

Can't wait to learn

Education for conflict-affected children, **Ukraine and neighboring countries**

Forced to leave their homes or remaining in Ukraine, where their school is destroyed, thousands of children are missing out on education. War Child developed an evidence based EdTech program to meet the immediate and longer-term needs of conflict-affected children who are out of school.

The problem

Approximately half of the Ukrainian refugees are school-aged children. This has massive implications for school systems of host countries and the sudden incorporation of large numbers of refugee children poses a range of challenges. It has the potential to stretch school system capacities and damage teacher-student ratios. Children often face difficulties including adjusting to a new school, coping with trauma, dealing with language barriers and navigating curriculum differences. Teachers are often insufficiently trained on addressing these challenges. In Ukraine, it is estimated that 5.7 million children within Ukraine are out of school due to school closures.

The partner

War Child Holland is a non-governmental organization active in 19 countries where children live with the effects of armed conflict. It has specialized in the areas of child protection, education, and psychosocial support.

The philanthropic solution

Can't Wait To Learn (CWTL) is an offline self-paced educational game accessed on tablets that guide children through government-approved curricula in math and reading, grade 1

to grade 4. In a first phase, the program will be fully adapted to the context of the Ukrainian crisis through the development of gamified learning content covering the national Ukrainian curriculum. Then, War Child will embed the program in host communities including setting up educational spaces and source equipment in collaboration with local partner organizations, who will deliver and maintain the program on the ground.

The evidence

Over the past decade of implementation, a series of studies were conducted confirming the effectiveness of CWTL. Among other studies, quasi-experimental research in Sudan, two evaluation studies in Jordan and a before-and-after study in Lebanon showed large and statistically significant effects on mathematics and reading outcomes for out-of-school children. The quasi-experimental study in Lebanon showed that the program also had positive effects on children's psychological wellbeing and self-esteem.

The impact

- 40,000 Ukrainian primary school-age children receive quality education in math and reading based on the Ukrainian curriculum and in their mother tongue

Source: War Child Holland

All programmatic data provided by Jacobs Foundation. The UBS Optimus Foundation is a grant-making foundation that offers UBS clients a platform to use their wealth to drive positive social and environmental change. The Foundation selects programs that improve children's health, education and protection, ones that have the potential to be transformative, scalable and sustainable as well as programs tackling environmental and climate issues.

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