



## IPPF Response to Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis

March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

War in Ukraine broke out when Russia invaded on Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. At 603,000 km<sup>2</sup>, Ukraine is the second largest country by area in Europe after Russia and has a population of over 44 million people. More than 2 million refugees have already left Ukraine and millions more are anticipated, the majority crossing into Poland, and also Hungary, Moldova, Slovakia and Romania,<sup>1</sup> and there are hundreds of thousands more displaced people in Ukraine itself. Hostilities are ongoing and civilians are under heavy bombardment in a number of cities; thus far no humanitarian corridors have been opened to evacuate civilians or bring in medical and food relief.

IPPF's Member Association in Ukraine is Women's Health and Family Planning Ukraine. It is a small MA of c. seven staff, whose main spheres of activity include advocacy and engagement in national policy development on reproductive health; education programmes on sexuality education and healthy lifestyles; youth engagement, training for medical professionals; public awareness campaigns on cancer prevention among women; and rehabilitation programs for breast cancer survivors. Following armed conflict in the East of Ukraine in 2014 which left 1.7 million officially displaced, they also provided support and training to medical professionals working on reproductive health and SGBV in emergencies. As of now staff and volunteers of the MA are safe and most have moved out of Kyiv to the West of Ukraine. We are in touch with the ED and other staff directly.

IPPF set up a crisis coordination group on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February, chaired by the Regional Director and comprising humanitarian, security, programme, advocacy and communications staff working across the Brussels and London offices.

It is important to note that, other than Romania and Slovakia, IPPF does not have Member Associations in key recipient countries bordering Ukraine. Lack of funding combined with rapidly shrinking space for civil society working on human rights more widely, and SRHR specifically, has led to the closing or significant reduction in the capacity of organisations who were previously MAs, and the IPPF model of one strong, resourced, civil society organisation with the ability to pass accreditation is no longer an evident fit. The evolution of the political situation in Eastern Europe was very much at the heart of developing the model of working with activists that has now developed into the Movement Accelerator Platform. Given the expansion of this work in the past

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[https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine#\\_ga=2.171615592.974585750.16467346711034009771.1646734671&\\_gac=1.254712314.1646734691.Cj0KQCqAmpyRBhC-ARIsABs2EARzUzXFuXjHvntBv0OmT2rlqevl9SGeQshRNiEoJvQwixCHPeGRYaAmelEALw\\_wcB](https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine#_ga=2.171615592.974585750.16467346711034009771.1646734671&_gac=1.254712314.1646734691.Cj0KQCqAmpyRBhC-ARIsABs2EARzUzXFuXjHvntBv0OmT2rlqevl9SGeQshRNiEoJvQwixCHPeGRYaAmelEALw_wcB)

two years, while we do not have MAs, we do have some collaborative partners (Moldova) as well significant ties to civil society / social movements fighting to protect reproductive and sexual rights (Hungary, Poland). It is these organisations, often small, always under-funded, and some under direct negative pressure from their governments, that are on the front-line of the humanitarian response as refugees flood across their borders.

IPPF is taking a two-pronged approach to the crisis.

- To support within Ukraine by getting commodities and medical supplies into the country, working with international and local partners in Ukraine.
- To support local civil society organisations in border countries receiving refugees

We are doing the following.

- We are working with IPPF procurement to source commodities and supplies which we want to get into Ukraine. We have found three suppliers with availability and the order should be submitted today (8/3) or tomorrow. The supply list has been developed with the input of Dr Galyna Maistruk, the ED of the MA (obstetrician-gynecologist) and will include mostly obstetric related items but also broad-spectrum antibiotics and basic first aid supplies.
- We are partnering with an American humanitarian INGO called Project Hope to piggy-back our supplies on theirs, to get them to Lyiv in Western Ukraine in the first stage.
- We are discussing with Alliance for Public Health Ukraine, a large Ukrainian NGO working on HIV/AIDs in Ukraine, who has the capacity to receive the supplies, and support onward movement to where they are most needed. <https://aph.org.ua/en/about-alliance/>
- We have given an initial grant of \$50,000 to the Polish Women's Strike, whom we have been working with for a number of years, to fund hygiene supplies/dignity kits/nappies etc as well as support with information and connection GBV services in Poland
- We are about to release a grant to Budapest Pride to support LGBTQI refugees coming into Hungary (a country strongly targeting LGBTQI rights).
- We are looking at other potential grants, including to support partners such as Abortion without Borders, who could provide practical help to Ukrainian refugees in Poland who need abortion care.
- Julie Taft, IPPF Humanitarian Director is currently in Budapest, and will also visit Romania and Moldova to meet MA/CPs, MAP partners or new CSO partners who can support refugees with any aspect of SRHR.
- We are getting as much media coverage as we can of the importance of SRHR within the Ukraine humanitarian response; the ED has been interviewed by many outlets including the BBC, Politico, Sky News, the UK Independent and Business Insider, and we are currently seeking to expand the media work beyond the UK and European anglophone outlets.
- We are launching our response using Stream 3 funding. We have also put an appeal for Ukraine response on our website and are discussing with our donors, such as the Danish government, who are interested in supporting us as we build our response to support more partners.