UKRAINE CRISIS RESPONSE
180 DAY PLAN

Second edition: June 1 – August 30, 2022
Summary

The war in Ukraine continues and with it our response. World Vision’s 90 day Ukraine Crisis Response Plan (UCR), published in March, set out an initial strategic focus and plan. Now we look ahead, combining insights from our immediate experience on the ground with our decades of emergency response. As the situation evolves, we have adapted our response to seek greater stability, less risk, and an intentional focus inside Ukraine. This is driven by the ongoing volatility within Ukraine and the high numbers of refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) in Ukraine and neighbouring countries.

The shifts outlined in this new response plan strengthen our response and allow us to better meet the historically unprecedented needs caused by this senseless war. It also aligns with World Vision’s promise to deepen our commitment to the most vulnerable girls and boys. This 180 Day Plan extends through August 2022. A longer-term response plan will be published in September.

Situational Update

Active fighting continues to be reported in eastern and southern Ukraine. According to WFP, over one-third of Ukraine’s population is food insecure. Southern and eastern provinces are most affected. Approximately 50% of the refugees and IDPs are children. Many have been exposed to traumatic events and require specialised child protection and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services. In Moldova, it is estimated that at least 2% of children are separated or unaccompanied. Children also lack recreation, life skills and educational activities. A more predictable provision of basic needs for children in accommodation centres and transit locations is needed. Displacement has increased the risks of morbidity and mortality if children do not access timely and quality health services, include immunisations, antenatal care visits for pregnant women, and services for untreated post-traumatic stress disorder in adolescents.

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Polina, 12, escaped Mariupol through a humanitarian corridor with her mother and pet dog after living through seven weeks of terror in the decimated city.
World Vision’s objectives

Objective One: Basic needs
Deliver life-saving in-kind and cash assistance to meet basic food, shelter and WASH needs.

Objective Two: Support and protection
Support affected women and children with child protection, gender-based violence support, mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS), and protection against sexual exploitation and abuse.

Objective Three: Access to basic services
Facilitate access to information, education, health care, social protection, and other basic services.
One central theme of the 180 Day Response Plan is the focus of our response inside Ukraine, and expanding that response further towards the east and the south, matching our response with the rising needs. These needs have been highlighted by the communities themselves, and by our partners, the UN and donor agencies. Positive developments in grant acquisition, staff presence in Ukraine, and new partner and sub-grant agreements make this expansion and prioritisation possible.

We've selected 16 areas where we are focusing on expanding our response in the next 90 days, based on magnitude, longevity and severity of need, World Vision and partner access, and the absence of other actors: Chernihiv, Chernivtsi, Dnipro, Donetsk, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Kropyvnytskyi, Kyiv, Lviv, Mukachevo, Odesa, Poltava, Uzhhorod, Vinnytsia and Zaporizhzhya.
Gradual Shifts in Operating Approaches

Direct Implementation

In the next 180 days, the response will shift towards increasing World Vision’s ability to implement directly, especially within Ukraine. World Vision is now registered in Moldova, and registration will soon be completed in Ukraine. At that point, World Vision can boost its operational capacity through hiring both locally and internationally, opening bank accounts, and through in-country procurements. Registration also allows the response to invest in ongoing training and coaching for newly hired staff to ensure they have the required capacity in delivering humanitarian assistance as per international and World Vision standards.

Implementation through partners

In terms of both number of partners and amount of sub-grants, our Ukraine Crisis Response will continue to be one of our largest partnering responses. We will continue to engage a wide range of focal actors across Ukraine, Romania, Georgia, and Moldova to deliver emergency assistance. Not only is this a strategic imperative and operational advantage, but it also serves as an institutional opportunity to improve our internal partnering systems, experiences, and knowledge. Implementing through partners will continue to be an efficient and appropriate approach considering the challenges of access and registration.

World Vision will continue to identify and vet strategic partners for both immediate assistance delivery, as well as for possible longer-term engagement. Strategic partners could range from partners with specific programming strengths to those with access and staff in key locations who can target a specific sub-population (e.g., unaccompanied children). World Vision is building funding mechanisms and partnering capacity to support partners’ implementation efforts and to mitigate related risks.

Several of World Vision’s partners in this response have minimal humanitarian experience. We have completed a detailed capacity assessment to identify areas of improvement for key partners. Based on the results, World Vision will develop a tailored capacity development plan so that we can provide targeted support to partners, including technical training, coaching and hands-on mentoring throughout project implementation.
Greater Management of Risk

The response faces risks at different levels. Our priority in the first 90 days was to establish a central office and a response portfolio. In the coming 90 days, we will now strengthen our risk management measures and personnel, including using World Vision’s existing risk management system (Riskonnect).

Security

Security remains a key constraint and concern in order to operate fully in Ukraine. Our security management has now shifted from cross-border to in-country. The response has a security advisor deployed who continuously monitors the situation in close collaboration with the UN and other agencies.

An adequate security architecture, required due to the operational challenges, is being put in place, including security field operations and a security trainer focal point for staff and partners. The response’s security protocols and procedures are in accordance with World Vision’s Security Policy and Core Security Requirements for High-Risk Contexts.

Strategic Interventions for Impact

Our response will continue to focus on meeting basic needs, ensuring women and children are protected, and making sure families have access to basic services. However, as we better understand the evolving situation and seek to deepen our impact on the most vulnerable, especially children, we will focus more funding and specifically design programmes to expand protection, child protection, psychosocial support, and education activities. These activities will reach families with meaningful interventions over time, promoting a greater impact on children’s lives.

Access to basic needs such as food, shelter, and sanitation and hygiene continues to be critical for both refugees and IDPs. Our response has been providing assistance both through in-kind and cash and vouchers. Since markets are functioning in Romania, Moldova, Georgia and in parts of Ukraine, the response will pursue a cash-first approach to programming, whenever possible and appropriate. However, where markets are disturbed in certain locations and some partners have limited procurement capacity, in-kind support is still needed. Considering the high mobility of the affected population, the response will explore providing cash in currencies with higher circulation in nearby countries, such as USD and EUROs.

Supporting affected populations, especially women and children, with child protection, gender-based violence support and MHPSS is critical as the war escalates. World Vision has established more than 20 partnerships with local actors to provide such services and to facilitate referrals. At present, the needs greatly outpace the supply of services and the operational reach of these local partners is largely limited.

Access to information, education, health care, social protection and other basic services is challenging for a population on the move, especially for children. World Vision will put more emphasis on assisting children to continue their education, physically or virtually. During the upcoming summer months, World Vision’s education work will pivot to non-formal services, seeking an integrated MHPSS, child protection and education model when feasible. World Vision seeks to support refugees with a service-hub model in Romania where they can access commodities, essential information, referral support, basic services such as internet access, and basic psychosocial support. We will still consider supporting health care service delivery if needs emerge, but this will not be the key programme focus in this phase of the response.
Managing risk with partners

Our response plan recognises the various risks associated with partnering in Ukraine, both because of the number of agreements, as well as the relatively minimal humanitarian experience of some partners. To mitigate this, World Vision’s response will ensure close coordination between the Grant Acquisition, Risk and Compliance and Partnering teams in order to manage and coordinate partner risks.

Risk management with partners begins with a due diligence and vetting process to evaluate potential partners. A targeted capacity building plan will be developed for implementing partners that will cover topics such as fraud and corruption awareness and safeguarding requirements. Grant Acquisition teams will design projects alongside partners, setting them up for success. World Vision will also conduct monitoring and spot checks to ensure the quality of implementation, which will be complemented by an accountability system identifying possible operational issues. In areas where direct access is a challenge, World Vision will explore the possibility of engaging third-party monitors to independently verify programme progress. We will provide support in identifying partners’ security needs and work with such partners on security capacity building plans.

Safeguarding

Drawing on our global safeguarding expertise and as co-lead for Ukraine’s Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Network, World Vision has committed technical and personal resources to strengthening safeguarding for staff, partners, vendors, and the broader community. Over the next 90 days, we will hire a permanent safeguarding expert and assign country focal points to provide overall safeguarding leadership. Before making any field level partner agreements, we will review partners’ safeguarding policies and procedures.

If they do not have their own existing policies, partners can agree to follow World Vision’s safeguarding policy. A copy of the full safeguarding policy is attached in all sub-grant agreements. Partners also need to assign safeguarding focal points in their organisations. World Vision will train partner organisations in safeguarding and protection, and strengthen feedback and referral mechanisms to prevent and quickly respond to safeguarding incidents through a survivor-centred approach. World Vision’s internal safeguarding reporting system will be used to record and manage safeguarding incidents. World Vision employees will receive refresher courses or other safeguarding training periodically.

Targeted advocacy will address gaps generated by the conflict. In Ukraine, we will advocate for:

- Protection, education and safety of children located in IDP centres.
- Protection and support of children with disabilities located in remote facilities across Ukraine and non-discrimination of children with severe disabilities during humanitarian evacuations—a Disability Rights International investigation[1] revealed that children with disabilities and the greatest support needs are living in atrocious conditions and are entirely overlooked by major international relief agencies and receiving little support.
- Access to vaccinations against polio, measles and rubella as a priority for all Ukrainian children less than six years of age who have missed any routine vaccinations. WHO[2] warns that 6.5 million children were already behind in their immunisations. Medical personnel presently in Ukraine observed a reduction in immunisations since the war began, including polio and measles.

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