

UKRAINE RESPONSE UPDATE

AUGUST 2023

Our Impact

1.3M

people reached in Ukraine during our response

614K

children reached in Ukraine during our response

99K

families in Ukraine receiving food / livelihoods support

769K

people reached in Ukraine through hygiene/sanitation programmes

“

I live one day at a time because I don't understand what could happen tomorrow.

Borys*, 17, whose school was destroyed, Ukraine

”

*Names changed to protect identity.



Anastasiia's family received cash assistance from Save the Children, which helped the family to rent an apartment.
Photo Credit: Olena Dudchenko / Save the Children

18 MONTHS OF WAR

It's been 18 months since the war in Ukraine escalated, putting all 7.5 million children's lives at risk. Now, the longer-term impacts are taking a toll on children's education and mental health.

The lines of conflict continue to stretch for thousands of miles and the reported scale of destruction is utterly shocking with some cities totally devastated. Heavy fighting has damaged civilian infrastructure, including residential areas, schools and hospitals, making it hard for children to access vital services. Meanwhile, access to electricity continues to be the biggest challenge to education in Ukraine as most children study online. Children and families living close to the frontline are exhausted, traumatised and running out of the basic items they need to survive.

For many children in Ukraine, fear and uncertainty has become an everyday reality. In the south and east of the country, intense fighting continues to threaten children's lives. Meanwhile millions of children across Ukraine are forced into underground shelters by air strikes daily. Children have told us that they have flashbacks to the early days of the conflict because of the daily alarms. Vast areas where active fighting has now stopped remain dangerous due to explosive weapons, unexploded ordnance and mines, meaning the streets are not safe for children to play.

Every child should grow up safe to learn and live free from violence.

We are working closely with 27 partners to provide life-saving assistance such as food and water, cash transfers and safe spaces, ensuring children and families impacted by this crisis have the support they need - as we have been doing since conflict erupted in 2014.

Thanks to your generosity, we are providing life-saving assistance to children and families who have been affected by this crisis, helping them rebuild their lives for as long as it takes.



A mural of hand prints created by children in the child friendly space established by Save the Children during a craft activity.

Photo credit: Save the Children

THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT

Our response in Ukraine is focused on providing cash assistance, shelter and non-food items, food security, education, health and nutrition as well as child protection. With your support, here are a few recent highlights on how we're addressing needs for the most vulnerable families:

NOVA KHAKOVKA DAM BREAK

One month since the destruction of the Kakhovka Dam on June 6, an estimated 16,000 families now face the challenge of rebuilding housing and critical infrastructure systems. Save the Children delivered 60,000 litres of clean water to families in need, along with 1,000 hygiene kits. We also registered evacuees for cash assistance in order to help families purchase the essential items they need most.

LIVELIHOODS

Nationally, we're launching a livelihoods program, which will offer support for micro-businesses, infrastructure rehabilitation to war-affected farmers, livestock replacement and professional courses on in-demand occupations for unemployed youth.

Our team will focus on recovering and protecting income sources of internally displaced communities as well as host communities. This includes supporting business development courses with over 200 grants available for families in need of livelihoods support. In addition, young women and men will receive vocational and technical courses in high-demand occupations.



Vlog: Click [here](#) to hear Sonia Khush, Save the Children Country Director Ukraine, speak about cash distribution in Izyum, Ukraine.



Vira* with her two children Mariia* and Serhii* talking with Sonia Khush, Save the Children Country Director, Ukraine. Vira's family received cash support from Save the Children.

Photo credit: Oleksandr Khomenko / Save the Children

NUTRITION PROGRAMMING

In Ukraine, we've reached nearly 120 pregnant/lactating women and caregivers through our mobile health units. We also provided over 2,100 women and caregivers with infant and young child feeding sessions through our Mother Baby Areas. Since the beginning of our response, we've reached a total of 21,873 women through our nutrition programming.



Photo credit: Lewis Khan / Save the Children

EDUCATION

5.3 million children in Ukraine have had their education disrupted. More than 3,300 education institutions have been damaged by bombing and shelling, and many others are being used for emergency shelters or military purposes, meaning children do not have a safe space to learn. Many children, especially from vulnerable groups, don't have a device or internet connection to access the Ukrainian curriculum online. Regular blackouts and poor internet connection also means many children can't finish their online lessons.

We've set up Digital Learning Centres (DLC) across Ukraine, providing safe spaces for children whose schools are destroyed or unsafe to open.

These centres are equipped with laptops, tablets, printers, a screen and projector, as well as books, games and other learning materials. So far, more than 50 spaces are up and running, providing education and wellbeing activities to more than 10,000 children. We plan to open 50 more by the end of 2023.

As well as setting up DLCs, we've provided learning kits, heaters, wi-fi routers and mobile solar power stations to help children keep learning through blackouts and cold weather.



Watch: Save the Children ambassador Dom Joly's powerful video diary from his visit to Ukraine.

READ ON TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT WE'VE ACHIEVED TOGETHER:

1.3 million

people supported overall,
including 600,000 children

50,800

children have kept learning -
25,000 girls and 25,800 boys

83,900

children have been kept safe and
supported - 42,500 girls and 41,400 boys

With your support, we have been able to massively increase our education and protection work across Ukraine over the past 18 months. We're working with more local partners than ever before, including experts in AI, EdTech and community-based support.



A school boy uses a laptop during an online maths lesson in a Digital Learning Centre in Kyiv, Ukraine.
Photo credit: Oleksandr Khomenko / Save the Children



Anya*, 14, and Maryna*, 13, use a laptop to study in a Digital Learning Centre established by Save the Children in Kyiv.
Photo credit: Oleksandr Khomenko / Save the Children

INNOVATION SPOTLIGHT:

We've recently opened two new DLCs in Kharkiv and Mykolaiv - the first centres near to the frontline. This includes the first ever Teacher DLC, providing a safe space for teachers to deliver online lessons. And the first rapidly deployable DLC, which can quickly be sent to provide mobile learning for children in areas of live conflict.

We've also equipped school bunkers to keep children safe during air raids. By providing education kits with pens, colouring pencils, notepads and other education materials, children can keep learning when they're forced underground.



Click [here](#) to see inside a kindergarten bunker supported by Save the Children.



Anton* (centre) participates in art therapy supported by Save the Children in Poltava, Ukraine.
Photo credit: Oleksandr Khomenko / Save the Children

USING ART THERAPY TO COPE WITH WAR

12-year-old Anton* fled his Ukrainian hometown due to consistent shelling in February 2022. Now, he lives in Poltava with his mother, Olha* and his younger sister, Alha*.

“Both holidays and all sorts of interesting activities distract from the bad. My biggest dream is for the bad things that happen to end and to return home.” Anton, 12.

Anton attends regular art therapy classes which include making candles, acting, computer graphics, painting and sand animation. Despite having reduced mobility in his hand due to a medical condition, he's discovered a knack for making candles and painting.

“Probably my biggest wish is for this project to continue because this is some kind of rest, switching off for children. They see a different world. They forget what's happening in our world in general. Here, they rest, switch, unload emotionally.” - Olha*, Anton's mother.

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

To help children cope with what they've been through, we've set up over 20 Community Centres and Child-Friendly Spaces together with our partners, which provide a safe and supportive environment for children to socialise, play, and just be children again. Our Child Protection specialists are on hand to provide psychosocial support and refer children for additional services if needed.

Child Friendly Spaces also support parents and caregivers, by connecting them with other services and assistance, and give them time and space to start their own recovery journey, all the while knowing their children are safe.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT:

Our incredible network of 27 local partners across the Western, Central and Eastern areas of Ukraine have played a critical role in supporting children's mental health and wellbeing over the past 18 months.

Recognising that local partners know their communities best, we delivered training to our partners on psychological first aid, support, and child protection in emergencies.

The mental health and wellbeing of teachers and social workers is also being supported, helping them to build their resilience so they can better support the children who need it most.

THANK YOU

Children in Ukraine have had to witness events that no child should ever see. They've lost family members and friends, and had their entire worlds uprooted. Yet they still show incredible resilience and support for one another.

Thank you for showing solidarity with children in Ukraine through this humanitarian crisis.

“ *I want the world to be united, to support the most affected. Because, I think, it will be difficult to survive without friendship and support for each other.* **”**

Borys*, 17, Ukraine

Despite all the challenges, Borys (left) and his friend, Denys (right) have completed their studies and graduated from school.*

Photo credit: Oleksandr Khomenko / Save the Children

