



SOS-UKRAINE.ORG 

20 
років
в Україні

ACHIEVEMENTS



ACTIVITIES



CHALLENGES



ACHIEVEMENTS



ACTIVITIES



CHALLENGES



20TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES IN UKRAINE.



СОС ДИТЯЧІ
МІСТЕЧКА

20
років
в Україні



SERHII LUKASHOV

**National Director of
SOS Children's Villages Ukraine**

'Twenty years ago, we started our work to ensure that every child grows up in a caring family, to avert the risks of ruining children's lives in orphanages. For these twenty years, we have developed our social services model which distinguishes us among non-governmental organizations of Ukraine – a continuum of foster family care, a comprehensive complex of support for children: from supporting a vulnerable family to placing a child in foster family care and supporting a young alumnus. We have proven through our experience that the humane European model of family placement of a child is fully viable and effective in Ukraine.

Since the commencement of the 2014 invasion, we have been working to help children affected by war. We learned how to operate in emergency and faced a full-scale invasion ready to act without losing time, which could cost lives. We had to quickly deploy a complex of comprehensive assistance for families with children affected by war – they were either forced to leave their homes due to hostilities or traumatized by terrible events, or injured as a result of shelling – we were ready to provide them with psychological assistance, financial support, necessary items for settlement in new conditions, temporary shelter, to resolve logistical issues, to organize treatment and rehabilitation.

And all this time, we have been bringing children's voices to those in power who must listen to them. We have a clear understanding that we cannot overcome the institutional system that cripples lives and destinies on our own. We insist on the need to reform institutional care for children deprived of parental care. We make every effort to ensure that the needs of Ukrainian children are heard at all levels — from the settlement community to the Government and international organizations.

Despite today's war concerns, we are already working upon our future, protecting foster family care for children who will contribute to the recovery and development of a victorious European Ukraine.

We continue our work.'

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20 YEARS of care for children, families and promoting healthy parenting skills in Ukraine.

20 YEARS of challenges and struggle for the right of every child to a loving family.

20 YEARS of selfless and dedicated work and a qualitative impact on Ukrainian society.

20 YEARS of good deeds and saved children's lives.

It's time to take a look at the interim results!





OLENA KRIPAK

Head of Kyiv Regional Branch of
SOS Children's Villages Ukraine



'SOS Children's Villages Ukraine is the exact place where I found people with whom I can do something good, help children stay in families. For me, it is about love for people, bringing my values to life which lead to changes, bring benefits and create new opportunities. I am truly happy and excited that I am involved in the development of new projects that improve the lives of children and families of Ukraine.

My team inspires me, they work as a coherent mechanism and successfully implement projects to help families with children and young people. It makes my heart sing to find out about the successful stories of our alumni, when the results of the joint work of specialists and families are visible.

SOS Children's Villages Ukraine is a member of the international community guided in its work by the values of family, trust, and a happy childhood. We contribute to systemic changes at the state level, devise new work methods and implement many good and useful ideas and projects.

But we keep in mind that the main goal of our work is to amplify the voice of goodness.'



Serhii and Olena MOSKALENKO

Foster parents, who live
in the SOS Children's Village
Brovary (Kyiv region)



'It is not an easy task and definitely not for everyone to take a child into the family. But if you have been cherishing such a desire in your heart for a long time, if you want to and ask yourself 'Will I be able to do it? Will I cope with this?', most likely, the answer will be 'Yes!' I used to work in the institutional system, thus my own experience proves that an institution is absolutely not an option for a child left without parental love, care, and the prospect of growing up in a family.

It has been 11 years since my wife and I chose to raise and care for children as a foster family. Now there are seven of us in our family: me, Olena and five children. And it is definitely one of the best decisions we have made in our lives.

It gives meaning and strength to our lives, enriches us mentally; we constantly learn from children, grow as people, as parents.

Sometimes it can be challenging, but it is because of these difficulties that we become the stronger and better version of ourselves.

Because all children are ours.

We express our sincerest gratitude and appreciate the efforts of SOS Children's Villages, which actively helps and supports us in every way on this path.'



OLEH VISHTALIUK

Alumnus of SOS Children's
Villages Youth Programme



'My name is Oleh Vishtaliuk. I am twice internally displaced, currently living in Chernivtsi. I work at the civil society organization "Desiate Kvitnia" as a Reporting Specialist for the WASH UNICEF project and a representative of Ukraine in the UNICEF Youth Council. I also coordinate the Chernivtsi Children Fest project.

My first displacement was to Sievierodonetsk. It was in that city that I got to know the wonderful organization – SOS Children's Villages. Back then in 2015, it was difficult for me to adapt in a new school, I had no friends and support, except my mom.

In 2017, SOS Children's Villages started its work in Sievierodonetsk, and my mom and I applied for assistance. We were warmly received and supported. At first, we had a consultation with a psychologist, which I did not like, because I did not know what psychology was.

I was invited to join a youth program, and I doubted whether I should go – I was afraid to meet people. Nevertheless, I came to class, saw a friend from school, it became a little easier. Our youth leader (at that time) Ivan Bondarchuk was benevolent and helped with everything. After this acquaintance, I started attending various interesting events for youth, I liked to communicate with my peers.

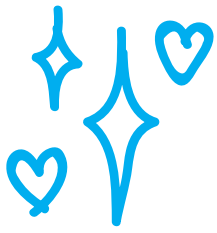
Already in November 2017, I attended the advocacy training in Kyiv for the first time. I met peers from the Brovary youth program there. In a year already, I had been actively visiting the Youth Centre and helped with its arrangement.

The assistance of SOS Children's Villages was also crucial in my education. The foundation paid for my preparation courses to pass the independent external test in chemistry. It was important for me, and now it helps me tutor children in different locations of the organization.

I got the greatest support from the youth leader Daria Kryvych, coordinator Alla Kotliar and social worker Nataliia Herasymenko. Daria supported me in implementing all my ideas: creating a group for preparation for the independent external test, an initiative environmental group "ECOBOTOP" and holding various events for children. Alla Kotliar was my mentor in writing social projects; all her advice helps me to this day. The support from the employees is invaluable to me; it was the best I could get during my 5 years in the Youth Program.

The Sievierodonetsk office of the organization became my second home, where I could implement my ideas, help others and find like-minded people, with whom we still implement social projects for children. To this day, SOS Children's Villages is a place for me to which I want to return again and again. For instance, in the Chernivtsi office, I hold events for children, teenagers and parents within the Chernivtsi Children Fest project.

SOS Children's Villages is an organization that provides support to everyone who needs it. I gained plenty of skills: interpersonal skills, organizational skills and responsibility. I express my sincere gratitude to everyone who was on my way and continues to support me until now.'



OUR UNIQUENESS:

- 74 years of international experience. Working with global partners at the international and national levels
- High standards and work policies, a high level of professionalism of our employees
- Comprehensive approach to providing assistance
- Prevention of orphanhood in Ukraine at all levels of our society
- Respect and trust, transparency and accountability are our core values



MISSION OF SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES UKRAINE

We ensure the right of every child to a loving family. We support vulnerable families and create family environment for children who have lost it



OUR VISION

Every child in Ukraine lives in a family and grows up in love, respect and security

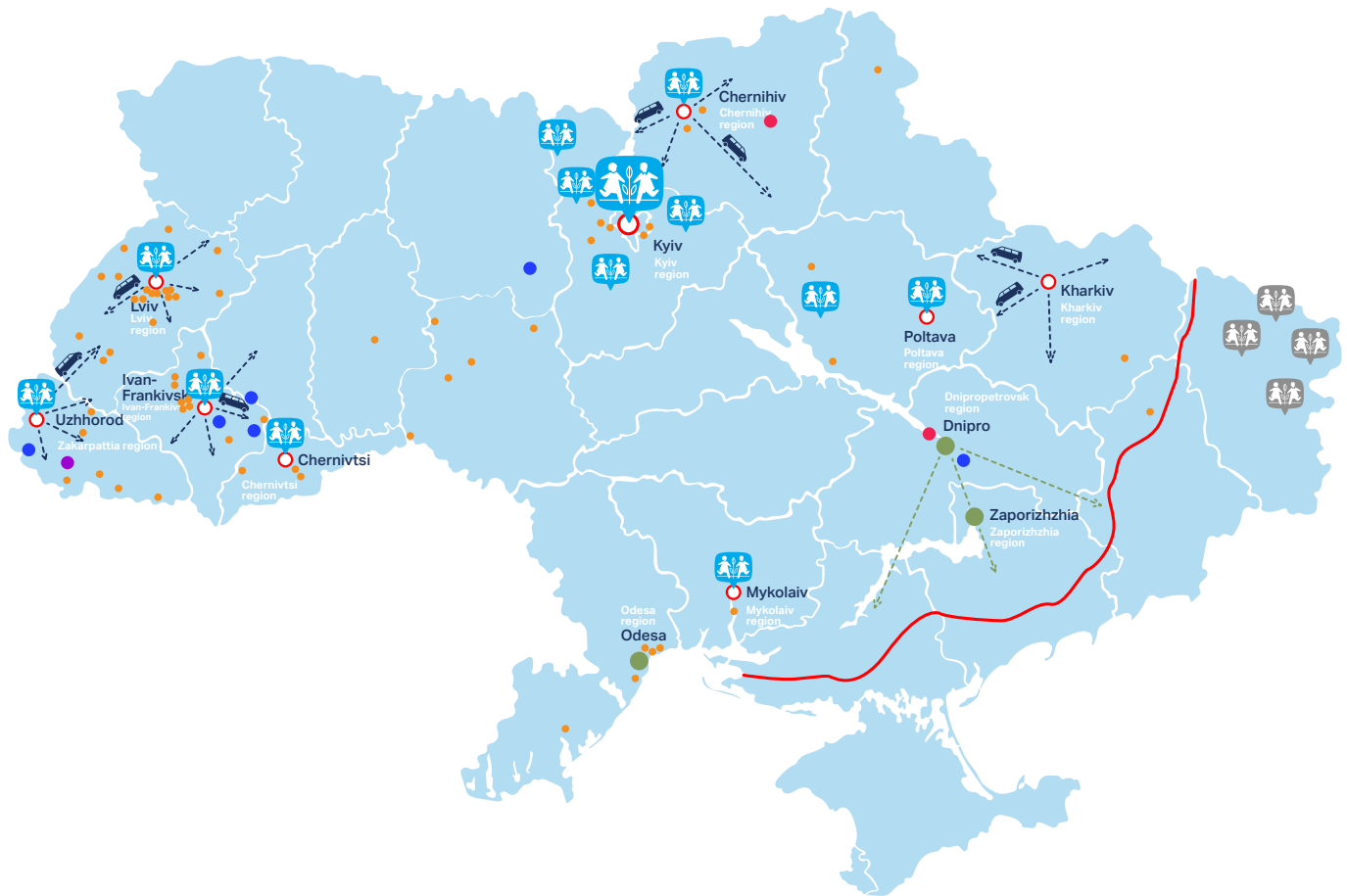
HOW SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES INFLUENCES UKRAINIAN SOCIETY



MAIN ACTIVITIES OF SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES UKRAINE

- Foster Family Care Programme
- Family Strengthening Programme
- Work with Youth
- Advocacy
- Emergency Response Projects

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES UKRAINE ON THE MAP OF UKRAINE



Family Strengthening Offices



Temporarily Unavailable Offices



Temporary Emergency Response Centers



Partner NGOs



Child-Friendly Spaces



Psychosocial Rehabilitation Camp



Shelters For Vulnerable Women With Children



Mobile teams



Partners Field Visits

OUR HISTORY



2003	Opening of SOS Children's Villages in Ukraine. Launch of Family Strengthening Programme
2010	Official opening of SOS Children's Village in Brovary.
2012	Launch of Luhansk Programme.
2014	Relocation due to the beginning of the war in Eastern Ukraine, opening an office in Starobilsk.
2018	Opening of the Youth Center and Small Group Home in Kyiv.
2019	Launch of the psychosocial service team in Luhansk region.
2021	Opening of Shelter for Mothers with Children in Sievierodonetsk.
2022-23	Emergency response to the full-scale invasion of Russia in Ukraine. Launching of support programmes in 8 new regions, opening of 63 child-friendly spaces.

RESULTS OF 20 YEARS OF OUR WORK



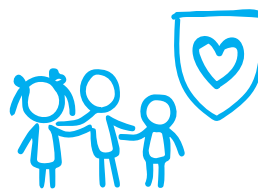
270+

children have
new families



7000+

children stay
in their families
of origin and
receive adequate
parental care



405 000+

children and
adults affected
by the war
got our
assistance.



Results of the emergency response project

(as of October 2023)

302 209

children and adults
affected by the war*

In 2022 – 123,439 +
as of September 2023 – 178,770



Additional projects

36 854

children and adults
affected by the war*

In 2022 – 23,084 +
as of September 2023 – 13,770

Family Strengthening Programme



HOW OUR PROGRAMMES WORK AND WHO WE HELP

Family Strengthening Programme



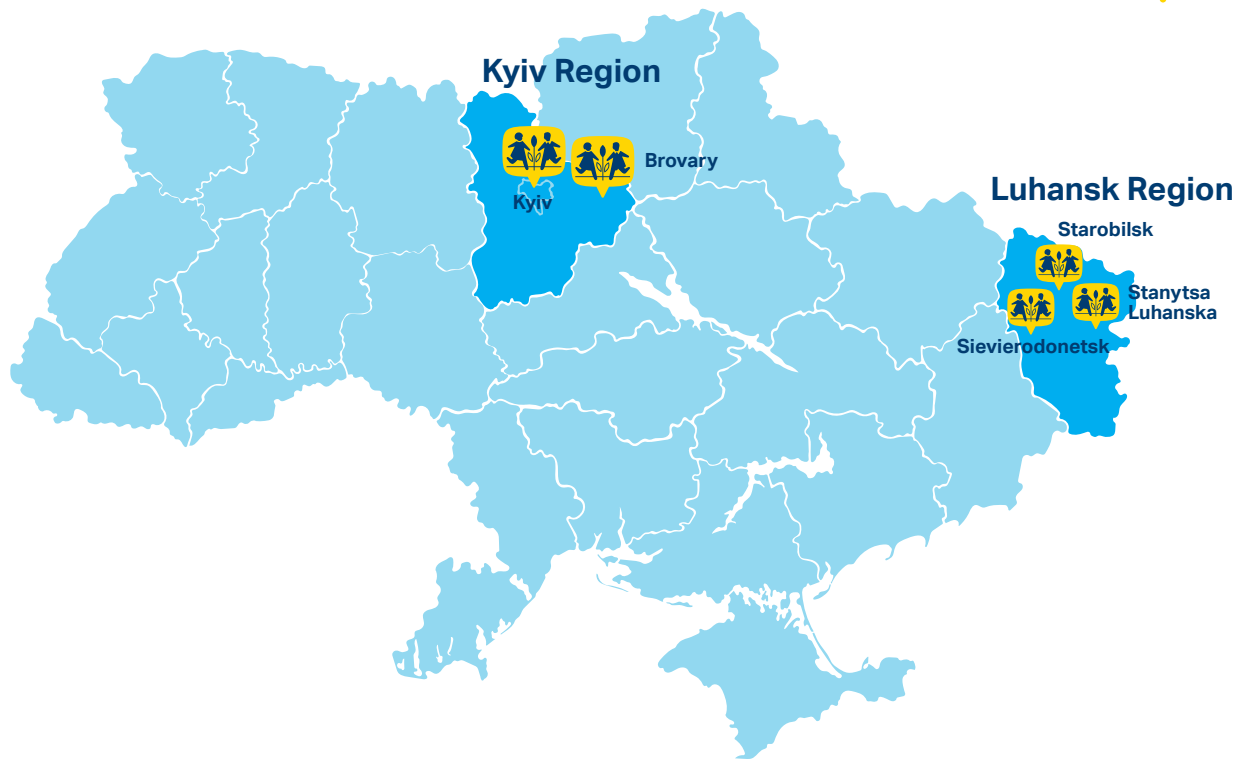
Aim of the Programme – preservation of the child in the family. We use an approach called ‘case management’, and provide services based on an individual assessment of the family needs: from material support to long-term psychotherapy, vocational training and inventory purchase for self-employment. As a result, 70% of families left the Programme self-sufficient.

- Psychosocial support
- Services of a social pedagogue and a speech therapist
- In-kind and cash support

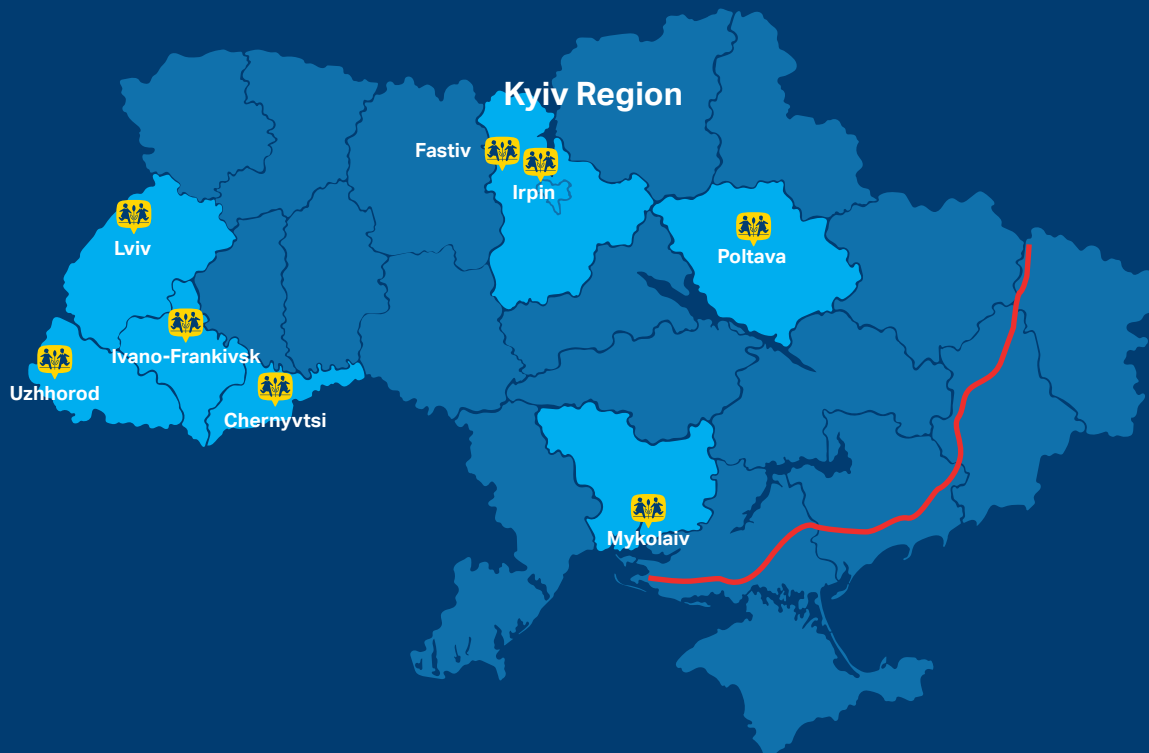
In 2022
23 655 people
received services from
centers



BEFORE FEBRUARY 2022



AFTER FEBRUARY 24, 2022 8 NEW CENTERS



Foster Family Care Programme



What is the uniqueness of our foster family care?

- support and training of foster parents with the use of the best international practice;
- close collaboration with governmental partners regarding children's placement and services provision;
- the use of state-approved alternative care models;
- additional support provided to children and families, including housing accommodation and payment for utilities.

IN 2022 WE SUPPORTED **167 CHILDREN AND THEIR CAREGIVERS**

Advocacy



- We collaborate with the government and partners to help children and young people who have lost parental care or are at risk of losing it to receive protection, care and support while ensuring their rights are recognized and respected.
- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, UN Recommendations on Alternative Care for Children, and other international documents form the basis of our advocacy work.
- We promote deinstitutionalization(De-I), participating in the development and implementation of the National De-Institutionalization Strategy aimed at transforming the system of institutional care for children without parental care into family-based care. We also influence the development of national legislation on children's rights as a consistent member of the Interdepartmental Commission for Child Protection.



EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROJECTS



SOS Children's Villages Ukraine was among the first who started to provide help to the most vulnerable

- in 2014, to internally displaced children and their families, who relocated to Kyiv region or Starobilsk district of Luhansk region.
- In 2019 we established a psychosocial team that provided services along the contact line in Luhansk region.
- In 2021 we opened a shelter for mothers with children in Sievierodonetsk, where women received material support, psychological assistance, parenting skills guidance, help in acquiring new professional skills, etc.

EVACUATION



Help to families with children who needed relocation to temporary safe living places both abroad and in Ukraine. Help in reuniting families separated due to armed aggression and occupation.

We've helped:

- Foster families
- Kinship-care families
- Families with children with disabilities
- Families with children who needed relocation

FROM FEBRUARY 2022 LARGE-SCALE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROJECTS ARE LAUNCHED



302 209

children and adults affected by the war received assistance from SOS Children's Villages Ukraine (from February 2022 to September 2023).

In 2022: More than 30 000 children and adults received support from us and moved to relatively safe western regions of Ukraine, including 1395 members of foster families who relocated to Europe.



Implementing Partners - SOS Children. Emergency Response Programme



Ensuring evacuation, placement in temporary shelters, humanitarian assistance, including food, non-food items, medicines, and the provision of psychological, legal, and educational services to target audiences in cooperation with reliable non-governmental organizations across the country.

- 18 implementing partners.
- Implementation in 11 regions.
- Cross-sectoral approach.

In 2022 in collaboration
with partners, we
reached out to

**55 045 children
and adults
with assistance**







Cash and In-Kind Assistance



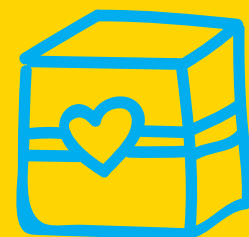
This direction of support has allowed us to provide rapid assistance to families and meet their basic needs in the shortest possible time.

- Multifunctional financial assistance
- Financial assistance to adoptive families
- Financial support for families in preparation for the winter period
- Provision of essential items: food, hygiene, household
- Providing children with gadgets for continuous learning from anywhere in Ukraine

In 2022

22 982

individuals received
cash and in-kind
assistance



Mental Health and Psychosocial Services

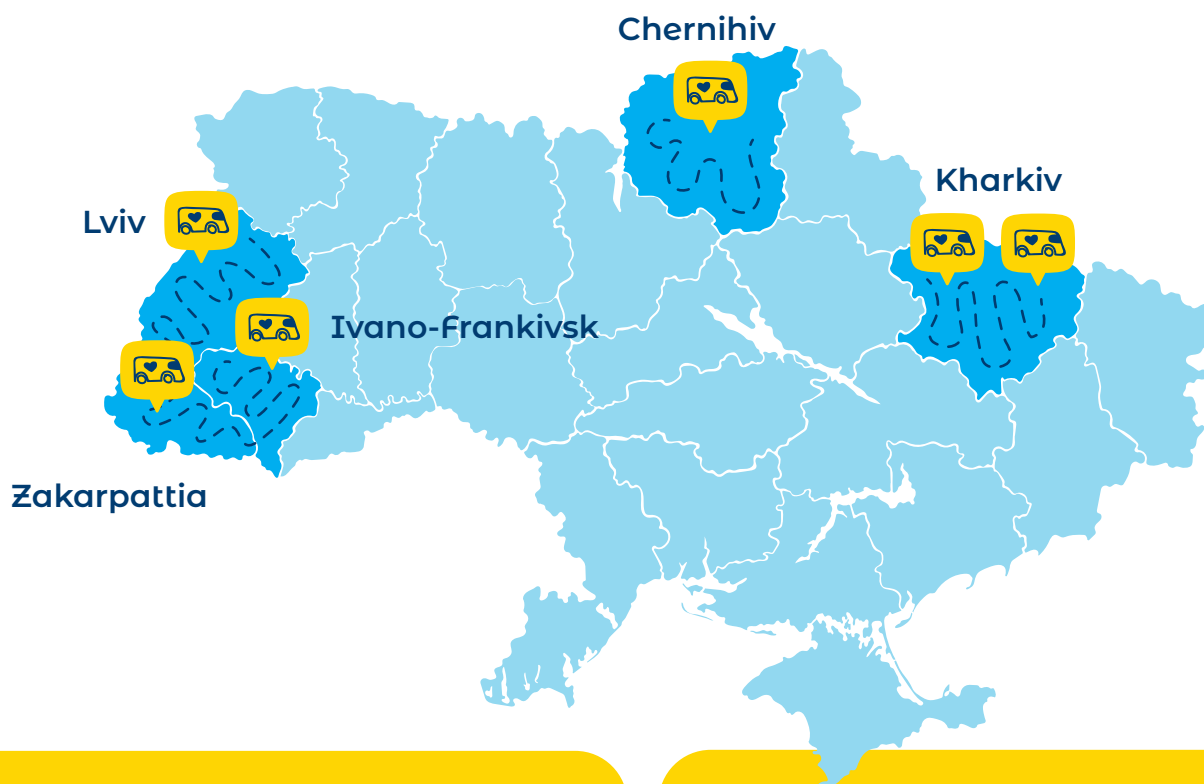


The primary goal of providing psychosocial support to children and their families affected by Russia's armed aggression is to reduce suffering and improve mental health and psychosocial well-being.



6 mobile teams providing

a range of social services with a focus on psychological support



Group sessions aimed at reducing tension, anxiety, fear, restoring communication with peers, etc.



Individual consultations address deeper issues such as grief, adaptation to forced relocation, etc.



In 2022 psychosocial mobile teams supported
20 000+
individuals



1000+ children from all over Ukraine were able to recover from the stress caused by the war in a psychological support camp located in a safe, ecologically clean region.



The camp is a unique programme we launched in Ukraine for the first time during the war. It combines psychological, recreational, sports and volunteer components to help each child overcome fears, become more open and socially active.



Self-Employment and Family Self-Sufficiency Project



This project has been launched in 2023 to support families with children facing challenging circumstances, create new job opportunities and promote the development of small and medium-sized businesses in various regions of the country. Participants receive offline training from experts, consultations from professionals and mentorship throughout developing and implementing a business plan. They also have the opportunity to receive grants for starting, expanding or diversifying their existing businesses.

Regions: Poltava, Kyiv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Chernivtsi and Lviv

As of October 2023,
1648 applications
were submitted

and
340 individuals
from 7 regions of
Ukraine participated



Support for Injured Children



Thousands of children have suffered injuries of varying severity due to Russian armed aggression. We try to help these children and their families quickly and painlessly overcome the crisis caused by these injuries, socialize and return to a happy childhood.

We provide the following assistance:

- Legal and social counseling.
- Provision of medical and rehabilitation services.
- Psychological support.
- Financial assistance, etc.

In 2022 **628** injured children and their family members received support



Winterization



Support for vulnerable families with children and communities in preparing for the winter.

- Financial assistance
- Generators
- Charging stations
- Power banks
- Flashlights
- Blankets
- Heaters

In 2022

53 420

individuals
received support,
including

Child-friendly spaces



In 2022-23 - 63 spaces were opened:

52

in collaboration with
public authorities,
municipal institutions
and corporate partners.

11

in collaboration with
non-governmental
partners

**According to surveys conducted among
parents of children-visitors of our spaces**



84%

of children
experience an
increased sense
of security



91%

of children
experience
improved
emotional
well-being



96%

of children
become more
communicative
and learn to
accept others



90%

of children
demonstrate
more
independence
at home

OTHER PROJECTS - 2022

"Ukraine Crisis – Regional Humanitarian Response"

(funded by Global Affairs Canada, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark - DANIDA, RTL Foundation Deutschland).

- In July 2022, a space friendly to mothers and children was established in Chernivtsi, which has transformed into a full-fledged center for the organization, performing functions similar to the "Family Strengthening Centers" within the Emergency Response Project.
- Baby packages were distributed in four regions of Ukraine, significantly easing the lives of mothers by covering the material needs of newborns.

A total of **7444 people** received the following services within the project:

- Psychosocial support
- Pedagogical services
- Material and financial assistance
- Baby packages

"The Right to Family" project (funded by BMZ)

The project aims to help implement alternative forms of family care on a national level (De-I strategy) and assist local communities in being informed and prepared for such changes.

Within the project, social workers, community representatives, officials and policymakers who make decisions at the national and local levels participate in events and training.

In 2022 **403 people** received training.

"SPILNO" Project (funded by UNICEF)

In collaboration with the civil society association "Ukrainian Child Rights Network," a network of child-friendly spaces and mobile teams of psychologists operates. Here, children receive psychological assistance, and social workers enhance their competencies. Communities, as a whole, learn and develop in the provision of social services.

In 2022 **2879 people** received psychological and informational support.

"Restoring Hope in Ukraine. Assistance to Families with Children Affected by Military Actions in Bucha District"

Two social service centers for children and their caregivers affected by the Russian invasion were established in Irpin and Borodyanka.

In 2022 within the project, **93 people** received the following services:

- Psychosocial services
- Correctional pedagogical services
- Material support

"Emergency Response Project for the Protection of Vulnerable Population (Children and Their Families) Affected by Military Actions in Luhansk Region" (funded by UNICEF).

This project was launched as an emergency response to the Russian military aggression in Luhansk Region. After evacuation, the project's resources were redirected to the territories controlled by Ukraine.

6140 people received the following services:

- Psychological support
- Social support
- Support programmes for specialists (social workers, teachers, psychologists)

"Humanitarian Response Project for the Prolonged Crisis in Luhansk Region" (funded by HGFD, Germany)

The project was launched in 2021 to address the consequences of the prolonged humanitarian crisis in areas of Luhansk region affected by the Russian invasion into Ukrainian territory, starting in 2014.

As the full-scale invasion began, the project was relocated to a safe region—initially to Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, and later to Poltava. It was redirected towards accelerated humanitarian response, including the provision of humanitarian aid and psychological support, until its completion in November 2022.

5615 people people received various forms of assistance:

- Complex support of vulnerable families
- Psychological support of SOS Children's Villages employees
- Natural support for internally displaced families with children
- Psychosocial support of internally displaced families with children

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTS US!

We are delighted to see a growing, responsible community and a network of SOS Children's Villages partners. During these years of war, more and more businesses, governmental institutions, foundations, communities and individuals from all around the world join in helping children and families in Ukraine.

Together we achieve incredible results. We are EXTREMELY GRATEFUL to everyone who has joined in supporting the children and families in Ukraine during these challenging times:

BMSGPK Austria and SOS Children's Villages Austria, SOS Children's Villages Lithuania, SOS Children's Villages Germany, Hermann-Gmeiner-Fonds Deutschland (HGFD), People in Need, the Embassy of Finland in Ukraine, as well as corporate and individual donors: Akelius, FM Logistic Ukraine, the Ukrainian Charity Exchange, Anex Ukraine, Bayer Ukraine, Buhler Ukraine, Danone Ukraine, De Forenede Dampvaskerier, DHL Ukraine, FM Logistics, Glovo, Healer Ukraine, Hipp Ukraine, IKEA, KFC Ukraine, Linical Europe GmbH, L'Oreal Ukraine, LR Kids, Mercedes, Omenaa Foundation, Procter & Gamble Ukraine, Raben Ukraine, Ravago, Sigma, Teozofsko Drustvo v Sloveniji Kajuhoa, Teva, Vaillant Group, Toy House, DEU-Ukraine, Nasha Ryaba, Nova Poshta, Porsche Ukraine, Store Food Distribution, Farmak, Foxtrot, Bousoulegkas Alexandros, Di Martin Svejda Hoeglwoerhweg, Kunst Treff, Mariya Aleksynska, Michael Thomson, Onishchenko Gleb, Ivan Vyazovsky, Yarem Venhrynovych, Yasin Dmitro, and thousands of our friends.



Our work would not be possible without close cooperation with local authorities. We sincerely thank the partner communities:

Borodianka, Hostomel, Dmytriv, Irpin, Horodenka, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kolomyia, Borislav, Drohobych, Zolochiv, Novoyavorivsk, Pustomyty, Staryi Sambir, Skhidnytsia, Yavoriv, Lubny, Mashiv, Novosanzharsk, Reshetylvka, Sencha, Shcherbanivka, Volovets, Mukachevo, Uzhgorod, Khust, Chop, Izyum, Vyshneve, Novodnistrovsk, Chernivtsi and also the administrations of Zakarpattia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Luhansk, Lviv, Poltava, Chernivtsi and Chernihiv regions.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The years 2022-23 have been extremely challenging for each of our employees. Fortunately, we have not been alone and have received powerful support from all sides. This gives us the strength and confidence to continue helping the children and families of Ukraine in various ways, even in such difficult times, so that every child has a loving family and a dignified future.

Hizhniak Family

Bakhmut - Kryvyi Rih - Kyiv

Nataliia and Yaroslav Hizhniak are the parents of three girls: Anna, Eva, and Alisa. The youngest, Alisa, recently turned one and she greets all with a smile, playing with anyone willing to spend time with her, not knowing that she and her sisters are children of war.

"It happened that just before the start of the war in 2014, I was pregnant. And during the full-scale invasion in 2022, I was carrying our youngest, Alisa, in my womb. Shortly before her birth, my mother passed away, and in this difficult wartime, my husband and I had to take care of the children ourselves. Children are a source of happiness, but it's terrifying for them when there's constant danger all around, and you don't know what tomorrow will bring."

The family moved urgently from Bakhmut, Donetsk region, first to Kryvyi Rih, and then to Kyiv, in search of any job that could support their large family.

"We didn't leave immediately because I was waiting for the youngest to be able to at least hold her head, as traveling with a baby under bombardment was very dangerous. But on one 'wonderful' day, this moment 'X' arrived for us: a half-ton missile fell in our courtyard. Roofs were torn off buildings, leaves fell from all the trees, and there was a crater left in our yard... And my husband and I understood – we are leaving right now! We booked an evacuation bus, took our German Shepherd, our children, the most essential items, and set off into the unknown. It was scary and hard, but being together as a family helped. Also, my husband managed to find work in Kyiv to pay the bills and provide us with the essentials." Nataliia's husband works as a builder and has an overloaded schedule, often working day and night. She takes care of the home and looks after their three daughters.

"SOS Children's Villages have done and continue to do so much for us: so much in-kind support -packages, toys, medicines, they provided! They even gave Alisa a wonderful new bed. Experts care for our girls, work with them, and we are so grateful for that. Our family regularly attends sessions with a psychologist and educational activities. It's wonderful for our older daughters; they get distracted through interactions, art therapy, and no longer talk about what they experienced at the beginning of the war."



#our_families

#20_years_of_care



Shevchuk Family

Gostomel, Kyiv region

"My wounded son begged us to save him because he really wants to live..."

Gostomel in Kyiv region was one of the first places to be affected by the Russian invasion. Its residents witnessed the beginning of a full-scale war right before their eyes. When Olha Shevchuk and her family realized they needed to flee as far as possible, Gostomel was already under Russian occupation, and they had no choice but to stay. Their house had a basement, and they initially hid there. However, as the battles intensified, their once-strong and happy home suffered significant damage. The electricity was cut, along with the heat and light, right in the middle of winter.

Neighbors offered Olha and her family shelter. They took them all in: Olha, her husband, her mother, and two children. Unfortunately, this house did not have a basement, and when shelling began, everyone had to rush outside and seek shelter in a nearby basement.

This was the situation on the 3rd of March. The shelling started, and everyone rushed outside. Olha was ahead, holding her younger son, and then she was knocked back into the corridor by the shockwave. She immediately saw that her older son, Vlad, had fallen to the ground. She knew something bad happened, she had to force herself to compose and carry her younger son to safety. Vladyslav had a head injury. One wound was minor, but the other was serious. They didn't know what to do. They tried to call an ambulance, but under the shelling, medics couldn't reach them. Olha's mother took it upon herself to provide first aid to her grandson. She managed to close the wound with a piece of cloth as best as she could. But they had to wait for a long time as the village remained under occupation for 15 days, and only after it was liberated the family could leave and Vlad could receive medical help. Unfortunately, his injury left lasting consequences. The boy often experiences headaches and dizziness, and he has difficulty sleeping.

"I'll never forget those dreadful days. My injured child had no medical care or medication, so we gave him some wine we found in the basement to calm him down. Whenever I close my eyes, I see Vlad and that basement, how he asked us to save him because he really wants to live..."

Together with her children, Olha spent some time abroad, but in March 2023, they all returned to Gostomel. They are rebuilding their home. Last year, the family found information about SOS



Children's Villages, which they contacted for help. The response was immediate: they received multi-purpose cash to cover basic needs and the children's medical treatment. Thanks to the support from SOS Children's Villages, Vlad underwent a comprehensive examination at a medical center in Kyiv and received rehabilitation at the "Prolisok" Mother and Child Sanatorium in May 2023.

#our_families

#20_years_of_care

Chechelnitski Family

Kyiv

14-year-old Alina witnessed her mother's terrible emotional state after her brother's death and made a decision for her: "We're giving birth!"

On the terrible day of the full-scale invasion, Hanna Chechelnitska was in Kyiv. Overwhelmed by anxiety, she couldn't figure out what to do and how to save her children - 14-year-old Alina and 6-year-old Maksym. Her brother had reacted faster. He was in their hometown in Mykolaiv region when the war broke out and left everything behind to go to Kyiv to get his sister and nephews to a safer place. Together, they considered all options and set a date for departure.

On February 26, they set off on the journey but hadn't left the city when they found themselves in trouble, from which they were running away. Passing by the children's hospital "Okhmatdyt," they came under attack. Hanna couldn't understand immediately what had happened.

"The kids were screaming, and everywhere was blood... I saw my son covered in blood and could barely understand it. Losing consciousness, I realized that I was also injured. I looked at my brother, but he was no longer moving... Out of the corner of my eye, I saw my daughter Alina. She was holding her little brother on her lap and trying to stop his bleeding artery with her fingers, but blood was still splattering everywhere..."

In an instant, war took Hanna's brother and her young son. Alina also suffered severe injuries, but her mother only discovered it in the hospital. When she opened her eyes at the hospital, Hanna received another shocking piece of news. She was pregnant! ...It was like a bolt from the blue! It seemed to her that she was drowning in despair after her son's death, and then... Her daughter saw her mother's terrible emotional state and made a decision for her: "We're giving birth!"

In the following months, life was very challenging for their small family. However, "Okhmatdyt" advised them to turn to SOS Children's Villages, explaining that one of the organisation's areas of focus is helping children affected by the war. Later, Hanna received financial assistance from the organization to cover their basic needs and medical expenses. In less than six months, the organization's specialists helped them buy seasonal children's clothing and shoes. Alina was also able to participate in a teenage entrepreneurship training called "Camp of Entrepreneurship" and won a laptop as the most active participant. Rehabilitation lies ahead for the girl, but with the organization's support, Alina has the opportunity to attend a rehabilitation center, and we all hope for the best. After the birth of her child, Hanna decided to stay in Kyiv. She works and rents accommodation, her elderly mother helps her take care of the children while Hanna is at work.



Lysynsky Family

**Sievierodonetsk,
Luhansk region - Poltava**

Dariia and Dmytro Lysynsky, along with their two daughters, Sofiika and Mariika, are internally displaced from Sievierodonetsk, Luhansk region.

After their evacuation to Poltava, they had to rebuild their lives from scratch, with the bitter realization that there was nowhere to return. Their family home in their hometown was completely destroyed, and everything they had before the war remained only in their memories.

In Poltava, Dmytro works as an engineer, providing for the family, while Dariia dedicates all her heart to their girls. She takes them to school, extracurricular activities, and various specialists who help the children overcome the psychological traumas of war and develop their strengths and talents. Sofiika, the older daughter, requires special attention as she has an autism spectrum disorder and needs constant rehabilitation and medical consultations.

Sofiika loves to draw. In their native Sievierodonetsk, her drawings were even used to illustrate a book, and now it's a way for her to explore the world and share her feelings with others.

Mariika is active and cheerful, enjoying dancing and socializing. Although the sisters are very different, they love and support each other, taking an example from their parents.

"What helped me cope with what we went through? When we finally settled everything for the normal life of our children (especially for Sofiika), I was able to calm down. And, of course, our whole family is grateful to SOS Children's Villages. Here we received, probably, all possible assistance, from bed linens to sessions with a speech therapist and psychologist. And when I first came to the office and found out that the specialists are also internally displaced persons from my hometown of Sievierodonetsk, I said, 'I'll just come here to hang out, have tea with you, and communicate because this is familiar, it's my own, it's what restores me.'"

When I think about the future, I have one wish – for it to be peaceful. So that we can live without the fear of having to run from the war again. We'll do and achieve everything..."

#our_families

#20_years_of_care





SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES UKRAINE – IT IS 20 YEARS OF GOOD DEEDS AND SAVED CHILDREN'S DESTINIES.

Only in 2022-23 – **339 063** children and their caregivers who suffered from the war received various support.

All of this was possible thanks to your support and constant donations from people around the world.

Ukraine is currently going through a brutal war, and protecting, supporting and caring for children is of paramount importance. Because it is they who will restore faith in goodness and justice. These are our children who will build and develop a victorious European Ukraine, so that we all have a future.



**It is easy
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