launch a complex specialised support mechanism for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence. The brand-new inclusive **daycare centre** will provide **social, psychological, and legal assistance to GBV** survivors and people at risk, while the shelter will guarantee safe space and comprehensive support to up to 10 persons simultaneously staying up to 3 months.

Launch of the first daycare centre and the second shelter for GBV survivors in the region

is the result of cooperation between the local authorities, UNFPA and UNDP. UNDP supported renovation works under the UN Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme with the financial support of Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland, while UNFPA procured equipment, furniture and conducted capacity development of centre and shelter's personnel with the financial support of the UK.

Earlier last year, UNFPA supported the establishment of the first shelter in Luhansk region that was opened in Rubizhne in September 2020.



NEW DIMENSION OF SUPPORT TO ATO/JFO VETERANS



“It is absolutely clear, that under circumstances of lasting armed conflict, many people moved to other communities, lost their job and feel frustrated while trying to care about their children and families. The ATO/ JFO veterans, who protect us, face similar challenges. Provision of complex support to the ATO/JFO veterans and their families becomes the common ground for cooperation between the Ministry of Social Policy and the Ministry of Veterans Affairs” – Olha Revuk, Deputy Minister of Social Policy.

On 1 March, UNFPA held a hybrid forum Best Practice of Psychosocial Support Provision to ATO/JFO Veterans and Their Families in Kyiv. The forum was dedicated to discussing effective models of psychosocial support provision to former combatants and their families, including via ‘peer-to-peer’ assistance, as provided by the mobile teams created by UNFPA.

The event shared key lessons learned from the 15-month operation of six mobile teams of psychosocial support to ATO/JFO veterans and their families in Kyiv and Mykolaiv regions. Since November 2019, mobile teams provided psychological counselling and social supervision to **6 025**

ATO/JFO veterans, **3 338 members** of their families and **139** serving combatants. Such specialised assistance facilitated reintegration of the veterans, improving their relationships within the families and preventing domestic violence.

Recognising the effectiveness of the piloted model of psychosocial support for ATO/JFO veterans, the Ministry of the Social Policy initiated the inclusion of representatives of the local departments of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs to the coordination bodies on domestic violence prevention at rayon and oblast levels. Abuse in relationships.