


RESILIENCE IN THE MIDST OF CRISIS

THE WAR IN UKRAINE
FOUR YEARS ON



Olena*, 15, in her school's shelter, which she says is her safe place, in Dnipro region, Ukraine.

THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT

4.7M PEOPLE REACHED, INCLUDING OVER 1.9M CHILDREN, IN UKRAINE AND THE REGION.

Four years into the war in Ukraine, children are still living through daily danger, disruption, and loss.

Violence intensified over the past year, with continued air strikes and drone attacks damaging homes, schools, and essential infrastructure. Children endure repeated air raid sirens and ongoing uncertainty, disrupting their sense of safety and stability.

Across the country, millions of families still require humanitarian assistance. Many children are unable to attend school in person because classrooms

have been damaged or lessons are frequently interrupted. Families who were forced from their homes remain displaced, often living in damaged buildings or temporary accommodations while facing harsh winter conditions.

Despite these challenges, we're seeing that the children who participate in our programming display extraordinary resiliency. With your support, Save the Children remains committed to helping families meet urgent needs today while supporting their recovery for the future.



Denis*, 2, eats lunch at his temporary home in eastern Ukraine.

OUR RESPONSE IN UKRAINE

IN 2025, WE REACHED 434,100 PEOPLE IN UKRAINE, INCLUDING OVER 307,900 CHILDREN.

Our team of 200 staff, together with 25 local partners, have worked tirelessly to help families. Here's some of our major accomplishments in 2025:

- Delivered emergency cash assistance and livelihood grants, helping families meet urgent needs and begin rebuilding financial stability.
- Supported children's learning through Digital Learning Centers, school rehabilitation, and catch-up classes, ensuring education continues despite ongoing disruptions.
- Operated Child Friendly Spaces and provided mental health support, giving children safe places to play, learn, and heal from trauma.
- Provided essential items, safe shelter, and hygiene supplies, helping families stay healthy, warm, and protected.
- Strengthened local child protection systems and expanded family-based care, helping children grow up in safer, supportive family environments.

148,200 

CHILDREN PROVIDED WITH EDUCATION SUPPORT

165,400 

PEOPLE RECEIVED TEMPORARY SHELTER AND ESSENTIAL ITEMS

20,500 

PEOPLE RECEIVED FOOD AND LIVELIHOODS SUPPORT, INCLUDING CASH ASSISTANCE

77,800 

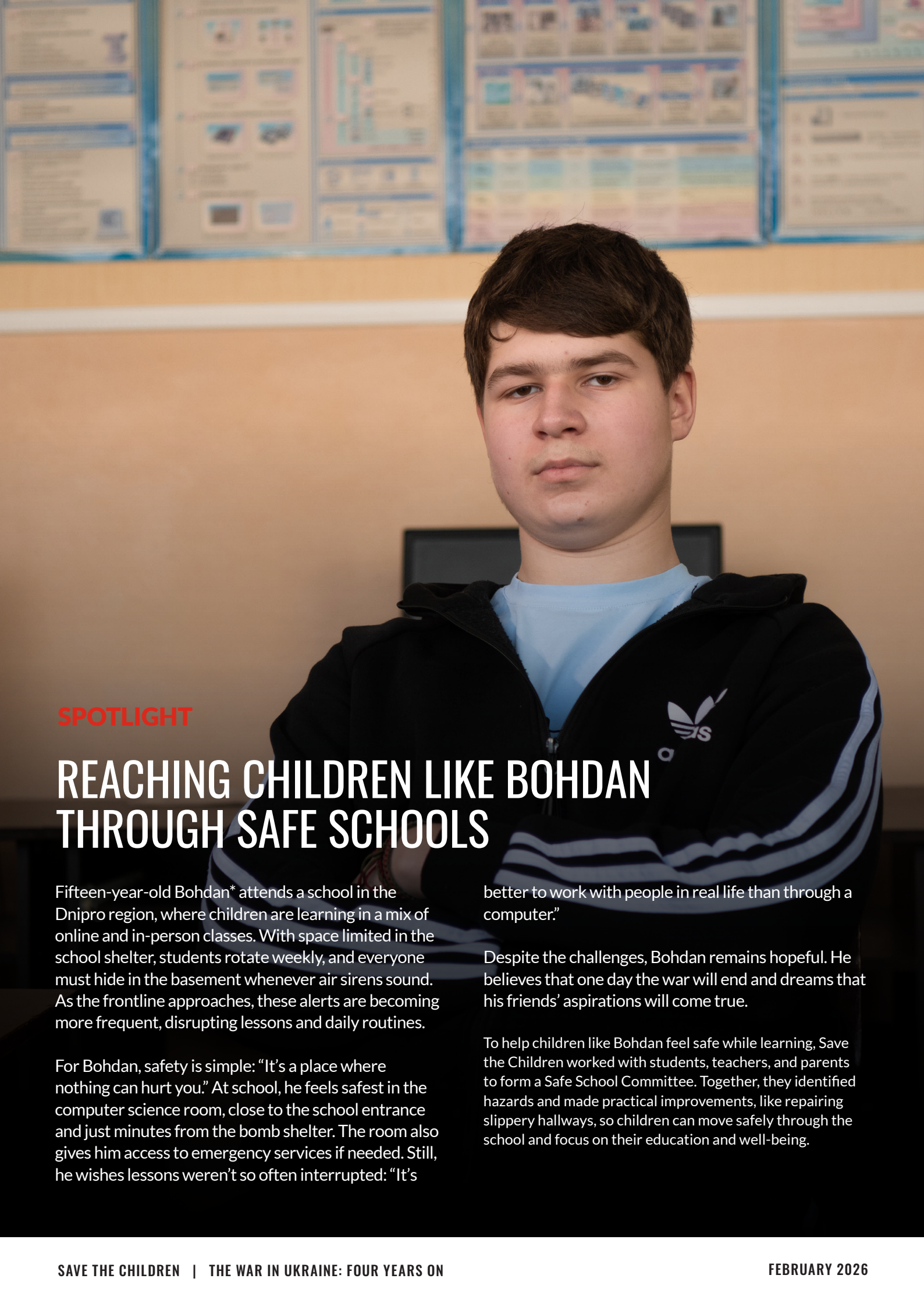
PEOPLE BENEFITTED FROM MENTAL HEALTH AND CHILD PROTECTION SUPPORT

165,400 

PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE SUPPORT

25 

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN UKRAINE



SPOTLIGHT

REACHING CHILDREN LIKE BOHDAN THROUGH SAFE SCHOOLS

Fifteen-year-old Bohdan* attends a school in the Dnipro region, where children are learning in a mix of online and in-person classes. With space limited in the school shelter, students rotate weekly, and everyone must hide in the basement whenever air sirens sound. As the frontline approaches, these alerts are becoming more frequent, disrupting lessons and daily routines.

For Bohdan, safety is simple: "It's a place where nothing can hurt you." At school, he feels safest in the computer science room, close to the school entrance and just minutes from the bomb shelter. The room also gives him access to emergency services if needed. Still, he wishes lessons weren't so often interrupted: "It's

better to work with people in real life than through a computer."

Despite the challenges, Bohdan remains hopeful. He believes that one day the war will end and dreams that his friends' aspirations will come true.

To help children like Bohdan feel safe while learning, Save the Children worked with students, teachers, and parents to form a Safe School Committee. Together, they identified hazards and made practical improvements, like repairing slippery hallways, so children can move safely through the school and focus on their education and well-being.

LOCAL LEADERS DRIVING LASTING CHANGE

Partnerships remain at the heart of our response in Ukraine.

Working alongside national and local organizations rooted in war-affected communities, we are able to draw on deep local knowledge, trusted relationships, and specialized expertise.

In 2025, we continued to strengthen these collaborations, supporting their leadership in delivering life-saving and long-term recovery programs.

Here are just a few examples of how our partners are supporting children and families across Ukraine:

POSMISHKA UA

Charity Fund “Posmishka UA,” with support from Swiss Solidarity, runs a Child Friendly Space providing a safe and supportive environment for children affected by shelling and displacement.

Through structured educational, creative, and recreational activities, children can learn, socialize, and rebuild confidence. The space also offers vital psychosocial support, helping children cope with fear and anxiety and begin to recover from the stress of war.



UKRAINIAN DEMINERS ASSOCIATION

Ukrainian Deminers Association (UDA), conducted an Explosive Ordnance Risk Education session for children attending a Digital Learning Space in the Kharkiv region. UDA distributed risk awareness materials, including a child-friendly board game, and introduced children to a demining dog, Chivas.

This partnership combines Save the Children’s expertise in child protection and education with UDA’s technical knowledge in mine action, ensuring that risk education activities are accurate, relevant, and child-sensitive.

THANK YOU TO THE PARTNERS SERVING THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OF UKRAINE:

- Analyst • Bilozerka Center For Regional Development • Civic Initiatives • Donetsk Regional Organization of All-Ukrainian Organization Union of Persons with Disabilities of Ukraine • GLOBA22 • Hopes and Homes • Istok • League Of Modern Women • Pluriton • Posmishka UA • Right to Family • Slavic Heart • Southern Development Strategy • Teach For Ukraine • Ukrainian Child Rights Network • Ukrainian Deminers Association • Ukrainian Red Cross Society in Mykolaiv • Voices of Romini

**Not all partners are included here for their safety and security.*



Ivan* paints the candle holders he created at a clay class at the Child Friendly Space in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES ACROSS BORDERS

**OVER 584K
PEOPLE REACHED
SINCE 2022,
INCLUDING OVER
21K IN 2025.**

Many families fled the war in Ukraine expecting to return quickly, but worsening conditions forced them to stay in neighboring countries. Since 2022, Save the Children has supported 584,600 people in Romania, Lithuania, and Poland, including more than 21,300 people in 2025.

We work closely with local and national organizations, as well as the United Nations.

OUR RESPONSE IN THE REGION:

ROMANIA

We have reached 369K+ people through counseling hubs, border points, and transit centers, offering emotional care, practical guidance, and safe spaces. In 2025, we provided cash assistance, mental health support, and education programs, helping families regain stability and confidence.

LITHUANIA

We have supported 32K+ people since 2022. In 2025, children accessed essential services and mental health support, while families received cash assistance and referrals to specialized services to ease financial and emotional stress.

POLAND

We supported 183K+ Ukrainians since 2022. At the end of 2025, we transitioned all programs to local leadership and closed our Warsaw office. Throughout this transition, we worked with 18 local partners and authorities to ensure refugee children could continue accessing education, protection, and care services.

RESPONDING IN THE YEAR AHEAD

UKRAINE

In Ukraine, we are shifting to a more partner-led approach in 2026, directing more funding to local organizations while continuing to provide families on the frontline with cash and urgent assistance. Our priorities include:

- Ensuring families can access child protection services, including expanding family-based care.
- Helping more children access safe, inclusive education at Digital Learning Centers and schools, while educating them about the risks of mines.

IN 2026, WITH A TOTAL FUNDING TARGET OF \$25.8M, WE AIM TO REACH 560,500 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 321,300 CHILDREN, ACROSS UKRAINE.

THE REGION

In Romania and Lithuania, our focus in 2026 will shift toward longer-term integration and stability. In Lithuania, we will continue providing emergency cash and mental health support, including psychological counseling. In Romania, we plan to transition all programs to local partners by June 2026.

By investing in self-reliance, education, and community-based support, we will help families build the foundations for recovery.

IN 2026, WITH A TOTAL FUNDING TARGET OF \$1.1M, WE AIM TO REACH 3,500 PEOPLE IN ROMANIA AND 500 PEOPLE IN LITHUANIA.



Mykhailo, a Save the Children staff member, in front of a house that was destroyed by a drone attack in Kyiv, Ukraine.



Save the Children®

Anton*, 5, developed a stutter last year due to the stress of the war in Ukraine.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Thanks to your support, our teams and local partners have continued to stand with children and families affected by the war in Ukraine and across the region.

Your generosity has helped provide life-saving assistance, education, and protection, bringing hope, stability, and the chance to rebuild for those who need it most.

Report Photo Credits: Save the Children

*Name changed to protect privacy

Note: Some reach figures for Ukraine may include double counting across multiple years.

Published by Save the Children

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