



World Vision®



Ukraine Crisis Response

Three Years On:
Children Need Us Now More than Ever



©2024 Laurentia Jora/World Vision

Three years on, a generation at risk

As the Ukraine Crisis Response enters its fourth year, the impact of war continues to devastate the lives of millions, particularly children. Over the past three years, World Vision has reached more than 2 million people, including nearly 1 million children, providing critical support such as education, mental health services, cash assistance, livelihoods, winterisation and protection initiatives. Despite these efforts, the challenges remain immense.

Millions of children are still displaced, struggling to access the basic needs every child deserves, and deprived of their rights to safety, education, health and home.



"Every day, war continues stealing the opportunity for Ukraine's children's to grow up in safety and joy.

Every anniversary of this conflict, we mark another year of lost childhood for an entire generation.

Ukraine's children deserve our unwavering efforts to protect them and respond to their needs."

Arman Grigoryan
World Vision Ukraine Crisis Response Director

World Vision remains committed to standing with and protecting the most vulnerable, ensuring that hope, resilience and a brighter future remain within reach for Ukraine's children.

Ukraine Crisis Response Goal:

The Ukrainian children, refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), as well as the host communities in Ukraine, Moldova, Romania and Georgia have the support to overcome the humanitarian consequences of war.

Ukraine Crisis Response Strategic Objectives:

- 1** Early recovery and economic development opportunities are created for IDP and refugee households, as well as host communities for improved and self-reliant livelihoods.
- 2** Children, their families and communities benefit from enhanced **social protection** mechanisms and **education** opportunities in Ukraine and host countries.
- 3** Basic needs of vulnerable children, families and communities affected by the war are met in Ukraine and host countries.
- 4** Equitable and complementary **partnerships with national and local actors** are encultured and promoted to enable them take stronger leadership role in delivering the humanitarian response and managing the **transition to rehabilitation and development**.



The Voices of Ukraine's Children

“I want my godfather to come back from the frontlines. I want to spend Christmas with my entire family, like we used to.”

Karina, age 7

The Voices of Ukraine's Children

“I want a Ukraine free of air raid sirens, free of bombs, free of war...”

Katea, age 6

Ukraine's Ongoing Need

The ongoing conflict in Ukraine has had, and is having, a devastating impact on the well-being and survival of an entire generation of children.

Three years on, children continue to bear the brunt of ongoing conflict, violence and displacement:



90% of Ukrainians fleeing the war are women and children.



1.9 million children in need

Millions of Ukrainian women and girls are at increased risk of gender based violence.

Three years on, children and families are still on the move for safety, protection and education opportunities.



6.3 million

Ukrainian refugees remain in various parts of Europe and abroad, predominately women and children.



3.6 million

remain internally displaced inside the Ukraine, with hundreds under dire conditions at the frontlines, especially during the winter season with unstable energy supplies.



82%

of the internally displaced have been displaced for more than a year with no viable prospects for return, meaning that millions of children continue to long for home.



War has disrupted employment and livelihoods, making it extremely challenging for parents—particularly female-headed households—to provide for their children.



WHO has reported 2,100 attacks on healthcare facilities since the beginning of the war, hampering the crucial delivery of health services to the most vulnerable, including children.

Continued access to essential education, nutrition, health services and mental health and psychosocial support is crucial for Ukrainian children's well-being.

Although humanitarian needs in Ukraine and host countries remain staggering, funding for the response has been dwindling since 2022. Donors must do more to ensure long-term, quality and flexible funding to meet the needs of those impacted most by the conflict—including women and children.

World Vision has been on the ground in Ukraine since March 2022, and has reached over 2.1 million people, more than 970,000 of whom are children in need, in Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia and Romania.



2,133,921
People reached



973,033
Children reached (45%)

Moldova

433,794 People reached
184,719 Children reached (42%)
8 Partners

Ukraine

1,323,990 People reached
613,153 Children reached (46%)
18 Partners

Romania

339,814 People reached
154,133 Children reached (45%)
6 Partners

Georgia

36,323 People reached
21,028 Children reached (58%)



People reached by sector

- Protection – 13%
- Education – 13%
- Food Security – 27%
- Livelihoods – 1%
- Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance – 28%
- Non-Food Items – 18%



Our Work

Child Protection

The well-being of Ukraine's children whose lives have been profoundly disrupted by conflict is the heart of World Vision's work through the Ukraine Crisis Response. As war enters its fourth year, it is estimated that more than 7 million Ukrainian children have been affected. Children and their caregivers daily face severe protection risks, including violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect, discrimination and family separation. Many children have endured disrupted education and routines, and children living with disabilities have no support. Children have faced severe psychological distress and experienced grave violations of their rights, such as the trauma of losing parents and injuries from explosive ordinances.

In response, World Vision has implemented extensive child protection programming across Ukraine and Moldova, with protective services such as mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), positive parenting initiatives, and recreational activities including art and play in Child Friendly Spaces. These critical interventions help mitigate the devastating impacts of war on children, foster resilience and restore a sense of safety and hope for affected children and their families. [Read our child protection capacity statement.](#)

9,281
national/ local duty
bearers trained on child
protection topics

69
child friendly spaces
organised in Ukraine
and Moldova by World
Vision Partners

122,188
children attending child
friendly spaces

Safe spaces bring joy amidst war

World Vision's child-friendly space in Moldova's Sadaclia village hums with the joyful chatter of children as they play and paint handmade crafts. Yet, for many of the Ukrainian and Moldovan children who come here, this space more than just a place to have fun.

Safe spaces like Sadaclia, managed by World Vision's partner Ave Copiii and supported by Aktion Deutschland Hilft (ADH), provide mental health and psychosocial support activities, catch-up classes, educational trips and daily hot meals for more than 600 children across 27 locations.

Children gather together with daily activities to engage, learn and play—normal activities amidst life circumstances that have been far from normal for three years for the children who have been displaced from their homes.

Eight-year-old Mateu is among the children working at the day's crafts. He loves watercolors and his passion for art has flourished in the centre as his family cannot afford basic drawing

supplies at home. With no employment opportunities available, Mateu's father has gone abroad to find work to support the family. "I wish my father would come back home," Mateu shares.

Mateu is not alone, through the programme he gets to connect with many other children who share a similar story.

"Through this programme, children discover and learn new things. They explore parts of the country during excursions across Moldova. Children from Sadaclia and other child friendly spaces have the chance to meet and engage with each other in different languages," shares Alina, Ave Copiii's coordinator.

[Read more stories from the Sadaclia child friendly space.](#)





Our Work

Education

An entire generation of Ukrainian children is at risk of missing out on quality education due to the disruptions caused by ongoing conflict. It is estimated that more than 4 million children have suffered learning losses due to limited access to traditional schooling since the war began. More than 3,600 education institutions have been affected. Some are closed due to security risks, others have been damaged or destroyed. Schools that are still functioning are facing shortages of qualified teachers, and online learning is hindered by limited devices, poor connectivity and unreliable electricity.

World Vision’s education in emergencies programme has supported over 275,000 children to date across Ukraine, Moldova, Romania and Georgia. Key achievements include distributing educational materials, providing life skills and psychosocial support, training teachers and offering catch-up programmes for children who’ve lost access to schooling. Collaborative efforts with local and international partners have supported teacher training, and delivered non-formal education and formal education in communities hosting displaced families. World Vision’s approach emphasises localised, integrated programming that together addresses education, child protection and mental health needs. [Read our education in emergencies capacity statement.](#)

275,406

children reached with education programmes

890

teachers and education personnel trained with tools in mental health and psychosocial support, social and emotional learning and comprehensive sexual education, etc.

Catch-up education for all

Ten kilometres outside of Kyiv, in the quiet town of Irpin, Iryna, 40, and her daughter Sofia, 10, visit a day centre run by World Vision’s local partner “Save Ukraine.” Though it is summer holiday season, Sofia comes to this educational centre every other day to participate in catch-up lessons in her Ukrainian language studies supported by World Vision and funded by the European Union.

Sofia and her Ukrainian language group share the space at the centre with another group of special-needs children participating in physical therapy. At the Irpin centre, working with children with disabilities who have no other access to services is one of the main programmes.

“The day centre serves children with disabilities, children suffering neglect and just children from the local community. We provide group and individual classes, catch-up classes, physical therapy and rehabilitation. Currently we have 71 children with disabilities and 54 from the Irpin community,” explained Natalya Kravchenko, mother to a child with a disability and a teacher at the centre.

Most of the children served at the centre are also internally displaced. Over 20,000 people, or up to a third of Irpin’s population, have moved here in the past 2.5 years, escaping their hometowns close to the active conflict line.

“We aim to create an inclusive environment. Children with special educational needs learn to be included in society, develop their skills and learn from non-special needs children. Those, in turn, learn to help, learn that there are different children in this world, and develop tolerance,” says Olha Chernyshuk, a psychologist at the centre.

“We test children’s knowledge at the beginning and at the end of the three-month course. I see improvement in almost every child,” says local teacher Larysa Nedoluzhko.

[Read about the Irpin day centre.](#)





Our Work

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

Three years of conflict, displacement and forced migration has left more than 1.5 million Ukrainian children facing the potential of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, significant psychological distress and other mental health issues. As children's mental health is a critical aspect of overall well-being, World Vision prioritises integrating child-centered, community-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) within its education, child protection and livelihood programmes. These initiatives support children, families and communities through evidence-based, trauma-informed and culturally sensitive approaches.

Key interventions include operating Child Friendly Spaces and Play and Learning Hubs, delivering Psychological First Aid and implementing Problem Management Plus (PM+) for adults. World Vision also works with local partners to deploy multidisciplinary mobile teams to reach isolated areas. By focusing on capacity building, partnerships and advocacy, World Vision helps build local resilience to ensure sustainable, holistic solutions are established to respond to both current and future mental health challenges. [Read our mental health and psychosocial support capacity statement.](#)

213,225

people participating in psychosocial support services

1,910

people reached by community resilient programming

A safe space for psychosocial support

After working in the emergency room of a war-torn city on the frontlines for more than two years, Anastasiia relocated her family—including her 8-year-old daughter Dasha to Dnipro, Ukraine in March 2024.

Far removed from the comforts their pre-war home, they now live in a collective centre, sharing a room with seven other people. Anastasiia misses her work in the hospital, but knows that being together with her daughter and having a safe space is most important.

In the centre, Dasha takes part in the art therapy sessions delivered by Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health (UFHP), World Vision's local partner. UFHP's multidisciplinary mobile team visits the centre to provide legal, social, and psychological support. Funded by USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, ACTED Ukraine and the Ukraine Response Consortium, they assist around 30 families per day, covering 22 collective centers in Dnipro each month.

“In a war zone, the imperative for psychosocial support is not a luxury but a lifeline. Amidst displacement, children bear the unseen burdens of distress and post-traumatic stress disorder,” shares Yuliya Teslya, a mobile team psychologist. “We are working to restore their sense of security by listening and intervening with psychological first aid techniques.”

[Read Anastasiia and Dasha's story.](#)





Our Work

Cash Assistance Programme

World Vision’s cash and voucher assistance (CVA) programme addresses the urgent needs of Ukraine’s displaced and vulnerable by providing flexible, immediate aid that allows war-affected families to purchase the essentials they need—like food, shelter and materials to endure the harsh winters.

629,999
people benefitting
from cash assistance

Cash and voucher programmes are highly effective in crisis settings like Ukraine. Cash assistance empowers recipients who have been displaced from their homes or have had their livelihood disrupted to prioritise and make choices about their own needs, which also fosters dignity and autonomy. By injecting resources directly into local markets, these programmes also stimulate economic activity. [Read our cash and voucher programme capacity statement.](#)

US\$ 86.8 million
value of cash distributed

Cash assistance provides a vital lifeline for families in need

In the small Carpathian mountain village of Synevyr, western Ukraine, Vasily and Victoriya live with their ten children—ages 6 months to 13 years—in the modest home that has housed three generations of their family.

Before the war, Vasily used to take jobs abroad, earning enough to support his family and maintain their home. Now, the fighting has made working away impossible, cutting off the family’s primary source of income.

“It’s hard to support such a large family with so little income,” shares Victoriya. My husband tries to find a job in the village, but since we’re in a remote area, there’s not much work available.”

Jobs in Synevyr are seasonal, with locals selling wood, harvesting mushrooms or working in hotels to support tourism—which has also declined since the war began. With no jobs to earn an income, the family currently relies on social help to put food on the table.

“We are a mountainous region with no local businesses. We have poor communication, no transit zone, no railroad, no bus service—it’s essentially a dead-end community,” explains Ivan Chub, Head of the Synevyr hromada

(administrative community). “The government supports 87 per cent of Synevyr’s residents. There are 98 families receiving state aid, meaning one in six people needs assistance. We also have a big number of large families...and there’s no income at all in winter.”

Cash assistance programmes and humanitarian aid have become a vital lifeline for millions of families like Viktoriya’s and Vasily’s to meet their most basic needs.

“We bought two piglets with part of the money we received from World Vision. The support was lifesaving,” shares Vasily gratefully. [Read Vasily and Victoriya’s story.](#)





Winterisation

Attacks on energy infrastructure across Ukraine since the war began has resulted in a loss of more than 60% of the country's capacity to generate power. With winter temperatures as cold as below -20°C, vulnerable populations—especially children—are at extreme risk.

Approximately 900,000 people near the frontlines in northern, eastern and southern Ukraine require urgent winter assistance. World Vision's Ukraine Crisis Response winterisation programme is helping to meet this need by providing families with **cash assistance** to help displaced and frontline communities with heating and essential winter expenses; **alternative energy solutions** such as generators, heaters and power banks to support displaced families living in shelters; and **winterisation kits** including thermal blankets, hygiene items, portable gas stoves and gas cylinders. [Read more about winterisation.](#)



Livelihoods

Through the Ukraine Crisis Response to date, 24,232 people have participated in professional training to learn new skills in order to find new work opportunities. Nastia, pictured here, studies alongside other Ukrainian woman who have found refuge in Moldova, is hoping that news skills will help her make a career shift so she'll better be able to provide for her family and keep her children safe, no matter what the future holds.

[Read Nastia's story.](#)



Localisation

32 active local partners

Over the past three years, World Vision has taken a [strategic approach to partnerships](#), focusing on building the implementation capacity of local organisations. These efforts support local organisations to assume stronger leadership roles in humanitarian efforts.



©2024 Oleksandr Shpygunov/World Vision

The Voices of Ukraine's Children

“Talking to outsiders who have been through the same helps you realise that you are not alone and gives you a sense of solace.”

Victoria, age 16

Finances

The ongoing work of the Ukraine Crisis Response has been made possible through the generosity of World Vision supporters around the world, together with our donor and partner organisations.

On behalf of the more than 2 million people who have been supported through the Ukraine Crisis Response, we would like to thank the World Vision supporters in Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, U.K. and the U.S. for their generosity.

Spent budget in FY2024:

US\$ 67.6 million

Secured funding in FY2025:

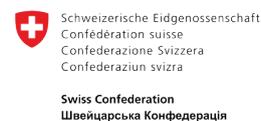
US\$ 25.3 million

Pipeline funding in FY2025:

US\$ 3.2 million



Our appreciation to all our local and international partners who support the humanitarian work of the Ukraine Crisis Response work.



The Voices of Ukraine's Children

"Painting here makes me feel at ease and happy. It's my favorite thing because I can make the world look however I want it to,"

Ira, age 9

Looking Ahead

Building on the work of the last three years, the Ukraine Crisis Response will press onward, continuing to support Ukraine's most vulnerable children and their families affected by war, to meet their urgent needs.

Moving into 2025, World Vision will intentionally begin building early recovery and economic development interventions into its programming—helping to strengthen livelihood opportunities for affected families and creating new jobs. World Vision's microfinance arm, VisionFund, will also begin working in Ukraine, financing small and medium-sized businesses for growth, funding opportunities that help families generate income.

World Vision will also continue its focus on the localisation of the Ukraine response, strengthening its approach to partnering with the goal of putting local actors in the lead of the humanitarian response and managing the transition to rehabilitation and long-term programming.

"While so much has been accomplished over three years, the needs of Ukrainian people remain immense. Children continue to bear the devastating impacts of war, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure they are not forgotten. World Vision remains steadfast in our commitment to do everything possible, standing with these children and their families until the day we see peace and hope restored."

- Arman Grigoryan, Director of the Ukraine Crisis Response

Together, with the unwavering support of our donors, partners and local communities, we will continue to bring hope, transformation and opportunity to those whose lives have been upended by this conflict.

World Vision calls on all parties to the conflict to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law, cease hostilities and restore peace for the sake of all Ukrainian children.

Seven-month-old Polina was born into a world shaped by displacement and air raids. She has yet to know a life without the atrocities of war.

"I dream that my children will get to know one day a peaceful Ukraine, free of war, sorrow and grief. I dream of a Mariupol where my children will live and play freely without fear, in their home."

- Polina's mother Viktoriya.



©2024 Laurentia Jora/World Vision

Ukraine's children deserve to grow up in peace.

Will you join us to ensure children are protected from violence and have access to the urgent humanitarian aid they need?



©2024 Laurentia Jora/World Vision

For further information please contact:

Eleanor Monbiot

*Regional Leader
Middle East and Eastern Europe
eleanor_monbiot@wvi.org*

Arman Grigoryan

*Response Director
Ukraine Crisis Response
arman_grigoryan@wvi.org*

Laurentia Jora

*Advocacy & Communications Manager
Ukraine Crisis Response
laurentia_jora@wvi.org*

World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities to reach their full potential by tackling the root causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

Cover Photo:
©2024 Oleksandr Shpygunov/World Vision

Follow us for the latest:



[@WorldVisionUkraineCrisisResponse](https://www.facebook.com/WorldVisionUkraineCrisisResponse)



[@WVUkraineCrisisResponse](https://www.linkedin.com/company/WVUkraineCrisisResponse)

▼ www.wvi.org/emergencies/ukraine



▼ Response Dashboard:

