



Save the Children
Achub y Plant

Photo: Camelia Iordache & Salvati Copiii / Save the Children



SAVE THE CHILDREN WALES

SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN UKRAINE

For children in Ukraine, this is an incredible scary and uncertain time. They've lived through bombardments, hiding in shelters and being forced to leave their homes. At least 6.2 million Ukrainians remain internally displaced, whilst some 8 million are refugees in neighbouring and other countries. The UN estimates that more than 3.5 million children in Ukraine live under severe to catastrophic levels of needs across the country. Children have had to leave behind loved ones, friends, and everything they have.

After **long and exhausting journeys**, families are settling in countries across Europe and beyond. Already tens of thousands of Ukrainian refugees have arrived in the UK. With visa approvals increasing, and the continuation of the war, it is expected that many more people will have to **flee their homes and seek safety**. It is estimated that at least half of these will be children.

Save the Children works across all four nations of the UK, working with communities to reduce the number of children growing up in poverty and support their early development and learning. In Wales we have **strong networks of local partners** who we've been working with to help children and their families from Ukraine whose lives have been upturned. **Working together to get the critical support** and equipment children need to recover and start to rebuild their lives.

Sisters *Oleksandra and *Myroslava both live in the Lviv Oblast and first came to Cardiff with their young daughters early last summer.

Working alongside our partner in Cardiff Council, Save the Children Cymru were able to provide them with an early years grant to buy books and toys for the children and vouchers to buy food and clothes.



**Names have been changed to protect identities.*

savethechildren.org.uk

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PROVIDING CASH GRANTS TO WELCOME CENTRES

Welcome Centres have been set up in Wales to accommodate and support families arriving from Ukraine until they have another home to go to. Whilst these **Welcome Centres** have had generous donations of clothes, prams, and other items, it's hard to predict what families will need when they arrive. The **cash grants** being provided by **Save the Children** enable Welcome Centres to respond to the specific needs of families, helping to give them a much-needed feeling of control and as they arrive and settle in Wales.

The grants can be spent on items that create a safe and nurturing environment for families staying in the Welcome Centres including household appliances such as microwaves, fridges and dishwashers; furniture such as cots and sofas, carpets and cooking utensils. The cash grants can also be used to support families with play and learning resources like toys, books and craft materials and devices such as laptops and tablets.

“We worked with Welsh Government to manage a Super Sponsor Welcome Centre, and the Save the Children Cymru grant provided additional play equipment, toys, and soft furnishings to the families communal spaces, including the lounge and playroom. The funding also provided families personal items, such as nappies, children safe bathing and washing items, and other essential hygiene essentials. Many of the families had been travelling for long periods with limited access to funds, and these items were required immediately on arrival. The funding has allowed us to build positive relationships with children and families who arrived within the county borough, which has allowed us to go that extra mile to support families in crisis.”

– **Member of Local Authority's support team.**

PROVIDING EARLY YEARS GRANTS FOR FAMILIES FROM UKRAINE

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit we saw families struggling and being pushed further into poverty, Save the Children worked with 94 partners to deliver **Early Years Grants** to 5,500 families and 11,000 children across the UK. The grants enabled families to have basic essentials such as household appliances and food vouchers as well as toys, books and learning resources.

Based on our experiences and lessons learned from delivering these grants, our local partners are ready to help families arriving from Ukraine. Families will have had to leave behind everything they owned; our Early Years Grants will **support the families' immediate needs**. These grants will be accessible for individual families, and will again help in giving household items, shopping vouchers, toys and educational activities to support children's learning. In times of crisis and upheaval, education can provide a lifeline. It offers children stability, routine and hope for a better future.

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TRAINING

We will share our knowledge and experience of working in humanitarian contexts in Africa, Asia, Europe and the UK to help frontline workers and volunteers understand the **needs of refugee and asylum-seeking children and families**, and the cultures they come from. The online sessions also provide an opportunity for staff and volunteers to ask questions and discuss issues they might be facing.

WELCOME PACKS

Many families have had to leave everything behind as they leave Ukraine. A welcome pack has been produced for Ukrainian families arriving in Wales to help families adjust and settle in. The pack contains **information and advice** on accessing local services, such as healthcare in addition to toys, educational activities to support children's learning, and grants so families can afford the basics. This pack will be **available in English, Ukrainian and Russian**. Local partners will distribute these to refugee families. In the weeks and months following their arrival, we'll continue to work with our local partners to support children and families as we see their needs change.

CHILD TO CHILD PARTICIPATION PROJECT

As Ukrainian children arrive in homes across Wales, preparations need to be made to help them settle into new schools and communities. The **child-to-child participation** project **works with local school children** across South Wales to develop opportunities for children to lead activities in welcoming refugee families from Ukraine and other countries arriving into their communities. Through the project children become actively involved in their communities, solve problems, and bring about changes that will improve the lives, safety and wellbeing of all children in their area.

Children in Wales and around the world have used their voices and actions to speak up for children in Ukraine, becoming agents of change. The project **aims to empower children** to share their realities, words, and photographs so that decision-makers actively listen to children's voices and implement **positive changes in their communities**. Child-to-child messages from pupils in the schools will be shared with children in Ukraine and the surrounding countries around Poland with the aim to help children **feel a connection** for the unity and support they have from children all over the world.

**To find out more the work we do in Wales:
Contact walesinfo@savethechildren.org.uk
Follow us on Facebook [@savechildrenwales](https://www.facebook.com/savechildrenwales) and Twitter [@savechildrencym](https://twitter.com/savechildrencym)
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