

World Children's Day 2024

STOLEN CHILDHOODS

THE WAR'S DEVASTATING IMPACT ON UKRAINE'S CHILDREN



7.3 MILLION Ukrainian children are among the most vulnerable groups suffering from Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.



24.2% of Ukraine's population is on the verge of poverty due to the full-scale invasion and this figure is growing.



OVER 1500 medical facilities have been destroyed or partially destroyed. The situation with access to healthcare is particularly critical in the frontline areas.



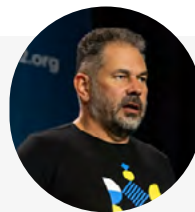
3.5 THOUSAND educational institutions have suffered some kind of destruction.



EVERY 7th SCHOOL in Ukraine was damaged by Russian strikes.

Alliance for Public Health (APH) supported 70323 children and adolescents across Ukraine during the war

Since war erupted in Ukraine, children became one of the most vulnerable groups. Exposed to violence, trauma, and stress, their psychological development and future well-being are at risk. The true damage goes far beyond physical harm, with countless children facing mental health challenges, malnutrition, and the loss of loved ones, homes, and a sense of normality. Robbed of security, they are deeply scarred by the horrors they witnessed.



Andriy Klepikov,
Executive Director,
Alliance for Public Health

During the war Alliance for Public Health supported 70323 children and adolescents with critical services and humanitarian support. APH provided low threshold services, as many of those children were ignored by other agencies. And the need is times higher! We are ready to expand, but we have no additional resources. On International Children's Day Alliance for Public Health calls to prioritize more children affected by war in Ukraine.



CHILDREN IN THE SPOTLIGHT: THE MAIN FOCUSES OF THE APH'S RESPONSE TO THE CHALLENGES OF THE WAR

■ EVACUATION AND SAFETY.

Evacuation from war affected regions (literally from the first days of the war).

■ SHELTERING.

Alliance has been supporting 16 shelters in 10 regions of Ukraine (Zaporizhzhia, Mykolaiv, Dnipro, Donetsk, Odesa, Kyiv, Vinnytsia, Poltava, Cherkasy, Lviv, and Kharkiv regions) including safe spaces for children and adolescents.

■ COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT OF FAMILIES.

Meeting medical, psychological, educational, humanitarian needs of internally displaced children – 200 small humanitarian projects the key beneficiaries of which were families with children and adolescents have been supported, with over 5 000 children receiving various assistance.

■ HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT:

- Humanitarian aid to medical and social institutions working with children (a significant share of humanitarian aid delivered by Alliance was for children: food, milk formula, medical pediatric supplies, equipment for child rehabilitation, educational materials, toys, etc.)
- Targeted humanitarian, social and medical support for over 35 thousand children from families belonging to key populations, including people who use drugs (PWUD), sex workers (CSW) and other KPs.

■ SUPPORT FOR ORPHANAGES.

Support for over 1000 children with special needs from orphanages and state institutions both local and evacuated from occupied territories and war-affected areas.

■ EDUCATION.

Support for educational, extra-curricular and group activities for 523 children from Kyiv, Poltava, Kharkiv, Odesa, Cherkasy, and Slovyansk.

■ MOBILE HEALTHCARE.

Providing basic humanitarian and medical support to children and families living on de-occupied territories through Alliance's mobile treatment points (MTP), particularly in Kherson and Kharkiv regions, near the frontline where medical, educational and social infrastructure is not functional.

■ ONLINE HEALTHCARE.

Providing medical, social and psychological support through Help24, HelpNow and other platforms to war refugees - families with children and adolescents.

■ HUMAN RIGHTS.

Human rights activists representing REACT and VONA continue providing legal support to families with children.

■ REFUGEE SUPPORT.

HelpNow HUB, along with its services, offered comprehensive support to refugee families with children impacted by the war. This included medical consultations, psychological counseling, HIV-related medical support, school enrollment assistance, and immediate humanitarian aid (food, clothing, shelter) through hubs in Poland and Germany, with services extending to the rest of Europe. Families requested from 51 countries

OUR STORIES



From Coma to Recovery: Pertsov Family Rehabilitation in the Time of War

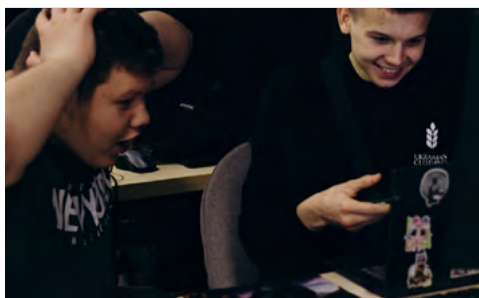
Iryna and Oleksandr Pertsov from Yahotyn near Kyiv had been dreaming for years about a second child. The family was happy when in 2019 a son was born.

[Learn More](#) 

Mobile treatment points: protecting the health of children in the frontline areas

The MTP's work is of great importance for the frontline regions. It fills a niche that helps people survive when no regular medical care is available.

[Learn More](#) 



Development in time of war: how Safe Place helps children in Ukraine find their vocation

In Lviv, the Alliance's Safe Space for IDPs is actively working.

[Learn More](#) 

Becoming adults: how they teach children with special educational needs at Mriya school during the war

There are 245 children at the Mriya educational rehabilitation center in Lviv.

[Learn More](#) 



Every child is special

How the St. Nicholas Education and Rehabilitation Center finds the right approach to everyone

[Learn More](#) 

Join the MTP Team for a Day in Frontline Kharkiv Region

Experience a day with the Mobile Treatment Points team in Kharkiv region, featuring mobile medicine, humanitarian aid, and psychological support for frontline communities.

[Watch the video](#) 



HUMANITARIAN AND EDUCATION SUPPORT



In the past year, **35 438 CHILDREN** under the age of 18 have received various humanitarian aid across 19 regions of Ukraine.

Specifically:

- **1,975** children have received at least one humanitarian service.
- **1,099** children have been provided with diapers, baby food, clothing, and footwear.
- **505** children have received assistance from a social worker.
- **277** children have been counseled by a child psychologist.
- **276** children from settlements in the Kherson region, affected by the destruction of the Kakhovka HPP, have been supplied with baby food, diapers, hygiene products for newborns, children's furniture, strollers, laptops, tablets for distance learning, and school supplies.
- **149** children have received consultations from a pediatrician or family doctor.
- **139** children and their families have found temporary shelter at safety centers.
- **36** children have received special hygiene and humanitarian kits.
- **60** children have taken part in an educational and rehabilitation camp.



133 CHILDREN from hard-to-reach frontline communities have received free consultations with family doctors, undergone tests, and necessary diagnostic examinations.

MOBILE HEALTHCARE

Mobile Treatment Points (MTP) operate in settlements located 7-30 km from the active combat line in Kharkiv, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Dnipropetrovsk, Mykolaiv, and Kherson regions.

The MTP team started operating in December 2022, during which time the APH volunteer initiative transformed into an official partner of medical institutions and local administrations in Kharkiv, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Dnipropetrovsk, Mykolaiv, and Kherson regions in providing mobile healthcare services

Mobile medicine in frontline areas of Ukraine



Arrival of mobile clinics always turns into a true celebration for children in remote villages. It's not only an opportunity to receive medical care but also a chance to see welcome visitors who always bring sweets for the youngest residents. The children share harrowing stories of the occupation they bravely endured and put on small performances for the team from "the capital itself." These moments bring joy to the mobile teams and make them feel their efforts are not in vain. After all, it is for this genuine children's laughter that the future is being created.

COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT OF FAMILIES



33,187 CHILDREN ENJOY EDUCATION IN RENOVATED SCHOOLS AND KINDERGARTENS

In 16 regions of Ukraine, **132 MINI-PROJECTS** funded by the Alliance have been implemented to assist children facing difficult life circumstances due to the war and internal displacement. Through these mini-projects, **33,187 BOYS AND GIRLS** have had the opportunity to learn and develop in renovated schools and kindergartens with bomb shelters, inclusive sensory rooms, and to relax and play in children's rooms and specially equipped sports and playgrounds. They have also had the chance to perform in a children's inclusive theater, visit a petting zoo or rehabilitation camp, receive psychological rehabilitation and emotional support, and learn about safety rules during war. Also, the children have been provided with warm clothing and footwear, blankets, and heaters.

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF WAR ON CHILDREN

War profoundly affects the psyche, leaving long-lasting scars, especially on children who cannot fully comprehend the events unfolding around them. Torture, captivity, rape, death of loved ones, forced displacement, constant anxiety, and the fear of death are daily horrors they witness. These traumatic experiences inflict psychological wounds, leading to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), while the persistent emotional strain and negative influence of online resources exacerbate the situation.

Professional psychological support in a comfortable environment, through activities like games and drawing, is crucial for rehabilitating children most affected by the war. However, there are currently not enough psychological rehabilitation centers to meet the needs of all who require this support.

As a part of a mini-project in Kryvyi Rih, a psychological space was created for special sessions with children. Thanks to this initiative, over 100 children from large, low-income families and internally displaced persons (IDPs) are improving their emotional and psychological well-being.

«We had to leave our home due to active combat. The horrors we experienced are something I don't even want to remember. I was terrified, and I can only imagine how it felt for my little child,» says the mother of 7-year-old Mariyka, an IDP from Kherson region. «I want to thank everyone involved in setting up this space. The free sessions in a well-equipped, child-friendly environment with an experienced psycho-corrective teacher help alleviate my daughter's tension and anxiety. Mariyka eagerly looks forward to the next sessions.»

Sessions in such a space significantly enhance the moral and physical condition of children. After attending, the children have become more open to communication, emotionally uplifted, and less anxious, readily engaging in conversations and showing reduced anxiety levels.



INCLUSIVE EDUCATION INITIATIVE IN ZDOLBUNIV URBAN COMMUNITY

In the Zdolbuniv urban community, there is a pressing issue of equipping educational institutions with resource rooms for inclusive education. As of September 1, 2023, over 500 children needed such education. For several years, the community has been working on creating a resource room at the “Usmishka” Preschool Educational Institution (PEI). Using funds from the local budget and sponsors’ contributions, they managed to do cosmetic repairs and acquire basic sensory equipment, including an LED sandbox, busy boards, and materials and equipment for the sandplay therapy. However, this was not enough to ensure a high-quality educational process.

Thanks to a mini-grant, they were able to purchase essential modern equipment. Now, the institution’s educators use advanced sensory equipment in their work with children, providing numerous opportunities for children with special needs. These technological tools respond to touch or movement, offering users visual, auditory, and tactile experiences. This allows children to experience reality through visual and audio elements, facilitating skill acquisition and improving their ability to perceive information.

As a result of this initiative, 300 preschoolers are now receiving comprehensive, tailored education by attending weekly correctional and developmental sessions in the sensory room. For 19 children with special educational needs and 13 children with health limitations, socialization based on sensory stimulation and emotional relief has been ensured. Additionally, 7 children from internally displaced families, 26 children from families of military parents, and 1 child deprived of parental care receive psycho-emotional relief through sessions in the resource room.

In the long term, the sensory room with educational correctional sessions is to assist at least 3,000 preschool children.

ASSISTANCE TO CHILDREN FROM HIV-VULNERABLE FAMILIES

The Alliance supports various community initiatives designed to improve conditions and address war-related challenges in local communities. Among supported initiatives many were proposed by people affected by and vulnerable to HIV infection

CHILDREN'S PROJECTS BASED ON MULTI-PURPOSE-SPACE FOR IDPs SAFE PLACE, LVIV

- **215 children attended two-week future professional camps** for internally displaced teenagers from frontline regions of Ukraine (Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, Dnipro) and camps for children from occupied territories (Melitopol, Enerhodar, Huliaipole). These camps held in collaboration with the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SES) focused on emergency preparedness and first aid training.
- **185 teenagers received career orientation testing and counseling services.**
- **123 children participated in art activities and workshops** to immerse themselves in the culture and society of the host regions, including psychological consultations.
- **A case manager and a psychologist provide support to mothers** with young children living in Lviv.

AMONG SPECIAL MINI-PROJECTS:

- **30 children (16 girls and 14 boys)** diagnosed with HIV received specially adapted infant formula.
- **70 children**, born to members of key populations, received diapers.
- **79 adolescents and school-aged children** are benefiting from the "Remote Learning Class for Children and Adolescents of Key Populations" in Sloviansk, where they can use laptops with internet access even during power outages.
- **128 children from HIV-vulnerable families**, including 55 HIV-positive children, were prepared for school. This included providing stationery sets, 73 tablets for learning, and certificates for purchasing children's hygiene products.
- **138 teenagers** participated in recreational and informational events focused on preventing drug use and HIV infection.



PROVISION OF MEANINGFUL ORGANIZED EDUCATION, HUMANITARIAN, RESPITE AND STRESS RELIEF ACTIVITIES



Within the framework of the project, 1,042 children underwent re-socialization, enabling them to attend educational institutions with a sufficiently high level of adaptation to new living conditions. This helped them to communicate more confidently with peers and find new social circles at their new places of residence. Payoneer supported the work of 6 NGOs operating in the city of Sloviansk and in Poltava, Odesa, Cherkasy, Kyiv and Kharkiv regions.

Key activities included:

- 585 consultations with psychologists
- 1,206 consultations with educators and social workers
- 91 educational outreach events attended by 925 participants
- Distribution of 183 humanitarian kits and clothing vouchers

FINANCIAL AND IN-KIND ASSISTANCE THROUGH PROCUREMENT FOR INSTITUTIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

18 institutions and organizations providing care to children with disabilities received assistance, benefiting over 800 children. Specifically, the aid included:

- Medications and supportive therapy for children with epilepsy, cerebral palsy (CP), and children with intellectual disabilities (ID);
- Hearing level measurement devices for children with hearing impairments;
- Mobility aids for children with CP (wheelchairs);
- Mobile ramps;
- Orthopedic implants for a child with HIV/CP comorbidity;
- Artificial lung ventilation device for newborns, medical equipment, and furniture for the pediatric and neonatal departments of a hospital in Boryspil;
- Equipment for physical and sensory rehabilitation of children, and so on.



HUMAN RIGHTS

VONA, the national network of women with substance dependency, with support from the APH, has been implementing a project providing paralegal assistance to women living with substance dependency. In 2023, they handled 55 cases, while in the first 4 months of 2024, they managed 37 cases aimed at protecting the rights of children by addressing issues related to their mothers/caregivers. The majority of these cases have been successfully resolved.



TB-RELATED SERVICES

CHILDREN WITH TB RECEIVE PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT SERVICES IN UKRAINE



Over 2 years and a half, **331 children** with tuberculosis (TB) were covered by psychosocial support services in Volyn, Lviv, Zakarpattia, Donetsk, Kyiv, Kherson, Odesa and Mykolaiv regions

Psychological counselling provided to children and their parents to address psychological problems that may become a barrier to treatment and help to maintain or restore physical and mental health of a child with TB is an important step in the treatment process.

The psychosocial support services include:

- **Organized TB treatment**
- **Monitoring of TB treatment**
- **Reimbursement of transportation costs** for children with TB to travel to the hospital for clinical monitoring
- **Reimbursement of mobile/internet connection costs** for children on video-observed treatment
- **Counseling for children and their parents** on TB
- **Psychological counseling** to help children and their parents to address psychological problems that may be a barrier to treatment
- **Legal services** to help children restore their rights and protect their interests
- **Assistance to parents of children with TB** in obtaining social services
- **Provision of food** for children with TB
- **Assistance in obtaining targeted assistance** (such as oil heaters, clothing, power banks, hygiene products, laptops/tablets, stationery, and home repairs)
- **Care, support, accompaniment and all-round development services** for children with TB according to their urgent needs, taking into account their age and health status



SUPPORT CLUB MOVED PSYCHOLOGIST'S OFFICE TO BOMB SHELTER IN ODESA.

Due to frequent missile attacks, the «Life Plus» support club has relocated its psychologist's office to a bomb shelter for the safety of its clients.

Project psychologist Anastasiia Korneva has recently conducted a consultation with a mother and daughter in the shelter using a projective color test to help the child to cope with the stress of the bombings. Despite the challenging circumstances, the mother and her daughter continue to come to the KNP «Odesa Regional Center for Socially Significant Diseases» for monthly check-ups and project services.

FAMILY DISPLACED BY WAR FINDS HOPE IN TB TREATMENT

As a result of the military conflict in the East of our country, a family from Nikopol, mother Olga and her 13-year-old daughter Daria, were forced to leave their home and relocate to Volyn. The mother sought help for her child's tuberculosis treatment. Through the mediation of the Volyn Regional Organization of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society, the family was referred to the Lutsk Regional Phthisiopulmonological Center.

Daria started her tuberculosis treatment. The staff of the Volyn Regional Branch of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society provided the family with necessary food products, hygiene items, and essential goods.

An important stage at the beginning of the treatment was working with the project psychologist, as Daria found it difficult to adjust to the new living conditions.

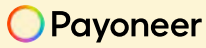
Currently, the girl has successfully adapted to her new school environment. There has been noticeable progress in her treatment: joint pain has stopped. Therefore, the mother and her daughter are optimistic about their future, believing that they will fully recover and return to their home.



TOGETHER WE ARE STRONG!

Alliance for Public Health expresses admiration and appreciation of the incredible work of all our partners, Network 100% Life, Public Health Center, Ministry of Health of Ukraine, all implementing partners, community and civil society networks, NGO staff and social workers, doctors and nurses we are working shoulder by shoulder together and achieving important results together! Big appreciation to governmental institutions, UN agencies and other international organizations.

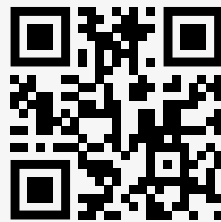
We express sincere gratitude to the donors providing critical funding for children program support:



We express sincere gratitude for critical support from our donors, your funding is critical for sustaining HIV and TB response in Ukraine as well as to addressing emerging needs caused by war! BIG THANKS to The Global Fund, US Government and PEPFAR, CDC, USAID, US NIDA, Yale University, FRONTLINE AIDS, Christian Aid, International AIDS Society (IAS), Stop TB Partnership/UNOPS, WHO, UNAIDS, FIND, EATG, Aidsfonds, International Renaissance Foundation, The Foundation to Promote Open Society, Elton John AIDS Foundation (EJAF), Irish Emergency Alliance, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Payoneer, Initiative France, UNITAID, Act Church of Sweden to all other donors and individuals provided private donations! Your support saves lives!

GREAT THANKS to Ukrainian Army defending not only Ukraine but also all fundamental principles of peace, freedom, sovereignty and dignity!

**TO SUPPORT OUR EMERGENCY EFFORTS,
PLEASE DONATE ANY AMOUNT OF MONEY HERE:**



<http://donate.aph.org.ua>

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