



## **Annex 2.**

### **UNFPA humanitarian update, 2022**

Progress in implementing the UNFPA strategic plan, 2022-2025

Report of the Executive Director

#### *Summary*

This annex provides a brief overview of the results UNFPA achieved in 2022 in responding to the humanitarian crises.



©UNFPA/DRC/Junior Mayindu

Midwife Lucie Banonia provides support in a maternity ward at the General Reference Hospital in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo. The hospital is a UNFPA-supported maternity hospital where Lucie has worked for 27 years.

**Contents**

I. Overview.....2

II. Results snapshot.....2

III. Global support to countries .....3

IV. Key focus areas in 2022 .....4

V. Looking ahead.....5

## I. Overview

1. In 2022, the humanitarian system faced unprecedented challenges. Forced displacements, record levels of hunger, the climate crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the slowdown of the global economy all contributed to a difficult year for millions of people. Conflict continued to drive needs and, in many cases, hampered humanitarian operations. As of December 2022, a total of 326 million people needed humanitarian assistance around the world, and nearly \$52 billion is required by the United Nations and its partners to assist 217 million of them.
2. Making things worse, gender inequalities are being exacerbated in crisis contexts. Women and girls are impacted disproportionately. When crises strike, access to services and support that are critical to women’s and girls’ health, survival, and future is often disrupted or lacking altogether. The risk of sexual violence, exploitation, and abuse is heightened, and more girls drop out of school. Access to sexual and reproductive health care, including maternal health and family planning, is limited. Health facilities can become inaccessible, destroyed, or damaged beyond repair. For pregnant women lacking essential reproductive and maternal health care, childbirth can end in tragedy.
3. The increase in gender-based violence globally stems from certain distorted social norms and gender inequality. Multiple overlapping crises, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the interplay between displacement, conflict, and food insecurity, also fuel it. Despite soaring needs, gender-based violence services are heavily underfunded, leaving millions of women and girls without the lifesaving services they need.
4. UNFPA is on the ground accelerating humanitarian action in more than 60 countries. UNFPA works across the humanitarian, development, and peace contexts and therefore is on the ground before, during, and after a crisis. UNFPA continues to expand its capacity to deliver integrated sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence services at health facilities and mobile clinics, and through safe spaces for women and girls. With humanitarian needs expected to double by 2030, it is critical that sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence services are integral to every humanitarian response and properly funded.

## II. Results snapshot

5. In 2022, UNFPA provided life-saving assistance to more than 30 million women, girls, and young people, including services and supplies for emergency obstetric care to prevent maternal and newborn deaths, family planning and emergency contraception, and the prevention of and response to gender-based violence, including the clinical management of rape.

2022 results snapshot	
Sexual and reproductive health	
22 million	Total number of women, girls and young people reached with sexual and reproductive health services in 50 countries
1.4 million	Women assisted to deliver babies safely in UNFPA-assisted facilities in 39 countries
36,000	Personnel trained on the Minimum Initial Service Package for sexual and reproductive health in 36 countries
18,000	Quantity of interagency reproductive health kits, worth over \$15 million, dispatched to 50 countries
4,500	Total number of health facilities supported by UNFPA in 46 countries
6,300	Healthcare personnel trained on clinical management of rape in 34 countries
Gender-based violence	

2 million	Total number of women, girls and young people reached with GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response services in 46 countries
525,000	Dignity kits distributed in 42 countries
175,000	Women and girls reached with cash and voucher assistance in over 20 countries
1,000	Safe spaces for women and girls supported by UNFPA in 42 countries
642	Youth-friendly spaces for recreation, vocational training, and community outreach in 32 countries
Information and awareness-raising	
6.5 million	Total number of women, girls, and young people reached in person with information and awareness-raising activities for reproductive health services and gender-based violence in 50 countries

### III. Global support to countries

6. UNFPA humanitarian action in countries is supported by offices at the regional and headquarter levels. This includes support in quality programming, human resources, safety, and security, supplies and logistics, finance and administration, communications and advocacy, and resource mobilization. In 2022, the Humanitarian Response Division and the regional offices coordinated and facilitated the scaling up of humanitarian action, particularly in high-profile emergencies in Afghanistan, the Central Sahel, northern Ethiopia, the Horn of Africa, Somalia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine, and the Republic of Yemen.

7. Humanitarian supplies: UNFPA plays a critical role in providing life-saving sexual and reproductive health kits on behalf of the international community. UNFPA procures and manages inter-agency emergency reproductive health kits including pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and other non-medical supplies that are needed for sexual and reproductive health in humanitarian crises. The largest kit is the comprehensive emergency obstetric care kit that supports the establishment of a surgical maternity ward capable of providing Caesarean sections to save the lives of women and newborns. The smallest kit is the clean delivery kit that is provided to pregnant women, especially displaced women, and refugees, to support safe birth. Contraceptive kits contain condoms, intrauterine devices, and other contraceptives. The post-rape treatment kit contains the necessary supplies for the clinical management of rape. In addition to the kits, UNFPA ensures the availability of essential infrastructure, like prefabricated mobile medical clinics, ambulances to support emergency referral and mobile medical teams, as well as other essential life-saving equipment, pharmaceuticals, and non-food items for lifesaving SRH and GBV response.

8. Sexual and reproductive health in emergencies: UNFPA and partners work to ensure that the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for reproductive health in emergencies is available at the onset of the emergency. MISP services include emergency obstetric care to prevent maternal and newborn deaths, contraception, prevention of and response to sexual violence, and provision of clinical management of rape. These services are gradually expanded to more comprehensive care.

9. As part of the global health cluster, UNFPA co-leads the sexual and reproductive health Task Team that was established late in 2022 by the Global Health Cluster Strategic Advisory Group. The purpose of the Task Team is to ensure that sexual and reproductive health needs are systematically addressed in all phases of humanitarian response and that sexual and reproductive health coordination is consistently included in cluster coordination at both global and country levels.

10. Gender-based violence in emergencies: Using an integrated approach with sexual and reproductive health, UNFPA provides specialized services, including clinical management of rape, psychosocial support, and case management for survivors of gender-based violence. UNFPA supports safe spaces and shelters for women and girls, which offer an entry point to access care and support, including information and awareness sessions. Dignity kits, containing menstrual health and hygiene

products, are distributed to women and adolescent girls along with life-saving information, including on available services.

11. UNFPA also provides cash and voucher assistance to help survivors access appropriate services, make independent decisions about their living situation, and start to rebuild their lives following incidents of violence. In this regard, UNFPA has increased its efforts to integrate cash assistance within gender-based violence case management to guide and support gender-based violence and cash practitioners in designing and integrating cash assistance in gender-based violence case management programming.

12. Gender-based violence area of responsibility leadership: UNFPA leads the gender-based violence area of responsibility (AoR) within the Global Protection Cluster. The GBV gender-based violence coordinates and provides inter-agency policy advice and operational guidance to field-level GBV gender-based violence for prevention and response to gender-based violence for internally displaced people and host populations in humanitarian crises. The involvement and participation of local actors is a core principle for humanitarian action and gender-based violence AoR, and comprises over 2,000 organizations across 32 countries, the majority of which are national and local actors. In this role, UNFPA ensures accessible, safe, quality services are prioritized and available, manages information, mobilizes resources, upholds accountability, and fills response gaps. Senior inter-agency gender-based violence in emergency advisers and information management specialists across five regions provide ongoing technical support and operational missions to strengthen field coordination capacities, in partnership with NORCAP. In 2022, the gender-based violence AoR supported gender-based violence coordination in 42 humanitarian contexts.

#### **IV. Key focus areas in 2022**

13. In 2022, UNFPA completed the implementation of the recommendations from the Evaluation of the UNFPA Capacity in Humanitarian Action (2012-2019). The inclusion of a dedicated output for humanitarian action in UNFPA Strategic Plan 2022-2025 and the reorganization of the Humanitarian Response Division in 2022, are key results stemming from the evaluation recommendations. UNFPA has strengthened its capacity to lead humanitarian action in the areas of SRH, GBV, and data.

14. Strengthen humanitarian supply chain management: To increase operations efficiency, UNFPA addressed gaps in the availability of lifesaving supplies through targeted work on humanitarian logistics and supply chain management that reinforced the capacity of UNFPA country offices, partners, and national actors to deliver. Through supply chain and logistics preparedness, timely distribution of lifesaving supplies to the last mile in sudden onset emergencies, and sustainable supply strengthening initiatives in protracted crises, UNFPA increased the timeliness of delivery of supplies in scale-up countries through new processes and partnerships to ensure that the right product reached the right place, at the right time, at the right quality, in the right quantity at the right price.

15. Strengthen humanitarian operations: To improve access to quality sexual and reproductive health services, UNFPA reinforced the capacity of midwives and other frontline service providers on basic emergency obstetric and neonatal care and long-acting reversible contraceptives. Regular online training was provided to enable UNFPA staff to respond better to SRH needs in emergencies. UNFPA also built capacity and strengthened coordination for the clinical management of rape and intimate partner violence at country and regional levels. Prevention, risk mitigation, and response to gender-based violence were also strengthened through: support for women-led organizations to take on coordination roles; increased cash and voucher assistance with a focus on mitigating GBV risk, an initiative that was piloted in several countries; the roll-out of inter-agency GBV case management guidelines in six countries resulting in 104 certified trainers; the piloting of GBV case management E-learning in four countries with a newly developed module on GBV case management with survivors of sexual exploitation and abuse; and the release of guidance to support staff in navigating GBV programming across the humanitarian-development-peace continuum.

16. Strengthen humanitarian capacity: To improve capacity in 2022, UNFPA deployed 167 personnel on surge (up from 145 in 2021) to 28 countries to support humanitarian response, including scale-up emergencies in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Ukraine. An additional 68 humanitarian experts joined the UNFPA emergency surge roster. The Humanitarian Leadership Programme was

initiated to reinforce the capacities of UNFPA leadership in 16 countries. Two cohorts were launched in 2022 with additional cohorts scheduled for 2023. The programme equips leaders with the skills needed in emergencies.

17. Strengthen humanitarian financing: The UNFPA Humanitarian Thematic Fund (HTF) and Emergency Fund (EF) supported country and regional offices to prepare for, and respond to, the acute phase of emergencies and protracted humanitarian crises. Over the past four years, the HTF has mobilized more than \$77 million, supporting humanitarian responses in over 80 crises each year. In 2022, more than 50 UNFPA country offices received over \$25 million in newly allocated funds from the emergency fund or humanitarian thematic fund.

## **V. Looking ahead**

18. The UNFPA Strategic Plan 2022-2025 guides the UNFPA humanitarian action to prepare and respond effectively with lifesaving services to meet today's needs and challenges. The Humanitarian Response Division is leading the organisation's efforts in achieving our humanitarian priorities for 2023 and establishing UNFPA as a top humanitarian leader.

19. This vision will be accomplished by strengthening the following areas:

- (a) UNFPA humanitarian operational capacity, including establishing the Global Emergency Response Team to be the first wave of responders during a major scale emergency in a continuum of deployments, and humanitarian supply chain and logistics.
- (b) Localization and empowerment of women-led and youth-led organizations.
- (c) Integration of SRH and GBV services at health facilities, mobile clinics, and safe spaces.
- (d) Capacity in humanitarian logistics and supply chain at the global, regional, and country levels.

---