

**UNited Action to Empower Survivors of CRSV**

August 2023 to December 2025

Implementors: IOM, UN WOMEN, UNDP, WHO, UNFPA & UNODC



Donors : Germany, Canada, Norway, Netherlands



## 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.

## MAIN PROJECT OUTCOMES

1. Survivors of CRSV and at-risk groups are better protected and supported, benefitting from an improved comprehensive and multi-sectoral assistance. **Over 230 professionals, including healthcare providers, civil servants, and case managers, were trained in trauma-informed care, CRSV sensitization, and gender mainstreaming.** Institutional partnerships further helped integrate these approaches into national systems and social service reforms.



2. The project strengthened the capacity of national authorities for victim-centered and gender-sensitive response to CRSV by enhancing the Free Legal Aid system through a cascading **training program reaching 264 specialists.** The project also facilitated the national **'Law and Justice' forum with 200+ participants** to improve access to justice, align with international standards, and foster cross-sector collaboration.



3. Survivors of CRSV now have increased access to interim and long-term reparative measures. **The project identified 410 service providers and launched a Summary Mapping Report to guide referrals and reparations.** IOM also developed a survivor consultation platform to inform GoU policy through restorative justice training and survivor input.



4. **Rehabilitation retreats were organized for 36 female survivors** at Nehemia's Center, offering stabilization, psychotherapy, medical care, and service navigation. Diagnostic screenings showed significant reductions in PTSD, depression, and anxiety and positive feedback led to recommendations for scaling up the program.



## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES: AMPLIFYING SURVIVOR VOICES AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

- Launch an **interagency communication campaign** with the Government of Ukraine, RCO, and survivor networks, including a media training course and contest.
- **Present project outcomes** at national and international fora.
- **Engage survivors as consultants** across all outcomes to ensure meaningful participation in shaping interventions.

# 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**; ii) 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 Lukianchenko, 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}

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.

*“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