

Free sperm freezing: Russia's offer to soldiers with a good chance of dying in Ukraine

Russian troops who have been [mobilised to fight in Ukraine](#) will have the right to get their sperm frozen for free in cryobanks, Russia's state news agency TASS has reported.

Follow the latest news and policy debates on sustainable agriculture, biomedicine, and other 'disruptive' innovations. Subscribe to our newsletter.

[SIGN UP](#)

[Suffering a litany of defeats and setbacks](#) in its invasion of Ukraine, Russia has called up more than 300,000 reservists to support its grinding war effort in Ukraine.

Reports of an increase in demand for sperm freezing first emerged in October in a report in Russia's Moskovskij Komsomolets newspaper which claimed that after Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a partial mobilisation to support the war in Ukraine there had been a surge in sperm freezing, the BBC's Russian correspondent Steve Rosenberg reported at the time.

"In the past, it was people with chronic illnesses who were the main customers. Now it's healthy men freezing their sperm, in case something happens to them, so that they can have the guaranteed possibility to become fathers," Rosenberg cited the newspaper as reporting.

US General Mark Milley estimated in November that about 100,000 Russian soldiers have either been [killed or wounded since the invasion of Ukraine](#) began in February. He also said that Kyiv's armed forces have "probably" suffered a similar level of casualties.

[This is an excerpt. Read the full article here](#)