



WOMEN AT WAR

Russia's Invasion of Ukraine After One Year

Issue Brief

As of 21 February 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1,941 women and 180 girls have been killed and 1,856 women and 253 girls have been injured.
- 124 alleged acts of conflict-related sexual violence, as of June 2022, have been reported to the Human Rights Monitoring Team of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The actual number is estimated to be far higher.
- 6,000+ Ukrainian children have been held in Russian "re-education" camps since the start of the war.



53%

of women surveyed have said they would accept a risky job offer, according to an International Organization for Migration survey, an indicator of vulnerability to exploitation and violence.



56%

of the 17.6 million people predicted to need humanitarian assistance in 2023 are women.

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS



One year after the Russian invasion, women in Ukraine have been and continue to be essential to the war effort while bearing witness and being subject to the enduring cruelty and brutality of Russian forces. Some 50,000 women have directly taken up arms and serve in the Ukrainian military, with 5,000 on the front lines. Women occupy vital logistical roles within the military and society.

Women-led civil society organizations are critical to the leadership of humanitarian efforts, providing life-saving assistance to refugees and Ukraine's 5.4 million individuals who have been forced from their homes and are currently displaced within Ukraine. These organizations are providing safe accommodation, social, and psychological services, and attending to basic needs.

Women and girls are disproportionately impacted by war and conflict globally. The war in Ukraine is no exception. In Ukraine, many serve as the lone caregivers and economic lifelines for their families, with incomes severely limited. Women fleeing the fighting risk constant exposure to predatory practices, human trafficking, and sexual exploitation. Numerous reports have documented rape and sexual violence by Russian troops, with the actual rate of rape and sexual violence estimated to be far higher than those officially documented.

VITAL VOICES RESPONSE



1

Swift mobilization

Within the opening days of the war, Vital Voices mobilized its Network of women leaders inside Ukraine and across the globe to respond, deploying a team to the region to assess the immediate needs of women and girls.

3

Funding for survivors of GBV

Through its Voices Against Violence Initiative, Vital Voices has earmarked \$50,000 USD to aid Ukrainian women who have been subject to conflict-related gender-based violence.

2

Grants to women-led NGOs

Vital Voices has disbursed \$255,991 USD to a network of eight women-led NGOs across Ukraine. The funds have provided safe accommodation, social and psychological services, transportation assistance, and basic needs.

4

Looking forward

On March 1 Vital Voices will hold a panel on women leaders' role in the Russian invasion of Ukraine. To learn more, please contact the Crisis Response Team at: crisis@vitalvoices.org