

Two years of full-scale war in Ukraine

Since the escalation of war in February 2022 Ukraine's children and their families have endured forced displacement, unthinkable loss and relentless violence.

Over the past two years, according to UNICEF estimates of the latest available data, children in Ukraine's frontline areas have been forced to spend between 3,000 and 5,000 hours sheltering in basements as air raid alerts sound above. They have experienced prolonged disruption of schooling and routine, sparking a deep sense of loss, dread, fear and anxiety. These feelings, coupled with isolation manifest in ways that make it challenging for children to feel happiness, learn, and participate in everyday life.

The constant fear of death, injury and further loss is compounded by continuing attacks. Even when the bombing stops, the ground children walk on can cost

them their lives, as mines and explosive remnants of war cover an estimated 30 per cent of the country.

Many children who have sought refuge in neighbouring countries are struggling to access education, health care, and protection services, and, as the war wages, face the prospect of long-term displacement and deprivation.

Despite their resilience, for many children inside and outside Ukraine, the war has wiped out two years of schooling, playtime with friends, and moments spent with loved ones, robbing them of their education and happiness, wreaking havoc on their mental state.

Ukraine's children need this war to end and a sustained commitment and resources to be able to recover and reclaim their childhoods.

Impact of war on children



579

Children killed²



1,567

attacks on health care¹



Half of children inside Ukraine are unable to access full time face-to-face learning⁴



1,284

Children injured³

Ukraine is the most heavily mined country in the world, with unexploded ordinance covering a third of the country



3.3 million

of Ukraine's children in need of humanitarian assistance³

Children on Ukraine's frontline have been forced to spend the equivalent of four to seven months sheltering underground⁶



More than half

of Ukraine's refugee children are not enrolled in national education systems in host countries⁵

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.

At the same time, UNICEF is also working to support Ukraine's long-term recovery which 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 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.



In 2023, UNICEF and partners provided:

In Ukraine⁷

More than
1,300,000
children with access to formal and non-formal learning (including early learning)



More than
2,500,000
children and caregivers with access to mental health and psychosocial support

5,500,000
people with access to safe water for drinking and domestic needs



Over
5,000,000
children and women with access to primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities and through mobile teams



Over 8 million children, young people and caregivers with education on explosive ordnance risk and preventive practices.

In countries hosting refugees⁸

Education



More than
1,250,000
children with access to formal or non-formal education, including early learning

Protection

More than
1,300,000
children and caregivers received mental health and psychological support.

Cash transfers to
97,000
households through both UNICEF funded programmes and UNICEF technical assistance to government programmes

Water and sanitation



25,000
people with sufficient safe water for drinking and domestic needs and over **100,000** people with critical WASH supplies

Health

More than
346,000
women and children with access to primary health care



Information on prevention of violence and access to services (including social protection, health, nutrition, education to more than 23.4 million people)





Resources needed to continue our support for children



In 2024, with the war continuing to have devastating consequences for the country's children, UNICEF is appealing for \$580.5 million. This critical funding will address the immediate and longer-term needs of 5.3 million people, including 1.3 million children, in Ukraine and in refugee-hosting countries.



	Health & Nutrition	13.9%
	Child Protection	24.9%
	Education	22.9%
	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	20.9%
	Social Protection	15.2%
	Cross-sectoral	2.2%



Funding will enable UNICEF to support system strengthening and sustain and expand critical services in health, nutrition, child protection, gender-based violence and social protection. Resources are key to advancing recovery efforts in Ukraine.

1 WHO: https://extranet.who.int/ssa/LeftMenu/Index.aspx?utm_source=Stopping%20attacks%20on%20health%20care%20and%20medium=link&utm_campaign=Link_who As of 14 February 2024

2 OHCHR: <https://ukraine.un.org/en/259792-protection-civilians-armed-conflict-%E2%80%94-january-2024>

3 UNICEF: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/ukraine>

3, 5 UNICEF estimates

6 <https://air-alarms.in.ua/en>

7 <https://www.unicef.org/documents/ukraine-humanitarian-situation-report-december-2023>

8 <https://www.unicef.org/documents/unicef-ecar-humanitarian-situation-report-no-25-ukraine-refugee-response-neighboring>

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