

100 DAYS OF WAR IN UKRAINE

**UNICEF's commitment to
protecting child rights**

June, 2022

During the largest humanitarian crisis Europe has witnessed since UNICEF was created, you have helped us reach millions of children and families with life-saving assistance and support for a peaceful future.

Thank you.



On 19 April 2022 in Ukraine, children do physical activities in a subway station in Kharkiv, where children and families have sought shelter from the war above.

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Impacts of war

On 24 February 2022, the conflict in Ukraine escalated rapidly and at scale, causing the displacement of millions of people and the destruction and damage of essential supplies and public services including health, water, food and education infrastructure. In less than three months, 6 million people fled the war in search of safety in neighbouring countries and beyond, including more than 3 million to Poland. A further 8 million people were uprooted from their homes and displaced inside Ukraine. At least 255 children are confirmed to have been killed and 382 injured, but the real numbers are estimated to be higher – and continue to rise.

UNICEF is calling for immediate ceasefire. We call for the protection of children from harm, including from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. We call for an end to attacks on civilian infrastructure on which children depend, including schools, health facilities, and water and sanitation systems.

UNICEF and our partners have been working for children in Ukraine for decades. We have supported children affected by the conflict in the east since 2014, and thanks to your generous support we were able to massively scale up our work to support children affected by the war when it broke out across the country – providing life-saving supplies, working to sustain and top up critical public services, and supporting the government in Ukraine and in refugee-hosting countries to expand and adapt their work to meet the needs of the most vulnerable children and families.

*One hundred days of war in Ukraine have left **5.2 million children in need of humanitarian assistance.***



On 14 March 2022, a mother and child bid farewell to their loved ones at Lviv's main train station in Ukraine. The number of children and families fleeing Ukraine continues to increase. They need protection, safety, peace and support as they seek refuge in neighbouring countries.

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The war in Ukraine has had a devastating impact on the wellbeing of children who are experiencing prolonged exposure to distress, with detrimental impact on their immediate and long-term health and development. Women and children face a higher risk of gender-based violence when sheltering at home, on the move and seeking asylum. The needs inside Ukraine are multiple and complex, stretching across protection, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), learning, and social and income support, whilst infrastructure and services are disrupted. Ninety per cent of refugees from Ukraine are women and children: all are facing heightened risk of exploitation and abuse, and many are living with disabilities which might make access, communication and mobility especially difficult. The war has disrupted learning and development for young children and adolescents alike, requiring the immediate provision of temporary learning options, as well as plans for sustained education over the medium and longer term in line with the Ukrainian education system or integrated into national systems in host countries.

Communities in Ukraine are still being forced to protect themselves in underground shelters and subway stations. Hundreds of thousands of families have been broken apart. With your help, UNICEF is there. We are providing life-saving services, information and supplies to children, families and service providers. We are working with governments and civil society, in Ukraine and across Europe, to support, strengthen and expand existing systems and public services to protect children and families and to meet this unprecedented humanitarian need.

Ninety per cent of refugees from Ukraine are women and children: *all are facing heightened risk of exploitation and abuse.*

IN UKRAINE

 **3 MILLION**

children in need of urgent humanitarian assistance

235

attacks on health care facilities



More than

8 MILLION PEOPLE internally displaced within Ukraine



At least **255 children** have been killed



At least **382 children** have been injured



In 23 March 2022, a child walks through Moldexpo 'Blue Dot' centre in Chişinău, Moldova with a blue heart-shaped balloon.

© UNICEF/UN0613909/Vincent

IN REFUGEE-HOSTING COUNTRIES

 **2.2 MILLION** children in need of humanitarian assistance



More than

6.2 MILLION

people seeking refuge across Europe – more than half (3.5 million) are in Poland



Trafficking, violence, exploitation and abuse are critical risks



National protection systems and public services need to expand to meet new needs

RESULTS FOR CHILDREN

Thanks to our dedicated and generous supporters, UNICEF has been able to reach millions of children and families who are facing the immediate and long-term impacts of this devastating war. Through direct delivery and work with governments and partners, we've been able to support children's safety and wellbeing today, and start to support their journey towards recovery.

SECTOR	TARGET NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES 2022	TOTAL REACH TO DATE
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	3,700,000	2,119,866
Health	5,300,000	2,160,259
Child Protection	2,200,000	624,321
Education	1,200,000	501,151
Social Protection	307,500*	27,156*
Information, Social and Behaviour Change	15,000,000	7,349,784

* households

Combined UNICEF results from Ukraine and refugee-hosting countries, 31 May 2022

SUPPLY AND SERVICES



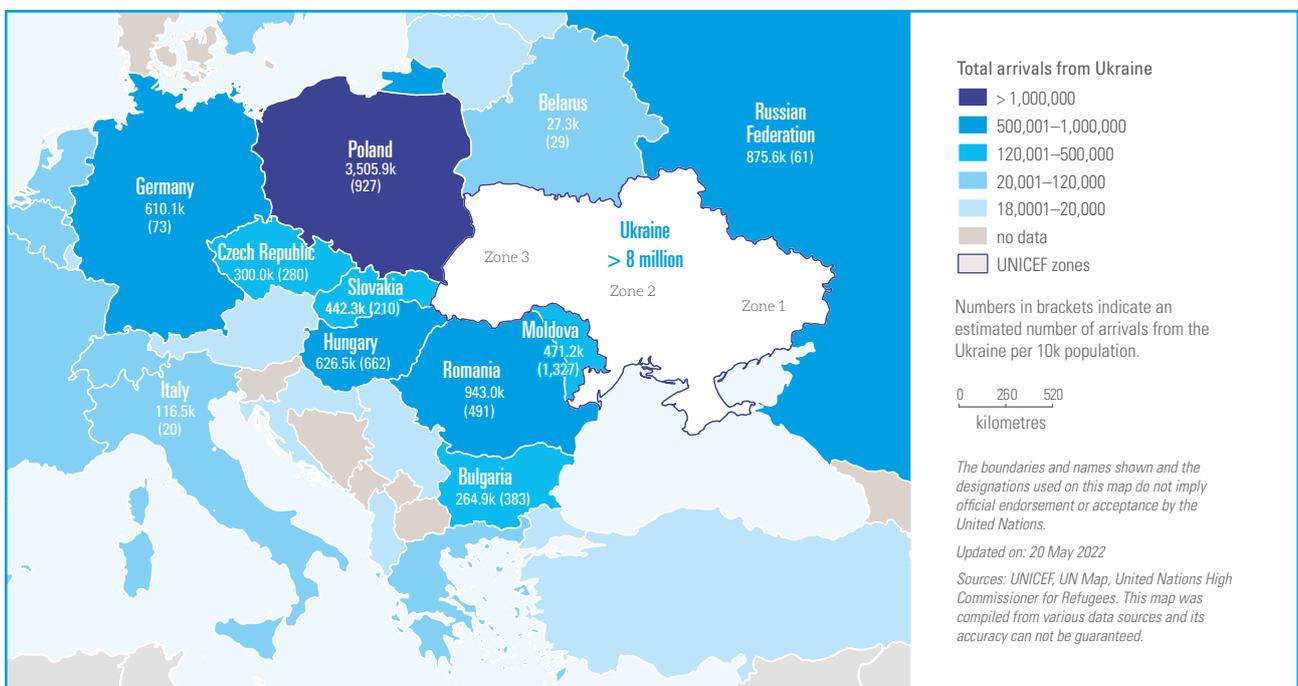
- Since 24 February, UNICEF has ordered \$187.2 million worth of humanitarian supplies to support children affected by the war
- \$17.8 million worth of supplies – including health and nutrition supplies, and WASH, education and early childhood development kits – have arrived in Ukraine, with more than \$15 million despatched for distribution to partners and communities

Through your generous donations, millions of children and families across Ukraine and Europe have been able to access assistance, including:

- 2.1 million children and women have accessed primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities
- 2.2 million people have accessed a sufficient quantity of safe water
- More than 400,000 children have been supported to access formal and non-formal education, including early learning
- 3,875 separated or unaccompanied children have been identified and referred for specialist protection services
- In Ukraine alone, more than 32,000 people, including families with children with disabilities, have benefited from humanitarian cash assistance
- 7.3 million people have been reached with life-saving information and support for access to services

UNICEF action for children

The impacts of this war on children are massive and immediate, and will last well into the future. Governments in Ukraine and in refugee-hosting countries are working hard to meet the needs of the most vulnerable, and communities are showing compassion and support to uprooted children and families. Working collaboratively with national governments, municipalities, civil society and partners, and directly with children and families, UNICEF and our partners are delivering for children in Ukraine and across Europe.



In emergencies, marginalized and vulnerable groups are often at greater risk than others. In this crisis, 90 per cent of refugees are women, girls and boys who face new risks every day. The risks of trafficking, exploitation and abuse are high. In Ukraine, 164,000 children are registered as living with a disability, and many more may not be registered. Vulnerable groups in Ukraine and on the move may find it more difficult to find support, access information and get to safety. UNICEF is working hard to make sure they can. This means making sure our planning is cognizant of and responsive to specific needs; our monitoring keeps checks on progress; and our working partners are able to drive that forward. Gathering accurate and precise data and training our partners is – and will continue to be – a priority across sectors to make sure we reach every child.



Our spokesperson in Ukraine

UNICEF action in Ukraine

In Ukraine, UNICEF is using a three-zone response modality. In the east (Zone 1), where intense, sustained conflict and access constraints are present, rapid response teams work with inter-agency humanitarian convoys, local government and civil society partners to implement the response. In the central and western parts of Ukraine (Zones 2 and 3), which have limited security risks and limited access challenges, UNICEF works with existing national systems, local governments (regional, municipal) and civil society partners to implement the humanitarian response.

Since the war broke out on 24 February, more than 3,060 metric tons of supplies have been mobilized from major warehouses in Denmark, Poland and Turkey to provide children and their caregivers with life-saving water, sanitation and hygiene supplies, nutrition commodities, medical equipment and vaccines, and wellbeing and learning support. In Ukraine, more than 2 million people have been able to access health care as a result. We have ensured access to safe water for more than 2.1 million people, including through water trucking, bottled water distribution and supporting water availability in key locations. In addition, 152,347 people have been reached with WASH supplies.

In Ukraine, more than 2 million people have been able to access health care.



The **'Rapid Response Mechanism' (RRM)** is a coordinated multi-agency response modality for delivering humanitarian assistance to vulnerable people (including children) who are on the move and/or in extremely hard-to-reach locations. **The RRM assures that families swiftly receive life-saving supplies (such as water, hygiene items, dignity kits for women and girls, high energy biscuits and more) to help them survive** in the immediate term. The RRM has been activated in Ukraine, benefiting families in over 100 shelters close to the front lines, and in hard-to-reach locations across the east.

Left: On 21 April 2022 in Ukraine, 1-year-old Solomiya is held by her mother, Hanna, while being vaccinated against polio at a medical centre in Uzhgorod.

Middle: On 4 April 2022 in Ukraine, Diana, 23, takes care of her daughter, Violet, who is four days old, at Maternity Hospital No. 5, in the southern port city of Odesa.

Right: On 4 April 2022, UNICEF supplies, including life-saving medical kits, are delivered to hospitals in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine.



Supplies to help keep Zaporizhzhia Regional Children's Hospital working during the war



Ukraine: Zone 1

In eastern Ukraine, where access is most challenging, UNICEF has been working to alleviate the impacts of conflict since 2014. We have partners on both sides of the line of contact who work to reach children with critical information and life-saving supplies and services. In Zone 1 the RRM enables us to reach children and families in some of the most challenging circumstances. For example, one of our RRM teams was able to position itself in Zaporizhzhia to support people who had been evacuated from Mariupol. The team provides clean water and critical supplies to people who have been able to evacuate before they are helped to continue their journey and access further services elsewhere. In a single week in April, together with humanitarian partners we were able to help over 10,500 people who had been evacuated from Mariupol and front-line locations, including 161 people – 51 of them children – from the Azovstal steel plant. While the numbers of those in need keep rising, so too does our determination to deliver. We've provided evacuees with over 30,000 litres of water, five metric tons of medical supplies, 1,200 hygiene kits, recreational items, emergency food for children, counselling and psychosocial support activities.

In the face of war, UNICEF has prepositioned 3,060 metric tons of life-saving health and WASH supplies through the team at our Dnipro hub. We are supporting 190 transit or information centres in Dnipro and Zaporizhzhia, serving more than 180,000 displaced people with life-saving supplies including hygiene kits, water, nutrition supplies and child protection support. In April, municipalities in regions around Kharkiv, Kramatorsk, Lyman, Kirovohrad, Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk received the minimum package of RRM supplies for pre-positioning and rapid response, to cover the needs of up to 250,000 people – and support has continued through May and into June. Across Ukraine, UNICEF's teams and partners in humanitarian delivery are working hard to reach the most vulnerable with truly life-saving assistance. UNICEF works in partnership with key municipal governments throughout Ukraine, which not only supports local delivery of critical assistance but enables us to reach vulnerable children in some of the hardest to reach areas.

On 11 March 2022 in Lviv, Ukraine, Murat Sahin (left), UNICEF Representative in Ukraine, helps deliver boxes of medical supplies to Okhmadyt Children's Hospital.



Ukraine: Zones 2 and 3

In central and western Ukraine, we have prepositioned supplies in hospitals and health centres. We have supported humanitarian response through municipalities and civil society across WASH, education, nutrition and protection activities. And we have supported the establishment of a network of Spilno ('Together') Child Spots – multisector safe spaces that serve as protection and support centres for children and families, set up in major cities and at sites with high concentration of displaced people, where a minimum package of services is easily accessible for the population in need.

Spilno Spots are designed to be accessible to all, including children with disabilities. In each Spilno Spot we are currently supporting more than 100 children and caregivers every day. Through Spilno Spots, we have reached more than 12,000 children with emergency supplies and services, including learning and child protection support, health services, information on explosive ordnance risks and mental health and psychosocial support.

On 27 April 2022 in Ukraine, 18-month-old Sashko plays with his mother, Kateryna, 27, at one of UNICEF's Spilno Spots in Ternopil. Here, doctors vaccinate those interested in protection from COVID-19 and advise parents on routine childhood immunizations.



UNICEF is setting up Spilno Spots right across Ukraine.

UNICEF has deployed more than 60 multidisciplinary mobile teams covering 11 regions across Ukraine, supporting the safety, protection, health and wellbeing of children and families affected by the war, including children with disabilities, often under extraordinary circumstances. Through these teams, thousands of children and their caregivers have been reached with gender-based violence prevention and response services, protection case management, legal support and referrals to protection services, as well as mental health and psychosocial support.



In Dnipro, UNICEF staff have reached more than 1 million people with emergency supplies and support. UNICEF teams on the ground are working tirelessly, with support from colleagues across the global organization. Between them, our teams in Ukraine bring years of knowledge and experience conducting needs assessments, handling logistics, arranging local partnerships, and managing and trucking supplies in complex working environments. Many of our staff are themselves affected by this war and show dedication and perseverance in their work for children in Ukraine. The measured commitment of our colleagues – from operations teams who deliver life-saving supplies and security, to the programme officers who support service providers, caregivers and children every day – means that teams like the Dnipro hub can strategically and responsively reach children with the most severe needs.

“Your generosity has brought help and hope to children living through this nightmare. Thank you.”

Catherine Russell,
UNICEF Executive Director



In times of crisis, information can be as life-saving as supplies. Since the escalation of conflict in February, UNICEF has reached **7.3 million people** with information about how to stay safe and where to find help through broadcast media, support for child hotlines and social media outlets such as Instagram, Facebook and Viber. The hotlines we support, where children and caregivers can seek advice and guidance, have helped thousands of children in Ukraine with information and support since February. **Our ongoing campaign to spread Explosive Ordnance Risk Education directly reaches over 6.3 million people every week.** UNICEF Ukraine’s social media team has worked to keep children safe for years and now its role is more important than ever before.



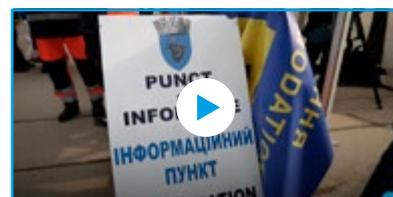
On 1 April 2022 in Medyka, Poland, a group of brothers and sisters (from left to right) Khrystyna, 10, Jasmine, 6, Samson, 8, Snezhana (yellow jacket), 14, Avron (eating a banana), 5, and Avra, 11, pose for a photograph in front of a UNICEF tent near the Poland-Ukraine border.

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In refugee-hosting countries

As thousands crossed the borders from Ukraine into neighbouring countries – mostly women and children – governments, municipalities and local communities quickly and compassionately opened up and began work to provide space and support for those seeking refuge. UNICEF and partners identified protection risks, including trafficking, violence, exploitation and abuse; family separation; and lasting psychosocial impacts of war and displacement. In countries such as Moldova and Romania, where UNICEF already delivers core programmes for children, our response was activated to help set up safe spaces at border crossings, with our dedicated staff mounting an immediate and scalable emergency response. In countries such as Poland, Slovakia and Hungary, our teams acted quickly with governments to assess needs, secure approvals for humanitarian action in-country and identify areas where UNICEF can best support government efforts.

100 days later, safe spaces, essential services, communications and training have benefited millions across Europe.



The first UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dot hub, which was established at the border in Romania at the start of the war.

Safe space, protection and support hubs: Blue Dots

Across Poland, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Italy, Bulgaria and beyond, UNICEF is working with the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and other partners to establish safe space, protection and support hubs, where a minimum package of services is easily accessible to children and adults fleeing the war. Every space is accessible and inclusive and provides consistent services reaching up to 1,000 people every day, under the recognizable Blue Dot banner. Over 71,000 people have been referred to protection services or benefited from advice and guidance or mental health and psychosocial support, and more than 1 million people have had access to safe water through UNICEF activities and Blue Dot hubs. To date, a total of 25 Blue Dot hubs are up and running for children and families.

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One of a Blue Dot hub's most important roles is simple: a safe place for parents and children to rest and play. Maxim is 4 years old and enjoying a sheltered place to test his balancing skills whilst his mum, Anna, can rest and consider her next steps. They have arrived in Romania from Kherson, in the south of Ukraine. It's a windy day and as a strong gust of wind blows something down outside, the crash frightens both the children and the mothers in the Blue Dot hub, many of whom have fled here to escape shelling. Our colleagues are reporting that children are experiencing shell shock when they cross the border. Many are wide-eyed or tearful and often refuse to speak. Blue Dot hubs are a respite; a place to access psychosocial support and specialist social care, and begin to alleviate the effects of shell shock.

The minimum set of services available in a Blue Dot hub includes:



Identification and referral of at-risk children



Mental health and psychosocial support



Legal aid and counselling



Information, logistics and advice desks



Child- and family-friendly spaces



First aid



Safe space to rest



Emergency supplies



Wifi

Outside the UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dot hubs, in Moldova, hundreds of children have benefited from recreation and non-formal education opportunities and sports activities through our work with national organizations. UNICEF and the Ministry of Health, with Chişinău City Hall and Youth Clinic, have brought more than 40 youth health services together to launch a 24/7 Youth Clinic Support Line for adolescents aged 10–24 years in refugee and host communities. In Romania, UNICEF has partnered with charity Fundatia Regina Maria to provide education and support services for 150 Ukrainian children and help them complete the current school year under the Ukrainian curriculum before integrating into the Romanian education system.



On 16 March 2022, Adrian lines up toys on the bridge connecting Ukraine to Romania, in Sighetu Marmatei. Many Ukrainian children fleeing their homes with their families did not pack toys – the space in their bags was already taken up by items of first necessity.

Adrian and his teenage daughter, Bianca, came up with the idea to provide toys for children.

“Toys are very important in the life of a child,” says Bianca, who will soon turn 16.

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Humanitarian cash

Across Europe, including in Ukraine, UNICEF is planning ways to top up and expand social safety-net systems to reach vulnerable children and families with direct cash assistance. Evidence shows that cash transfers are often more cost efficient and effective than distributing supplies in emergencies. To complement Ukraine’s established social support system, UNICEF initiated direct humanitarian cash assistance in partnership with the government to support families to make the decisions that are right for them. Nearly 32,000 people have received multi-purpose humanitarian cash assistance in partnership with the government and banking entities. As a priority, households with children with disabilities or with three or more children have received the first payments of 2,220 UAH (\$75) per person per month.

In Moldova, more than 52,000 people have been reached by UNICEF as part of the UNICEF-UNHCR cash assistance programme. Eight enrolment centres are operational with over \$4.7 million disbursed at \$120 per person per transfer by mid-May, with 92 per cent going to female-headed households. Elsewhere in Europe, systems are set up for identification, registration and distribution of emergency cash support.

Humanitarian cash assistance enables families to identify and prioritize their own needs, promoting autonomy, and preserving dignity and wellbeing in extreme circumstances. Cash enables flexibility in shifting and unique circumstances; it facilitates access to support for those surviving in the most difficult locations to reach as its distribution is not logistics-heavy; and it can support local economies. Cash is a critical and effective emergency response modality for optimizing reach, flexibility and human dignity.

“What I feel is not anger, but a desire to act.”

Solomiya, 16,
local information volunteer

Strengthening systems and services for children

Working with governments in Ukraine and refugee-hosting countries across Europe

UNICEF exists to protect, promote and uphold the rights of every child. Wherever we work – in high-, middle- and low-income countries, we work with the government, existing systems and service providers to support child-centred governance and service delivery to meet the needs of vulnerable children now, and to make sure their needs can be met over the medium and longer term. Working to support services and systems for children helps ensure sustainability, as well as reach children at scale – right across national networks of public services. This is our ‘system strengthening’ work, and it’s a core part of our response to the war in Ukraine. Alongside direct delivery like providing supplies and services to children and families, and through direct health, education and child protection support, system strengthening means that children’s immediate needs can be met and their futures safeguarded.



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On 18 March 2022, three-year-old Milana holds a doll as she sits at the Uzhhorod train station in Ukraine.

Following conflict in Ukraine, Milana and her father fled from their home in Kryvyi Rih to Uzhhorod. They have since sought refuge in Poland.

Working with existing systems

Around the world, UNICEF works with United Nations agencies, in partnership with government and civil society partners, to deliver programmes and policy for children. In high-income countries such as Poland, Italy and Germany, UNICEF is represented by our ‘national committees’, whose role as national organizations is to advocate to protect, promote and uphold children’s rights in national policy, systems and communications, as well as support our important fundraising and partnership work for children around the world.

In extraordinary circumstances – such as the refugee and migrant crisis of 2015–2016, and now, as more than 6 million people have crossed the border from Ukraine into Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and beyond – UNICEF has had to adapt its presence and make arrangements for additional activities in countries where the need is great and the national capacity to respond is stretched. Wherever we work, and however we do it, we work in partnership with governments, civil society and families to strengthen services and systems for children. In high-income countries, supporting governments to respond, using existing systems, is a core part of our contribution in crisis.

In everything we do, we work to ensure that the rights of all children are upheld and protected by government systems and services. Across sectors, we support technical capacity, monitoring and learning in government, as well as influencing national policies and service delivery to embed child rights.

In Ukraine, UNICEF continues to support the ministries responsible for protection, health and education to monitor the situation and adapt to deliver for children and families. We continue to support helplines, including the national toll-free child helpline, which has provided online consultations and gender-based violence response services to more than 2,000 children (67 per cent girls). We have also supported the development of regional-level emergency response plans, including child protection components for mental health and psychosocial support, as well as the scale-up of case management and gender-based violence prevention and response actions. In social services, we are training workers on case management, child tracing and family reunification; and with the education sector we are working to upskill teachers and staff in safe and inclusive learning for displaced children and those affected by the war, including accessibility for children with disabilities, infection prevention and control at school, and mental health and psychosocial support in school. We are also supporting staff to access mental health support for themselves.

UNICEF is working to connect children in refugee-hosting countries with systems and services in Ukraine, including through online learning and development platforms. We also continue to monitor the locations of, and situation for, children registered in residential care. In a collaborative monitoring exercise for children in residential care, a total of 51,462 children in residential care across Ukraine have either returned home (84 per cent), remain in place in alternative care (6 per cent), relocated within Ukraine (4 per cent) or relocated in another country (6 per cent).

Robust protection and education systems are in place across Europe, and ministries are applying the European Union **Temporary Protection Directive** as enacted on 4 March 2022. UNICEF's role in this context is to collaborate with national and municipal governments, identify areas for support – governance, training, financial or technical – and facilitate the adaptation and expansion of existing systems to meet unprecedented need. For example, we strengthen border authorities' capacities, support child registration using national systems, work through national child protection systems to establish referral pathways, identify unaccompanied and separated children, and monitor children's needs, in particular for children with special needs and disabilities. With the European Commission, UNICEF is exploring the possibility of conducting a situation analysis of early childhood education and care services.

*UNICEF is working to connect children in refugee-hosting countries with systems and services in Ukraine, including through **online learning and development platforms.***



On 15 March 2022, a UNICEF staff member hands a toy to a young child who has just crossed the border from Ukraine into Romania, at the UNICEF-supported Blue Dot hub in Sighetu Marmatiei.

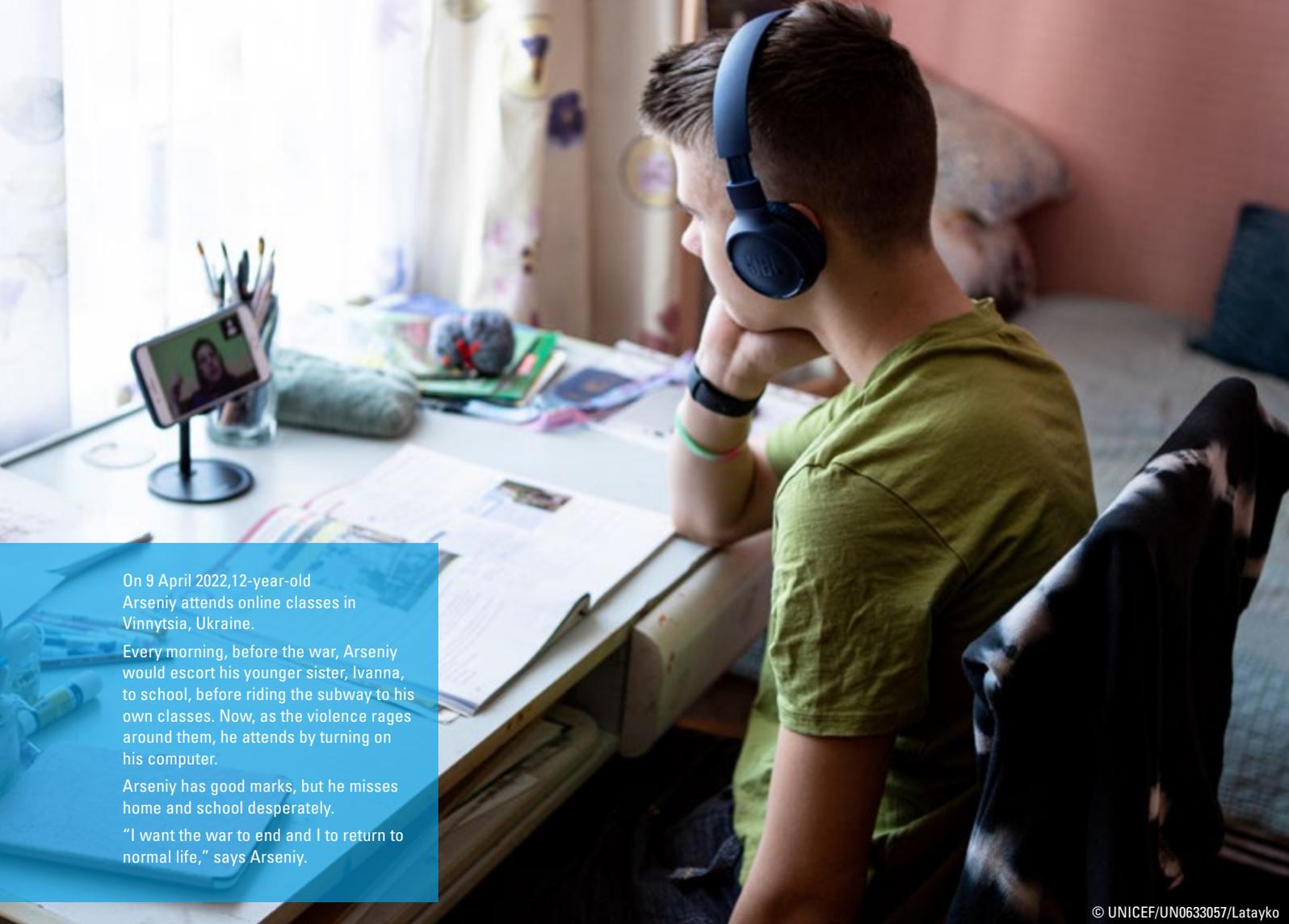
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In refugee-hosting countries, UNICEF continues working with national and municipal governments, supporting refugee children and women through facilitating access and complementing services in health, nutrition, WASH and multi-purpose cash so that basic needs can be met. We are working to ensure continued learning for children and young people affected by the war by building the foundations for policy, engagement, advice and support to national governments in facilitating learning and integration into schools for child refugees. This includes registration initiatives, supporting systems and schools to expand, and working and helping to provide access to online education.

In Slovakia, in partnership with the Bratislava City Municipality and the national government, UNICEF has strengthened capacities of hundreds of local police and frontline social service officials, as well as all border police, on how to prevent trafficking; to identify and refer vulnerable women and children to services; and to conduct child-friendly communication. Whilst a priority has been to facilitate swift movement of large groups of people across borders and through transit hubs, governments noticed the high level of risk for women and children, especially unaccompanied and separated children, and approached UNICEF to help identify vulnerabilities and support appropriate response. UNICEF deployed specialist trainers in counter-trafficking, child-friendly communications and referrals. We have reached more than 17 governments with professional training and produced further guidance for law enforcement and border authorities.

In Moldova, UNICEF has provided technical support to the development of a rapid assessment tool of the best interests of the child at risk, approved by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. We are also working with the national non-governmental organization Partnerships for Every Child to support training in the foster care system on provision of care for unaccompanied and separated children. We continue to work with the national education system to facilitate training for more than 700 teachers on inclusive education, resilience-building and social cohesion, and bullying and violence prevention.

We have provided training and guidance for hundreds of police, border authorities and social service officials to help reduce the risks of trafficking.



© UNICEF/UN0633057/Latayko

On 9 April 2022, 12-year-old Arseniy attends online classes in Vinnytsia, Ukraine.

Every morning, before the war, Arseniy would escort his younger sister, Ivanna, to school, before riding the subway to his own classes. Now, as the violence rages around them, he attends by turning on his computer.

Arseniy has good marks, but he misses home and school desperately.

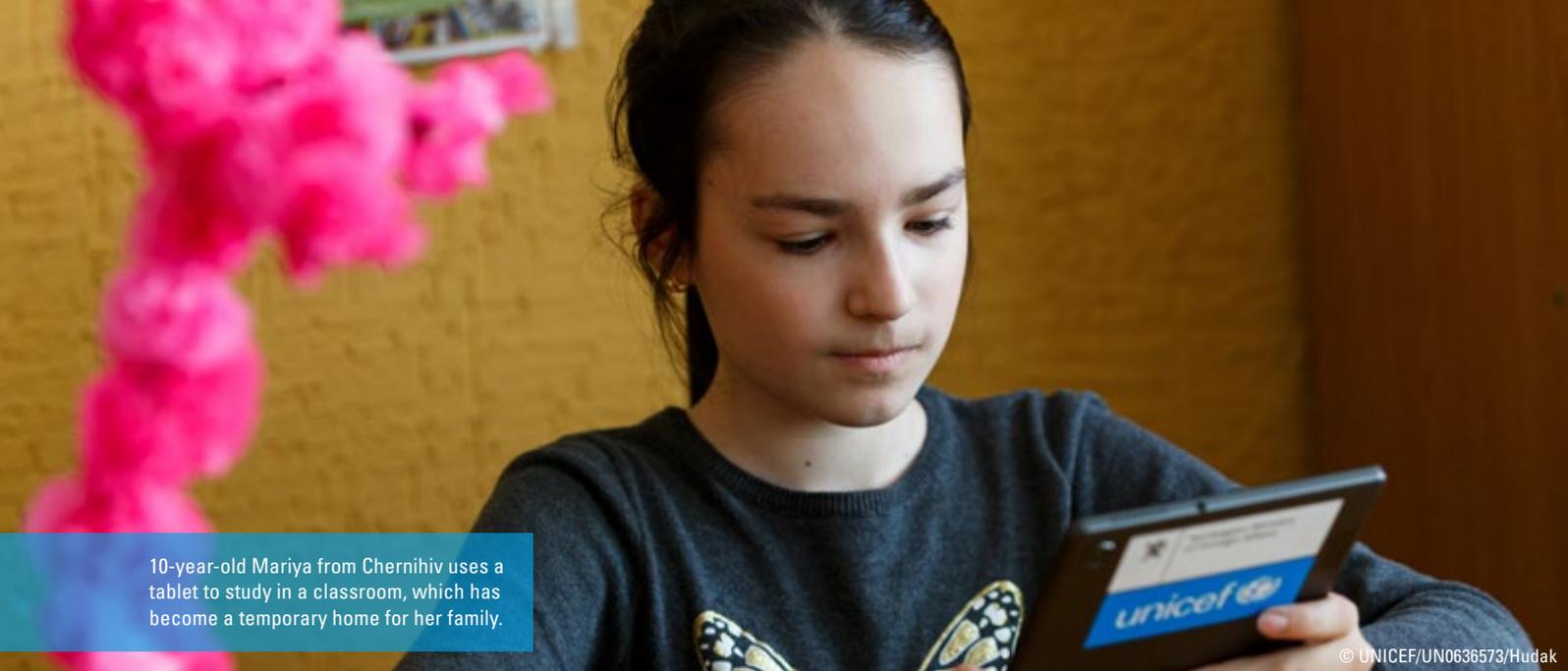
"I want the war to end and I to return to normal life," says Arseniy.

Supporting education systems to deliver continued learning for all

This war has affected the learning of 5.7 million children in Ukraine. On 21 February 2022, schools across Ukraine closed as the war began. By 14 March, despite the war's outbreak, access to education had resumed in 13 regions through All Ukrainian Schools Online, a national platform for distance learning. To date, over 3 million children in Ukraine and surrounding countries have been reached through this platform. UNICEF, working with the Ministry of Education and Sciences, launched an online kindergarten platform called Numo, featuring education and developmental videos for children 3 to 6 years old. Numo's first episode was viewed by 25,000 people within 24 hours. Additionally, UNICEF launched a mobile parenting support app called Bebbbo, designed to provide support and advice to caregivers of young children, with over 7,000 users within the first two weeks of release. As of 28 April, more than 12,600 schools were operating remotely. More than 3,400 kindergartens in 16 regions continue to use distance or face-to-face formats, or a combination of both. More than 1,800 internally displaced preschoolers have joined kindergartens in host communities.

Our first priority concerning education in Ukraine is to get children back to learning: to bring a sense of normality, to support their protection, and to help them to complete this school year. We are working to this end with governments and education institutions inside Ukraine and in refugee-hosting countries.

By 14 March, access to education had resumed in 13 regions through All Ukrainian Schools Online, a national platform for distance learning.



10-year-old Mariya from Chernihiv uses a tablet to study in a classroom, which has become a temporary home for her family.

© UNICEF/UN0636573/Hudak

In Ukraine, alongside direct educational support through 50 teachers trained and ready to support activities in 100 locations, and by provision of learning supplies, UNICEF is working with partners and the Ministry of Education and Science to reach children with education services and psychosocial care, mental health support and protection services. UNICEF has supported the continued operation of online learning and development platforms with the Ministry of Education. More than 100 volunteer educators have been trained in mental health and psychosocial support. And we have launched partnerships with local civil society to improve access to preschool education as well as to support transparent, fair admission to tertiary education in Ukraine.

In refugee-hosting countries, in partnership with schools and governments, UNICEF procures laptops and tablets alongside more traditional emergency education supplies. We are facilitating crucial teacher training on mental health and psychosocial support for refugee children in the classroom. And, where necessary, we are supporting the recruitment of Ukrainian teachers. Whilst immediate priorities include procuring supplies and services to ensure learning is accessible to enable children and young people so they can complete the current school year, we also support schools and education systems to plan and expand to host refugee children over the longer term.

In Poland, we work closely with national and municipal governments across sectors. More than 200,000 refugee children have registered or enrolled in local schools, which puts pressure on the existing education system. UNICEF is working with national governments and data analysts to map the space available in schools across the country, with a view to decongest urban areas, reduce pressure on schools and resources, and support the provision of quality education to refugee children. Also at the national level, UNICEF is supporting the development and roll-out of resources that teach staff mental health and psychosocial support, as well as formative and catch-up learning for affected children. With municipalities, UNICEF supports the delivery of summer activities, as well as contingency plans for escalating needs when the new school year begins – including a package of teacher support, digital learning solutions and intercultural assistance and inclusion.

*In refugee-hosting countries, in partnership with schools and governments, **UNICEF procures laptops and tablets alongside more traditional emergency education supplies.** We are facilitating crucial teacher training on mental health and psychosocial support for refugee children in the classroom.*



"... and together we can make it happen." Yulia, UNICEF staff in Romania



On 7 April 2022 at a Blue Dot hub at Isaccea border crossing, Romania, 5-year-old Emma plays with a UNICEF staff member.

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Please stay with us. We have more to do.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, children and families affected by the war in Ukraine have received critical support in complex and challenging times. But more support is needed, right now and in the months ahead. This year, in partnership with government and civil society, UNICEF plans to reach at least 6.7 million people, including 2.8 million children, with a holistic, rights-based humanitarian response – with system support, service provision and supplies for health care, protection, education, clean water, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition, information and more.

Around the world, the number of countries experiencing conflict is at its highest point since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989. Last year, the United Nations verified a total of 23,946 grave violations against children in conflict. That's 72 violations against children each day. UNICEF works in more than 190 countries and territories to keep children safe and well, and to support them to learn and thrive – and we stay and deliver in the face of crisis. In Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela, Yemen and beyond, violence and conflict are threatening children's lives and wellbeing. UNICEF is there.

We are responding to crises in more than 145 countries and territories globally. With increased conflict, the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate crisis, today's needs are unprecedented. The impact of the crisis in Ukraine will be felt across the world as food and fuel prices skyrocket. We've been working tirelessly for eight years to reach children affected by conflict in Ukraine, and this year we have scaled up our response at an incredible pace and through complex circumstances. The situation is devastating. But our action, with your support – in Ukraine and refugee-hosting countries, and around the world – brings hope.

Thank you.

Thank you.