



ACTION BRIEF



RAPID ASSESSMENT: IMPACT OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE ON WOMEN'S CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Summary of results from a UN Women Survey conducted between March 4th and 10th 2022

Photo: Oleksandr Ratushnyak / UNDP Ukraine

Since the beginning of the Russian military invasion, Ukraine is rapidly emerging as one of the world's most complex emergencies with over 2.8 million refugees already fleeing the country and with steadily growing humanitarian needs. Women's groups and civil society organizations (CSOs) have been quick to react to the immediate priorities of their communities, but face many challenges as they attempt to provide support to large numbers of internally displaced people, host-communities and those directly affected by violence and insecurity.

To better understand the situation for women's CSOs, UN Women has conducted a rapid survey to help inform the decision-making of national and international stakeholders, and advocate for the support of civil society during the war. The survey was distributed online through UN Women networks, between March 4th and March 10th and received responses from 67 civil society organizations from across the country.

- **More than half of survey respondents report that their CSOs are fully operational**, even during this time of crisis.
- CSOs are facing a variety of **operational challenges** including a lack of funds, supply chain issues and an inability to move around in communities as needed to support their beneficiaries.
- CSOs have had to make significant **adjustments** to their programmes and operations in response to the crisis. 66% of CSOs are now providing new services and interventions that they have not worked on before.
- A majority of CSOs are currently working closely with volunteer groups and local CSOs. Meanwhile, few organizations are collaborating with international donors, INGOs and UN agencies. Less than half of the CSO respondents participate in any form of coordination body.

"CSOs on the ground quickly responded, they know the real needs best, and they need to continue to be supported." - Representative from local CSO

CSOs in Ukraine have identified the following key areas for concern for women and girls:

- 1 **Immediate safety threats**, such as lack of access to shelters.
- 2 **A lack of basic necessities**, such as food, medicine, hygiene articles, accommodation, water, and access to power and connectivity.
- 3 **The loss of livelihood**, including people's inability to work and earn an income.
- 4 **Psychological impact of war** and constant fear is taking a heavy toll on people.
- 5 **Sexual and gender-based violence** in public and private spaces is not being prevented or responded to adequately.
- 6 **Lack of communication, information, and social services**, including lack of legal aid, gaps in childcare services and access to social services needed by vulnerable groups.
- 7 **Exclusion from planning and decision-making at all levels**, and not having the opportunity to participate in the humanitarian response planning and peace / security efforts.

CALL FOR ACTION

- » Prioritize funding for women's CSO to stay operational and allow flexibility to adapt to the rapidly changing context.
- » Ensure that women's CSOs, especially those representing marginalized groups, are included in coordination mechanisms and decision-making processes at all levels, to make sure that their priorities are included in humanitarian response and peace and security efforts.
- » Provide support for CSOs to be able to adapt to the changing environment and in providing new services/interventions.
- » Ensure that the priorities highlighted by women's CSOs on the key issues for women and girls in Ukraine right now, are considered and incorporated into ongoing humanitarian support and planning of next steps.

In Ukraine, UN Women will continue to prioritize the needs of women and girls during the crisis in close cooperation with women's civil society organizations and other partners. **For more information about women's civil society organizations in Ukraine operating during the crisis, and how you can support them, please get in touch with unwomen.ukraine@unwomen.org**