

Sustained support

Relief, recovery and resilience efforts in Ukraine and neighboring countries

Thanks to your continued commitment to Ukraine, we've mobilized USD 58.4 million for the Ukraine Relief Fund as of the end of 2023. We've committed USD 42 million to help 24 partners provide relief, recovery and resilience services.



Art therapy class at the Informal Education Center Diversity, a community-based NGO in Moldova supported through the Global Fund For Children

The need for ongoing support

In the third year of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, the humanitarian crisis persists, demanding a strategic and adaptive response. The UN reports that over 14.6 million people – about 40 percent of the Ukrainian population – still need humanitarian assistance. Families and children face increasingly complex challenges as they grapple with displacement, economic instability and disrupted access to essential services. The evolving dynamics of the conflict demand a nuanced approach that goes beyond immediate relief efforts to address the deeper, long-term impact on the well-being and prospects of affected communities.

Recent developments have underscored the importance of building local capacity and resilience. The protracted nature of the crisis has not only strained healthcare and education systems – it's also heightened the need for sustainable solutions that empower communities to navigate the challenges independently. Economic uncertainty and security concerns add an urgency to this need.

The UBS Optimus Foundation continues to strengthen its focus on building local capacity and resilience. In collaboration

with trusted partners, we're shifting from emergency relief efforts to initiatives that empower communities to respond dynamically to local challenges. This strategic shift is grounded in the belief that by fostering local resilience, we can contribute to sustainable positive change in the lives of those affected by the conflict.

Want to learn more about why it's important to continue to allocate funding beyond the acute stage of a crisis? Read our guide: [We need to help: Thoughtful philanthropy in response to humanitarian crises](#)

Where we've focused our efforts

We've committed USD 42 million to support 24 programs (some of which are featured on the following pages) that help address a variety of needs, including emergency humanitarian aid, education continuity, healthcare, psychosocial support and social protection.

As we move into this third year, we're doubling down on supporting mental health as Ukrainian families live with protracted trauma and prolonged uncertainty. We're also focused on education continuity for children affected by the conflict. Small local organizations are the main target of support, to help build that sustainable resilience needed.

A mental health crisis

The war in Ukraine has had a profound impact on the mental health of its people, with millions directly affected by the conflict experiencing trauma, loss and displacement. This has led to a surge in mental health problems, including anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that one in five Ukrainians – about 9.6 million people – may be experiencing such problems. The risk is especially high among children and adolescents, who are more vulnerable to the psychological effects of trauma. Many women also carry a large burden, not knowing the whereabouts of soldier partners while taking on added responsibilities as they navigate life as internally displaced individuals.

Mental health carries a significant stigma among Ukrainians, with a mental health system that was already strained before the war. The destruction of healthcare infrastructure, displacement of mental health professionals and shortage of resources make it difficult to provide adequate mental healthcare to those in need. Improving capacity here will be paramount in the coming months.

Building the capacity of local NGOs

The **Global Fund for Children (GFC)** provides funding and capacity building support to Ukrainian NGOs working with vulnerable children to provide humanitarian assistance, including safe shelter, medicine, evacuation, psychosocial assistance and educational access. GFC supports local organizations primarily in Ukraine but also grassroots organizations in Croatia, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania and Serbia.

Your support has helped GFC's efforts, which include:

- 76 grassroots organizations supported with 140 grants totaling USD 3 million
- Over 50,000 children and youth engaged, including over 7,500 with disabilities

GFC partner **Lyceum Educator** saw how war-related electrical shutdowns at homes in Kyiv were prompting children to study in coffee shops, stores and even gas stations. So, the organization created the Education Energy co-learning space in early January 2023. This free learning space with reliable power and internet connectivity offers students a place to study, communicate with peers, and receive support from tutors and teachers.

Lightful offers digital products and services that simplify and amplify the work of grassroots NGOs. Lightful created Building Resilience in Digital Growth and Engagement (BRIDGE), a capacity-building program that builds confidence in three key areas – strategy, storytelling and digital confidence – so that grassroots NGOs gain the knowledge, understanding and experience to reach more people and raise more funds.

Your support has helped Lightful's efforts, which include:

- 174 Ukrainian grassroots NGOs participated in Lightful's digital bootcamp
- 58 grassroots NGOs benefitted from the BRIDGE program – with 1:1 coaching, e-learning courses and live sessions – where participants' fundraising confidence increased by 30%

OutcomesX is piloting the use of outcomes purchasing to channel funding to grassroots Ukrainian NGOs. OutcomesX has contracted USD 2 million worth of outcomes from 24 local organizations that will deliver improved learning outcomes and better mental health for children.

Your support has helped OutcomesX's efforts, which include:

- 5274 children benefitted from improved learning outcomes from interventions provided by three contracted NGOs: Children's Future, STEM Osvita and the Ukrainian Union of People with Disabilities
- 2465 children exhibited improved mental health from services provided by five contracted NGOs: Family Plus, Hope Worldwide, Kharkiv Regional Charitable Foundation Academy, NGO Girls and Public Movement for Empowering Women in Ukraine

OutcomesX contracted for outcomes in math learning from **STEM Osvita**, which is using the Finnish digital math tool Eduten to help Ukrainian primary school students overcome learning losses. Eduten is a gamified and AI-based exercise platform that provides scientifically proven improvement in learning, teacher wellbeing and student motivation. It's used in 61% of schools in Finland and present in over 50 countries elsewhere.

In the first half of 2023, the program reached 7,213 Ukrainian primary school students, with almost two-thirds of them achieving a positive outcome from the program (scoring above average relative to peers not in the program). The cost? Only USD 19 per positive outcome.

Maintaining education continuity

Street Child is partnering with the Moldovan government to ensure access to essential early education for refugee learners from Ukraine while expanding access to equitable, quality early education for learners from Moldova and Ukraine. Street Child is working with an established network of local organizations through the Alliance for NGOs, in collaboration with the National Institute for Early Intervention and Step by Step Moldova.

Your support has helped Street Child's efforts, which include:

- Expansion of early education centers in Chisinau, Cojuşna, Dănceni, Glodeni and Rascani to accommodate arrival of Ukrainian refugee children
- Consultations with caregivers, children, educators and education authorities to ascertain early education needs, with calls for applications from local level authorities aspiring to expand early education

Teach For Ukraine is a partner in the global Teach For All network. Based in Kyiv, the organization delivers catch-up learning and psychosocial support through a technologically enhanced tutoring program spanning 6 to 8 weeks. This initiative is designed to benefit Ukrainian students in grades 5 through 10 who have experienced disruptions to their education due to the impact of the war. By leveraging technology, Teach For Ukraine strives to address the critical problem of learning losses and provide essential psychosocial aid to students affected by the turmoil. The Ukrainian government has demonstrated interest in adapting and incorporating the successful elements of Teach For Ukraine's model into the national education system.

Your support has helped Teach For Ukraine's efforts, which include:

- 6037 children regularly benefitting from distance learning and psycho-social support
- 454 system teachers trained as tutors.

War Child Holland supports children who live with the effects of armed conflict, specializing in child protection, education and psychosocial support. War Child Holland's Can't Wait to Learn offline, self-paced learning application helps to guide grades 1-4 children through government-approved curricula in math and reading. In collaboration with partner organizations, War Child Holland continues to adapt their program to the context of the Ukrainian crisis, based on the national Ukrainian curriculum, for use both within and outside Ukraine.

Your support has helped War Child Holland's efforts, which include:

- 85,353 downloads of Can't Wait to Learn app with 19,101 engaged users (those spending over 20 minutes per month in the app) benefitting



Children using War Child Holland's Can't Wait to Learn app

Supporting health and psychosocial services

Crown Agents has been at the forefront of the crisis in Ukraine since February 2022. It has been working to rehabilitate health facilities in Ukraine, procure medical equipment and provide support to civil society organizations.

Your support has helped Crown Agents' efforts, which include:

- Over GBP 1.4 million worth of life-saving medical equipment for perinatal centers and neonatal intensive care units in Ukraine procured
- 20 healthcare facilities in seven regions of rehabilitated



Mala Rohan healthcare facility, before and after

"After living in the occupation, patients have a lot of problems with anxiety, insomnia and heartache. Almost everyone needs help. Myocardial infarctions and strokes have become more frequent. Many problems started already after people returned home after the occupation. And it is so important that our facility starts working again: it is warm and absolutely repaired, people can come here and receive support and treatment."

Tetyana Panska, family doctor, Mala Rohan healthcare facility

Project HOPE has opened seven in-country offices in Dnipro, Kyiv, Lviv, Odesa, Kharkiv, Kherson and Kramatorsk to provide health-focused humanitarian aid for Ukrainians while building capacity for basic medical and mental health services. Project HOPE has delivered gravely needed medicines and medical supplies, while also supporting the health system with mobile medical units (MMUs), rehabilitation of health facilities and safe spaces for children.

Your support has helped Project HOPE's efforts, which include:

- 406 facilities supported, including 314 health facilities, 11 internally displaced people (IDP) centers, 49 local administrations and 19 local nonprofits
- 102,946 medical consultations provided to 29,742 Ukrainians through its 14 MMUs
- 2,695 people (including 305 children) received mental health services, including gender-based violence response services for 771 Ukrainians



Project HOPE provides care at an MMU in Yevhenivka, Mykolaiv

World Health Organization (WHO) is collaborating with the Ukrainian Ministry of Health and other health emergency organizations to deliver medical support in Ukraine and neighboring countries. WHO is providing operational support for hospitals and health facilities, coordinating the deployment of EMTs, delivering lifesaving medical supplies, supporting referrals for patients within Ukraine or in the European Union, and coordinating the global health response.

Your support has helped WHO's efforts, which include:

- Over 1,400 tons of medical supplies to treat over 1.9 million people
- 135 generators and 129 ambulances provided
- In-person or online trainings provided for over 13,000 healthcare workers in Ukraine and refugee host countries

Protecting vulnerable children

Hope and Homes for Children (HHC) develops services and policies to protect children and their families, prioritizing family-based care over orphanages and promoting family reunification. HHC is providing support to families at risk of separation through cash transfers, essential supplies, learning spaces, psychosocial support and help in finding housing.

Your support has helped HHC's efforts, which include:

- 80,247 people provided essential supplies
- 5,525 children and youth provided learning spaces
- 863 professionals trained to provide psychosocial support
- 525 children evacuated from orphanages and placed in properly supported and monitored emergency family care



Children at an HHC learning space

Lumos is working on both humanitarian aid and longer-term development programming to prevent family separation and protect children. The goal is to contribute to the implementation of holistic care reform in Ukraine that promotes the best interests of children and protect their rights to grow up in families. Lumos has shown itself to be a powerful actor by setting up and leading the Ukraine International Advocacy Taskforce to develop and promote advocacy initiatives and sensitize policy makers, professionals and the general public to prioritize the child protection agenda in recovery policy, programs and plans.

Your support has helped Lumos's efforts, which include:

- 3,000 families supported to prevent separation
- 8,000 people (50% children) received psychosocial support
- Continued humanitarian aid while participating in care reform at national, regional and community levels

Helping out civilians with security and economic support

CIVIC has made meaningful progress in its efforts to protect civilians in conflict-affected communities in Ukraine. CIVIC collaborates with civilians to bring their protection concerns directly to those in power, with a specific focus on high-risk areas and newly liberated regions. Since the beginning of the implementation, CIVIC has worked in seven communities in two oblasts, or regions, with plans to grow to twelve new communities in up to five new oblasts.

Your support has helped CIVIC's efforts, which include:

- Community protection groups established in seven communities of Poltava and Sumy, with a total population of over half a million people, where 28 coordinated meetings have resulted in concrete protection measures
- 274 representatives of local authorities and relevant security actors participated in CIVIC's capacity-building events to effectively address civilians' protection needs
- 1745 civilians and 46 protection actors were trained in protection and first aid
- 3512 children in conflict-affected communities received support and improved protection, including the training of 103 children on protection measures



CIVIC first aid training conducted by NGO Tvii Svit in Lubny, Poltava

CIVIC community survey results

88% indicated a significant increase in their level of knowledge regarding self-protection practices

63% experienced improved protection from better access to bomb shelters, more reliable security information and increased reach of air raid alerts

54% believe local authorities had improved preparedness to protect civilians from further escalation

Depaul Ukraine was long established in Ukraine prior to the war, addressing the issue of homelessness. Depaul is currently working in Kharkiv, Kyiv, Odesa and Ivano-Frankivsk with a holistic approach that provides a combination of housing support, cash assistance and psychosocial support.

Your support has helped Depaul's efforts, which include:

- Three children's centers in Odesa and Mykolaiv enrolled 306 children aged 4-16 in their three-month program
- Repairs made to 152 homes for winterization, preventing homelessness for an estimated 380 people
- 461 people received crucial cash transfers

The **International Rescue Committee (IRC)** and its partners are assisting displaced Ukrainians, with a special focus on women, youth, children, sexual assault survivors, the elderly and people with disabilities. The IRC continues to focus efforts inside Ukraine but also provides support to refugees in Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, the United Kingdom and the United States. The IRC works with refugees in Germany through its *Healing Classrooms* project, training early childhood development (ECD) educators to help children cope with trauma.

Your support has helped IRC's efforts, which include:

- People reached by protection services and information: 456,853
- People supported with essential goods: 191,129
- Provision of cash and vouchers: 129,324
- People supported through IRC's health services: 78,879
- Over 100 ECD professionals in Germany trained on trauma and pedagogical approaches, with educational materials available online to reach many more



IRC Germany supports community events through the Frühling project, like this garden event bringing newly arrived families with young children together.

World Jewish Relief has implemented the Building Stronger Families (BSF) program in Western Ukraine (Lviv and Uzhhorod) as well as in Khmelnytskyi, Sumy and Kharkiv oblasts, or regions. The BSF program supports disadvantaged families with complex needs to build lives of self-reliance and dignity, providing their children with the stability and support they need.

Your support has helped World Jewish Relief's efforts, which include:

- 64 families supported
- 111 children received psychosocial support
- Children in the BSF program showed an increase from 17% to 63% corresponding to the norm in terms of psychological well-being

New program partner

Complexity Science Hub Vienna uses mathematics, modelling, data and computer science to solve hard societal questions – in this case, equipping Ukrainian refugees to transfer industrial know-how to post-war Ukraine. Only about 40% of the millions of working-age Ukrainian refugees have found employment abroad, and most of them would like to return home. In the first phase, the team will conduct various analyses to identify strategic industrial bets for Ukraine and ascertain the skills, interests and aspects of vulnerability of the Ukrainian refugee communities in Austria and Germany.

The team will work in Austria and Germany to form partnerships with companies that have investment plans in Ukraine and are interested in training refugees, while also ensuring investments match Ukrainian Ministry of Economy reconstruction goals. The first phase will be considered successful if the team forms partnerships with companies that are strategically important for Ukraine's economy and commit to train or employ at least 100 Ukrainian refugees.

UBS Community Impact

For nearly 70 years, UBS Community Impact has been committed to maximizing impact in the communities where we live and work, with a strategic focus on education and the development of skills. UBS Community Impact focuses on supporting young people and adults to learn and develop skills that will further their economic and social inclusion through strategic financial support and employee volunteering. Below are some efforts made through UBS Community Impact to help those affected by the crisis in Ukraine.

UBS Community Impact Poland

There are almost a million Ukrainian refugees estimated to be living in Poland. Immediate humanitarian response efforts by UBS Community Impact Poland included grants to **Polish Humanitarian Action (PAH), Internationaler Bund Polska, Social Enterprises Co-operatives – Community Kitchen** and **Fundacja Opieka i Troska - Center for Refugees**. Several more grants were given later in 2022 aimed at recovery and long-term support for refugees, including grants to **Hearty Foundation, Stella Virium** and **wESpol project**.

An example of how they've been making impact? The Stay with Ukraine project organized by **Hearty Foundation** aims to provide refugees from Ukraine with employment support and facilitate a new start in Poland. The program offers language courses, psychological and professional support for adults, as well as individual scholarships, tutoring in school subjects, psychological help and art classes for children in Wroclaw.

Your support has helped Hearty Foundation's efforts, which include:

- 459 adults and 365 children and teenagers benefitted
- 241 teenagers and adults received Polish language courses
- 20 educational grants received by beneficiaries
- 40 UBS volunteers acted as language tandem partners, simulated interviews leads and animators for children

UBS Community Impact Switzerland

More than 60,000 refugees from Ukraine are in Switzerland. Immediate humanitarian response efforts by UBS Community Impact Switzerland included grants to **Amicizia dei Popoli**, **Caritas** and **Croix-Rouge genevoise**. Also supported were organizations helping refugees deal with trauma, including **Pro Juventute**, **Swiss Red Cross** and **Sportegration**. The bulk of support has gone toward supporting language and work integration, with grants to **Capacity**, **Caritas**, **HEKS**, **HiCoders**, **Hope**, **LernAtelier**, **Powercoders**, **Rock Your Life**, **The Büz**, and **Young Enterprise Switzerland**.

Your support has helped these efforts in Switzerland, which include:

- 9,783 refugees benefitted
- 23 refugees participated in the Powercoders program, with 16 employed (including two at UBS)
- Gastro Go project by **Hope and The Büz** had a 50% success rate with half of the participants finding a job right after the program

A partner in the news: [NZZ](#) featured a story about the **Capacity** Access program and one of the participants, Olena Vorobchenko.