ENHANCING ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE OF GBV PREVENTION AND RESPONSE IN UKRAINE

In October 2020, the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine supported the initiative of UNFPA on improving access to essential knowledge on GBV prevention and response for specialists working in communities nationwide. With its letter, the Ministry recommended UNFPA three-module online course “Comprehensive Response to Violence against Women and Girls” (https://learn-gbv.mocotms.com) to regional level social policy professionals, specialists of municipal and community social services centres, medical facilities and educational institutions, involved in GBV response at the local level. As of the end of October, more than 5,000 new users registered for the online course and more than 3,200 specialists completed the 24-hour training. The course contributes to developing new calibre of specialists of effective GBV response.

“This is a great opportunity to refresh the knowledge and ensure the training for new specialists! Especially at the time when we had to freeze most of the in-person training activities due to COVID-19,” – a regional level coordinator of GBV response.

“I applaud the developers and inspirers of this online course! I am lucky to find this learning tool where all materials are selected with such accuracy! It facilitates easy perception of the essential knowledge of GBV response. Moreover, the contemporary style of the learning materials’ presentation, the courses’ design itself and interesting quizzes keep one’s attention focused throughout the course. Excellent!” – a course taker.
“(NO) TRIVIA IN RELATIONSHIPS”:
INNOVATION IN ACTION

Aiming to educate youth on healthy relationships, “(No) Trivia in Relationships” project established an interactive learning platform on Instagram. All educational sessions are delivered by popular youth blogger Asia Say through live broadcasts with the possibility of instant feedback. Information materials are presented in the format of tests and surveys via Stories instrument which allows seeing an immediate change in the audience’s awareness and involvement. Real examples of overcoming toxic relationships are shared by invited opinion leaders in live broadcasts and engaging peer-to-peer conversations.

Youth-friendly and intuitive, project platform on Instagram offers an innovative format of training that is stretched over time, appealing and convenient to the target audience.

Over 2.8 million of Ukrainians aged 18-24 are active Instagram users, this is 91.04% of all Ukrainian in this age group. Thus, “(No) Trivia in Relationships” project on Instagram has the potential to educate the young generation of Ukrainians to live free from violence.

PROSPECTIVE MUNICIPAL EXPERTS
EXPLORE WORK OF SERVICES

On 27-29 October, a cohort of 45 future municipal experts from 15 partner-cities convened in Kyiv region for the third module of the UNFPA comprehensive capacity building course. Dedicated to GBV specialised services, the module offered insights and guidance on establishing, running and assuring quality of the services for GBV survivors. The participants took part in the virtual tour of the comprehensive Support Centre for GBV survivors in Kharkiv comprised of shelter, daycare centre and crisis rooms, set up with UNFPA support.

One of the participants of the module noted: “The hard work of the Centre’s team impresses with its results. This experience is very valuable for cities that have just embarked on a journey to establish specialised support services for survivors of gender-based violence”.

The final module of the rigorous learning programme is planned to take place in Vinnytsia in November.
BUSINESS JOINS 16 DAYS CAMPAIGN

On 30 September 2020, UNFPA held a webinar for business dedicated to preparations for the global “16 Days of Activism against GBV” campaign. The webinar offered guidance to companies, shared innovations and best workplace practices on mobilising staff during the “16 Days” campaign. Many participants expressed their willingness to participate in the campaign this year by sharing useful information and training staff, ensuring everyone knows domestic violence is not tolerated.

Aspiring to foster zero tolerance to GBV and gender equality in the corporate sector, six more companies confirmed their commitment to sign the UNFPA Declaration for Gender Equality and Prevention of Domestic Violence – PJSC “Prykarpattyaoblenergo”, SERVIER Ukraine LLC, network of social shops “Aurora”, KPMG Ukraine, Dnipro Chamber of Commerce and Industry, GlobalLogic Ukraine. Overall, 27 companies pledged to make a sound contribution to eliminating gender stereotypes and GBV in Ukraine.

“At the webinar, I enjoyed the engagement of Ukrainian companies in the initiative, their willingness to act, support and develop,” – Olena Dubovska, Kernel.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

NOVEMBER 2020

24th NOVEMBER
Launch of new signature Break the Circle video with Ukrainian celebrities

25th NOVEMBER
Launch of Exhibition "The Matter Is" ("Rich U Tim")

26th NOVEMBER
UNITE campaign: Theatre performance "SCARS"

27th NOVEMBER
Launch of photo exhibition "Not Limitless" ("Ne bezmezhnist")

Official release of a video with UNFPA Ukraine Honorary Ambassador Masha Efrosinina and Ukrainian celebrities (prominent singers – Monatik, Olga Polyakova, Yulia Sanina, Taras Topolya and Alyosha) on UNFPA Ukraine Facebook page and celebrities’ accounts in social media. The video sends a powerful call to break the circle of violence and choose non-violent behaviour.

Joint event of the Government of Ukraine, the exhibition will feature 16 seemingly ordinary household items. Each item conceals a real story of domestic violence. When it is told, it opens new perspective for perceiving the item. Similarly, domestic violence can hide behind closed doors of seemingly happy families. The exhibition will also have digital dimension: Break the Circle website will host virtual installations of the 16 items and their stories.

Offline performance “SCARS” by Wild Theatre will describe various types of gender-based violence against women and girls of different age and background. It will speak of trauma connected to experience of GBV and spark discussion around tolerance of GBV in society. The performance will be broadcast in social media and on TV by UA: Suspilne, Ukrainian national public broadcaster.

Physically placed at Globus shopping mall and digitally at Break the Circle website, the exhibition will feature 15 photos and stories of women who faced sexual harassment in public spaces. It shows that boundaries of private space are unseen but existent and should be respected. The exhibition will present the results of the first national survey on sexual harassment in Ukrainian society.
DEVELOPING SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

Assessment of needs in GBV response and prevention → to design architecture of municipal system of GBV response and prevention → Vision of effective municipal system configuration

Coordination meeting with heads of municipalities → to motivate them to adopt the systemic approach to combatting GBV and ensure sustainability of results of joint work → Commitment of city authorities to implement the suggested strategy (MoU)

Workshop on development of the Plan of Action → to facilitate drafting of municipal plan for development of local GBV response and prevention system → Plan for setting-up municipal systems of GBV response and prevention is agreed by decision-makers

Round table on costing municipal strategy and action plan → to prepare well-informed estimates for budgeting GBV services and interventions → Budget proposals developed for city council consideration and approval

CAPACITY BUILDING

Comprehensive capacity building of focal points → to create robust local expertise for sustainable development of municipal system of GBV response and prevention → 3 trained focal points in city drive work on setting-up effective municipal system in line with nat. legislation and intern. standards

Training for local authorities and service providers on coordinated multisectoral response to GBV → to strengthen multisectoral coordination of GBV response so survivors receive needed complex support → SOPs and referral pathways for key involved sectors (social, health, police, legal aid, and education) established

Training for service providers on survivor-centred, quality service provision to GBV survivors → to improve quality and inclusiveness of treatment of GBV survivors → Service providers adopt survivor-centred, gender-sensitive, inclusive practices in their work

Training for health specialists on effective work with GBV survivors → to facilitate identification of GBV cases and provision of timely, quality assistance and referral to other services → Health specialists apply safety protocols and survivor-centred approach in providing quality help to survivors

SERVICES DEVELOPMENT

Seed funding for development of GBV specialised services → to improve access of GBV survivors and people at risk to quality assistance, tailored to their needs → Shelters and crisis rooms provide safe space and comprehensive support to GBV survivors, while daycare centres enable complex psychosocial and legal support to all in need

AWARENESS-RAISING AND PREVENTION

Support to awareness-raising initiatives → to engage broader municipal community in efforts to combat and prevent GBV → Awareness-raising events advocate integrated response to GBV and signal of unacceptability of violence in community

Community-based prevention programmes → to challenge harmful stereotypes and engage community in positive practices preventing GBV → Community implements participatory prevention initiatives that foster healthy relationships

UNFPA WORK IN CITIES

In 15 target municipalities, UNFPA implements its strategy of development of local GBV response and prevention systems via the following activities: