A flagship area of the UNICEF humanitarian response has been the Spilno programme – an integrated support strategy for children and families affected by the war in Ukraine. Spilno, which means “together” in Ukrainian, amplifies and leverages efforts by local systems.

At the Spilno Child Spots, UNICEF and partners – including national and local authorities, civil society, volunteers, and private sector – provide a one-stop shop offering multi-sectoral child-centred services and supplies, including the promotion of positive behaviours and coping mechanisms for children, young people and caregivers.

In 2022, 500,000 people visited Spilno Spots across Ukraine and in 2023, UNICEF is scaling up Spilno Spots in all regions of Ukraine and in new additional formats, including in railway stations, learning centres.
Delivering through partnerships

112 government, civil society and financial services partners have engaged with UNICEF to respond to the critical needs of children and families across Ukraine. UNICEF worked with the Government of Ukraine, United Nations agencies, civil society organizations, NGOs and other humanitarian partners.

Close consultations were also held with Presidential advisors, key ministries (Foreign Affairs; Social Policy; Education; Youth; and Health), and mayors in several cities (including through Child and Youth Friendly Cities) and the Ombudspersons Office. Through its longstanding presence in Ukraine, UNICEF has established partnerships in key hromadas (municipalities) and continued to expand these in all Oblasts.

Stories about our work

Bohdan, 8, has a congenital heart defect. He was born in Donetsk in 2014 right before the outbreak of hostilities in the region that year. “We went to hospital while the shelling was happening,” recalls his mother Tetiana. Fearing that her son would be left without medicine for his heart condition, Tetiana fled to Dnipro with her children as the violence intensified in 2022. Although they found safety, they struggled to get by. She applied for cash assistance from UNICEF after hearing about it from a neighbour. With the money she received, Tetiana was able to buy the medicine and special food that Bohdan needed.

“Tatiana with her children Yana (10) and Bohdan (8) in temporary house in Dnipro.”

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Delivering through national systems

Within a complex operational environment, UNICEF adopted a multiple pronged approach which included a humanitarian response through national systems and providing support to those systems to better respond to the scale of the crisis. This involved working with Government at national and municipal levels to expand existing national services and systems to quickly address significantly expanded needs, such as the large-scale delivery of humanitarian cash through the national social protection system. Emergency needs were immediately met, and complemented by expanded investments to re-establish and strengthen systems weakened by the war, allowing for a scale up of the humanitarian response and longer term resilience building.

Looking ahead

In 2023, UNICEF will ensure access to primary health care, WASH supplies and items and re-establish WASH infrastructure in health and school facilities. UNICEF will expand protection services and case management for all children, including with disabilities, unaccompanied and separated and in institutions or alternative care. Programming will include gender-based violence assistance, mental health and psychosocial support and mine victim assistance. Spilno Spots and mobile teams will be expanded while education and early childhood services will be supported in schools, homes and communities. Damaged facilities will be rehabilitated, and teacher training will continue. Multipurpose cash for vulnerable households with several children and/or a child with a disability will be sustained, and shock-responsive national social protection programmes supported. UNICEF will continue to invest in contingency planning and preposition critical supplies for potential escalation and emerging needs, including disease outbreaks. UNICEF will maintain a child centered, humanitarian focus for front-line communities, while supporting child and youth centered recovery efforts in the rest of the country.

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

Funding requirements for 2023

- **Total**: US $829.2 million
- **12.1%**: Education
- **12.5%**: Health and Nutrition
- **13.4%**: Child Protection, GBVIE and PSEA
- **17.5%**: WASH
- **44.5%**: Social Protection


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