

Meeting urgent needs

Expanding critical services for children and families, **Ukraine**

In war-torn Ukraine, demand for services like emergency accommodation, winterization, and trauma counseling is quickly outstripping supply. Depaul Ukraine is scaling up a holistic set of services that will provide at-risk children and families with the support they desperately need.

The problem

Official reports on the situation in Ukraine from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs point to a dire need for urgent assistance. Approximately 6.5 million people are internally displaced. Nearly 60 per cent of those who returned home do not feel safe and thousands continue to be forced from areas under active fighting. Attacks and damage to homes is leaving millions at risk of deadly temperatures that can drop below -4°F. Further over 3.6 million school-aged children have been affected by the closure of educational institutions.

The partner

Depaul International is the leading global agency specializing in homelessness. Depaul is one of very few INGOS already working in Ukraine prior to the current conflict (since 2007). Depaul Ukraine is led by local experts and is well-known, well-respected and highly-trusted in country.

The philanthropic solution

Depaul will provide critical assistance to 2,255 at-risk children and family members. Depaul's approach is holistic—providing a combination of housing support, cash assistance, and psychosocial support—because people's needs are varied:

- Children's centers in Odesa will offer psychosocial support, play and tutoring to internally displaced children, many fleeing Kherson, enabling their recovery from trauma.

- A new temporary accommodation program, adapting innovative models trialed in the pandemic, will provide a pathway to independence.
- Winterization repairs will enable families in Mykolaiv, a site of intense conflict, to survive during winter and prevent their homelessness.
- Targeted cash transfers will provide families with the funds they need to take ownership of their own recovery, using tested, effective models.

The evidence

Depaul Ukraine has proven its ability to successfully scale at pace and get help where needed most, recently receiving a presidential award for services to the nation. Since the war began, it has grown from supporting c.8,500 people per year to 23,500 a day.

The impact

This grant will support Depaul Ukraine to provide:

- Over 81 children and family members with temporary accommodation
- Support to 1,027 children and 440 parents and caregivers to deal with the effects of trauma and begin recovery
- Life-saving home repairs for 100 families and 200 non-food item kits (e.g., fuel) to help approximately 625 children and their families survive a winter without heat
- Cash grants to 594 people

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All programmatic data provided by Depaul International. 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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