UNFPA modernizes nine medical institutions with lifesaving sexual and reproductive health equipment

UNFPA strengthens the national healthcare system by equipping nine medical hospitals in the capital and regions with the largest population of the refugees to increase access of women, both Moldovan women and Ukrainian refugees, to quality maternal, newborn and reproductive health services.

**22 delivery rooms to be equipped to ensure safe deliveries for the estimated 15,000 births annually (including for women with disabilities)**

**14 operating theatres for gynaecological surgeries will significantly reduce the wait time saving the lives of women incl. with reproductive cancers**

**Intensive Care Units in 8 hospitals to save lives of hundreds of newborns in critical conditions**

**Progress in September:**

The first batch of equipment is here!

$221,591 worth of medical equipment have been delivered to:

- Municipal Clinical Hospital No.3
- Cahul Perinatal Center
- Institute of Mother and Child Health
- Balti Perinatal Center
- Institute of Mother and Child Hospital #1
- Municipal Hospital #3
- Oncology Institute
- Comrat Maternity Hospital
- Ceadir-Lunga Perinatal Center
- Cahul Perinatal Center
YOUTH AND ADOLESCENTS

- During the reporting period, the static Safe Space for Youth provided support for 685 beneficiaries and the Mobile Youth Safe activities were offered to 112 adolescents.

- 288 group sessions and 32 individual sessions were delivered, including 32 psychological group support and 22 art therapy sessions, providing emotional and social support, focused and non-focused PSS group activities, information on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender-based violence (GBV), non-formal education and youth work activities.

- 3956 sessions were delivered with the quality of the activities monitored and the core value of Safe Space promoted as a protective environment for adolescent refugees.

- Ukrainian adolescents continue to access online education with the digital infrastructure set up within the static Youth Safe Spaces.

Malina, 12, from Odesa region is a regular at UNFPA Safe Space. She dreams to become a lawyer. Every day the Youth Safe Space Coordinator, psychologist and volunteers create an environment to equip Roma teen refugees with life skills & empower them to follow their dreams. Read Malina’s story. (Photo: UNFPA Moldova)
During the reporting period, the Mobile Safe Spaces reached 53 communities in Northern and Southern regions, providing individual and non-focused group-based psychosocial support activities as well as individual consultations, awareness raising on gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health, and referral to specialized services for further support.

UNFPA Safe Spaces for Women and Older persons reached a total of 2,246 new people through the rapid border service, individual and group counseling, as well as one on one psychoeducation/information sharing on topics like anxiety, family crisis, mother-child relationships, psycho-emotional support, sexual and reproductive health, as well as referral to other specialized services (lawyer, doctor, psychiatrist, etc).

UNFPA partners reached 825 beneficiaries with dignity kits, and a further 850 kits were given to NGO partners for distribution. The dissemination of the dignity kits serves as an entry point to share information on GBV including the types of GBV, the available support services for survivors and information on SRH rights and existing services.

A total of 456 members of multidisciplinary teams from Ialoveni, Ștefan Vodă, Fălești and Florești rayons, namely social workers, police officers, health care providers, representatives of probation service, were trained on coordinated and holistic approach to responding to gender-based violence cases at a local level.

UNFPA has distributed 50 mobile phones to older refugees and offered sessions on digital skills to increase the access to information and existing services. As well, customized dignity kits are being assembled to meet the basic hygiene needs of older persons.

INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

- UNFPA co-leads the Interagency Gender-based violence (GBV) Sub-Working Group (SWG) with UNHCR, which brings over 63 national and international organizations, women led organizations, and government entities under the Protection Working Group. The objective of the GBV SWG is to strengthen GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response and to facilitate the multi sectoral interagency action during humanitarian settings.

- The GBV SWG continues to disseminate the Romanian and Russian versions of the GBV Pocket Guide on how non-GBV actors can support survivors of GBV.

- The GBV SWG conducted a series of activities on GBV Case Management and a training of trainers for the GBV Pocket Guide.

- GBV SWG team conducted an analysis of the GBV Legal Framework of the Republic of Moldova and the Mandatory reporting requirements in the country.
INTERAGENCY COORDINATION (CONTINUED)

- The GBV SWG has published the GBV Safety Audit Report aimed to promote multi-sectoral action to reduce risks of GBV. It provides an analysis of gaps and challenges in access to comprehensive and quality support for survivors of GBV. Given the dearth of information related to the specific dynamics of GBV risks that refugees from Ukraine face in different settings, the Safety Audit assists in filling this information gap by identifying specific GBV risks in the refugee context of Moldova. Select quotes from the Report:

- "Refugee women whose partners stayed in Ukraine] are so stressed that they do not want to come and get the help packages at the gate - they are afraid of everything.
  - Social worker"
- "We are spending less time on usual activities] because there is no motivation to do something in an unknown city when there is a war in your city.
  - Refugee adolescent girls"
- "Now gender-based violence is still under the carpet...but it should be everywhere and more talked about."
  - Refugee volunteer coordinator"

UNFPA MOLDOVA FUNDING REQUEST & STATUS*

- UNFPA urgently needs flexible financing to scale its operations in Ukraine and neighboring countries. UNFPA requires additional funds to ensure rights and choices of refugee women, youth and older persons in the Republic of Moldova, including to prepare and address the adverse effects of upcoming winter season.

- Thanks to Australia, Kingdom of Denmark, Iceland, Ireland, Republic of Korea, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the USA PRM, Ferring Company and Friends of UNFPA for their contribution to the UNFPA Moldova humanitarian response.