

UKRAINE CRISIS – Regional Response Update

March 2022 – March 2023 (October revision)



@ Giovanni Diffidenti / WeWorld

ChildFund
Alliance

OPENING STATEMENT

In March 2022 ChildFund Deutschland and WeWorld joined forces to mitigate the disruption of the Russian attack on Ukraine. A regional response plan was developed and shared with all members of the ChildFund Alliance. The aim is to respond collectively as an Alliance to reduce the suffering of children, families and other citizens in Ukraine and within the neighboring countries.

Thanks to the great effort deployed by all ChildFund Alliance Members, we raised the 95% of the 5,8 million USD ChildFund Alliance Regional Response Plan serving 77.000 people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection in Ukraine and Moldova. This has proved the capacity of the Alliance to promptly and effectively respond to this huge ongoing crisis.

With the winter approaching ChildFund implementing members, ChildFund Deutschland and WeWorld, have assessed further needs to be urgently fulfilled: 2 additional million USD would increase the number of people in need served up to 85.000 individuals, mainly children and women.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

It's been **eight months since the full-scale military attack** (invasion) of Ukraine started by Russia in the night of February 23/24, 2022. Towns and other targets in all regions of Ukraine have been shelled or attacked with rockets, artillery fire and other forms of bombardment, as tanks and other military vehicles and personnel invaded the country from three directions (north, east and south).

Since the beginning of Russia's invasion, intense hostilities have left nearly 18 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection across Ukraine, an increase of around 2 million people compared to April.

Several million people escaped **from cities to rural areas, heading west or reaching neighbouring countries such as Moldova, Poland, Romania, Hungary and Slovakia**. According to UNHCR data more than **7 million Refugees from Ukraine have been recorded across Europe, with over 590.000 people crossed the border via Moldova and more than 90.000 registered in the country**.

From the total number of 14,7 million refugees and IDPs, approximately 5,5 million people already returned to their destroyed houses in Ukraine (IOM) – this number includes former IDPs from other locations and from abroad.

In the **Kyiv Oblast** (region), the conflict impact on infrastructure is enormous: the most damaged areas are Hostomel and Irpin, where approximately **30% of all buildings are damaged, 40% of facilities are destroyed and 13% of schools are either destroyed or heavily damaged** (UNOSAT, IMPACT, MoE).

The north of the country is recording the majority of returnees while still hosting around 7% of the total IDPs from other Ukrainian regions, especially the east, where the number of IDPs is still increasing. **As people continue returning home, the amount of people in need of humanitarian assistance is still high due to a lack of gas and water supply**. The most pressing needs include access to health services and education, as well as rehabilitation of damaged homes.

In view of the **winter season**, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance is likely to further deteriorate: approximately **628.000 private households and businesses remain without electricity, while winter temperatures are expected to go below -20°C**. Therefore, millions of people who live in unsanitary conditions, who lack adequate personal insulation or access to heating, will be severely impacted.

RESPONSE

MPC – Multipurpose cash transfer, distribution of food, health and hygiene kits, basic goods, child protection, formal and informal education, PSS – psychological and social support.

TARGET

85.000 (75.000 Ukraine, 10.000 Moldova). IDPs, returnees, families and people in Ukraine, refugees in Moldova

LOCATION // Ukraine + Moldova

BUDGET // 7.800.000 USD



OVERVIEW OF CHILDFUND RESPONSE

ChildFund will continue to respond to urgent needs of war-affected population in the north, south and east regions of the country. The needs continue to be extensive, and it is necessary to maintain high financial support for the Ukrainian crisis to alleviate the suffering felt by victims of the war. **ChildFund Deutschland** and **WeWorld** are the two members leading the Alliance response. Both organizations **operate directly in the field as well as through local organizations**. All other ChildFund Alliance members contributed with fundraising and technical support. Additionally, **ChildFund International** and **Educo** have also provided technical support in child protection and education in the emergency sector.

Furthermore, ChildFund Deutschland keeps being able to carry on the development projects within Ukraine and Moldova. This includes several projects within Ukraine e.g. providing cancer treatments for children in a hospital in Rivne as well as the promotion of inclusion within 70 schools in 20 regions of Moldova.

The funds destined for the Ukrainian emergency response since February 2022 amount to approximately 5.500.000 USD:

1.100.000 between Ukraine and Moldova from ChildFund members;

1.400.000 raised by ChildFund Deutschland for Ukraine;

2.600.000 between Ukraine and Moldova from institutional donors for WeWorld interventions;

400.000 raised by WeWorld for Ukraine and Moldova.

At least another 2 million USD would be necessary from now to the end of February 2023 to respond to urgent needs assessed linked to winterization plan mainly in newly liberated areas such as Kharkiv.

The ChildFund Response Plan is providing an integrated approach to support victims of the war in Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees in Moldova:

- **Supporting children and their families** who have become **IDPs or refugees**, through the provision of **food, medicine, medical and hygiene kits and basic items** directly to families and shelters.
- **Child-friendly safe spaces** in shelter and accommodation centers.
- **Education and psycho-social support to children** through formal and informal educational services, support programs and recreational/recovery camps.
- **Evacuation of children and families** within Ukraine who are located in difficult areas and where the Ukrainian government cannot support.
- The provision of **direct cash assistance to people in need**: IDPs, returnees and families in occupied cities.
- Implementation of a **certification program for teachers on how to deal with traumatized children** and parents.
- Continuous **advocacy and lobbying** through various high-level political channels both globally with commitments of the ChildFund Alliance and nationally in some EU member states such as Italy and Germany.



Refugee accommodation Center in Chisinau - Moldova
@ Michele Lapini / WeWorld

UKRAINE

Total Amount: Beneficiaries: 75.000 (children and women, IDPs, people in need, returnees)

Locations: Cherkasy, Chernivtsi, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Kyiv, Luhansk, Lutsk, Lviv, Mariupol, Mykolaiv, Odessa, Poltava, Rivne, Ternopil, Vinnytsia, Volyn, Zakarpattia

Sectors of Support

The various sectors of ChildFund's response to assist the victims most at risk due to the conflict are listed below. It is important to note that not only should any response aim to be **multi-sectorial** in its approach, such **responses should also be conducted in an integrated manner**. For example: providing online education services and obtaining access to the provision of psychosocial support for children as well as identifying families in need of shelter through the distribution of food. **Through this holistic approach, our support in addressing vulnerabilities and the risks people face daily can have a greater reach, even when the context is constantly shifting.**

Protection

The conflict has placed millions of lives at constant risk, and protection of civilians remains an absolute priority. Providing **services, support and information to families to make informed decisions on their safety is crucial** as the destabilizing nature of the conflict can alienate families seeking help. These services vary from providing **counselling and legal advice, to offering referral information for other services**. Furthermore, many individuals and families are still in need of **psychosocial support** and ChildFund assists with support programs mainly in the west of the country but also in other regions all over Ukraine.

Programs like the FranKolo project in the Ivano-Frankivsk region established by the Ukrainian partner organization Smart Osvita help to socialize families who have fled from war activities. Here, free clubs and activities are offered to children between the age of 6 and 16. The activities and surroundings create all requirements for children to feel safe, welcome and to have fun. Through socialization and professional guidance, the **children and their parents are able to forget the trauma and reconnect with the good things in life**. On a daily basis, play-educational activities for children are carried out by adequately trained educators, ranging from reading, art, handcrafts, sport and music to drawing workshops etc.

Within each child-friendly space, a listening and **psychosocial support** point has been installed and is run by appropriately trained psychologists, dedicated to women and adolescents, to manage and process the trauma they are experiencing.

While carrying out the online and offline classes ChildFund noticed that almost no teachers were experienced in taking care of traumatized children and parents. With the new certification program for teachers on how to deal with trauma, classes can react to the special circumstances.

Recovery Camps in Donezk, Luhansk or Charkiv

Millions of children had to leave their homes in the eastern part of Ukraine and live now as displaced persons in the west. Some have the possibility to stay with relatives but many live in small rooms in shelters. Most of the times there is no room for games or activities for the children.



Participants of Recovery Camps with selfmade floral wreaths in Yavoriv
© ChildFund Deutschland

During the summer and fall season, about 2.000 children between the age of 10 to 14 had the opportunity to spend 5 to 14 days in recreational camps in the regions of Lviv, Transcarpathia, Ivano-Frankivsk and Vinnytsia. Many of them lost their parents or siblings during the war, some are in need of health care and almost all of them are traumatized. ChildFund provides them with a moment of normality by providing them with a place where they can do sports, get creative, play, explore and be children again. All activities are under medical and psychological guidance.

Shelter

ChildFund assists with efforts to **shelter civilians from immediate danger** by supporting Ukrainian partners with establishing shelter spaces safe from bombardment in the worst afflicted areas. Hundreds of families are assisted with **temporary shelter, with further assistance provided to those looking to be relocated to other parts of the country or abroad**. Currently ChildFund Deutschland equippes 23 emergency shelters for families and children. Note, that there have been even more shelters but due to school starts and other original purposes of the buildings, some of the shelters had to be closed.

Food and Non-Food assistance

The **distribution of food and basic goods** has become increasingly more important due to the dangers of venturing outside during potential bombardments, shortages of goods from disruptions to transportation countrywide, and blockading of urban areas by Russian forces. ChildFund continues the distribution of food, **especially for children in need** taking shelter. The preparation and distribution of meals is organized at well-equipped centers and safe spaces across the country. **Basic non-food items are being distributed alongside food, including diapers for babies, hygiene products and medicine for children receiving healthcare.** Individuals and children who are from particularly vulnerable parts of society will be given clothes and blankets to protect them from the cold.

Irpin (Kyiv Region) was hit by vast destruction and targeted killings of civilians by Russian military. A high percentage of the population was displaced during the fights. After the retreat of the Russian military, some IDPs already returned to the city, including approximately 190 children. The program is providing food and counselling for 158 children.



Delivery of humanitarian aid to school children and teachers of the lyceum 3 In Irpin
© Yellow Blue Wings

Alongside the distribution efforts, ChildFund is supporting the provision of **multipurpose cash assistance to families.** These cash transfers seek to **cover the cost of additional needs of families that are not covered by the in-kind provision of goods and services.** This is especially important for the families who are stuck in occupied cities or regions, but also for IDPs and returnees in liberated areas. WeWorld is supporting more than 4,000 people in Lviv and Irpin with three months cash assistance in line with cash working group agreed modalities.

ChildFund intervention increases the beneficiaries' ability to meet their immediate basic needs, maximizing the use of resources in a manner best suited to their needs by freely purchasing food, non-food items, hygiene and medical supplies, as well as transport and fuel. To strengthen their ability to

cope with the harshness of the Ukrainian winter, winterization kits (blankets and electric heaters) will be distributed to enable the most vulnerable families to cope with the season. At this stage, the local partner has selected the families on the basis of their needs, vulnerabilities, and assistance they have already received.

Winterization

In the coming months with the winter season approaching, we will work in the Irpin area to secure families against cold and snow. It is estimated that more than 1 million people have returned to the Kyiv region after its liberation. Fuel and electricity are lacking and many houses have been damaged. Without humanitarian assistance many families will not have minimal conditions to remain in the area during the winter season and will probably be forced to find a refuge elsewhere in the country or abroad.

WeWorld will carry out two main activities which will benefit IDPs, returnees and local population for a total of 2.400 people, including over 900 children:

Multipurpose Cash Assistance - for hygiene kits, health care, transport and shelter costs for people in urgent need in Irpin (mainly IDPs and returnees).

Winterization Kit for families with thermal blankets and stoves.



Refugees accommodation Center in Chisinau - Moldova
@MicheleLapini / WeWorld

REFUGEE SUPPORT IN MOLDOVA

Beneficiaries: 10.000 people (children and women, refugees)

Location: Chisinau, Criuleni

More than 600.000 people have crossed the border into the Republic of Moldova in search of shelter, a figure that makes Moldova the country with the highest number of displaced persons per capita in Europe, the large majority being women and children. Population outflows from Ukraine have continued, evolving in line with the conflict dynamics. At the end of September around 285.000 people crossed the Moldova-Ukraine border to go back to Ukraine.

Currently, more than 93.000 Ukrainian refugees are still in Moldova, housed mainly in private accommodation (97%) but also in Refugee Centers set up by the Government.

Both the Government and the people of Moldova have maintained a positive approach to refugees. Nevertheless, Moldova is the smallest economy in Europe, suffering the highest inflation rate and growing energy prices. Humanitarian support to refugees from Ukraine need to go hand in hand with integration and livelihood not only targeting the refugee population but also the most vulnerable people in Moldova society.

Sectors of Support

ChildFund is providing support to Ukrainian refugees arriving in Moldova through its Italian member WeWorld. WeWorld is registered and well established in the country. Since the start of the conflict, WeWorld has been supporting refugees, especially children and women hosted in 2 refugee accommodation centers and in the local community in Chisinau and Criuleni with multisectoral assistance, namely: fresh food and non-food items distribution, hygiene promotion, psychosocial support, formal and informal education services and recreational activities for children. Besides first emergency response, livelihood and integration activities are becoming more and more relevant.

Protection

Similar efforts made in Ukraine are carried out in Moldova, with mobile teams working to provide counselling and referral to services to refugees arriving in the country. In addition, psychosocial support is being provided alongside the creation of child-friendly safe spaces to offer welcome respite from the stress of escaping war. Around 5.000 people have benefitted of psychosocial support and more than 3.000 children have enjoyed the services provided in the Child-friendly Safe Spaces.

Food and Non-Food assistance

Food and other basic goods are provided to refugee families, with particular attention given to children and babies who need baby food, formulas, diapers and other support. Distribution sites are mobile, providing weekly food boxes to refugee families. Food and basic goods come mostly from local producers in order to support local economy and Moldovan small producers. Moreover refugee population is actively involved in organizing and delivering food distributions. This approach is strongly fostering the integration and social cohesion. More than 8.000 refugees are benefiting of weekly food distributions.

Education

In an emergency context, children need to resume their daily routines in protected environments through the participation in regular and structured activities able in order to regain a “sense of security”. Therefore, **Child-friendly Safe Spaces have been established in refugee centers aiming to respond to children’s rights to protection and psychosocial well-being.** Educational and recreational activities are being provided by trained educators in order to provide opportunities for children and adolescents to play, rest, interact, acquire contextually relevant skills, receive psychosocial support and strengthen their resilience, intended as their ability to recover and overcome adversities. Educational activities (language courses) target both children and adults (parents and caregivers) and sensitization sessions on relevant topics (child rights, GBV prevention, refugee rights, etc.) are organized for parents. According to need assessments carried out, the large proportion of children among family members make education a core priority of the refugee response. However, refugees families in a high proportion do not enroll their children to school, due to their attendance of Ukrainian online education classes. While this seem to be generally the case for older minors (6-17 years old), kindergarten age children appeared to be more likely to prefer in-person education in Moldova.

Livelihood and Integration

Given the context of Moldova, a dedicated focus of the refugee response is placed on strengthening resilience of institutions and host communities, livelihoods of refugees through fostering economic inclusion and access to essential services and fostering social cohesion between refugees and host communities. Livelihoods and socio-economic inclusion play a vital role in ensuring refugees become more resilient, self-reliant and reduce risks and vulnerability. All WeWorld activities in the country take into consideration social cohesion and the active involvement of the refugee population together with host communities.

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