

# A good start

Access to essential early education for refugee learners from Ukraine, **Moldova**

Street Child is partnering with the Moldovan Government to ensure access to essential early education for refugee learners from Ukraine whilst expanding access to equitable, quality early education for early learners from Moldova and Ukraine.

## The problem

1 in 8 children in Moldova is a refugee from Ukraine<sup>1</sup>. Early education offers life-saving learning as well as safety, security, and stability for these children. One of the interventions to support refugee children in Moldova specifically aims to expand their opportunities for early learning. Most refugee children aged 0-2 are concentrated in the capital city<sup>2</sup> and there are 47,632 refugee children in the country and only 1,797 (3%) of them are integrated in general education institutions<sup>3</sup>. The lack of access to early learning in Moldova also limits opportunities for labor force participation of their mothers. Access to early education and labor force participation are imperative for the long-term integration of refugees.

## The partner

Street Child supports children to be safe and learning in low-resource environments and emergencies working across 20+ countries in Eastern Europe, South Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa. Street Child is recognized for an agile, ambitious approach. On 24 Feb 2022, Street Child activated a rapid response in Ukraine, channeling 100% of all funds raised to excellent local level organizations in Ukraine. Street Child has also supported a further five partners working with refugees who are fleeing to Moldova and Romania – providing a platform to scale up services and support to conflict-affected children and communities.

## The philanthropic solution

In partnership with the Moldovan Government the program will:

- ensure access to essential early education for refugee learners from Ukraine whilst expanding access to equitable, quality early education for early learners from Moldova and Ukraine

- generate real-time evidence to inform early education expansion plans of the Government of Moldova as anticipated in the 2030 Moldova Strategy;
- leverage real-time evidence to engage and expand global evidence on early education in emergencies.

Street Child will work with an established network of local level organizations through the Alliance for NGOs active in the field of Child and Family Social Protection, with specialist support from Step by Step Moldova.

Globally, the Global Schools Forum will engage its community of 76 education organizations and partners reaching 5M children to develop and disseminate evidence on what works for scaling early education innovations in emergencies.

## The evidence

Investing in early education systems strengthening is shown to improve the integration of refugee learners in the immediate term, and to improve resilience to refugee-related emergencies over time through increasing its ability to absorb and adapt to the needs of refugee learners. This is of particular significance given high rates of repeat displacement amongst refugees, both in and across borders of Moldova and Ukraine.

## The impact

The program will reach 2,750 Moldovan and Ukrainian children, including at least 50% Ukrainian children. This constitutes at least 75% growth in access to education for refugees in Moldova; it also constitutes a 20% growth in current levels of enrolment for Moldovan children and would raise the early education enrolment rate in Moldova by 4%.

The program will benefit a further 5 million children through global evidence sharing via the Global Schools Forum community.

Source:1 Palladium (2022), 2 UNHCR (2022), 3 Ministry of Labor and Social Protection (2022)

All programmatic data provided by Street Child. The UBS Optimus Foundation is a grant-making foundation that offers UBS clients a platform to use their wealth to drive positive social and environmental change. The Foundation selects programs that improve children's health, education and protection, ones that have the potential to be transformative, scalable and sustainable as well as programs tackling environmental and climate issues.

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