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23,032

children benefited from MHPSS and Case Management activities in 2025

1,386

children and young people engaged in Child Advisory Boards in 2025

General overview

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

After the start of the full-scale invasion in Ukraine and the relocation from Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts to Ivano-Frankivsk oblast, Tdh resumed its work in June 2022, providing support to internally displaced families with children as well as to local host communities, together with partners across 12 oblasts: Ivano-Frankivska, Ternopil'ska, Khmelnytska, Dnipropetrovska, Chernihiv'ska, Kharkiv'ska, Zaporizh'zka, Mykolaiv'ska, Odeska, Sumska, Chernivets'ka and Zakarpattia. Through various projects, we provide humanitarian aid, child protection and psychosocial support.

Intervention map 2025



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 mobilizing 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, based on Tdh methodologies. Positive parenting sessions are as well provided. The group activities are organized by local partners trained by Tdh or by Tdh mobile teams.



Case management: Case workers provide tailored individualized support to vulnerable children and youth: addressing basic needs, as well as building resilience, by providing psychosocial support, family mediation, and referrals to specialised services.



Child participation

In November 2025, Tdh, in partnership with the Advisor and Commissioner to the President of Ukraine on Child's Rights and Children Rehabilitation, supported the establishment of the National Child and Youth Advisory Board, bringing together over 100 representatives from 22 oblasts of Ukraine to articulate shared priorities and engage directly with national decision-makers. The Board's work focuses on the issues that children and youth themselves identify as priorities across regions.

In parallel, Tdh facilitated the creation of a Child and Youth Advisory Board within a detention centre in Kremenchuk, enabling children with lived experience of the justice system to contribute to policy consultations on pre-trial processes and safeguards with particular focus on remote hearings.

In addition, Tdh has established and supported 45 Child and Youth Advisory Boards across five oblasts – Khmelnytska, Ivano-Frankivska, Mykolaiv'ska, Dnipropetrovska, and Kharkiv'ska.

Our impact in 2025

31,693 individuals received aid and support from Terre des hommes in Ukraine

23,032 children benefited from Mental Health and Psychosocial Support and Case Management activities

1,386 children and young people engaged in Child Advisory Boards (child/youth-led advocacy)

2,518 households provided with cash or in-kind support

217 facilitators, Tdh and partner staff who underwent trainings

70 child-friendly spaces created/supported

68 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

From the city of Kharkiv, in the northeast of the country, it takes just over an hour to reach the village of Rizunenkovo. Nestled in the plains, it's surrounded by endless fields. At times, the tranquility of nature is shattered by destroyed roads and buildings. Yet, despite the heavy atmosphere and grey skies, the child-friendly space (CFS) established by Tdh is full of color – on banners being waved, on children's drawings, on the slides in the playground, hoola-hoops and poles set up for activities. But colors alone can't make people forget the war.

When the alarms don't pierce the plain, the children are happy to get together. Many of them have been displaced to this area with their families, away from the front line. Usually, they stay confined to their homes or temporary accommodation, where time passes too slowly. But at the Rizunenkovo CFS lingers a school playground atmosphere. Here, there is no room for boredom: childhood is back on track with laughter, drawing, running, jumping and academic support.

Sitting in a circle on the grass, they're children of all ages – 6 to 17, blonde or brunette, quiet or playful. All they want, says 14-year-old Kyrlyo, is: "to be with friends". The CFS is in an empty school building here, but in other areas, it might be a bunker or any surviving secure structure. "I'm always happy when I arrive and when I leave," shares Kyrlyo, who does not want to talk about the war. Friends who have left the region, air raid sirens, long days spent locked up, families torn apart... For Kyrlyo, like his classmates, the CFS is his escape. His safe haven. "I have many dreams... but I'm keeping them secret for now," he says with a serious yet hopeful tone.

Outlook

Tdh will continue to implement programmes that provide psychosocial support to children and families, while strengthening social service institutions and schools in Ukraine. We will also launch impactful initiatives, including Resilience Innovation Facilities (RIFs) in the west of the country and the access to justice programme at national level.



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"I don't have that many friends, but I do have two or three friends whom I really trust. Many of my classmates moved away and then came back, and now we rarely see each other because we live in different places. That's why I'm always happy when I come to these events at community spaces."

Kyrlyo, a 14-year-old boy from Kharkiv oblast

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As the leading Swiss child rights organisation, founded in 1960, Terre des hommes stands alongside children to uphold their rights, protect their lives and improve their well-being. In 2025, Tdh and its partners supported 6.2 million children, young people and their community members across 27 countries.



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