

SIX MONTHS OF WAR IN UKRAINE AUGUST 2022

Six months of war has had a devastating impact on the lives of children and families across Ukraine.

Since the start of the war, almost 1,000 children have been killed or injured, the equivalent of more than five children every day.

Schools, hospitals and other vital infrastructure continue to be damaged and destroyed, leaving millions without access to basic services and in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.

More than 6.5 million people, mostly women and

“Once again, as in all wars, the reckless decisions of adults are putting children at extreme risk.”

Catherine Russell, UNICEF Executive Director.

children, have now fled the country in search of safety - a refugee crisis that has unfolded on a scale and speed not seen since World War Two.

During these most critical of times, your support has helped UNICEF to respond quickly, scaling up our work and reaching millions inside and outside of Ukraine with access to life-saving services and essential support. On behalf of the children and families of Ukraine, **Thank You.**

Your Support at a Glance

Over the past six months, the generosity of supporters like you has helped to provide a vital lifeline to children and their families whose lives have been upturned by the war in Ukraine.

Since 24 February, you have helped to:



Establish 40 ‘Blue Dot’ hubs across the region, providing access to vital services for women and children on the move.



Reach almost 4 million people with access to essential healthcare.



Provide access to safe water for 3.4 million people inside Ukraine.



Reach over 1.4 million children and caregivers with mental health and psychosocial support.



Provide access to formal and non-formal learning opportunities for more than a million children.



Distribute \$49.5 million worth of essential supplies to UNICEF warehouses in Lviv, Dnipro, Kyiv and Katowice.

GLOBAL SOLIDARITY WITH UKRAINE'S CHILDREN:

MATCHING THE SCALE OF THIS CRISIS

With more than five million children in need of humanitarian assistance and no end to this devastating conflict in sight, the challenges facing the people of Ukraine may seem unsurmountable. However, the outpouring of support and solidarity from the international community over the past six months has shown what is possible when we all unite behind a cause.

Together, UNICEF, our partners and our supporters have helped to deliver the most rapid mobilisation of international assistance on record. Despite the challenging environment, we have and continue to provide critical health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, child protection and education support to millions of children and their families in Ukraine and those displaced across borders in neighbouring countries.

By partnering with governments, local organisations, youth groups and communities, we are helping to reach those most in need, and have expanded our presence to a total of **10 locations across the country** in order to deliver life-saving assistance to as many children and families as possible.

The dedication and commitment shown by our teams on the ground, working night and day to protect the rights of children and their families has only been matched by the truly inspiring generosity of supporters like you. **Here are just some of the ways in which your support is helping to make a vital difference in Ukraine and beyond.**

HEALTH

As attacks on hospitals and health centres continue, UNICEF is working to rehabilitate hospital shelters. In Lviv, four paediatric and maternity hospitals have been restored, ensuring that **3,000 children and pregnant women could receive vital treatment safely.**

Similarly, in Odesa, your support has helped to establish two new medical health teams, **helping to reach those without access to essential health facilities.**

UNICEF has also supported **277 health care facilities, including six maternity centres and 15 children's hospitals** through the delivery of life-saving supplies and equipment including midwifery, surgical, medical and first aid kits and portable infant warmers - life-saving equipment for premature newborns.



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Baby Sofia was born one month prematurely, as bombs fell in Ukraine. But thanks to the delivery of portable infant warmers, she can sleep peacefully.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Since 24 February, you have helped **provide almost 3.5 million people with access to safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene.**

Your support has enabled UNICEF to reach countless communities through the delivery of water trucking services and the distribution of bottled water.

To complement this, we are also providing water companies with water treatment chemicals and equipment, **helping to provide access to clean water at scale.**

In addition, more **than 450,000 people have been reached with essential WASH supplies**, including family hygiene kits, sanitary pads, nappies and kits for people with special needs.



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Family hygiene kits include a sealable water bucket, water purification tablets, soap, detergent, reusable sanitary pads and even a wind-up torch to help protect a family from deadly diseases and maintain basic hygiene during times of emergency.

ENSURING CHILDREN ARE PROTECTED

Children in Ukraine continue to face high risks of violence, exploitation and abuse whilst access to essential child protection services is reduced as a result of the ongoing conflict.

With many children suffering from the invisible wounds of witnessing their family and friends being killed or injured, as well as their homes, schools and neighbourhoods destroyed, providing mental health support to children is a priority of UNICEF teams on the ground. **UNICEF has provided vital mental health and psychosocial support to 1.4 million children and caregivers through access to specialised services, case management support and the establishment of Blue Dot hubs.**

Blue Dot Hubs

Together with the UN Refugee Agency local authorities and other partners, UNICEF has now established 40 Blue Dot hubs along refugee transit routes in refugee-hosting countries. Each hub provides a safe space for children and families, along with access to essential services and, crucially, enables teams to identify and register children travelling on their own to help reunite them with their families or connect them to protection services in their host countries.

Four-year-olds Liza and Maxim were forced to flee their homes in Kherson, south Ukraine due to the ongoing violence and shelling.

By the time they had reached Romania, both children were shell-shocked from what they'd witnessed. The sound of the wind outside of the tent scared both children, as they believed it was shelling.

This is a common occurrence with many children



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Liza and Maxim are pictured below playing together in a Blue Dot centre in Isseacea, eastern Romania.

afraid, tearful and refusing to speak when they first arrive at Blue Dot hub due to the psychosocial effects of the war.

However, like Liza and Maxim, having the opportunity to play in the hub's child friendly space is helping children begin to recover some normality and enabling them to be children again.

SPOTLIGHT ON: SPILNO INITIATIVE

The Spilno initiative has been designed to address the needs of the most vulnerable families in Ukraine - including families with children - by providing cash assistance to help them to meet their basic everyday needs.

Families can register for assistance and receive fast responses through an online platform, with successful applicants receiving an unconditional grant.

To ensure we are reaching those most in need, the initiative prioritises families with three or more children and those raising at least one child with a disability across Ukraine.

"This programme is about helping families in a crisis do what they believe is best for their children" said Murat Sahin, UNICEF Representative in Ukraine.

Since its launch in March 2022, the programme has reached **350,000 children, including 35,000** children with disabilities.



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Vira and her youngest daughter pictured here, have settled into temporary housing for displaced peoples in Lviv.

After fleeing their home in eastern Ukraine, Vira, her husband and their three children sought refuge in a modular container town for displaced families in Lviv. It was here that they applied for the help through the Spilno initiative.

"We were so desperate we sold our rings just to buy some food," says Vira. **"With the money we received through the Spilno cash assistance programme, we have enough to eat and buy medication."**

FOR EVERY CHILD EDUCATION

Every child, including those caught up in emergencies has a right to an education. Children facing and fleeing war are no exception.

Ukraine's education system has been devastated by the hostilities across the country with an estimated ten percent of all schools having been damaged or destroyed.

Despite these challenging conditions, UNICEF has been

From attacks on schools to mass displacement of students, teachers, and education staff, Ukraine's children have paid the price with their education.

working with the government of Ukraine and its partners to **help 3.7 million students to finish the 2022 academic year.**

In Ukraine, online platforms providing access to early childhood development and secondary school education were rolled out whilst **more than 288,000 children were reached with education-related supplies.**

In addition, **2,800 teachers and volunteers were trained to provide psychosocial support, socio-emotional learning and life-skills to children.**

In neighbouring countries, UNICEF is supporting host governments and municipalities to enrol children in national school systems, including daycares, nurseries



12 year-old Mariia stands in front of her school which was recently destroyed in an air strike.

and pre-schools, **helping to provide almost 250,000 children with access to education to date.**

Where space in existing systems is limited, UNICEF is partnering with local governments and organisations to establish play and learning hubs - safe spaces that provide young children with development opportunities whilst providing essential support and information to parents. **To date 60 hubs are now operational across Poland, Moldova, Romania, Bulgaria and Slovakia with another 35 currently in development.**

ESCAPING TWO WARS: RASHA'S STORY

When she was just seven, Rasha and her family fled to Ukraine from Syria to escape the ongoing conflict. 11 years later, Rasha has had to flee war again, this time leaving her home in Ukraine for the safety of Moldova.

"For a child, war is a tragedy. It's very painful to see tanks, people with guns, the ground below you shaking, and helicopters flying overhead and dropping bombs. I never imaged that this would happen again," says Rasha.

Having been forced to leave her father behind in Ukraine, Rasha arrived in Moldova with her mother and siblings, where she began attending a UNICEF-supported youth centre.

It was here that Rasha made friends with Julia, a dedicated youth worker.



Rasha dreams of becoming a doctor and hopes to study at the Medical University in Ukraine.

"I immediately felt comfortable at the centre because Julia was so open with me. Here, it's a chance for young people like me to be more free after such a difficult time in Ukraine," says Rasha.

More than 20,000 young people like Rasha have been reached by non-formal education programmes in UNICEF-supported youth centres across Moldova, enabling young people to continue learning despite the crisis and helping to integrate refugees into the local community.

PROTECTING CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

There are now more than 6.5 million refugees from Ukraine, in what is the single largest displacement crisis in the world. To match the scale of this crisis, UNICEF is using its global presence, and existing relationships to provide a urgent response in 13 refugee-hosting countries.

Working with governments as well as national and local partners across Europe, we are reaching refugee children and their families with essential services and protection during this most uncertain of times.

Whilst our teams work to respond to the immediate needs of refugee families, our strategic partnerships are also enabling us to build for the future. We are helping to strengthen national and local child protection systems, expand preschool and national education capacities, and improve health systems -- structural changes that will benefit refugee and local children alike, today and for a long time after this crisis.

SPOTLIGHT ON: POLAND

Since the start of the war, half of all border crossings from Ukraine have been into Poland, where **more than two million refugees are currently being hosted.**

In response, UNICEF has expanded our close relationships with partners and key networks in the country to help reach **more than 700,000 refugee women and children with access to essential services.**

Your support has been vital in achieving this, enabling UNICEF to establish a number of initiatives across Poland, designed to help children to continue their development and regain some level of normality.

Spynkas

To address the lack of space and trained personnel to



Viktoria and her friend Maria enjoy the swings at one of the UNICEF-supported 'Spynka' day-care centres in Poland.

support young refugee children, a series of Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centres, 'Spynkas', have been established by UNICEF, offering childcare services for parents and caregivers as well providing children with an opportunity to play, interact and feel a sense of normalcy.

To date, 28 Spynkas have been established, reaching almost 2,000 children with essential ECD services.

Integrating refugee and host communities

Organised by UNICEF, Summer Camp activities are helping to integrate refugee children from Ukraine into

Nine-year-olds Anna and Sofia moved to Poland from Kyiv in March, soon after war broke out and have become close friends through UNICEF's summer camp programme in Krakow.



their new environment.

As part of the initiative, children take part in catch-up learning, educational games, skills development activities, Polish language classes, as well as outdoor sports activities. By involving them in different activities and exposing them to Polish culture, children from Ukraine are better prepared for the upcoming start of the new school year.

Reaching children across Europe

Other examples of how you are helping UNICEF to reach refugee children and their families wherever they are include:

In Romania, where UNICEF has partnered with the Independent Midwives Association to support health services for 2,000 refugees across six cities.

In Slovakia, where access to 24/7, free of charge and anonymous counselling has been provided in partnership with the NGO Child Safety Line.

In Moldova, where more than 60,000 refugees have received cash assistance to help them to meet their basic daily needs.

In Serbia, where UNICEF has distributed essential hygiene items, including 91,500 nappies for refugees and migrants.

LOOKING FORWARD

The activities, stories and examples of our work included here have only been possible thanks to the incredible generosity of supporters like you.

Your support has enabled UNICEF and partners to quickly scale up our work in Ukraine and establish critical services and initiatives in refugee hosting countries, providing a vital lifeline to millions of children and their families.



29-year-old Yevheniya outdoors with her six-month-old son Yehor in a carrier. Thanks to UNICEF, Yevheniya learned how to keep her baby healthy even in the midst of violence and displacement.

Despite the incredible achievements of the past six months, there is still a much more work that needs to be done.

As the conflict continues and even more people are forced to flee their homes, additional support is needed across the region. This is especially important as we approach the winter months and the additional risks and challenges for refugee children and their families that this weather brings with it.

In the face of these new challenges, UNICEF has renewed its commitment to stay and deliver for the children of Ukraine. Our teams have been on the ground in Ukraine and across the region for more than 25 years and will continue to deliver throughout the war and beyond.

But, we can only meet the growing needs over the coming weeks and months through the continued generosity of supporters like you.

Help us to prepare for Winter

As temperatures begin to plummet, the damage caused to houses, hospitals and other vital infrastructure, combined with a lack of access to sufficient electricity and fuel will leave many families struggling to stay warm, putting the lives of the most vulnerable children across the country at risk.

With your support, UNICEF can prepare for this upcoming winter and help protect children from the cold, particularly in areas devastated by war.

As part of UNICEF's winterisation work, we will be distributing winter clothes, blankets and other non-food items as well as scaling up our cash transfers programme and supporting schools and hospitals to help finance heating, maintenance and repair costs.

In addition to preparing for the upcoming winter months, **your continued support will provide UNICEF with the flexible funding that is so vital in times of crisis, enabling our teams to adapt quickly to the situation and meet the needs of every child.**

As we look ahead, above all, UNICEF will continue to advocate for an end to the hostilities. Children across the globe need an end to this war as the indirect impact of the conflict continues to worsen the already devastating situation in countries including Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Yemen.

The war in Ukraine has contributed to pushing global food prices to an all time high, making nutritious food unaffordable for the poorest families and putting millions more children at risk of life-threatening malnutrition.

This can be seen most acutely in the Horn of Africa where the rising food insecurity as a result of the war have collided with historic level droughts to cause mass displacement and a dangerous lack of access to safe water, nutrition, and healthcare in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya.

Thank You.

Six months of brutal conflict have upturned the lives of children and families across Ukraine. During this most critical of times, your support has been vital, helping to reach millions with a vital lifeline and provide hope amidst the chaos. Thank You.

As the fighting continues to escalate in the east and south of the country, your continued support is more important than ever. If you would like any more information on our emergency response in Ukraine and the surrounding area or how you can provide additional support to our Ukraine appeal then please do get in touch.