



Save the Children

UKRAINE 2025

HUMANITARIAN FUND REPORT



\$15.7 MILLION ALLOCATED
TO UKRAINE

16% CHANNELLED TO LOCAL
AND NATIONAL PARTNERS

421,158 PEOPLE REACHED WITH
HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMMES

Anastasiia*, 8, plays in a
playground in Zaporizka

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2025, children across Ukraine faced a rapidly deteriorating humanitarian environment as intensified missile and drone strikes, prolonged blackouts, and repeated displacement continued to erode essential services and household resilience. Conflict escalations in Donetsk, Zaporizhia, Kharkiv, Sumy, Mykolaiv, and Kherson regions caused widespread damage, while movement restrictions and insecurity further limited access to services for vulnerable families.

Against this backdrop, Save the Children (SC) and partners delivered a needs-driven, multi-sectoral response using flexible support from the Humanitarian Fund (HF). The HF – SC’s largest pooled, flexible financing mechanism – remained the fastest way to keep services running when routes closed or needs spiked, and to sustain partner-led delivery in newly affected or hard-to-reach communities. Because the HF supports the overall response plan rather than individual projects, results in this report are presented at goal level, reflecting how HF contributions deliver outcomes collectively across sectors and geographies.

HF support represented 29% of SC’s portfolio in Ukraine in 2025, positioning the HF as one of the most important flexible financing mechanisms in the response and ranking 22nd among all donors globally.

Save the Children was able to secure additional funding for the HF, reinforcing it at a time of escalating need and enabling sustained assistance across regions as displacement, blackouts, and attacks intensified. By supporting a pooled funding mechanism rather than individual workstreams, contributions strengthened the Country Office’s ability to reprogramme funds quickly as needs and access conditions shifted.

That flexibility translated into tangible results across the year. HF-supported programming restored access to safe water for 60,000 people, provided emergency shelter support for 36,584 people, enabled ground-breaking innovations in education delivery, and delivered critical child protection and MHPSS services, alongside agricultural assistance that strengthened household resilience for rural families.

Ultimately, HF support enabled SC and partners to deliver timely, locally led, adaptable assistance to children and families in some of the hardest-hit communities across Ukraine.



WHAT IS THE HUMANITARIAN FUND?

The HF is a pooled financing mechanism that enables fast, flexible, and principled surge funding to COs and local partners, helping them to prepare for and respond to emergencies in rapidly evolving contexts.

As the humanitarian sector navigates a critical “reset”, driven by evolving needs, protection and access challenges, and funding shortfalls - the HF serves not just as a funding tool, but as a strategic enabler of humanitarian reform, responding to calls for more locally led, efficient, and accountable approaches.

It offers a meaningful and practical way to deliver on commitments to localisation, flexibility, and anticipatory action. As one of the largest non-governmental emergency funds, the HF is comparable to global pooled financing mechanisms - yet stands apart through its emphasis on providing flexible funding for child-centred and locally rooted responses.

Since its inception in 2020, the HF has received \$521.1 million in contributions, enabling SC to make a cumulative total of \$504.1 million allocations to support rapid, child-centred, and life-saving responses in some of the world’s most complex and underfunded emergencies.

Damage to a residential building after shelling in Sumy

SUPPORT IN ACTION

In 2025, additional funding reinforced the Humanitarian Fund for Ukraine at a critical moment. This support enabled Save the Children and nine local and national partners to respond rapidly, shifting resources as air strikes, blackouts, and displacement surged. It sustained cash assistance, child protection and psychosocial support, safer learning spaces, shelter and winter support, and frontline WASH services. As a result, essential programmes remained operational and families received life-saving support when it was needed most.



Nina* hugs her children
Myron* and Veronika*

SUPPORT CHILDREN TO HAVE A HEALTHY START IN LIFE

OVERALL FUNDING TARGET: **\$4,900,000** HF SPEND : **\$662,267**



WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

103,243 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 35,360 CHILDREN, REACHED WITH HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMMES

Access to safe water restored for **60,000** people

3,899 people received hygiene items

9 collective centres received hygiene kits

Functioning sewage systems restored for **45,000** people

In Ukraine, HF-supported delivery focused on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), as widespread damage to water systems, overcrowded collective centres, disrupted sanitation services and continuous population movement created significant public-health risks. Across the year, HF-supported WASH programming reached 111,154 people, improving the quality, reach and timeliness of assistance through rapid, context-specific interventions.

In this constantly evolving crisis, funding flexibility was key. The HF's contribution helped sustain this adaptive response, ensuring essential services continued even as access fluctuated. In Dnipro, the CO pivoted from planned activities to immediate WASH support after missile strikes cut households off from safe water. HF support also enabled a rapid expansion of kit distribution in Mykolaiv region, where a large number of people required urgent hygiene assistance following new population movements - contributing to the 3,899 people reached with hygiene supplies.

In regions close to the frontline, flexible funding sustained water quality and sanitation monitoring, and integrated WASH-shelter programming, critical preventive measures where infrastructure damage and overcrowded displacement sites heightened the risk of disease outbreaks.

Rather than supporting a fixed WASH package, the HF acted as a real time risk mitigation tool, enabling interventions to move with impact zones and protect children's health where other financing could not adapt at the same pace.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FLEXIBILITY

The HF's flexibility allowed SC to keep WASH support functioning precisely when disruptions were most severe. The built-in flexibility of the HF meant that the CO could re-programme in real-time without waiting for approval.

In practice, this meant that teams could adjust budgets immediately to match evolving risk. For example, shifting from household hygiene kits to institutional WASH when overcrowding raised public-health concerns; prioritising systems fixes such as water purification, sanitation repairs and water-quality monitoring when local utilities were failing; and permitting delivery in higher-risk settings where market options weren't viable, using agreed door-to-door mechanisms with local authorities.



SC staff member delivers water in Dnipro

SAFE IN SCHOOL AND LEARNING

OVERALL FUNDING TARGET: **\$24,262,939**

HF SPEND: **\$1,369,797**



EDUCATION

164,922 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 162,782 CHILDREN, REACHED WITH HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMMES

3 new digital learning centres established, supporting **4,650** children

16 schools refurbished, improving conditions for **7,478** children

4,859 learners received school kits

In 2025, schooling was repeatedly interrupted by air-raid alerts, damaged buildings, and waves of displacement. With flexible support from the HF, SC and partners were able to maintain safe and inclusive education through delivery models that could shift as the crisis evolved.

Hospital-based teaching continued through a digital learning centre in hospitals in Dnipro and Kharkiv, reaching over 700 children through the 'School for Superheroes' initiative, so children receiving treatment did not fall further behind. In Donetsk and Zaporizhia, regions near active hostilities, three newly equipped digital learning centres reached 4,650 children with innovative tools, including virtual reality tools and portable devices, helping sustain learning during frequent air-raid alerts.

Flexible funding also enabled practical steps to restore safer in-person learning. Technical assessments of 18 rural school shelters guided rehabilitation, with repairs in Dnipro allowing 482 children to safely return to in-person learning. Thousands of inclusive kits and pre-positioned teacher and learner materials additionally strengthened school readiness in displacement-affected communities.

By enabling real-time re-programming as alerts, access and caseloads changed, HF funding allowed the CO and partners to switch between hospital-based, shelter-based and hybrid options, expand kit-prepositioning, and align site choices with safety guidance. The speed, agility and flexibility of the funding helps to reduce learning loss and support the wellbeing of conflict-affected children.

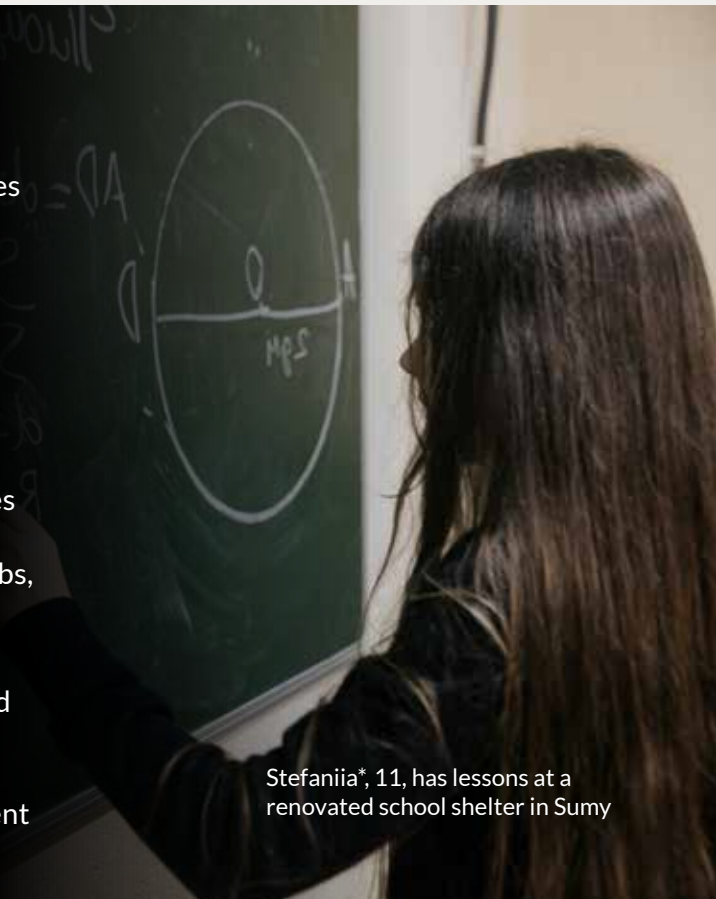
POWERING INNOVATION

Innovation is essential when standard education models are not viable due to constant air raid alerts, damaged infrastructure and lack of safe access. Flexible funding makes this possible by funding approaches before they are proven, giving teams and local partners room to test models, gather evidence and build proof-of-concept for scale-up through authorities and future donors.

HF financing supported SC and local partners to trial technology enabled, portable and inclusive learning environments not previously used in Ukraine.

Over 10,000 children were reached through learning centres equipped with virtual reality and other technology, hybrid setups designed to withstand blackouts, teacher support hubs, and inclusive resource rooms for children with additional educational needs.

These models demonstrably reduced learning loss, sustained engagement during frequent alerts, and strengthened local capacity - leading to take-up and co-funding by local authorities, and integration into CO plans as scalable, resilient solutions for high-risk areas.



Stefaniia*, 11, has lessons at a renovated school shelter in Sumy

LIVE FREE FROM VIOLENCE

OVERALL FUNDING TARGET: **\$12,000,000**

HF SPEND: **\$2,703,312**



CHILD PROTECTION

84,285 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 69,628 CHILDREN, REACHED WITH HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMMES

1,309 high-risk cases closed

4,268 psychosocial support and winter kits delivered by mobile teams and community partners

Over **3,500** people reached through awareness sessions to improve standards for children in institutional settings

180 unaccompanied/separated children supported

Escalating hostilities, displacement, and overstretched public services increased the complexity of risks facing children in Ukraine, from unsafe caregiving and exposure to violence, to the loss of identity documents needed to access services. With flexible funding from the HF, SC and partners sustained a comprehensive protection and psychosocial response in hard-to-reach, conflict-affected areas.

The HF's contribution enabled large-scale case management across multiple regions. In 2025, 1,309 high-risk cases were closed, supporting children evacuated from frontline areas, survivors of explosive incidents, and children with disabilities or chronic conditions.

HF-funded psychosocial interventions also reached thousands: 4,268 kits were distributed, and child-friendly spaces were established in communities receiving significant influxes of displaced people.

Beyond direct service delivery, flexible funding strengthened the protection ecosystem. The national civil society organisation Ukrainian Child Rights Network, which received HF funding from the CO, traced, returned, or referred children separated by conflict. In parallel, the organisation Right to Family expanded oversight and accountability in institutional settings through extensive monitoring and large scale community awareness activities.

By combining frontline delivery with system level engagement, HF funding enabled SC and partners to reduce immediate harm, expand access to safe care, and reinforce national safeguards.

ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

HF funding not only strengthened services, but the wider child protection infrastructure. Because HF support kept case management and psychosocial interventions operating across multiple regions, SC and partners were able to document real time risks, including unsafe evacuations, mine injuries, and gaps in institutional care. These findings fed directly into the Child Protection and Cash Working Groups, and de-institutionalisation forums, where they contributed to updated MPCA vulnerability criteria, strengthened referral pathways, and identified high risk areas to be prioritised.

HF-supported monitoring also prompted concrete follow up actions, including returning separated children to safe care and flagging institutional concerns to authorities. In this way, the HF ensured that frontline risks translated into tangible coordination, policy and system level improvements, benefiting children beyond programme sites.



Children attend a child friendly space in a bomb shelter

SAFETY NETS AND RESILIENT FAMILIES

OVERALL FUNDING TARGET: **\$38,075,000** HF SPEND: **\$4,063,211**



CASH AND FOOD SECURITY

69,743 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 43,256 CHILDREN, REACHED WITH HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMMES

36,586 individuals received emergency shelter support

6,000 people received essential household items such as bedding

316 people received training relating to livelihoods, including **44** young people who received life skills training through internships or apprenticeships

In 2025, many Ukrainian families navigated a cycle of shocks: sudden evacuations after strikes, months of lost income, homes damaged or without heat, and prices that kept climbing. Flexible donor support through the HF allowed SC and local partners to maintain a coherent, adaptive safety net that shifted with families as their circumstances changed, keeping assistance timely and relevant.

Rapid cash helped families cover urgent costs in the first days of displacement, contributing to the 5,219 people reached with cash or voucher assistance. As hardship persisted, regular cash supported families with sustained income gaps, while child-protection referrals ensured assistance also reduced risks like unsafe accommodation.

Adequate living conditions were equally critical. Shelter cash enabled families to complete repairs and bring homes back to minimum habitable standards, while bedding and emergency kits restored privacy, warmth and dignity in temporary sites, reaching over 36,000 people. In cold, hard to reach areas, firewood cash reduced exposure to winter related risks.

Recovery also required restoring livelihoods. In Dnipro and Kharkiv, the HF made possible a context specific farming package that reached 190 households with equipment, and 179 households with conditional grants and training, helping subsistence producers restart cultivation and improve yield. And in frontline impacted Donetsk, where markets were disrupted, food kits filled immediate gaps for more than 1,000 people.

ACTING AT SPEED

Speed is critical in conflict settings, and the timeliness of HF allocations, combined with the built in flexibility of the funding, made the HF indispensable for SC and partners in 2025. Needs in Ukraine shift within hours: missile and drone strikes force mass evacuations, frontline movements cut families off from markets, and infrastructure damage can plunge communities into sub zero conditions without warning.

That is why flexible and agile funding is so significant. In December, a \$1.5 million HF allocation was approved in just two days, unlocking resources to expand rapid MPCA, accelerate shelter repairs before winter temperatures dropped, and deliver non-food items (NFIs) in newly affected locations.

Because HF allocations can be activated and adapted almost immediately, assistance reached families at the moment of disruption, not weeks later, supporting safe evacuation, preventing cold weather risks, and reinforcing trust with affected communities by meeting real time needs.

Oleksii*, 16, with firewood that was bought with cash assistance from SC



SPOTLIGHT

LOCAL PARTNERS

Across Ukraine in 2025, local and national partners played a central role in maintaining humanitarian access, navigating volatile frontlines, and sustaining support for communities during repeated displacement and attacks. Because partners are embedded in their communities, they were able to shift routes, modify targeting, and keep services running where movement restrictions, shelling, or damaged infrastructure prevented INGO access. The HF's flexibility was essential - covering urgent gaps, allowing rapid scale-up, and enabling partners to take on activities that institutional funding could not resource at short notice.

The HF contributed directly to strengthening local systems: partners received training, mentoring and joint monitoring in child protection, psychosocial support, WASH operations, livelihoods, and cash delivery. This investment not only improved programme quality during the reporting period but enhanced the capacity of local actors to lead future response and recovery efforts.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

HADC delivered large scale hygiene assistance and advanced critical water infrastructure repairs in conflict affected Donetsk, distributing over 1,000 hygiene kits and preparing major pumping station upgrades to restore reliable water access for more than 8,000 people in hard to reach, heavily damaged areas.

SLAVIC HEART

Slavic Heart delivered community-based protection and psychosocial support in displacement-affected areas, reaching hundreds of children with structured and recreational activities, providing specialist follow-up for complex cases, and maintaining safe spaces and continuity of care where repeated alerts and population movements disrupted other services.

HOPE AND HOMES FOR CHILDREN

HHC managed complex protection cases for vulnerable children, closing nearly 200 through tailored casework, home visits and parental capacity support, while a multidisciplinary mobile team delivered specialised legal, therapeutic and developmental assistance for children requiring long term, community based care.

19% OF ALLOCATIONS CHANNELLED TO LOCAL PARTNERS

NINE PARTNERS RECEIVED HF FUNDING IN 2025



Heorhii* and Olha* have received ongoing case management support via SC's partner Slavic Heart

"Thanks to HF funding, we were able to provide children with safe spaces and consistent psychosocial support even in areas affected by shelling and displacement. This support helped children reduce anxiety, rebuild social connections, and develop coping skills, while caregivers strengthened their ability to support their children in stressful conditions. The flexibility of the funding allowed us to quickly adjust our activities and expand outreach, ensuring that the most vulnerable families continued to receive support when they needed it most."

Project Coordinator, Slavic Heart

ALEVTYNA'S STORY

Alevtyna*, 35, lives with her family in Dnipro region - an area close to the frontline that has also become home to many internally displaced families. She and her husband are raising three children: Anton*, 12, Mykhailo*, 10 and Anna*, 3, and run a small household with livestock, including a bull, goats, rabbits, ducks, and chickens.

The family relies mainly on the husband's income, social assistance, and child benefits. Winters are especially difficult, as illnesses and rising costs often stretch the family's limited resources. Farming is an important part of their survival, but last year the harvest failed, adding to their challenges.

The Ukraine CO, using HF funding, provided assistance to strengthen Alevtyna's household, including cash support and trainings. The family used the cash to buy a new motor for their agricultural machinery, buy fuel and seeds. Through training, Alevtyna also gained practical knowledge on growing vegetables and improving soil quality - skills that help the family better sustain themselves despite the ongoing war.

Alevtyna's family was part of a broader HF-supported programme, which reached 110 households. In a context where children attend lessons in shelters and the sound of drones and explosions is routine, the agriculture project turned fragile coping into predictable food and income, and restored a degree of dignity and control over daily life.

“SAVE THE CHILDREN GAVE US MONEY, AND WE BOUGHT AN ENGINE FOR THE TRACTOR BECAUSE OUR OLD ENGINE BROKE DOWN. WE BOUGHT GRAIN, DIESEL FUEL AND GASOLINE, AND WORKED THE FIELDS.”

Alevtyna*, 35 poses for a photo with her family



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

HF flexibility will remain an essential lever to protect continuity and scale locally led delivery as access, movement and needs shift. The CO's plan is to expand what worked in 2025, while deepening quality and safeguarding across sectors.



Expand rapid safety-net support through MPCA and the rapid response mechanism to meet growing displacement and ensure families can cover urgent costs during evacuations and outages.



Strengthen safe learning access, increasing digital learning centres, equipping more school shelters, and scaling inclusive kits as children endure prolonged disruption and 865,000 remain without full-time, in-person schooling.



Reinforce child protection and mental health services, sustaining case management, safe-care pathways, mobile MHPSS, and community-based support as 1.5 million children remain at risk of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, or other long-term impacts.



Expand emergency cash and essential items to 30,000 households as corridors open, helping families absorb price shocks and choose what they need most.



Danylo* (7) holds a football

“I HOPE FOR THE WAR
TO END. CHILDREN
NEED TO KNOW THAT
IT WILL BE PEACEFUL
AGAIN”

Anna* (9), who has been
displaced six times due to
the war in Ukraine



THANK YOU

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Cover photo:

Anton* (5) developed a stutter last year
due to the stress of the war in Ukraine

Report Photo Credits:

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*name changed to protect privacy

\$ in USD

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