

UN Action's Project in Ukraine



Name: 'UNited Action to Empower Survivors of CRSV'
Duration: August 2023 to August 2025

Overview

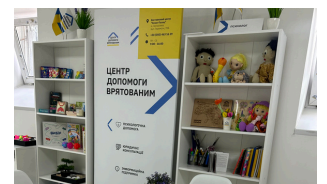
This project aims to improve system-wide responses to address the rights and needs of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) survivors at the national and community level through strengthened awareness, knowledge, capacity and technical expertise, increased availability and accessibility of comprehensive multi-sectoral assistance. The joint project is anchored in localisation efforts and fosters national ownership and leadership for a sustainable, survivor-centred response that also empowers civil society, survivor networks and women's rights defenders.

Implementors



Project Highlights

1. Supported the equipment and operations of 15 Survivor-Relief Centres to assist survivors in accessing compensation, rehabilitation, restitution, and other reparative measures. UN Action civil society partner, Bibliothèque Sans Frontier, has equipped centres in eight locations with innovative library tools, including 'Ideas Cubes' and 'Ideas Boxes.'
2. Strengthened the capacity of primary health care managers and medical professionals to provide comprehensive services to GBV/CRSV survivors by training 158 Primary Healthcare (PHC) managers and 230 primary health care doctors.
3. Conducted a series of workshops to train 192 regional media, public sector communication experts, and journalism students on a survivor-centred and trauma-informed media reporting on CRSV, to avoid traumatising and ensure protection of survivors, their families and communities.
4. Implemented a holistic rehabilitation and recovery program, focusing on emotional, physical, and mental exercises, as well as self-awareness techniques and coping strategies for female survivors of Gender-based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE) and CRSV in Zakarpattia oblast.



Upcoming Activities

- Continue to improve availability and accessibility of essential healthcare and holistic services and strengthen survivor networks
- Address vulnerabilities and enhance the protection of women and girls in cyberspace through digital platforms
- Expand CRSV-sensitive legal trainings and economic empowerment initiatives
- Continue providing support to men and boy survivors

Donors



Practice-Based Symposium for the Prevention of Conflict-related Sexual Violence: Learnings and Solutions

{July 2024}



“The Government of Ukraine and the many organisations together are doing a good job to address CRSV. A lot has been done. But we need to ensure resources are sustainable and scale them up. We should focus on what works well, and where we are succeeding.”

UN Action, particularly the country offices of member entities UNFPA and UN Women, partnered with the Apparatus of the Government Commissioner for Gender Equality Policy and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, to host this interactive workshop. With the intention to foster peer-to-peer learning and increase understanding of what the prevention of CRSV entails, the symposium brought together 67 stakeholders representing Government offices, civil society organisations, the UN, and survivors of CRSV in Ukraine. Key discussions centred around i) prevention through justice and accountability measures; ii) prevention through holistic service provision;

iii) and prevention through policy, laws, and institutional mechanisms. The symposium collected promising practices from Ukraine, as well as promising solutions and concrete recommendations for key stakeholder groups. During her closing remarks at the symposium, the adviser of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, Ms. Ievgeniia Lukianchenk, urged that the learnings from this symposium be used to update Ukraine’s Strategy to Prevent CRSV, which was developed in 2018, to take into consideration the current context, as well. This updated strategy should be used as a roadmap for all actors, from the Government to civil society and the UN, to coordinate collectively.

Project Monitoring Mission

{July 2024}

“Please don’t stop. Assistance that is being provided needs to continue. There are many more survivors and victims who are yet to come forward.”

~ Representative speaking on behalf of the informal Network of male survivors of captivity and torture, “ALUMNI”



Photo UNFPA Ukraine

The Secretariat UN Action conducted a project monitoring visit to Ukraine, including areas near the front lines in Dnipro and Zaporizhzhia, to assess the progress at the half-way mark of project implementation through on-site visits and consultations with relevant stakeholders. The mission had specific objectives, including presenting the project to national authorities and donors, reviewing services provided by Survivor Relief Centres (SRCs), and evaluating how the project aligns with the FoC implementation plan. The project has successfully strengthened survivor-centred services through Survivor Relief Centres and mobile teams; improved engagement with the Government of Ukraine, civil

society, and survivor networks; and promoted inclusivity, particularly for male survivors. The mission provided an opportunity to develop recommendations for the remainder of the project and beyond. Through implementing identified recommended actions—such as strengthening training programs to address children born of CRSV and CRSV specific trauma-informed care and psychological support; improving the consistent application of the law; and solidifying referral pathways between services working with CRSV survivors and those offered to the community at large—this will help ensure the project provides CRSV survivors with comprehensive, survivor-centred support.