



Save the Children

UKRAINE WAR

FOUR YEARS ON

Heorhii*, age 7, suffered shrapnel wounds from a missile strike in eastern Ukraine. Through our partner, Slavic Heart, we've supported him and his mum Olha* with food, clothes, cash and mental health support at a child friendly space, giving Heorhii space to play, recover and rebuild his confidence.

THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT

Four years on from the escalation of war in Ukraine, children are still experiencing danger, disruption and loss. 2025 was the deadliest year since 2022 as air strikes and drone attacks intensified.

"Our children have suffered both psychologically and physically. It is very hard for them to hear constant explosions. This creates fear in children and in parents." – Anna*, Social Worker from Slavic Heart, who helped Heorhii* and Olha* after a missile attack.

Today **10.8 million people** need humanitarian assistance, including around **2 million children**. With over **4,450 education facilities** damaged or destroyed and daily air alerts interrupting lessons, one in three children still cannot attend school in person. Almost **3.7 million people** remain displaced inside Ukraine, many surviving in damaged homes or crowded accommodation through one of the coldest winters in decades.

Despite this relentless pressure, children continue to show extraordinary resilience.

With your support, we've helped more than **4.7 million people**, including more than **1.9 million children**, in Ukraine since February 2022.

In 2025 alone, we supported **over 434,100 people** in Ukraine through safe learning spaces, mental health support, cash assistance and essential items – ensuring families can meet basic needs with dignity.

"It was very good support for us," says mum Olha. *"They helped us financially. [The social workers] supported us emotionally as well."*

We've also continued supporting families who've fled to **Poland, Romania and Lithuania**, including providing education, protection and wellbeing support to more than **21,300 people** in 2025.

Thank you for your support and partnership. As needs grow and funding declines, one truth remains unmistakable: children in Ukraine still need our unwavering support.

**Names changed to protect identities throughout.*

Note: Some reach figures for Ukraine may include double counting across multiple years.

OUR RESPONSE IN UKRAINE

Led by our local team of 200 staff and around 25 partners, we've helped more than **4.7 million people**, including more than **1.9 million children**, in Ukraine since February 2022. In 2025 alone, we supported over **307,900 children** and over **126,200 adults** in Ukraine through:



CASH & LIVELIHOODS

We helped **20,500 people** to rebuild their livelihoods by providing cash and agriculture grants. We also launched community led projects, strengthening local leadership, skills and opportunities. A youth hackathon in Mykolaiv empowered young people to design recovery projects, with ten community voted initiatives now being funded.



EDUCATION

We supported **148,200 children** through Digital Learning Centres for remote learning and by rehabilitating schools and nurseries. We also supported teachers and children with disabilities – strengthening education now and for the future.



WASH & SHELTER

We provided **165,400 people** with essential items, safe shelter and hygiene support, including distributing menstrual hygiene items for girls and materials to promote healthy family hygiene practices.



CHILD PROTECTION

We helped **77,800 children** to stay safe by running child-friendly spaces where they can learn, play and receive mental health support. We also helped to protect children from dangers like mines, and trained local partners and communities to build the skills needed to care for children in the long term.



ADVOCACY

We worked with local authorities in Dnipropetrovsk region to help children grow up in safe supportive families instead of institutions. We strengthened community services, supported vulnerable children and families directly, and expanded family-based care options, helping children to find safer, more nurturing environments.



LOCAL PARTNERS

Partnerships remain central to our response in Ukraine. In 2025, we worked with around **25 partners**, channelling approximately **a third of funding to partners**.

THANK YOU TO OUR LOCAL PARTNERS IN UKRAINE IN 2025

Avalyst | Bilozerka Centre For Regional Development | Civic Initiatives | Donetsk Regional Organisation of the Ukrainian Union of Persons with Disabilities | GLOBA22 | Hopes and Homes | Istok | League of Modern Women | Pluriton | Posmishka UA | Responsible Citizens. | Right to Family | Slavic Heart | Southern Development Strategy | Teach for Ukraine | Ukrainian Child Rights Network | Ukrainian Deminers Association | Ukrainian Red Cross Society in Mykolaiv | Voices of Romini |

Not all partners are named here for safety & security.



A mine awareness session being conducted by our partner, **Ukraine Deminers Association**, in Dnipro region, eastern Ukraine.

OUR RESPONSE IN THE REGION

Many families fled the war to nearby countries and expected to return, but worsening conditions in Ukraine forced them to stay. In Romania, Lithuania and Poland, we've supported **584,600 people** since the war escalated in 2022, including more than **21,300 people** in 2025.

ROMANIA

Since 2022, we've supported more than **369,200 people** through a network of dedicated counselling hubs, border crossing points and transit centres, offering emotional care, practical guidance and safe spaces for children and families.

In 2025, we helped over **8,900 people**. This includes providing cash to 2,310 people and mental health support to over 2,000 children and 738 adults. We also ran education and language programmes, helping over 2,000 children and over 700 adults to regain stability and confidence as they navigate an uncertain future.

LITHUANIA

We've supported more than **32,280 people** in Lithuania since 2022.

In 2025, we helped **626 children** to access essential services thanks to our nationwide network of family support coordinators. We provided **500 children** with tailored mental health support, including art therapy, helping them express emotions and rebuild confidence.

To address financial strain caused by unemployment and documentation delays, we provided cash to **902 people** – including Viktoriia* and her family. We also referred families to other humanitarian organisations to access specialised services.

POLAND

Having supported more than **183,172 Ukrainians in Poland since 2022**, we made the decision to transition all our programmes to local leadership and close our office in Warsaw at the end of 2025.

This involved working with **18 partners**, including local organisations and authorities, to ensure that refugee children were integrated into Polish care and education services.

Viktoriia* and her daughter fled their home in Mariupol, Ukraine to Lithuania when the war escalated in 2022.

"At the time, I don't think I even felt fear – just a powerful survival instinct.." Viktoriia says.

Since then, Viktoriia has had two sons, Artem* and Maxim*, and has struggled to support her three children without financial support from her partner.

"It's really hard. We're living in a foreign country, unwanted, having lost everything," she says.

Save the Children has supported the family with cash and vouchers to cover their rent and living expenses, as well as support from a Social Worker to link her up with local services in Lithuania.



FUNDING

Thanks to our generous supporters, partners and donors globally, we raised more than **\$54.3 million** for our response in 2025. This includes **\$44 million** for Ukraine and **\$10.3 million** for the region.

After a year of huge challenges to the global humanitarian financing landscape, including

funding cuts and shifting priorities to aid, the need for flexible humanitarian funding has never been greater.

The **Children's Emergency Fund** continues to support our response in Ukraine and the region, providing **\$15.8 million** to Ukraine and **\$2.5 million** to the region in 2025.

RESPONDING IN THE YEAR AHEAD

In **Ukraine**, we will shift towards a more partner-led approach, by channelling more funding to partners in 2026. We will continue supporting families on the frontline with cash and other urgent assistance. We will prioritise:

- Ensuring families have access to child protection services, including promoting family-based care.
- Helping more children to access safe inclusive education at Digital Learning Centres and schools, and educating children on the risk of mines.

IN 2026, WE NEED \$25.8 MILLION TO SUPPORT 560,500 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 321,300 CHILDREN, IN UKRAINE.

In **Romania and Lithuania**, our focus will shift toward longer-term integration and stability.

In Lithuania, we will continue providing emergency cash and mental health support to families, including psychological counselling.

Meanwhile, in Romania we plan to transition our programmes to local partners by June 2026. By investing in self-reliance, education and community-based support, we will help families build the foundations for recovery.

IN 2026, WE NEED \$1.1 MILLION, TO SUPPORT 3,500 PEOPLE IN ROMANIA AND 500 PEOPLE IN LITHUANIA

Tymur*, age 14, is a member of the Safe Schools Committee run by Save the Children and Avalyst in Zakarpattia region of Ukraine.

He has a hearing and speech impairment and communicates through writing, drawing and sounds. His mum Halyna* says the project has boosted his confidence and "allowed him to freely communicate with students of all ages and classes, without limits," while helping to make his school safer and more inclusive.

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT**
AND SOLIDARITY WITH CHILDREN IN UKRAINE



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