



Save the Children

## HUMANITARIAN FUND:

### THE UKRAINE CRISIS - SIX MONTHS ON

Six months after the escalation of violence in Ukraine, the war continues to put the lives of children in grave danger in Ukraine, whilst also placing at risk and traumatising those displaced in countries across Europe.

Since the beginning of the war, more than 1,000 children have been killed or injured in Ukraine. In addition, almost two thirds of children were forced to flee their homes in the first 100 days of the war. Save the Children and the Humanitarian Fund (HF) have been providing life-saving assistance to children and families both in Ukraine and across Europe.

### What we are doing:

The HF has received an unprecedented amount of flexible funds for the response, with over \$97.9 million secured since the start of the war. This generous support has allowed us to scale up to meet the needs of children across all impacted countries.

The funds have been allocated towards the emergency response in Ukraine, as well as to support countries receiving refugees from Ukraine. The funding is allocated in coordination with the Save the Children International (SCI) Middle East, North Africa and Eastern Europe (MENAEE) regional office (RO) to ensure funds are distributed to where the needs are the greatest, taking into consideration the complex and evolving nature of the crisis.

Antin\* 8, from Ukraine at the school in Romania that has been turned into dorms for refugees from Ukraine.

Photo: Save the Children



Over **10.3 million** people in Ukraine and

**7 million** are displaced within the country



Over **461,000** people reached in Ukraine, Poland, Romania and Lithuania since February



Over **\$97.9 million** has been channelled to the Ukraine crisis through the HF

## Receiving Support in Ukraine

Antonina\* is two years old, and she evacuated Kharkiv, Ukraine with her parents in March 2022. They are now renting an apartment in Dnipro.

All of Antonina's\* family and friends have fled their home and are now scattered across Ukraine and Europe. Antonina's\* mother Dana\* explains that Antonina\* had been very scared by the bombing and they often had to hide in the cellar. She says her nieces and nephews, who are older than her daughter, have a better understanding of what is going on and ask questions like whether they will die soon.

Antonina\* has struggled to understand what happened, but is now feeling more settled because she has made new friends at the local playground. Dana\* hopes to return home with her daughter as soon as it is safe to do so.

Dana\* and Antonina\* received essential supplies and a hygiene kit via Save the Children partner organisation Smile UA/Pomagaem. Antonina\* also received a soft toy animal.

\*Names changed to protect identity



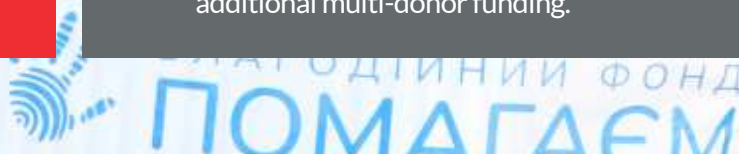
## Addressing the Gaps and Unmet Needs

The HF has received and allocated funds for Ukraine and the refugee response throughout the past six months, supporting the ongoing needs of affected children and families. However, flexible funding provided by the HF at the start of the crisis was particularly valuable, as it ensured countries were able to set up responses and fill crucial gaps before other sources of funding became available.

- **Urgent response set-up, scale-up and programme adaptation:** In countries with pre-existing programming, such as Ukraine and Romania, HF funding enabled the countries to rapidly adapt and respond to the changing context. This included strengthening local partner organisations, hiring additional staff, setting up offices in new locations and starting to deliver essential services. In Poland, which had no prior Save the Children presence, the HF provided the initial funds needed to establish operations and kick-start the response. In both cases, funding from the HF ensured that responses could be launched as soon as possible, before other sources of funding were available.
- **Backstopping and surge support:** The MENAEE RO has played a crucial role in scaling up the responses in Ukraine, Poland, Romania and Lithuania. From the first days of the crisis, and in coordination with the Global Expertise and Humanitarian Surge Platform, quality surge support has been provided to all responses. Funding from the HF was essential, as institutional funding is less readily available for this type of regional coordination and support.
- **Leveraging funds:** SCI's early response and support to local partners in Ukraine through flexible funds helped showcase our presence at the grassroots level, which in turn helped secure additional multi-donor funding.

Antonina\*, 2 and a half, with her mother Dana\*, 29 getting their essential supplies in Ukraine

Photo: Save the Children





**Daria\*, 12, painting in a session at a Summer Camp in Poland**

Photo: Paul Wu/Save the Children

## Making New Friends in Poland

Daria\* is 12 and fled Ukraine with her mother to Poland. Originally they lived with a Polish family who cared for them for several months, but now Daria's\* mother has secured a flat and they have moved in.

Daria\* is attending a Summer Camp in Poland supported by Save the Children. The camp brings children from Poland and Ukraine together and helps them form new friendships in their community. The children can participate in many fun activities, such as sports, crafts, relaxation sessions and field trips, whilst practicing their language skills. The children from Ukraine also have the support of a psychologist to help them with their mental health and wellbeing after being displaced by the war.

Daria\* is enjoying the camp and has made new friends. She especially likes playing volleyball and practising dancing, which she used to take classes in when she lived in Ukraine.

"Thanks to being at the camp, I have met new friends, I have spent more time communicating with others, and have spoken more Polish with Polish children," Daria\* says. "I am happy because there are a lot of sport activities, and I am also happy because I found new friends."

# Enabling Innovative Responses

In addition to supporting the urgent scale-up of responses across Europe, funds from the HF have enabled Save the Children to launch several innovative projects in response to the Ukraine crisis. Many of these projects are cross-border initiatives utilising digital technologies that aim to address the needs of children on the move.

## Universal Cash Assistance Network (UCAN)

With funding from the HF, SCI launched digital hubs in Ukraine, Poland and Romania, enabling SCI to provide support for children and their caregivers from arrival. This has been translated into a quicker registration and eligibility check for cash assistance, an internal referral mechanism with a focus on child protection, and child protection support through provision of information, parenting advice, mental health and psychosocial support, and safety. UCAN aims to operate across borders to provide multi-purpose cash assistance, protection and additional modular support to children and caregivers through the use of digital technology.

## Joined-Up European and Regional Response

Save the Children operates in 14 countries in Europe to which refugees from Ukraine have fled. This presents an opportunity to drive forward initiatives across most or all contexts where we are working with Ukrainian children and their families. These include the following:

1. Advocating for putting emphasis of children's specific needs and priorities, raising the voices of children and influencing the policies of European governments
2. Developing the 'Parenting on the Move' toolkits and approaches in the Ukraine refugee context, with an aim to generate evidence of their efficacy
3. Adapting the 'Steps to Protect' common approach to children moving across borders and test and scale its application through partnerships with local authorities, civil society and volunteers
4. Developing and deploying a safe, mobile device-friendly platform co-created with adolescents to support integration and social inclusion to best serve their needs
5. Developing and implementing an MHPSS evidence-generation approach, resulting in programmatic guidance and training modules.



**Kyrylo\*, 3, plays in the child safe space in a community centre in Ukraine**

Photo: Save the Children