

RESULTS SUMMARY

Ensuring Educational Access in a Time of War

Author: Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2025)

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PROJECT	Title:	Enhancing Mykolaiv's Future – Empowering Resilient Communities, Families and Civil Society for Reconstruction and Recovery
	Partner:	Save the Children
	Country:	Ukraine
	Period:	1 December 2023 – 30 November 2025

CHANGE	<p>In 2024, Save the Children contributed to improving approximately 10,000 children's access to education, mental health, and safety, which has contributed to enhancing resilience and recovery in Mykolaiv, Ukraine. This was achieved through the establishment of Mobile Learning Support teams and two Teacher Digital Learning Centres. The digital learning centres support teachers in facilitating online education while children with special needs can visit the centre and receive educational help while many schools are still closed in Mykolaiv.</p>
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CONTEXT	<p>During the war in Ukraine, social infrastructure has been severely damaged, including in Mykolaiv, where many schools remain closed. Prolonged closures have harmed children's mental health by disrupting routines and limiting social interaction. The security situation has also worsened, increasing risks for schoolchildren due to inadequate shelter. At President Zelenskyy's request, Denmark has taken a special role in rebuilding Mykolaiv, including rehabilitating school shelters to provide a safer learning environment.</p>
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CONTRIBUTION	<p>The project has contributed to improving a safe learning environment for children in Mykolaiv in a time of war through the rebuilding of schools and kindergartens as well as through building educational facilities fit for digital learning. The project has also contributed to children's wellbeing through supporting a better functioning every-day life, e.g. by rehabilitating bomb shelters and improving access to mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), thus providing and improving a safe learning environment for children in Mykolaiv.</p>
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IMAGES	 <p>Digital learning centre. Photo: Save the Children</p>	 <p>Activities with children at a digital learning centre. Photo: Save the Children / Istok</p>
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITIES

Through the project, Save the Children has provided communities in Mykolaiv with the rehabilitation of education facilities (including light and medium repair work of learning facilities and/or protective structures), the establishment of Mobile Learning Support and Teacher Digital Learning Centres (DLC's). Furthermore, they have educated teachers through Safe Schools teacher modules on topics relevant to children and adults' safety, protection, and positive relationships at school. Save the Children has furthermore provided children with case management support to address emotional distress and emotional abuse, supported families through the provision of essential household items, and hosted MHPSS learning events. The activities have been centred around enhancing resilience and recovery through enabling physical and online education access and promoting emotional support by providing access to MHPSS services.

LESSONS

An important lesson learned was the need for proactive contingency planning to mitigate disruptions in project implementation. Recognising the potential for security risks, workforce shortages, and power outages, Save The Children strengthened its project monitoring processes to quickly identify and address delays, ensuring minimal disruption to children's education. Additionally, the recruitment of children for MHPSS learning events required more time than anticipated, highlighting the need for flexible timelines and alternative engagement strategies to maintain participation. In child protection efforts, increasing the number of facilitators proved essential, allowing case workers to focus on case management more effectively. These adaptations improved overall project efficiency and can inform future programming in similar contexts.

EVIDENCE

The claim that the project has improved children's access to education and their mental health and safety is supported by the partner's interim annual report that shows that almost 10,000 children received access to education; 79% of children receiving targeted MHPSS support felt their mental well-being had improved, and that 100% of children receiving targeted protection support reported feeling safer. In addition, 87% of the educators working in the rehabilitated schools, the digital learning centres, and with the mobile learning initiatives, who had received training in the Safe Schools teacher module reported an improved capacity to support learners. These results confirm the project's strong impact on children's education, well-being, and safety in Mykolaiv.

DOMAINS

Development strategy priorities:

Fragility & Migration

Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability

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Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights

-

Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights

X

Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights

-

Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability

X

Changes in local leadership of development and humanitarian work

X