

Humanitarian action for children

Holistic support for displaced children, **Ukraine and neighboring countries**

Children in Ukraine and those living as refugees, including unaccompanied and separated children, urgently require protection. Psychosocial services and prevention of trafficking, sexual and labor exploitation and abuse, along with critical health, nutrition, education, WASH services and livelihoods and social support. UNICEF provides multi-sectoral life-saving support for children and their families.

The problem

The war in Ukraine has uprooted children and families from their homes, creating a child protection and child's rights emergency. Over 11 million people have fled their homes¹; nearly a quarter of the total population of Ukraine. The majority have been internally displaced. 90 percent of refugees are women and children, seeking protection and requiring critical assistance in neighboring countries and beyond.

The partner

UNICEF works with governments, UNHCR, other UN agencies, civil society organizations and engages with national networks and youth to ensure humanitarian, programmatic and advocacy support for children and their families staying in refugee hosting countries. UNICEF's response prioritizes working through national and local systems where possible.

The philanthropic solution

UNICEF's response addresses five key areas:

- Establishment of 'Blue Dot' centers to provide critical support and protection services for children and families, including provision of technical support for registration, screening, case management and referrals, family tracing for unaccompanied children, psychosocial support and prevention and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.
- Provision of education and recreational supplies for children and adolescents; facilitate access to temporary learning, recreational and early childhood development activities; support host-government in coordination and integration of children into national education systems.

- Provision of essential health services for mothers and children, including promotion of vaccination, infant and young child feeding, provision of essential commodities, including vaccines, health supplies, medicines, and micronutrient supplements.
- Provision of temporary water and sanitation services, distribution of critical hygiene and dignity products for families, women and children, support infection prevention and hygiene promotion.
- Support for multi-purpose cash interventions for vulnerable households with children, including strengthening capacity of national social protection systems to integrate refugee children.

The evidence

UNICEF acts as a catalyst to bring robust emergency response expertise to the existing response systems, with a focus on immediate needs in protection, health, education, and well-being of children and women.

The impact

UNICEF's multi-sectoral response aims to reach:

- 5.3 million children and women accessing health care
- 2.2 million children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support
- 1.2 million children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning

All programmatic data provided by UNICEF. 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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