

PRESSEMITTEILUNG

UKRAINE: Attacks on schools in Ukraine endangering children's lives and futures

KYIV, 27 February 2022 – Attacks on schools in Ukraine are endangering the lives and futures of the country's 7.5 million children with reports of up to 10 children killed in the fighting and educational facilities being bombed across the country, Save the Children said.

Since 2014, the conflict in Eastern Ukraine has destroyed, damaged or forced the closure of more than 750 schools, disrupting access to education for thousands of children, with many too scared to attend and distressed by the presence of armed soldiers in and around their schools.

Last UN figures show at least six educational facilities have faced shelling in recent days, leaving even more children without schools which will have a profound impact on their education. Two teachers were killed on Friday when a missile struck a school in Gorlovka in eastern Ukraine.

A kindergarten and an orphanage were among the buildings damaged on Friday in attacks in the northeastern city of Okhtryka, with a seven-year-old girl among the six people killed, as reported by the UN.

Schools in eastern Ukraine closed on 21 February as hostilities escalated, leaving an estimated 350,000 children with no access to education. Some schools in other areas of Ukraine had closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic but others have remained open, with reports that some parents are sending their children wearing stickers denoting their blood type as they fear for their safety.

Save the Children said schools must be inviolable safe spaces for children and teachers, which are granted protection even in times of conflict.

Attacks against schools and hospitals are classified by the United Nations as one of the six grave violations committed against children.

Eva*, 15, said she had fled her village with her parents during a lull in shelling with her school hit in the attacks. "But my grandparents, many children, my classmates, old people and people who have no opportunity to leave remained in the village," she said in an audio testimony. "From those who left the village, I know that almost every second house was damaged and our school also affected. There were direct hits on it."

Irina Saghoyan, Save the Children's Eastern Europe Director, said:

"Schools must not become the battlefields where wars are waged and students are the casualties. With every school that is damaged or destroyed, and every lesson missed, children's prospects of experiencing and building a better future diminishes."

"Schools, teachers, and students must be protected from attack. The protection of civilians and essential civilian infrastructure, such as schools and hospitals, must be the absolute priority of all parties - it is their legal obligation to minimise civilian suffering in this conflict."

"Save the Children is calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities, as the only way to protect children from violence and other violations of their rights."

Save the Children has been operating in Ukraine since 2014, delivering essential humanitarian aid to children and their families. This includes supporting their access to education, providing psychosocial

support, distributing winter kits and hygiene kits, and providing cash grants to families so they can meet basic needs such as food, rent and medicines, or so they can invest in new businesses.

**Names have been changed to protect anonymity.*

Zusatzmaterial zum Download:

Link zu Bildern [hier](#) (Credit: Amnon Gutman/ Save the Children) sowie Audios von [Eva* hier](#) und [Anna* hier](#).

Unterstützen Sie Kinder in der Ukraine mit Ihrer Spende:

Save the Children
Bank für Sozialwirtschaft
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Stichwort „Spendenaufruf Ukraine“

www.savethechildren.de/spenden/ukraine

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Über Save the Children

Im Nachkriegsjahr 1919 gründete die britische Sozialreformerin und Kinderrechtlerin Eglantyne Jebb Save the Children, um Kinder in Deutschland und Österreich vor dem Hungertod zu retten. Heute ist die inzwischen größte unabhängige Kinderrechtsorganisation der Welt in rund 120 Ländern tätig. Save the Children setzt sich ein für Kinder in Kriegen, Konflikten und Katastrophen. Für eine Welt, die die Rechte der Kinder achtet. Eine Welt, in der alle Kinder gesund und sicher leben und frei und selbstbestimmt aufwachsen und lernen können – seit über 100 Jahren.