

**“THERE IS NO LONGER ‘SOMEONE ELSE’S’ WAR”**

**ONE YEAR SINCE THE INVASION OF UKRAINE**





Over the past year Street Child has:

**PARTNERED WITH 21 LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, ENABLING THEIR CONTINUED AND INCREASED IMPACT IN SOME OF THE HARDEST-TO-REACH AREAS**

**REACHED OVER 16,900 CHILDREN WITH VITAL SUPPORT INCLUDING ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND CHILD PROTECTION**



**OFFICIALLY REGISTERED AS A CHARITABLE ORGANISATION IN UKRAINE**



**INVESTED £3.17 MILLION FOR THE CRISIS RESPONSE**



**SUPPORTED OVER 3,200 ADULTS WITH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

**RENOVATED 72 EDUCATION FACILITIES THAT HAVE SUFFERED DAMAGE AND DESTRUCTION FROM WAR**

**“In today’s world, where we live, there is no longer ‘someone else’s’ war,” said President Volodymyr Zelensky to the UN General Assembly in 2019.** Four years later his words ring truer than ever. Speaking then, 1.5 million people had been forced to flee their homes due to years of continued violence in the Donbas region and the annexation of Crimea. Today, this figure has grown due to the intensified military assault launched by Russia on 24 February 2022. Its sustained year-long invasion of Ukraine has resulted in: **more than 13.9 million Ukrainians displaced** (31% of the entire population), nearly **8 million Ukrainians recorded as refugees** across Europe, with more than **17.6 million people within Ukraine requiring humanitarian assistance.**

Street Child launched a public appeal in support of Ukraine just one day after Russia escalated the war, and in the space of 12 months what we’ve been able to achieve is remarkable – especially considering that **this time last year we had no presence**, projects, or partners in Eastern Europe at all. **Our speed and agility meant we were able to quickly identify amazing local partners** through our network, and within days were distributing funds in-country so that their life-saving work could continue. The resilience of the Ukrainian people keeps us going.

Today, we’re humbled to have **supported a network of 21 incredible local organisations across Ukraine and Moldova.** In a short time, we have made a massive **difference in the lives of more than 16,900 children and 3,200 adults** with a focus on vital child protection, education support and emergency response by significantly investing in our partners and focusing on the toughest places. In fact, Street

Child was the first international organisation to enter the de-occupied territory of Kyiv with initiatives such as rehabilitating learning premises, encouraging other community groups to do the same.

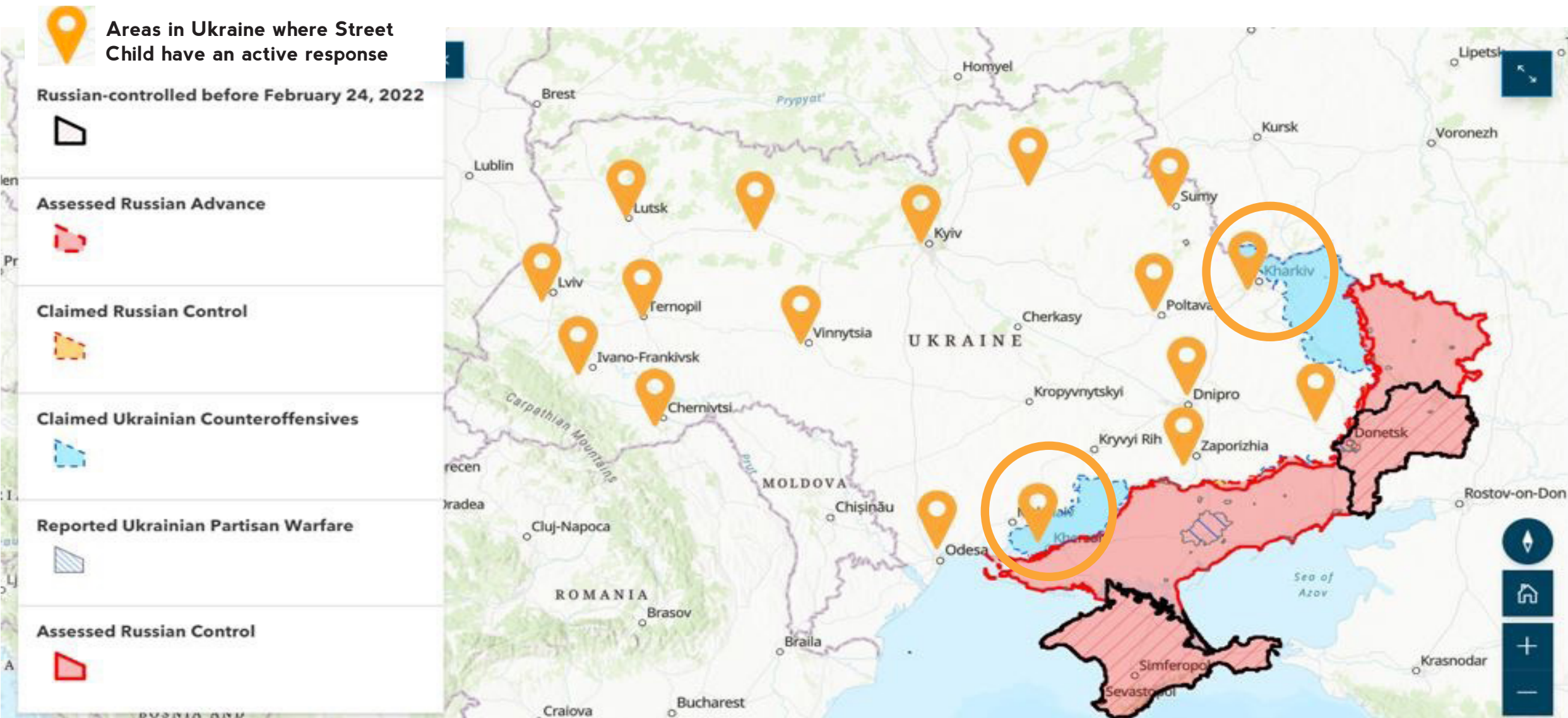
Now that we are formally registered in Ukraine, our work will undoubtedly grow and change. **In the immediate future, we will seek to reach more than 50,000 children** with protection and education work, creating safe spaces for children to gather, learn and play over the course of the next year. This means growing both our staff and presence. But we’re also thinking longer term, beyond this period of acute conflict. We will seek **sustainable development projects, shifting from humanitarian aid to recovery and resilience**—providing support to those who have settled in de-occupied regions, working to heal the trauma of their recent loss and displacement, and rebuild their lives.

The backing of our tireless supporters enabled our rapid response in the first weeks and days of the war; and the effectiveness of our programmes since has garnered the trust of large institutional donors, securing some of Street Child’s largest projects for 2023.

As immense need persists, so do we.

**The war in Ukraine is not ‘someone else’s’—but all of ours.**

# One year on: extensive national reach, including recently de-occupied areas



© 2023 Institute for the Study of War and AEI's Critical Threats Project, overlaid with orange pins to show Street Child areas of response.

# What Street Child is doing

1.) Supporting children's **access to education**

2.) Providing **psychosocial and protection** support to children

3.) Providing **emergency relief** where and when it's needed most

4.) Supporting **local level organisations** to make the biggest impact

One year since Street Child's response began, and our presence already spans 17 out of 24 oblasts (regions) across Ukraine, as well as Moldova.

Our strategy  
focuses  
on four core  
principles:





# Street Child's mission in Ukraine

Street Child's mission is to see all children **safe, in school, and learning**.

But in crisis environments, education is often de-prioritised, despite education being life-saving and life-sustaining – creating spaces to not only learn, but also access critical child protection and psychosocial support services. The context of the war in Ukraine has been no different, UNICEF estimates the current conflict has disrupted education for more than five million Ukrainian children.

**We're doing what we can to change that.**

The following pages showcase some of Street Child's key successes this past year, building on the impressive work our team and partners undertook in the first 6 months of the war [\[see our 6-month report here\]](#), as well as some of our even more ambitious projects on the horizon.

Our Project Coordinator, Anna, is from Vinnytsia and reflects on what this last year has meant to her after moving to the UK in 2021.



“It is really hard to believe that it's been a year since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Ukrainian children have experienced incredibly traumatic times: those who have lived through the war and those who are still living through it today. Shifting from fear and obscurity to resilience and adaptability means that the majority of Ukrainian families have now adjusted their daily lives to air raid warnings, bomb shelters, and constant outages of power, heating, and water.

Despite this unbreakable spirit, everyone understands the devastating and lasting consequences of the war on millions of children including disrupted education and mental health issues.”

# Education in Emergencies: Dnipropetrovsk, Kyiv, and Zaporizhzhia

Kyiv (north-central), Dnipropetrovsk (east), and Zaporizhzhia (south-east) oblasts have **faced repeated missile strikes** and shelling of industrial, commercial, and residential buildings – decimating communities. Schools have been destroyed and damaged, many have been repurposed as shelters, and some taken over by the military for the offensive.

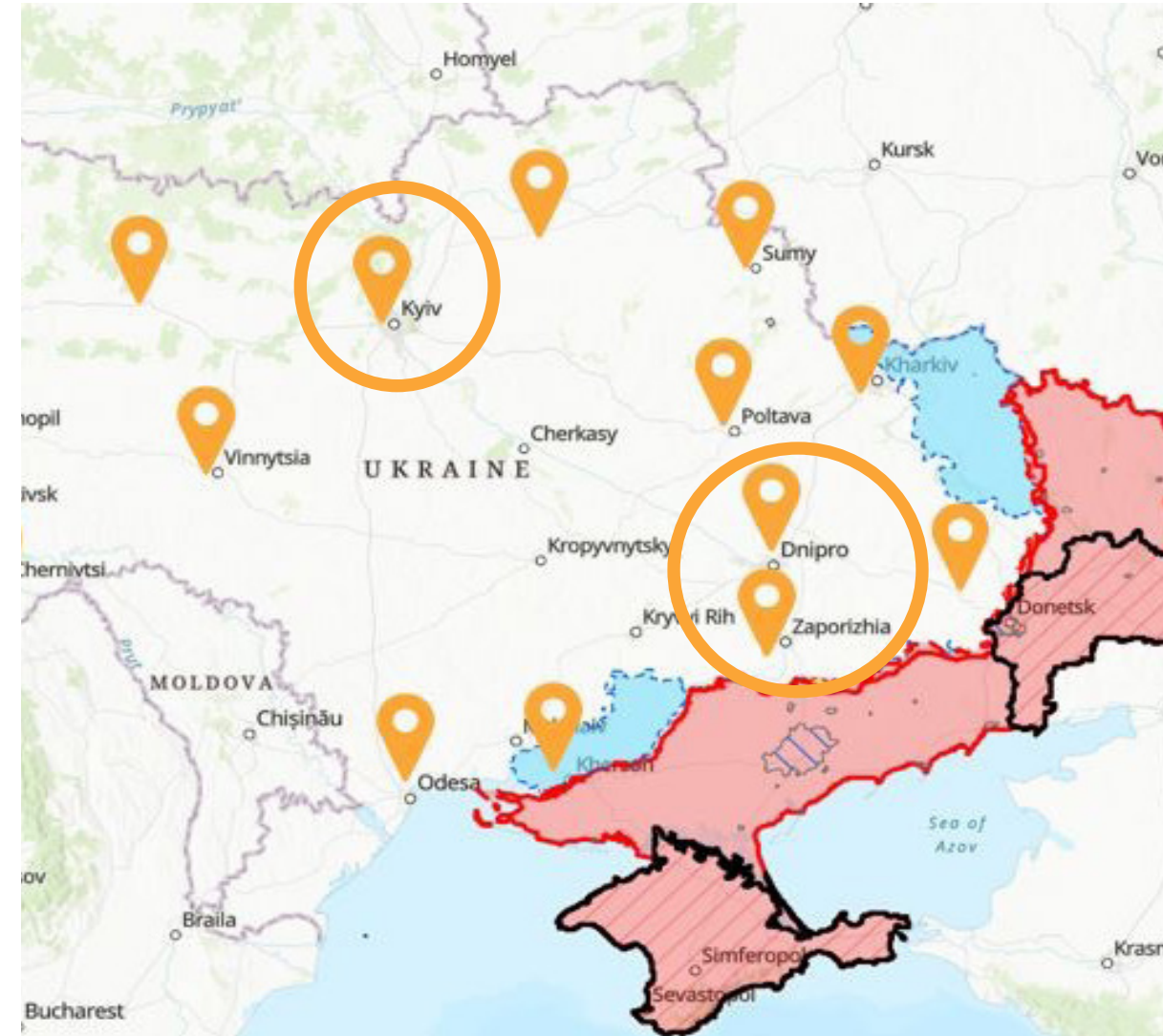
**Unsurprisingly, access to education for children in these areas has been limited.**

Together with four of our local partners—Airlight, Future for Ukraine, Ridni, and Women’s Consortium of Ukraine—Street Child set out to ensure that children (between ages 3 – 18) had safe access to life-saving, and life-sustaining education and psychosocial services and support.

Activities included:

- Rehabilitating educational facilities
- Providing early childhood and education resources inclusive of remote learning options
- Providing access to psychological support.

**Our original goal was to reach 6,000 children. In just four months, we reached 9,377 children with this vital support – exceeding initial targets by 56%.**







**The before and after of a refurbished educational facility in Dnipro**



Our work included **training 854 teachers (89% women) on psychological first aid** and specialised **explosive ordnance risk education**, so that they could provide appropriate mental health and psychosocial support to their students, and help keep them safe. **This is more than six times the number of teachers we planned to originally train (124 teachers).**

We **distributed more than double the target number of educational resources** we set out to provide to teachers to ensure rapid resumption of teaching and learning.

We **refurbished 34 educational facilities in direct response to damage and destruction.**

Our partner Ridni, operating in Kyiv, reported that they had 15 air siren alerts during the four months of project implementation; and Airlight, our partner operating in Zaporizhzhia, reported 76 air alerts, 17 shelling attacks, and 47 explosions in the same time period. This constitutes a large percentage of learning time lost for children, not to mention the trauma and fear associated with daily life. It is with this backdrop that our partners' dedication and resilience is even more impressive.

**Our programme managers Anna and Oleksandr shared that “our partners, despite all these challenges, keep working. No partner came to us and said, ‘let’s stop working, we can’t do it.’ They shifted their work to continue. They ran classes at different times and taught by candlelight so that children could still learn.”**

Further still, Street Child – with the support of Women’s Consortium of Ukraine – **was the first international organisation to enter the de-occupied territory of Kyiv oblast** with initiatives such as rehabilitating learning premises, inclusive of furnishings and equipment. This inspired the school related community and local administrations to become proactive in returning their own communities back to normal life after being severely traumatised by the occupation.



# Ivan's Story



\*Name changed for safeguarding

Ivan\* is a 7 year-old-boy from Kharkiv, Ukraine. When the situation in Kharkiv became too dangerous, he and his family moved to find a safer place to live.

In 2022, he, like many other Ukrainian children, started the first grade in a new city leaving everything he knew and loved behind. The first time he came to Street Child's educational space in September was challenging. He cried a lot and did not want to leave his mother. It was clear that he was experiencing tension, anxiety, and difficulties with his peers.

Step by step, Ivan began to get used to the children in the group and met with specialist support staff. Using various exercises, game techniques, art therapy and a consistent friendly attitude, our partners managed to help Ivan manage his stress levels, build relationships with new people, and ultimately, survive the crisis period. He became much more open and cheerful and found new friends with whom he expresses himself to through creativity and games.

The constraints Ivan faced are unfortunately not uncommon. In older children, who better understand the current context and consequences of the war, the challenges of moving from place to place manifests in different ways. In several parts of Ukraine, for instance, Russian is the dominant language. So when children move to a Ukrainian-speaking majority region, the difference in language can create divisions, and often hostilities.

This is where the importance of Child Friendly Spaces comes to the fore. The centres are used as positive, convening spaces for both host and displaced communities to access, breaking divides of 'us' and 'them.' Here, children of all ages have a safe space to gather and make friends, where they can learn Ukrainian, as well as discover similarities across the country.

# Strengthening Resilience:

**For 10,000 internally displaced children and 6 local organisations across 11 oblasts**

During the summer, Street Child started a large project with six local partners to build resilience in 11 oblasts welcoming high numbers of internally displaced people (IDP). Our approach centred on ensuring **10,000 IDP children** received psychosocial support appropriate to the conflict environment and prepared them for the start of a new school year, to **help them navigate the transition into new schools in new locations** and new circumstances.

Over the course of seven months, we **refurbished and equipped 33 learning hubs** with furniture and resources for children alongside delivering informal education and supplementary access to the curriculum to help children prepare for 'back to school.'

Street Child's biggest partner in this project, Posmishka UA (Smile), equipped five school bomb shelters in Kopychyntsi, Ternopil Oblast alone, providing vital access to in-person **learning for 1,336 children**. In direct response to the rolling black outs and colder winter months, Street Child secured an extension from our anchor donor so we could procure necessary power supplies for continued access to the learning hubs. This included a **generator, power stations, and lamps so that children could still learn in well-lit and warm classrooms**. We also trained 151 teachers so that they could confidently provide psychosocial support to their students throughout this crisis period. This included guidance on how to use art and play to establish a sense of safety, security, and stability for displaced children.







In addition to access to education and psychosocial support, we recognised that families (many fleeing ongoing military actions in Donbas) who were either settling in these new western oblasts or transitioning through to seek safety elsewhere, required urgent access to food, basic supplies, and legal aid services.

These families sometimes arrive in new locations at night or when there is a curfew, which means shops and canteens are closed. As such, we provided **1,938 food kits to families in Zaporizhzhia** under this project; and **Posmishka UA in partnership with World Central Kitchen, has reached more than 63,000 people with hot food and drinks through 'Field-Kitchen' catering.**

Similarly, access to information about social service provision is unreliable, out of date, and often simply inaccessible. In direct response, **Street Child and Posmishka UA set up a service hotline for IDPs to access vital information about available services and where to find them (such as medicine, education, mental health, and emergency services).** Through this, 535 IDPs were provided with legal aid services.

# Prioritising The Hyper Local For Greater Impact:

## Delivering services for 50,000 conflict-affected children by supporting 25 community-based organisations

Street Child recognises that **our work needs to go beyond working with national mechanisms, and instead prioritise the hyper local**. We know there are lots of community-level organisations who have fantastic access across Ukraine – not to mention immense dedication and bravery to support their communities – but they lack vital support and funding to continue their efforts. **This is why we're prioritising local level action for greater impact.**

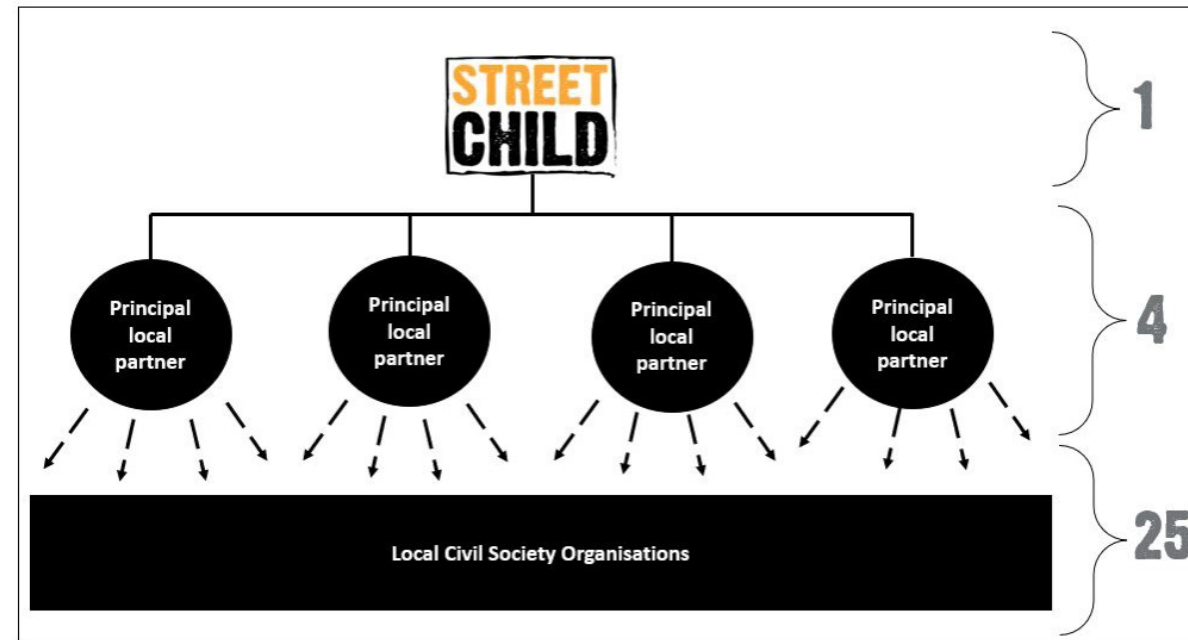
Over the course of the next year (until December 2023), **Street Child is rapidly ramping up its presence in order to support at least 50,000 conflict-affected children** (aged 13-17) across 13 oblasts with a large network of local actors.

Our projects include:

- 1.) The provision of essential education services
- 2.) The provision of vital mental health and psychosocial support services and protection
- 3.) Advancements towards localisation.

In order to reach this ambitious target, **we are partnering with 4 impressive local organisations, as well as 25 small community-based organisations** (CBOs) and volunteer groups.

How this works is outlined to the right.





Street Child and our four principal partners will work closely with these smaller CBOs to **promote coordination, strengthen capacity, and provide small grants and surge support where needed**. Right now, these CBOs operate in one town, or one city only. The advantage of these organisations being their location inside communities and their responsiveness to the specific needs. We will help them increase their activities, improve their emergency response, and strengthen their operations. This also means they'll be able to access resources that are shared in humanitarian cluster coordination mechanisms, contributing to a strengthened response. **Their involvement in this programme will aid their growth from something very local to something larger to support even more conflict-affected children in their country.**

Working together, our education work will mean that children benefit from **improved, safe, learning environments—inclusive of repaired facilities, and increased overall access and retention in school**. Teachers will be trained on improved teaching methods, including social-emotional learning and psychological first aid. But crucially, **we will also be providing support and increasing coping capacities of teachers, as they too are suffering the consequences of war**. Female teachers will be prioritised for support as approximately 90% of teachers are women. Despite women making up the major portion of refugees who have left Ukraine, those who remain are at risk of the gendered consequences of the conflict, including increased responsibilities for caregiving due to the conscription of men, and increase risk of gendered violence.

Throughout our response, we will work with children, caregivers, and communities to **promote awareness of protection risks, prevent protection violations and identify children most at-risk**. This includes those with heightened levels of stress and trauma, those at risk of separation from their caregivers, and those at severe risk of exposure to exploitation and/or violence. Street Child and our partners will ensure these children receive specialised services, including tailored counselling, interim care, and family tracing and reunification where necessary.



# Our Local Partners:



[Ridni](#)



[Bright Kids](#)



[Donetsk Youth Debate  
Centre](#)



[Ehida Zaporizhzhia](#)



БО "БЛАГОДІЙНИЙ ФОНД  
"ЗА МАЙБУТНЄ УКРАЇНИ"

[For the Future of  
Ukraine](#)



[Women's Consortium  
of Ukraine](#)



[AirLight](#)



[NGO Resource Centre](#)



[Posmishka UA](#)



[Proliska](#)



[Princes-Benefactors](#)

[Ostrozky Foundation](#)



[D.O.M.48.24](#)



[Growth Pole](#)



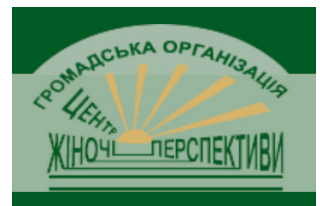
[NGO Girls](#)



[Solar Universe](#)



[Prostir](#)



[Women's Perspectives](#)



## What's next for 2023:

**2023 will be a very important year for Street Child. Our presence in Ukraine will be bigger, and so will our impact.**

With two large scale projects at the early stages of implementation, we are currently prioritising developing our local team, inclusive of child protection and education specialists in-country. This means we'll soon have more money, time, and people to dedicate and propel our Ukraine crisis response forward.

We will **continue to drive efforts towards urgent humanitarian needs – like those in Kherson and Kharkiv oblasts where there is a constant frontline with Russia.** We know it's important to support these difficult places, but we also need to be realistic about physical constraints and staff and partner safety. Access continues to be a challenge: at the time of writing, humanitarian actors across Kherson struggle to work, Street Child included. There is a degree of caution that is required, even if we have the immense desire to act. This means **we will remain flexible and adaptable throughout the days and months ahead. Doing what we can, when we can.**

**Our presence in neighbouring Moldova, continues to grow.**

Moldova, one of the poorest countries in Europe, has received more than 108,000 Ukrainian refugees since 24 February 2022 which has put social support systems under intense pressure. Street Child's work has centred on establishing inclusive learning hubs in the catchment areas of Refugee Accommodation Centres to prevent learning loss due to displacement. We're working closely with host communities, ensuring resettlement is smooth and alleviating strains on existing systems.

We're also of course thinking sustainably beyond this current period of war and doubling our efforts in western oblasts where we can work more efficiently without the threat of constant shelling. **We will focus on displaced families who have settled in de-occupied regions, close to ongoing active conflict, where the gap is often greatest between aid and assistance after prolonged periods of turbulence.** Street Child will be there with immediate relief items, as well as with a longer term recovery mindset. This includes supporting teachers and staff who are suffering from burnout after living and working so long in this heightened state of crisis. We will seek out longer term development projects, shifting from humanitarian aid to resilience.

**As our Programme Manager Oleksandr explains, "formal registration means that Street Child will be here not for one month, not for one year, but for as long as is needed."**

This is how Street Child operates. Much like our response in northeast Nigeria and most recently Syria in the wake of the devastating earthquake, **we recognise our obligation to provide humanitarian assistance and deliver aid – championing local level actors at every stage of the response.** Our approach means we deliver life-saving aid to affected populations, provide immediate funding to local organisations who are on the ground as first responders, as well as advocating for additional direct support for these partners as the crisis subsides and public attention often wanes. **Street Child sees supporting local organisations and leveraging local expertise as essential to effective, efficient interventions, and to enabling sustainable longer-term impact.** Local level action is the way forward, especially in humanitarian contexts, and we seek ways to ensure local voices and local expertise are listened to.

# A word from our Programme Manager, Oleksandr



Our Programme Manager, Oleksandr, has grown up in Ukraine and is currently based in Kyiv. He shared a personal story on what helps keep him motivated during these incredibly trying times.

Last year, Street Child and our local partner Posmishka UA set up a Learning Hub in Kopychyntsi town, in Ternopil Oblast (Western Ukraine) where we refurbished a basement and outfitted a computer class, creating a safe and inclusive place for displaced children to come and learn. The computer class enabled older students to master basic IT skills, as well as explore more advanced programming languages like C++, as well as explore 3D modelling. We procured the only 3D printer in the whole Oblast, making the students incredibly proud.

“As a thank you, the students made me a present using the printer,” Oleksandr said [see insert photo]. “Due to electricity interruptions, the figurine of the reindeer isn’t finished. To me it’s a symbol of resilience. While Russians cut our electricity, we [Ukrainians] are still working and not surrendering. It’s a reminder of the situation we are living in and reassuring that life is going on. We keep going with the good things we’re doing.”



Наш програмний менеджер Олександр виріс в Україні та наразі живе у Києві. Він поділився своєю історією про те, що мотивує його у ці неймовірно важкі часи.

Минулого року Street Child та наш місцевий партнер ПОСМІШКА ЮА відкрили освітній хаб у місті Копичинці на Тернопільщині, де вдалося відремонтували підвальне приміщення і обладнати комп’ютерний клас, створивши безпечне та інклюзивне місце для навчання дітей-переселенців. Комп’ютерний клас дав змогу дітям не тільки оволодіти основними навичками ІТ, а також опанувати деякі мови програмування, зокрема, C++, дослідити 3D-моделювання. Учні дуже пишаються 3D-принтером, який нам вдалося придбати у клас, він єдиний в усій області.

«У знак подяки учні за допомогою принтера створили для мене подарунок», - розповів Олександр [див. фото]. «Через перебої з електрикою фігурка оленя не закінчена. Для мене це символ незламності. Поки росіяни продовжують руйнувати наші електросистеми, ми (українці) працюємо і не здаємося. Це нагадування про ситуацію, в якій ми живемо, і запевнення, що життя триває. Ми продовжуємо робити добрі справи».



# Thank you

We are immensely grateful to everyone who has contributed, supported, and fundraised for our Ukraine crisis response.

But more than anything, we are incredibly grateful for the dedication, resilience, and bravery of our remarkable local partner network. It is because of them that we've been able to support thousands of displaced and conflict-affected children across Ukraine. Thank you for all that you do.

Street Child stands with Ukraine.

## Дякуємо Вам!

Ми висловлюємо щиру подяку кожному за внесок, підтримку та участь у зборі коштів для нашого реагування на кризу в Україні. Але понад усе ми неймовірно вдячні за самовідданість, незламність і хоробрість наших чудових місцевих партнерів. Саме завдяки їм ми змогли підтримати тисячі дітей, що постраждали від війни, на всій території України. Дякуємо вам за все, що ви робите!

Street Child стоїть на боці України.