



*After fleeing Southwestern Ukraine, Dina\*, 16, lives in Šiauliai, Lithuania with her family.*



Save the Children®

# UKRAINE CRISIS RESPONSE

## 18-MONTH UPDATE REPORT

Eighteen months have passed since the war in Ukraine escalated in February 2022 and there is still no end in sight.

Our teams are working across Ukraine and in neighboring countries like Poland, Lithuania and Romania, bringing together the best of our experience in humanitarian response and long-term programming to help children and families who have been affected by this humanitarian crisis, wherever they are.

We're proud to present this report to you with an update on the most recent impact of our Ukraine regional response.

**Thank you for standing by the children of Ukraine and ensuring they receive the support they desperately need.**

# REACHING FAMILIES IN UKRAINE

In Ukraine, more than three children a day are falling victim to the ongoing hostilities. Almost two-thirds of children in Ukraine were forced to flee their homes in the first 100 days of war, and those displaced continue to need humanitarian assistance.

In Ukraine, we are working closely with 28 local organizations to provide life-saving assistance such as food, water and cash assistance, ensuring children and families impacted by this humanitarian crisis have the support they need — as we have been doing since conflict erupted in 2014.



## TOGETHER WITH PARTNERS, WE HAVE REACHED **1.4M PEOPLE**, INCLUDING OVER **638,000 CHILDREN** IN UKRAINE.

\*Numbers as of July 31, 2023



**55,853**

CHILDREN PROVIDED WITH EDUCATION SUPPORT



**66,907**

PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH MEDICAL SERVICES



**258,980**

PEOPLE RECEIVED FOOD AND LIVELIHOODS SUPPORT, INCLUDING CASH ASSISTANCE



**99,560**

PEOPLE RECEIVED TEMPORARY SHELTER AND ESSENTIAL ITEMS



**825,273**

PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE SUPPORT



**61,023**

PEOPLE RECEIVED NUTRITION SUPPORT



**119,743**

PEOPLE BENEFITED FROM CHILD PROTECTION

## SPOTLIGHT:

# HELPING FAMILIES REBUILD AFTER THE KAKHOVKA DAM BREAK

Since the destruction of the **Kakhovka Dam** in Ukraine on June 6, an estimated 16,000 families face the challenge of rebuilding critical infrastructure that is essential to daily life and people's livelihoods.

Since the explosion, we've delivered 225 tons of drinking water and over 12,000 hygiene kits to affected communities. These services have reached people like Stanislav\*, his wife Oksana\* and their five foster children in the southern Dnipro region – the area hardest hit by the dam breaking where the reservoir was drained of clean water.

The family keep chickens, sheep, geese and pigs and takes care of farmland where they grow crops and vegetables. The need for water is huge for the family yet their water supply was turned off after the explosion of the Kakhovka Dam.

Thanks to donor support, Stanislav and his family received clean drinking water from Save the Children every other day to keep their family and their livestock healthy.



WE'VE DISTRIBUTED  
NEARLY **\$1.5M IN CASH**  
**ASSISTANCE** TO FAMILIES  
AFFECTED BY FLOODS  
AND WATER SHORTAGES

*Stanislav\*, 57, and his family care for the animals on their farmland in Ukraine.*



# KEEPING CHILDREN LEARNING IN UKRAINE

With your support, we have been able to increase our education and protection work across Ukraine over the past 18 months.

We've established **Digital Learning Centers** across Ukraine, just one of the education interventions we've set up, providing children a safe providing a safe space for children whose schools are destroyed, closed or unsafe to open.

So far, 56 Digital Learning Centres are up and running, providing education activities to more than 10,000 children in Ukraine.



## 56 DIGITAL LEARNING CENTERS ARE UP AND RUNNING IN UKRAINE.

Thanks to support from donors like you, we plan to open 50 more by the end of 2023.

As well as setting up Digital Learning Centers, we're also supporting schools by providing learning kits, heaters and mobile solar power stations to help children keep learning through blackouts and cold weather.



*Karina\*, 14, sits for a portrait in a school close to Mykolaiv, Ukraine.*

## HELPING STUDENTS LIKE KARINA\* LEARN

Karina\*, 14, lives in a village just outside of Mykolaiv in Ukraine. The village was on the front line of the fighting for a majority of the war, and as a result, it is heavily damaged by shelling.

The constant fear of missile strikes and the uncertainty of each day has taken a heavy toll on Karina's life. Leaving their home was a difficult decision, but Karina's family had no choice but to flee for their safety.

Karina dreams of a brighter future. She hopes for a time when children like her can live free from the devastating impact of war.

Children like Karina attend our Digital Learning Centers in order to continue their education, receive psychosocial support and feel safe.

In addition to providing these spaces, we're also working with partners to make repairs to damaged schools in Ukraine and equip them with desks and chairs so children can get back to full-time face-to-face learning.

**"I MISS MY FRIENDS A LOT...  
THEY'RE IN DIFFERENT CORNERS  
OF THE MAP."**

**- KARINA\***

# SUPPORTING LANGUAGE LEARNING IN POLAND

Poland is now home to the largest number of Ukrainian refugees in the region with at least 1.5 million people registered so far.

To better support children who fled to Poland, we're delivering education programming in 69 locations across the country, including Polish and Ukrainian schools, Digital Learning Centers in libraries and a nationwide online education platform.

Our education programs provide support to 15 Polish schools to enhance adaptation and integration

of students from Ukraine, support children enrolled in Ukrainian schools and provide safe spaces and equipment to continue education online through Digital Learning Centers.

We now have Digital Learning Centers in 50 libraries across Poland and support more than 5,000 people with Polish language classes so they can begin to build a life in Poland.

We also fund a Ukrainian school, which helps over 450 children study in their native language.



## 450 CHILDREN ATTEND OUR UKRAINIAN SCHOOL IN WARSAW.



*Daryna\*, age 11, who attends a Ukrainian school in Poland supported by Save the Children.*

### HELPING DARYNA\* AT OUR UKRAINIAN SCHOOL

Daryna\*, 11, now lives in Warsaw, Poland with her mother and 15-year-old brother after fleeing the war in Ukraine.

Daryna describes herself as happy, positive and hard-working, and is a talented artist who dreams of one day becoming an art teacher.

Despite enjoying her new school in Poland, Daryna is clear that Poland is not her permanent home: "I won't live in Poland because I want to go home to my city, my home," she says. "I don't think that this is my home. I know that one day I will go home to Kyiv."

Daryna\* is one of over 450 children aged 6-17 who attend our Ukrainian school in Warsaw.

The school, funded by Save the Children, allows Ukrainian children to study in their native language while helping them make friends in their new home and adapt to the new culture.

**"I KNOW THAT ONE DAY I WILL GO HOME TO KYIV."**

**- DARYNA\***

# PROTECTING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH IN LITHUANIA

For children caught up in this war, fear and uncertainty have become an everyday reality. Since the beginning of the conflict, there are now an estimated 8.2 million refugees from Ukraine across Europe with thousands of families who fled to Lithuania.

In Lithuania, we've established Child Friendly Spaces in refugee registration centers so children and their families can receive assistance in an environment created for children to feel safe and that inspires

them to play. Child Friendly Spaces provide a safe and supportive environment for children to learn, play and just be children again.

Specialists are on hand to provide psychosocial support, and parents and caregivers who need support are referred to other services. This gives them the time and space to start their own recovery journey, all the while knowing their children are safe.



## IN LITHUANIA, OUR CHILD FRIENDLY SPACES HAVE REACHED OVER 17,000 CHILDREN.



Sofia\*, 8, visits our Child Friendly Space at the registration center.

## SUPPORTING CAREGIVERS LIKE JULIA\*

We met eight-year-old Sofia\* and her mother, Julia\*, in a refugee registration center in Lithuania after they fled Ukraine.

After the armed conflict intensified, Julia decided to leave their hometown and take Sofia and her brother to Lithuania.

Child Friendly Spaces are vital for families arriving in Lithuania as they ensure parents receive the support they need from staff while not having to worry about the safety and well-being of their children.

It also ensures that parents can receive additional support from Save the Children, including registering for cash assistance or housing and receiving hygiene kits.

**"SAVE THE CHILDREN PROVIDED US WITH HYGIENE KITS AND TOYS. WHENEVER YOU ASK FOR HELP, YOU'LL GET IT THERE!"**

**- JULIA\***

# PROVIDING CASH ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES IN ROMANIA

The majority of the people who fled Ukraine were women and children who arrived at borders with little more than the clothes on their backs.

To support families who left everything behind, we're providing cash assistance, enabling refugees to afford essential services like housing, healthcare and education.

Cash assistance is one of the most efficient and effective ways to ensure that people who had to leave everything behind have access to money during conflict.

Cash assistance also helps restore a sense of normalcy as it helps families make informed decisions about what they spend the money on.



# IN ROMANIA, WE'VE REACHED OVER 34,000 PEOPLE WITH CASH ASSISTANCE



*Yasmina, 12, sits for a portrait in her home in northern Romania.*

## HELPING YASMINA\* FEEL SAFE IN A NEW HOME

Yasmina\* lives with her brother, sister and mother in Romania but this is not the first time their lives have been touched by war.

When Yasmina's family lived in Ukraine, her family was displaced following the Crimea conflict in 2014. Yasmina's mother recalls the devastating impact the experience had on her children, describing how she had gone to a therapist to help them cope with what they'd endured.

When the fighting began at the end of February, they decided to flee the country, settling in Romania.

To support the family, Save the Children has provided the family with cash and vouchers, medical assistance, psychological support, educational supplies and other essential items so they can feel safe in their new home.

**"[OTHER CHARITIES] HELP VERY MUCH, BUT [SAVE THE CHILDREN] GOES STRAIGHT TO MY HEART."**

**- YASMINA\***

**SPOTLIGHT:**

# UKRAINE AND THE GLOBAL HUNGER CRISIS

In the three months following the escalation of the conflict in Ukraine, 71 million people fell into poverty as a direct result of food prices surging.

Now, across the globe, up to 404 million people don't have access to enough food. The situation is only expected to deteriorate since Russia pulled out of the Black Sea Grain Initiative on July 17, 2023, halting Ukraine's ability to export its grain and other food items to 45 countries.

We not only have a responsibility to serve the children and families of Ukraine but also to communities around the world feeling the ripple effects of this conflict.

To respond to this rise in need, we're scaling up our hunger programming around the world, including cash assistance to vulnerable families, food distributions and treating malnutrition through our hospitals and mobile clinics.



**LAST YEAR, WE ALLOCATED \$42.4M  
TO 27 COUNTRIES STRUGGLING  
WITH RISING HUNGER.**

*Sacdiyo\* with her baby at a health center being treated for malnutrition in Baidoa, Somalia.*





Anastasia\*, 9, attends a  
Ukrainian school in Poland  
supported by Save the Children.



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Children in Ukraine have had to live through and witness events that no child should ever experience. They've lost family members and friends and had their entire worlds uprooted. Yet they show incredible resilience when children are provided with space to feel protected and the opportunity to participate in activities that allowed them to play and heal.

With your support, our teams and partner organizations can provide children with the skills and tools they need to move from surviving to thriving.

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

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