UNICEF Refugee response programme results

Since the start of the response, UNICEF has worked closely with national, regional and local authorities to expand services in child protection, education, health and nutrition, WASH, and social protection. UNICEF’s work integrates social cohesion, gender and disability, and accountability to affected populations.

In the spotlight

Since June 2022, UNICEF cash assistance worth EUR 10,850,000 reached 21,520 Ukrainian households in Slovakia. Several cash grants – material needs benefits, carer's grants for families with children with disabilities and education grants – provided crucial support for Ukrainian families. Most recently two rounds of winterization grants supported Ukrainian families to cope with soaring energy prices and other winter-related costs.

Beneficiaries expressed strong satisfaction with the assistance received – with cash mainly spent on basic needs and children's needs and having a positive impact on food security (as per post distribution monitoring / impact monitoring data).

Two grants were successfully transferred to the government in 2022. In 2023, UNICEF will continue to provide targeted cash support to enable children and families to access education, health, and protection.

A Ukrainian child runs in the courtyard of a Play and Learning Hub in Bratislava.
Delivering through partnerships

Central Government partnerships 6
Youth networks 4
Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) 17
Municipal partnerships

Source: UNICEF (as of 15/02/2023)

Since early 2022, UNICEF formed 29 partnerships with government institutions, civil society organizations, municipalities and academia in Slovakia. Through strategic partnerships at national and subnational levels, UNICEF supports the strengthening and expanding of national child protection, education, health, and social protection systems, as well as social inclusion interventions, for Ukrainian children and women as well as vulnerable host communities in Slovakia.

UNICEF also works with municipalities to scale up services at the local level, supporting programming, planning and coordination and strengthening the provision of child-friendly services for the inclusion of refugee children. Finally, partnerships with civil society organizations have enabled UNICEF to support service delivery and expand and complement the coverage of government programmes, including by filling existing gaps in the social sector.

Delivering through national systems

With many drivers of complexity, multiple stakeholders, strong socio-economic conditions and robust government structures in refugee hosting countries, UNICEF adopted a system strengthening humanitarian approach. This involved working with Government at national and sub-national levels to make sure established, but overstretched national services and systems, were expanded to host refugee inflows - bridging humanitarian and development interventions. Through this, immediate emergency needs were met while ensuring longer-term investment in addressing systemic causes of vulnerability – poverty, inequality and lack of functioning accountability systems – expanding the humanitarian response and building resilience.

Looking ahead

The UNICEF team walks inside the Blue Dot in Bratislava.

In 2023, UNICEF will expand cooperation with municipalities to promote the social inclusion of Ukrainians and social cohesion within local communities. UNICEF will support the national social and child protection response to ensure proactive outreach, especially to children with disabilities and unaccompanied and separated children. To promote quality education and inclusion of Ukrainian children, UNICEF will support teachers and schools and create opportunities to involve out-of-school children and adolescents in different learning pathways. Moreover, UNICEF will advocate for full access of Ukrainians to health services, the expansion of existing mother and child health services, and the integration of Ukrainian health workers in the Slovak health system.

For additional information on UNICEF’s 2023 Humanitarian response for children outside of Ukraine please visit UNICEF Ukraine 2023 Humanitarian Action for Children.

Stories about our work

Four-year-old Pavel is one of the children with disabilities who attend a UNICEF-supported play and learning hub in Dubravka, Bratislava. When Pavel was two years old, he was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and a speech delay. Together with his mother Inna and sister Alexandra, Pavel fled his hometown of Kharkiv, Ukraine when the war escalated in early 2022. Once in Slovakia, Inna enrolled her son Pavel as it was the only place that could provide support for her child to continue learning in his native language Ukrainian. Here, Pavel is followed by a therapist and an educator who provide additional support. “He now runs to school with joy. We have a game – let’s run to kindergarten! And he is so happy. He runs and jumps, he is really having a lot of fun here,” Inna says.

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Funding requirements for 2023

TOTAL US $31,746,351

Health & Nutrition 5%
Education (incl ECD & ADAP) 15%
Child Protection (GBV, PSEA) 23%
Social Policy (including humanitarian cash) 56%


Source: UNICEF