

18 months of war for Ukraine's children

Ukraine's children and their families have endured 18 months of forced displacement, unthinkable loss, and relentless violence since the escalation of war in February 2022. At least 545 children have been killed – the equivalent of a child dying every day since the war escalated, mostly from bombardment. At least 1,156 children have been injured.¹

Kindergartens, schools, hospitals, and sources of water and energy have been damaged and destroyed by shelling, leaving children without access to education and health care, and putting lives at risk. Only one third of schoolchildren are learning fully in person. The rest are either learning through a mixture of online and in-person or fully online.² Three-quarters of preschool age children in frontline areas are not attending kindergarten³, robbing them of the opportunity to build a strong foundation for learning.

Nearly two thirds of Ukraine's children have been forced to flee their homes⁴. Some have fled alone, exposing them to abuse, abduction, sexual exploitation, and human trafficking. Fear, anxiety, and grief associated with violence, loss of loved ones, separation from family, and displacement persist in children's daily lives, leaving them struggling to cope. Many children who have sought refuge in neighbouring countries remain without access to education, healthcare, and protection services.

As refugee children and families face the growing possibility of long-term displacement, anti-refugee sentiment fueled by rhetoric, policies and practices that divide societies is also growing across countries, adding to exclusion and deprivation experienced by refugee children and their families.

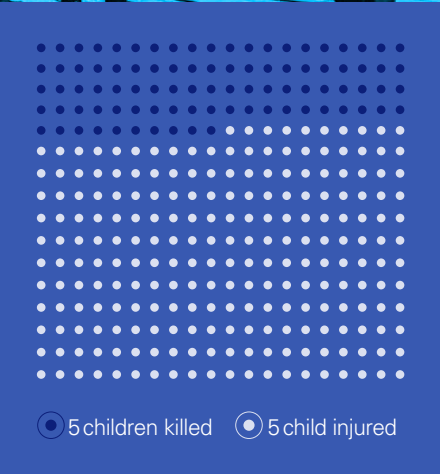
Impact of war on children



1,214
attacks on
health care¹⁰



5.3 million
children have had their
education disrupted⁷



545
Children killed⁵



6.3 million
of Ukraine's children
in need of humanitarian
assistance⁷



of Ukraine's refugee
children are not enrolled
in national education
systems in host
countries⁹

1,156
Children injured⁶

UNICEF's response

UNICEF continues to respond to children's urgent humanitarian needs and ensure children have access to health care, immunization, nutrition, education, water and sanitation, and mental health and psychosocial support. In refugee hosting countries, UNICEF continues to work with governments, municipalities, and local partners to strengthen national systems that provide refugee children and marginalized children from host

communities with quality education, health care and protection.

Ukraine's long-term recovery depends on the recovery of children who are affected by the war today. UNICEF has expanded efforts to support the government on an inclusive and child-centered and sustainable recovery, through strengthening child protection, education, and health services.

In Ukraine

2,451,321

Children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning¹¹



3,695,394

Children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support¹²

5,658,097

People accessing safe water for drinking and domestic needs¹³



7,345,497

Children and women accessing essential primary health care interventions in UNICEF-supported facilities and through mobile teams¹⁴

Education

Protection

Water and sanitation

Health

In countries hosting refugees



1,406,525

Children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning¹⁵

1,669,803

Children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support¹⁶

36

UNHCR/UNICEF Operational Blue Dots¹⁷



118,625

People accessing safe water for drinking and domestic needs¹⁸

542,949

Children and women receiving primary health care services through UNICEF supported mechanisms¹⁹



Resources needed to continue our support for children



As hostilities continue unabated, UNICEF requires financial backing to meet the humanitarian needs inside Ukraine and support the country's recovery, and to strengthen national systems to meet the needs of refugees and other vulnerable children in refugee-hosting countries.



● Funding	50%
● Funding gap	50%



Funding will enable UNICEF to provide, sustain and expand critical services in health, nutrition, child protection, gender-based violence, water and sanitation, and social protection alongside governments' system strengthening and recovery efforts. It will ensure timely preparedness for additional internal displacements and refugee movements.