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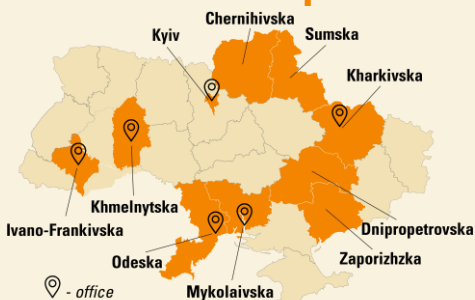
Context

The war in Ukraine is having a devastating impact on the civilian population and particularly on children who were already under great stress from years of tension.

Due to Russia's full-scale invasion on 24 February 2022, more than two million Ukrainian children have fled the country, while over one million are internally displaced, facing threats such as abduction, abuse, and exploitation. Additionally, the conflict caused widespread distress and trauma among children, with an estimated 1.5 million at risk of mental health issues such as depression and anxiety.

The war is heavily violating children's rights, including the right to life, survival and development, as well as the rights to health, safety, protection and education.

Intervention map



General overview

Terre des hommes (Tdh) has been providing various services to children, young people and their families in Ukraine since 2015. Before the full-scale invasion, Tdh implemented a wide range of projects in Eastern Ukraine, with a strong focus on psychosocial support, skill development and access to innovation, youth entrepreneurship, child participation, and individual support for mine victims.

Following the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Tdh relocated from Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts to Ivano-Frankivsk oblast. In June 2022, Tdh resumed its activity to support internally displaced families with children and host communities in nine oblasts: Ivano-Frankivska, Khmelnytska, Dnipropetrovska, Chernihivska, Kharkivska, Zaporizhzhka, Mykolaivska, Odesa, Sumska. Together with its partners, Tdh provides humanitarian aid, child protection services and psychosocial support.

Our thematic priorities



Humanitarian aid for internally displaced families: We improve the wellbeing of internally displaced children and their families by equipping accommodation centers, addressing their specific needs related to the winter period and providing cash assistance for families to cover basic needs.



Child protection: We strengthen the child protection system, improve provision of social services, and prevent risky situations by mobilising communities and training social workers, teachers and other professionals in this field.



Psychosocial support: To help children and their families overcome stress and trauma, psychosocial support is provided through child-friendly spaces, learning spaces and mobile teams, using Tdh methodologies. Positive parenting sessions are as well conducted. The group activities are organised by local partners trained by Tdh or by Tdh mobile teams.



Case management: Case workers offer tailored, individualised assistance to children and youth, addressing their basic needs, as well as strengthening their resilience through psychosocial support, and providing family mediation and referrals to specialised services.

Our impact in 2024

43,847 individuals received aid and support from Terre des hommes in Ukraine

9,748 children benefitted from mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and case management

27,661 individuals were provided with heating appliances and non-food items for winterization

3,295 facilitators, Tdh and partner staff underwent training

530 children and youth engaged in Child Advisory Boards (child/youth-led advocacy)

73 child-friendly spaces were created or supported

30 learning spaces supported to improve equity and access to learning opportunities for children and youth

94% of children, youth, and caregivers are satisfied with the quality of protection services received

Highlight project: Protection of internally displaced families

Before the full-scale invasion, Anna and her eight-year-old daughter, Valeria, lived in Kherson. However, due to frequent shelling and the risk of occupation, they moved to the village of Stari Bohorodchany in Ivano-Frankivsk oblast two years ago.

Anna got a job as a nurse at a local school. At the time, the only serious problem for the woman and her family was that the payments for internally displaced people that had been cancelled. Because the salary of a school nurse is low, Anna and her daughter often faced financial difficulties.

Valeria studies at a local school. During the implementation of the ProAction project, a child-friendly space was created and equipped in the school, which the girl attends. Valeria often tells her mother about her experiences and the games she plays in the space. They frequently play the same games together at home, and this has a positive impact on their relationship.

Valeria comes to the space after school. There, she meets her friends, talks to them, and takes part in psychosocial sessions led by a facilitator trained in the Tdh methodology "Movement, Games, Sports and Creativity".

"I like playing in the space because the classes here are really good. We're always moving, jumping, and having fun. It helps me after school, where I sit all the time. I really like the game 'Who am I', we take pictures and guess who we are. If you guess right, you win. I like to come here because it's cool," Valeria once said.

Anna's main motivation is her child. She admits that only she can do everything possible for her daughter's well-being: "I want her to have a happy childhood, to give her the foundation to succeed in the future. Because what she experienced at the age of 7 cannot be described in words."

Outlook

Tdh will continue to implement programmes providing psychosocial support to children and families and supporting social service institutions and schools in Ukraine. We will also launch impactful programmes such as implementing Resilience Innovation Facilities (RIFs) in the West of the country and Access to Justice initiatives at national level.



"I am very happy that my child attends your events. She used to be withdrawn and emotionally unstable, but after visiting your friendly space, she has become more sociable, cheerful, open, and sincere. I believe that classes in such spaces are very useful."
Anna, an internally displaced mother

Main donors

Swiss Solidarity, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), TaiwanICDF, German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), Crisis and Support Centre of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (OCHA), Xunta de Galicia, Oak Foundation.

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As the leading Swiss child rights organisation, created in 1960, Terre des hommes stands together with children to uphold their rights, protect their lives and improve their well-being. In 2024, we supported over 5.8 million children and members of their communities in 27 countries.



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