

## KEY FIGURES

**3.2 mln**

people the UN aims to reach in Ukraine

**1.2 mln**

IDPs in 5 affected regions in Eastern Ukraine

**7,800**

normal deliveries were assisted with UNFPA RH kits

**3,200**

complicated deliveries (c-section) were assisted with UNFPA RH kits

## BACKGROUND

UNFPA's humanitarian response addresses gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) needs of the most vulnerable women and young people in the regions most affected by the conflict.

## OUTPUTS

1. Enhanced multisectoral coordination of humanitarian response to gender-based violence.
2. Raised awareness on GBV issues and available response services among target population.
3. Enhanced capacities of service providers to address needs of gender based violence survivors and persons at risk.
4. Improved capacity of primary healthcare providers to address emergency SRH needs, especially for GBV survivors and persons at risk.
5. Community-based GBV prevention actions supported in selected municipalities.



← Ketevan and her 4-year-old son, Ilyya, were displaced from Luhansk Region of Ukraine. Photo: UNFPA Ukraine/2014/O.Kulyk

## SRH and GBV needs in the conflict areas

In the last couple of months, humanitarian actors have not been able to deliver reproductive health supplies or assess the quality, availability, accessibility and acceptability of the existing GBV and SRH services in non-government-controlled areas, endangering girls, women, men and boys living in these areas. To determine the SRH and GBV needs, UNFPA has conducted population-based estimates that show an urgent need for support for both women and men in the conflict-affected provinces.

- ▶ GBV responses that are adequate and sensitive to survivors' needs at the local context are reportedly lacking on both sides of the contact line.
- ▶ There is an urgent need to sensitize police personnel dealing with survivors of GBV.
- ▶ Better coordination mechanisms are required for referrals and services for survivors of GBV.
- ▶ To provide quality services, all staff involved in GBV prevention and response require continuous training.
- ▶ Due to the lack of appropriate services, some pregnant women affected by conflict and insecurity travel to neighbouring regions for delivery.
- ▶ Due to displacement of population, health facilities have to cope with higher number of patients, with available budgets remained unchanged.
- ▶ STI prevalence is increasing among youth. Every year about 400,000 new cases of STIs are registered nationwide and an estimated 8,000 people are currently living with HIV in the non-government-controlled areas, where access to antiretrovirals is limited.
- ▶ Access to affordable, good-quality condoms is a major concern. The Ministry of Health of Ukraine has formally requested that UNFPA provide support for supplying condoms, pregnancy tests and other RH goods.
- ▶ Health facilities along the contact line have been cut off from the nearest referral hospitals, leading to dangerously long referral times.

## UNFPA delivering for women and young people in the humanitarian crisis

With the support of the United Kingdom and the United States, UNFPA is providing humanitarian assistance to women and young people in the conflict-affected areas of Ukraine. Replenishment of stocks will be crucial to secure free-of-charge services for the most vulnerable population.



← Obstetric-gynecology care kits delivered to the perinatal center in Kharkiv region which received the largest amount of IDPs.

Photo: UNFPA Ukraine/2015/L.Lompas

- ▶ The UN-wide response to combat gender-based violence has been strengthened through the UNFPA-led GBV sub-cluster ensuring its field presence in five eastern regions.
- ▶ UNFPA sensitized police officers on gender and GBV issues in the areas with the biggest concentration of IDPs, by conducting 14 training sessions for 300 district police officers.
- ▶ Post-rape kits have been delivered to the conflict-affected regions and are available to assist over 1,250 survivors.
- ▶ UNFPA has to date assisted in 7,800 normal and 3,200 complicated deliveries (c-sections) by providing 199 reproductive health kits, and antibiotics and pain relievers to 47 hospitals in 5 eastern regions.
- ▶ UNFPA has to date supported 33,100 families through distributing dignity kits and warm clothes and assisted an additional 16,000 women by providing gynecological kits.
- ▶ For the past two years UNFPA has cooperated with the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine to support psychological rehabilitation and provide healthy lifestyles education to 260 vulnerable children and adolescents.

### “I had some complications and it was extremely risky to give birth without appropriate medical assistance...”



↑ Valentyna and her child in Kharkiv  
Photo: UNFPA Ukraine/2015/L.Lompas

### VALENTYNA’S STORY

Valentyna, a 41-year-old mother from Kramatorsk, was among the many women from Donetsk and Lugansk provinces forced to leave their home region and come to Kharkiv to give birth safely despite pregnancy complications. *“I had some complications and it was extremely risky to give birth without appropriate medical assistance, that’s why I had to come to this perinatal center in Kharkiv”*, explains Valentyna.

Women from Luhansk and Donetsk provinces who have a risk of comorbidity and preterm delivery have to seek help in nearby regions as they cannot get life-saving medical care closer to home. Since third-level perinatal facilities in regional centers were significantly damaged by the conflict, women with complications are redirected to Kharkiv and Dnipropetrovsk provinces, which currently

are among the biggest recipients of UNFPA humanitarian assistance.

According to the latest figures, there are almost 190,000 IDPs in Kharkiv province. To date, hospitals in the province have received 39 UNFPA obstetrical kits aimed at assisting 2400 normal deliveries and 840 complicated deliveries (c-section). As the national health budget strains to accommodate all the need, *“obstetric-gynecological assistance from the United Nations Population Fund is extremely valuable and necessary for women from areas affected by the conflict”*, says Oleksandr Halatsan, the head of the Health Department of Kharkiv Regional State Administration. *“They feel supported when receiving appropriate, free-of-charge assistance in the medical institutions where they seek help”*.