

Update on the war in Ukraine and our Emergency Response

2022–23 Impact Report



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES**
CANADA

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SOS Children's Villages Emergency Response

Since the onset of the war in Ukraine, children have borne the heaviest burden. Millions of lives have been torn apart by violence. Families have been separated. The schools, playgrounds, hospitals, grocery stores and homes they depended on have been damaged or destroyed.

Despite the efforts of humanitarian organizations like SOS Children's Villages, the past year was a time of unimaginable hardship and suffering for many Ukrainian families.

A generation of Ukrainian children are having their most basic rights to education, health care, family and protection denied, which will have a lasting impact on their future.

With the support of your generous donation in 2022, SOS Children's Villages sprang into action in February to protect children and families and deliver vital humanitarian aid in Ukraine and neighbouring countries welcoming refugees.

In areas where SOS Children's Villages did not have a physical presence, we worked in partnership with trusted local community organizations, which made it possible to reach even more people.

Overall, our emergency response has provided humanitarian assistance to over 340,000 Ukrainians, including over 200,000 vulnerable children.



SOS Children's Villages large-scale humanitarian response was launched in **20 regions of Ukraine and 13 key refugee hosting countries across Europe**: Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland and Romania.

Imagine being a pregnant woman, or a mother with a newborn baby, fleeing your home to save your life and arriving exhausted in a town where you know no one. And this is true for everyone who had to pack up their bags in minutes and run to save their lives. Rebuilding life in its most raw and cruel form is what we are witnessing today. And we need your help in continuing to save lives, and to reunify, strengthen and help maintain dignity among these war-affected families.

Serhii Lukashov, National Director
SOS Children's Villages Ukraine





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The situation on the ground is more dire than we can explain in words. While we continue to provide assistance to displaced individuals, children and families, there is always more to do.

Serhii Lukashov, National Director
SOS Children's Villages Ukraine

With your support ...



17,000 people in Ukraine received **mental health support**.



628 children injured by the war received aid with **emergency medical assistance, rehabilitation and mental health support**.



24,000 children and their caregivers were **supported through the cold winter** with firewood, blankets, kettles, heaters, warm clothes and more.



35,000 Ukrainians received **cash and voucher assistance** for essential goods.



764 **newborn care kits** were distributed to new or expecting Ukrainian mothers.



2,931 refugee children now living in Hungary and Romania were supported with **school materials**.



697 **orphaned or abandoned children** were evacuated to safer regions or neighbouring countries.

The growing and evolving humanitarian needs

It has been more than a year since the escalation of the war in Ukraine, and the crisis still tragically impacts the lives of Ukrainian children and their families. Humanitarian needs have increased and 26 million people (including 7.1 million children) are now in urgent need of assistance and protection in Ukraine.

The humanitarian situation in numbers:

- Over **2,000 children** killed or injured.
- 1.2 million children** displaced from their homes.
- Approx. **30% of the country contaminated by mines**, posing extreme risks to children's lives.
- 3.6 million children** impacted by school closures.
- 974 health care facilities** damaged or destroyed.
- 2,200 education facilities** damaged or destroyed.

SOS Children's Villages ongoing response

As the humanitarian situation in Ukraine continues to evolve, so do our emergency response efforts. With a team of over 200 Ukrainian staff, SOS Children's Villages has a well-established and long-standing presence in Ukraine. This enables us to respond to urgent humanitarian needs in nearly all regions of the country, including communities experiencing heavy conflict.

Over the next 12 months, SOS Children's Villages will provide life-saving emergency aid to more than 170,000 Ukrainians, including 100,000 children.

Our response will focus on:

- Providing **individual case management and child protection referral services** to ensure the safety and well-being of 7,500 children and adults.
- Delivering **psychosocial support and mental health services** for 81,900 children and adults.
- Ensuring access to **life-saving medicines and medical equipment** for 3,700 children and adults.
- Conducting thorough food needs assessments and distributing **food packages or vouchers** for 49,850 children and adults.
- Offering **emergency shelter assistance, rental programs and essential non-food items** to provide safety and comfort for 4,400 children and adults.



- Providing immediate **cash assistance and essential items** to meet the urgent needs of 37,858 children and adults.
- Securing suitable **alternative care** to create nurturing and supportive environments for 541 vulnerable children.
- Driving **policy change and advocating** for the rights and well-being of 140,000 people affected by the war.
- Supporting **quality education**, engaging online activities, safe spaces and information services to foster the development of 25,000 children and youth.
- Extending **legal assistance, livelihood support and economic empowerment** to help 3,150 individuals rebuild their lives.

Real lives impacted by your support



Rising from the rubble

In the Kharkiv region, 15-year-old Daniela's* life unexpectedly changed when a full-scale invasion began and a shell struck close to her home, leaving her face and body severely injured. Her mother was working and she was home alone when the attack began. But swift action by State Emergency Services led her to a nearby hospital for critical care.

Daniela's recovery journey was tough and lengthy, and their home was now unsafe. Daniela and her mother, Oryna, were forced to seek shelter in the hospital basement. Oryna knew she needed help to care for her daughter, so she reached out to SOS Children's Villages Ukraine. SOS Ukraine covered Daniela's medical costs, provided them additional financial assistance and helped them to purchase winter clothes and shoes.

"We were offered help for treatment and surgery. I couldn't believe that this was even possible," Oryna recalls. "Thanks to your [SOS Children's Villages Ukraine] help, Daniela underwent an operation and now her health has improved significantly, and my daughter studies remotely at school."

Resilience amid loss

In Donetsk, Olena*, 10, and Artem*, 9, faced heartbreak twice; first with their mother's passing in 2017, and then again in October 2022 when a shell took their father's life. "Dad was almost inside when it hit," Artem painfully recalls. For days, amid relentless shelling, they huddled near their father's remains. Volunteers and police later evacuated them to their elder sister's place, but the trauma lingered. SOS Children's Villages Ukraine stepped up to provide mental health support for the children, including a therapy camp to help them overcome their trauma and loss.

Challenges arose when it became evident that their sister's home was not a permanent solution. With collective support from the Ministry of Social Policy, the Service for Children and SOS Children's Villages Ukraine, the siblings found a haven with a new foster family. Now they attend school online and thrive in their new home. Olena, despite having to grow up too quickly, is enjoying feeling like a child again.

SOS Children's Villages Ukraine continues to check-in regularly and provide Olena and Artem psychosocial support.

Providing life-saving care

In September 2022, Oleksandr, accompanied by his children, Ivanna*, 7, and Oleg*, 13, was on a routine trip for drinking water in the Kharkiv region when suddenly a massive rocket attack began. Oleksandr, while attempting to shield his children, was fatally injured from shrapnel and explosives. Ivanna and Oleg survived thanks to their father's efforts but needed urgent medical care.

SOS Children's Villages Ukraine offered a beacon of hope and extended comprehensive support to the orphaned siblings, including covering medical expenses, giving them a chance to heal.

Oleksandr's tragic death left Ivanna and Oleg orphaned but their godfather is now providing them a safe and loving home.

**Names changed to protect the children's privacy.*



Thank you for your support!



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