



# UAct: Scouts in Humanitarian Response for Ukraine

Final Partnership Report





World Scout Bureau  
Mondial du Scoutisme

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# **UAct: Scouts in Humanitarian Response for Ukraine**

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Final Partnership Report

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# WOSM Forewords



**SCOUTS**<sup>®</sup>  
Creating a Better World

## Dear Friends in Scouting,

As we conclude this impactful UAct project, it is a moment to reflect on the remarkable journey we have undertaken together. The UAct partnership between the European and Eurasia Scout Regions of WOSM and UNICEF ECARO has made a significant difference, reaching over 1,150,000 Ukrainians in need of support. Through our collective efforts, we have provided invaluable support, creating a sense of safety, security, and empowerment for individuals affected by the ongoing war.

Central to the success of the UAct project has been the unwavering dedication of more than 34,000 Scouts, including our inspiring young Scouts, who have been at the forefront of humanitarian support since the beginning of the war in Ukraine. From critical border assistance to delivering essential supplies and envisioning sustainable solutions for refugees, Scouts have epitomized the true spirit of service and solidarity.

Drawing upon our rich heritage, we have leveraged the power of safe spaces and non-formal educational approaches rooted in Scouts' values of trust, safety, peer-to-peer support, continuous learning, and the pursuit of peaceful societies. By creating nurturing environments where refugees can rebuild their lives and fostering inclusivity, we have taken meaningful steps towards building peaceful communities.

Furthermore, the UAct project has underscored the importance of preparedness, not only as a response to conflicts but as a proactive means of preventing and mitigating their impact. The Scouts' longstanding principle of «being prepared» has resonated

throughout the project, prompting regional Member Organizations to prioritize equipping ourselves with the necessary skills, knowledge, and resources to effectively address humanitarian crises. We recognize the pressing need to enhance our educational materials, share knowledge, and place Scouts at the centre of humanitarian action as capable actors who can effectively respond to the needs of their communities.

In the face of adversity, the UAct project exemplifies the vital role that partnerships play in creating sustainable change. Our collaboration with UNICEF ECARO, as well as UNICEF country offices, has proven invaluable, enabling us to pool resources, expertise, and networks towards a shared vision. Together, we have demonstrated that by working in synergy, we can amplify our impact and create lasting solutions that transcend borders.

As we celebrate the achievements of the UAct project, let us also remember the broader context in which our work is situated. Peacebuilding is not merely a response to conflict but a proactive endeavour to prevent the outbreak of hostilities. We must continue to raise awareness and advocate for the training and preparation needed to build peaceful societies, ensuring that our communities are resilient and equipped to face the challenges that lie ahead.

Let us carry forward the lessons learned and the spirit of collaboration that has guided us as we strive to create a more inclusive, compassionate, and prepared European region.

Yours in Scouting,

**Sian Bagshaw**

Regional UAct Project Coordinator

**Martin Seeman**

UAct Committee Liaison, ESC

# UNICEF's Forewords

unicef  for every child

## Dear UAct colleagues and friends,

This report provides a chance to reflect back on our collective journey and highlight some of the wins and challenges encountered over the 15 months of dedicated work and unwavering commitment towards our shared goal of supporting people affected by the humanitarian crisis precipitated by the war on Ukraine. The UAct project, a collaboration between the WOSM European and Eurasian Scout Regions and the UNICEF regional and country teams in the Europe and Central Asia region, stands as a testament to the transformative power of partnerships and the boundless potential inherent in young people.

Throughout this period, we have taken a collaborative, tailored and holistic approach towards addressing the multifaceted needs of Ukrainian refugees in the nine countries most affected by the rapid onset of the crisis. Throughout the partnerships our key focus has been on mobilizing and engaging with youth as partners. Recognizing the complexity of the challenges faced by refugees, we have strived to provide comprehensive support, encompassing their physical, emotional, and educational well-being. Witnessing the remarkable capacity of young people to respond effectively and sustainably to the needs of others has been a source of inspiration and a testament to their immense potential.

Together, we have harnessed the strengths and expertise of both organizations, both at regional and country level, creating a synergy that has driven our work forward. This collaboration serves as a shining example of how partnerships can elevate humanitarian action, leveraging pooled resources, knowledge exchange, and expansive networks to achieve greater impact.

Importantly, the UAct project has placed a strong emphasis on granting ownership and leadership to young people in times of crisis. We firmly believe

that they are not mere beneficiaries or participants, but indispensable and vital actors in shaping the humanitarian response. By empowering youth to take charge and be active agents of change, we have witnessed incredible results and fostered a sense of empowerment and resilience within the communities we serve.

As we celebrate our accomplishments thus far, it is vital to look at the future. This collaboration between UNICEF and WOSM should not be viewed as an isolated endeavour, but rather as a catalyst for broader shifts in humanitarian action. We must continue to nurture and enable the potential of young people, create pathways for their systematic and meaningful participation, engagement and leadership in all aspects of humanitarian and crisis responses.

UNICEF wishes to express our deep gratitude to WOSM and to everyone involved in UAct for their commitment, caring, and partnership. Your unwavering dedication, passion, and collaborative spirit have made this initiative such a success.

As we move forward, it is important to recognize the importance of investing in young people and building on their strengths and resilience. They are critical actors who can contribute towards shaping a more peaceful, rights-respecting, inclusive, fair and compassionate world.

In solidarity,



**Nina Ferencic**

Senior Regional Adviser on Adolescent Health,  
Development and Participation

# Glossary

<b>Adolescent Kit</b>	Adolescent Toolkit for Expression and Innovation
<b>BD</b>	Blue Dots
<b>CS</b>	Civil Society Organisations
<b>ECAR</b>	UNICEF's Europe and Central Asia Regional Office
<b>FACE</b>	Funding Authorisation and Certificate of Expenditure
<b>HA</b>	Humanitarian Action
<b>ICE</b>	Itemised Cost Estimate
<b>IDP</b>	Internally Displaced People
<b>MO</b>	Member Organisation
<b>PC</b>	Programme Cooperation Agreement
<b>PFA</b>	Psychological First Aid
<b>SFH</b>	Safe from Harm
<b>UAct</b>	UAct: Scouts in humanitarian response for Ukraine
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>WAGGG</b>	World Association of the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
<b>WOSM</b>	World Organization of the Scout Movement

# Overall Project Figures

## Overall project data – per Key Performance Indicator (KPI) agreed between UNICEF and WOSM

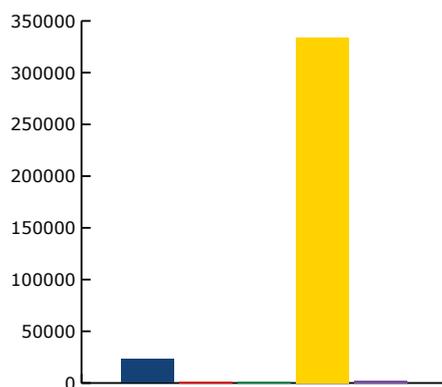
In December 2022, a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were revised between WOSM and UNICEF based on the project's progress, indicating the potential to expand support for Ukrainian refugees and IDPs beyond the initial targets. This table illustrates the evolution of the project, with Column II displaying the established KPIs, Column III showcasing the actual figures achieved across the nine countries by the project's completion, and Column IV indicating the percentage of completion compared to the original targets.

Name of the KPI	Original figure agreed between UNICEF and WOSM	Accumulative figures reached	% achieved
Number of Ukrainian children, adolescents, young people, and adults reached with support since April 2022	1,300,000	1,151,142	88,55%
Number of Ukrainian children, adolescents, and young people reached with support through the Scouts' educational programmes since April 2022	150,000	342,165	228,11 %
Number of Ukrainian children, adolescents, young people, and adults receiving support through the U-Report tool	10,000	13,618	136,18 %
Number of interactions and reach across the nine UAct countries' social media platforms since April 2022	2,900,000	4,150,858	143,13 %
Number of Scouts volunteers and team members providing support since April 2022	25,000	34,949	139,79 %

These tables provide a breakdown of the project's KPIs based on the figures achieved in each of the nine countries involved. It is important to note that the capacity of each Member Organization (MO) varies significantly, which contributes to the diverse range of results obtained. Additionally, the level of migration influx differs across the countries. Furthermore, the nine UAct countries have played varying roles in the migration process of Ukrainian refugees. While some countries have served as final destinations where refugees have settled, others have functioned as transit countries where people have temporarily stayed before continuing their journey to settle in other European nations.



### Czechia



**23075**

Number of Ukrainian children, adolescents, young people, and adults reached with support since April 2022

**1250**

Number of Ukrainian children, adolescents, and young people reached with support through the Scouts' educational programmes since April 2022

**1657**

Number of Ukrainian children, adolescents, young people and adults receiving support through the U-Report tool

**334016**

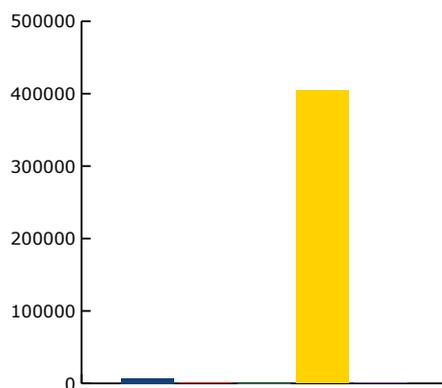
Number of interactions and reach across the nine UAct countries' social media platforms since April 2022

**2046**

Number of Scouts volunteers and team members providing support since April 2022



### Hungary



**6984**

Number of Ukrainian children, adolescents, young people, and adults reached with support since April 2022

**1230**

Number of Ukrainian children, adolescents, and young people reached with support through the Scouts' educational programmes since April 2022

**180**

Number of Ukrainian children, adolescents, young people and adults receiving support through the U-Report tool

**404030**

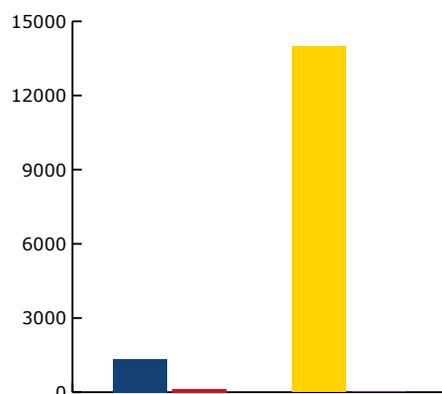
Number of interactions and reach across the nine UAct countries' social media platforms since April 2022

**566**

Number of Scouts volunteers and team members providing support since April 2022



### Latvia



**1344**

Number of Ukrainian children, adolescents, young people, and adults reached with support since April 2022

**130**

Number of Ukrainian children, adolescents, and young people reached with support through the Scouts' educational programmes since April 2022

**13977**

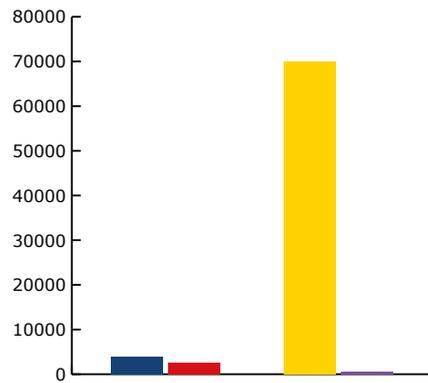
Number of interactions and reach across the nine UAct countries' social media platforms since April 2022

**37**

Number of Scouts volunteers and team members providing support since April 2022



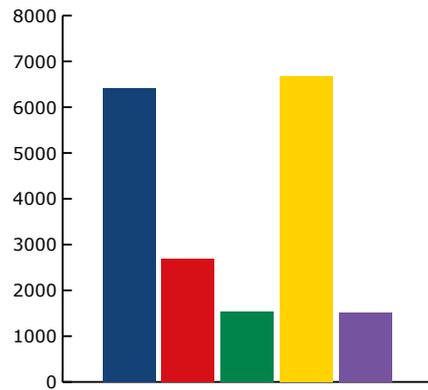
**Lithuania**



- 3822**  
Number of Ukrainian children, adolescents, young people, and adults reached with support since April 2022
- 2652**  
Number of Ukrainian children, adolescents, and young people reached with support through the Scouts' educational programmes since April 2022
- 70048**  
Number of interactions and reach across the nine UAct countries' social media platforms since April 2022
- 526**  
Number of Scouts volunteers and team members providing support since April 2022



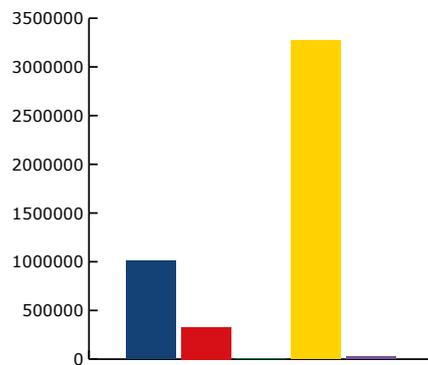
**Moldova**



- 6409**  
Number of Ukrainian children, adolescents, young people, and adults reached with support since April 2022
- 2682**  
Number of Ukrainian children, adolescents, and young people reached with support through the Scouts' educational programmes since April 2022
- 1541**  
Number of Ukrainian children, adolescents, young people and adults receiving support through the U-Report tool
- 6683**  
Number of interactions and reach across the nine UAct countries' social media platforms since April 2022
- 1517**  
Number of Scouts volunteers and team members providing support since April 2022



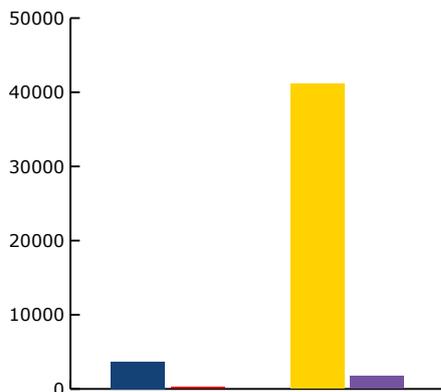
**Poland**



- 1010200**  
Number of Ukrainian children, adolescents, young people, and adults reached with support since April 2022
- 328783**  
Number of Ukrainian children, adolescents, and young people reached with support through the Scouts' educational programmes since April 2022
- 9789**  
Number of Ukrainian children, adolescents, young people and adults receiving support through the U-Report tool
- 3274200**  
Number of interactions and reach across the nine UAct countries' social media platforms since April 2022
- 25487**  
Number of Scouts volunteers and team members providing support since April 2022



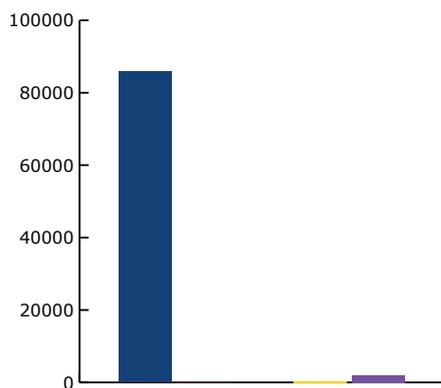
**Romania**



- 3647**  
Number of Ukrainian children, adolescents, young people, and adults reached with support since April 2022
- 242**  
Number of Ukrainian children, adolescents, and young people reached with support through the Scouts' educational programmes since April 2022
- 41106**  
Number of interactions and reach across the nine UAct countries' social media platforms since April 2022
- 1712**  
Number of Scouts volunteers and team members providing support since April 2022



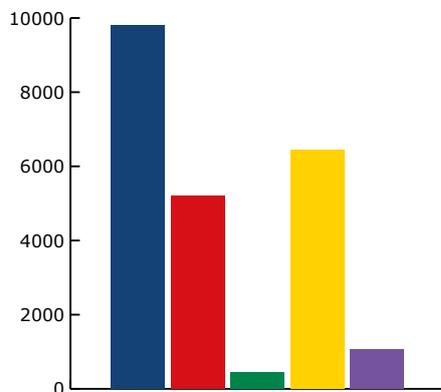
**Slovakia**



- 85855**  
Number of Ukrainian children, adolescents, young people, and adults reached with support since April 2022
- 0**  
Number of Ukrainian children, adolescents, and young people reached with support through the Scouts' educational programmes since April 2022
- 360**  
Number of interactions and reach across the nine UAct countries' social media platforms since April 2022
- 1998**  
Number of Scouts volunteers and team members providing support since April 2022

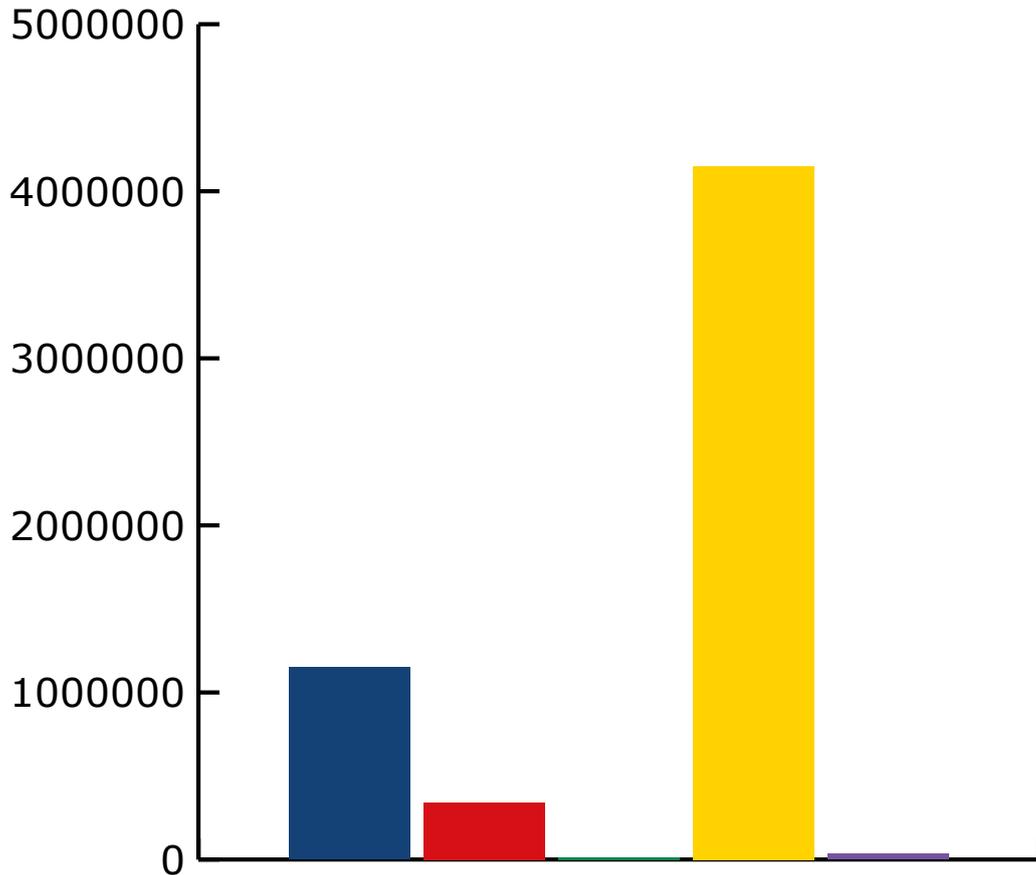


**Ukraine**



- 9806**  
Number of Ukrainian children, adolescents, young people, and adults reached with support since April 2022
- 5196**  
Number of Ukrainian children, adolescents, and young people reached with support through the Scouts' educational programmes since April 2022
- 451**  
Number of Ukrainian children, adolescents, young people and adults receiving support through the U-Report tool
- 6438**  
Number of interactions and reach across the nine UAct countries' social media platforms since April 2022
- 1060**  
Number of Scouts volunteers and team members providing support since April 2022

## Total Total accumulative figures since April 2022



**1,151,142**  
Number of Ukrainian children, adolescents, young people, and adults reached with support since April 2022

**13,618**  
Number of Ukrainian children, adolescents, young people and adults receiving support through the U-Report tool

**342,165**  
Number of Ukrainian children, adolescents, and young people reached with support through the Scouts' educational programmes since April 2022

**4,150,858**  
Number of interactions and reach across the nine UAct countries' social media platforms since April 2022

**34,949**  
Number of Scouts volunteers and team members providing support since April 2022

Overall project data –  
disaggregated per activity  
or data measured –  
accumulative in all nine  
UAct countries

This presents the breakdown of individuals reached with support in the UAct project over a period of 15 months. It specifically focuses on Ukrainian children, adolescents, young people, and adults, with data disaggregated by sex. The table encompasses all nine countries, highlighting the total reach of the project. The MOs started to collect this data in June 2022. However, not all were able to provide the same level of disaggregation.



# 206,686

**Ukrainian girls  
reached with support**



# 191,801

**Ukrainian boys  
reached with support**



# 89,859

**Ukrainian women  
reached with support**



# 7,386

**Ukrainian men  
reached with support**

This presents the distribution of key activities through which support was provided to Ukrainian refugees across the nine MOs. With the modification of the project's KPIs in December 2022, the data started to be collected as disaggregated by general activity areas to showcase the varied approaches employed by the MOs. The table offers insight into the diverse range of activities undertaken by the MOs in their efforts to support and assist the refugee population.



# 48,460

Ukrainian refugees receiving psychological support



# 120,768

Ukrainian children & young people participating in the activities delivered at the youth centres



# 4,957

Ukrainian refugees receiving support at the shelters



# 2,156

Ukrainian refugee children & young people benefiting from financial support



# 9,041

Ukrainian refugee children & young people participating in summer camps or summer activities



# 7,683

Ukrainian refugee children & young people participating in winter camps or winter activities

From January 2023, some MOs collected the number of Scout volunteers and team members, aged 18 – 30 who were involved in the provision of support and delivery of activities.



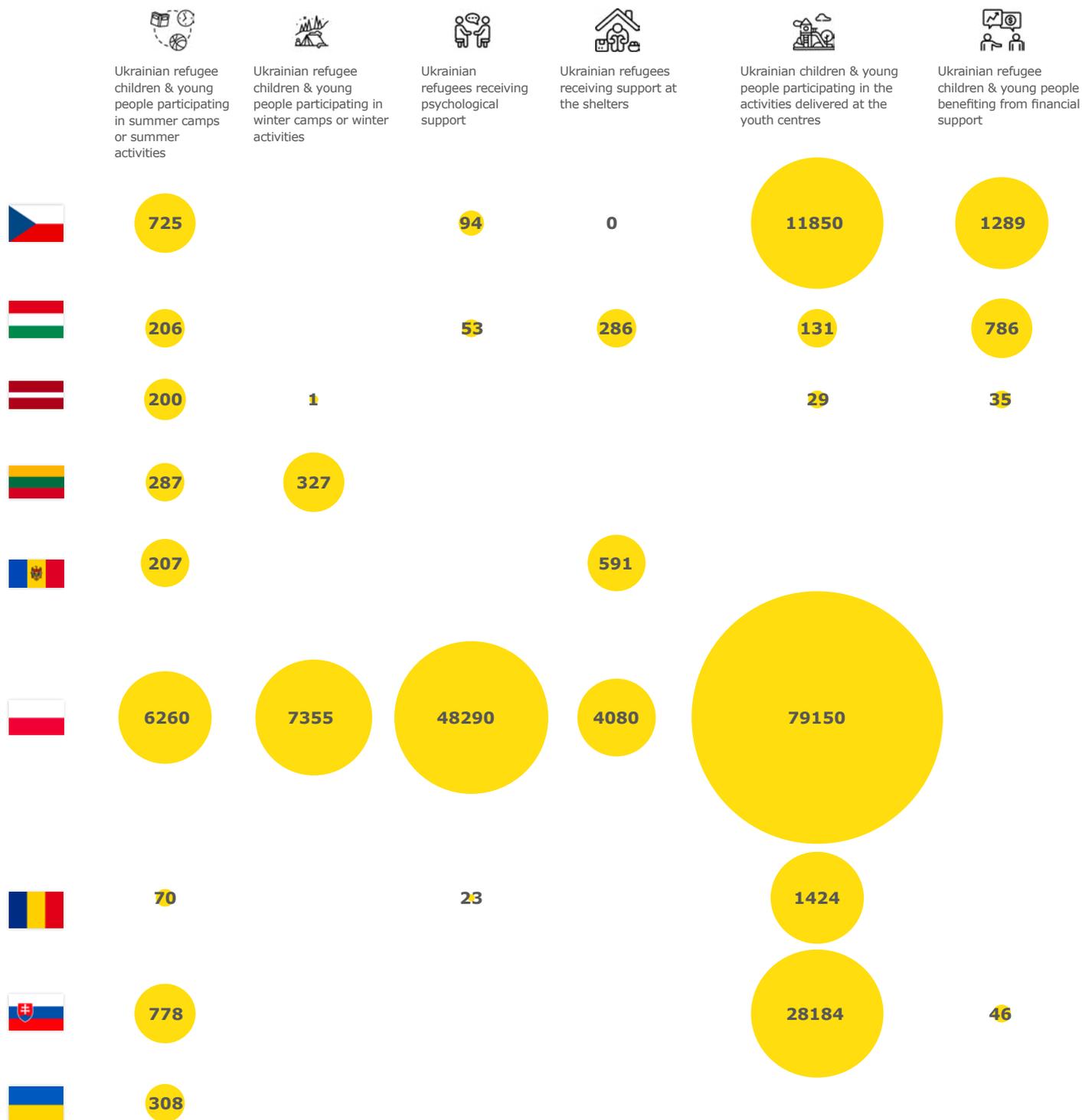


## Overall project data

This table presents the breakdown of individuals reached with support in the UAct project over a period of 15 months. It particularly focuses on Ukrainian children, adolescents, young people, and adults, with data disaggregated by sex in each of the UAct MOs. The table highlights the total reach of the project across the nine countries. MOs began this data collection in June 2022. However, not all were able to provide the same level of data disaggregation.

	Ukrainian adult women reached	Ukrainian adult men reached	Ukrainian girls reached	Ukrainian boys reached
 <b>Czechia</b>	5740	946	6917	6822
 <b>Hungary</b>	97	16	2536	2631
 <b>Latvia</b>	79	14	54	46
 <b>Lithuania</b>	150	3	186	124
 <b>Moldova</b>	1882	942	1844	1332
 <b>Poland</b>	79320	4899	191690	178191
 <b>Romania</b>	610	86	712	568
 <b>Slovakia</b>			13	7
 <b>Ukraine</b>	1981	480	2734	2087

The graph presents the distribution of key UAct activities in each of the MOs. With the modification of the project's KPIs in December 2022, the data collected started to be disaggregated by general activity areas to showcase the varied approaches employed by the UAct MOs. As the MOs reached out to the Ukrainian population in their respective countries, specific needs were identified, enabling the MOs to develop strategies to effectively address them. This resulted in the establishment of individualized structures for providing humanitarian support, with a shared goal of ensuring the sustainability and long-term impact of their response, even beyond the completion of the UAct project.



Disclaimer: It is important to note that not all countries involved in the humanitarian response to the war in Ukraine have been able to collect data for each KPI mentioned. This can be attributed to various factors, including the absence of certain activities in their programme or limitations in the capacity of team members. As a result, the availability and completion of data may vary across different countries and organizations involved in the response. It is crucial to consider these limitations when analysing and interpreting the findings related to the KPIs, as they may not represent the entire scope of the humanitarian efforts undertaken in the region.

# The UAct Journey

## Scouting's initial response

Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, Scouts have been actively engaged in providing assistance to those who have been impacted. They were the first to act, offering support at borders, distributing food, collecting clothing, and launching fundraising campaigns. This overview outlines the learning by doing approach and the evolution process that unfolded to ensure a targeted and impactful response in local communities.

## February 2022

### Scouting's immediate response

Scouts mobilised in many ways across different countries, to provide support to Ukraine. It started with border support, donation campaigns, and supplies collection and distribution organized by different MOs, with a goal to provide immediate relief to those in need.

**WOSM** established the [Scout Donation Platform](#) global appeal to coordinate and rally further funds to support the immediate needs identified by the MO in Ukraine.

**Romanian and Slovakian Scouts** were quick to arrive at the border. They arranged for safe onward transportation, warm meals, medical supplies, and a compassionate ear to listen to anyone in need. Their presence brought comfort to those crossing the borders.

**In Germany**, Scout volunteers formed patrols and coordinated with the Polish MO, to go straight to the Polish border. Their mission was to offer additional support to the already overwhelmed volunteers in the area. Together, they worked tirelessly to provide assistance and lend a helping hand where it was needed the most.

**In Lithuania**, housing support became a priority. The Scout house and families opened their doors to those seeking shelter.

**In Poland**, local Scouts orchestrated the collection efforts, ensuring that the aid reached those who needed it the most. Transportation was organized to facilitate the movement of people coming across the border and to distribute supplies within Ukraine. They were also able to establish warehouses to gather the donated material pouring in from various sources.

Through individual actions, Scouts from different countries came together to alleviate the suffering caused by the crisis. Their efforts demonstrated the true spirit of scouting: compassion, resilience, and a commitment to making a difference in the lives of others.

### International Commissioners meeting

In response to the swift actions, a regional online meeting was convened, bringing together International Commissioners from MOs across Europe. During this meeting, the European Scout Committee, along with the MOs, provided a platform to listen to peers in Ukraine, seeking to understand how support could be offered through response efforts in other countries. Opportunities and limitations of the role of Scouting in responding to such a humanitarian situation were discussed, and identified ways to synchronize efforts for an even more robust response.

### — Appointment of regional crisis coordinator

As a result of the ongoing efforts and fast reaction of member organizations across both Europe and the Eurasia Scout region, the European Committee appointed a Regional Crisis Coordinator. The role of the coordinator was to streamline any incoming support and channel it to MOs based on their need. From fundraising to transport, the Regional Crisis Coordinator mitigated the chances of the support becoming overwhelming and ensured a relevant and timely response.

### — Weekly needs assessment

A self-organized initiative within the sub-region of the European Scout Region brought together a group of MOs who convened in weekly meetings. These meetings served as a platform for open discussions regarding the actions being undertaken, the successes achieved, and the challenges encountered by the volunteer-led response. Guided by the International Commissioners of the affected border countries, with the support of WOSM and WAGGGS staff, these meetings played a vital role in identifying and providing targeted support based on the insights and outcomes shared during these sessions.

## ● March 2022

### — Assessment visit

The Regional Crisis Coordinator and the Regional Director of the Eurasia Scout Region visited the affected border regions in Moldova and Romania, motivated to gain a comprehensive understanding of the situation and the response of Scouting locally. They engaged in insightful discussions with young people acting as first responders, exploring the approaches and the challenges they faced. Furthermore, they also had the opportunity to meet with the national boards of both countries, enabling them to understand further the impact of response efforts on volunteers and the overall governance of the MOs.

### — WOSM Consultants

To ensure timely, expert support was available to all MOs mobilizing their volunteers in the response, the region deployed two WOSM Consultants in Humanitarian Action, to work alongside the Regional Crisis Coordinator.

## ● Meeting the Scouts at the boarder (UNICEF)

During the first response period, various organizations and UN agencies began to actively operate at the border and in transit points within cities. UNICEF took notice of the young people involved in the Scouts' actions and witnessed their efforts at borders and in local community support centers.

## ● May 2022

## Strengthening the response through partnership

In light of the extensive work carried out by Scouts in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, ways to increase the support available from the region were carefully considered to enhance the response locally, by forging partnerships that could address the immediate needs of the most affected individuals.

This overview aims to shed light on the successful establishment of a substantial collaboration with UNICEF's Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (ECARO). A strong and effective collaboration agreement and partnership was established in record time between UNICEF ECARO and WOSM despite the uncertainties and the rapidly evolving situation on the ground. The development of this agreement required intense and dedicated dialogue between the two organizations steered by the regional teams of UNICEF ECARO and WOSM and involving direct dialogue with the Scouts' first responders and the UNICEF emergency teams on the ground. The most effective modalities for collaboration and joint action needed to be established quickly in order to best respond to the rapid onset of the crisis and the evolving and growing needs on the ground.

### March 2022

#### Engaging with partners

As a result of the ongoing weekly needs assessment, the Regional Crisis Coordinator reached out to partners to ask for expertise and support in resourcing at a local level. Very quickly, further opportunity to maximize impact became apparent, with support from and in collaboration with UNICEF.

UNICEF's previous positive experiences with Scouts and proactive support led to a rapid initial engagement and collaboration with WOSM, recognizing the impact and importance of WOSM's work in providing assistance and support to communities. Together, this was also seen as an excellent opportunity to mobilize and involve young people as active partners of UNICEF in the response, capitalizing on their capacity and commitment.

#### Targeted approach

In a joint effort involving neighboring countries and in close collaboration with the European and Eurasia Scout Regions, discussions were held to determine the needs and identify the specific approach that each MO could undertake to support the affected population. Subsequently, during the European Scout Symposium, these discussions progressed further, facilitated by the Regional Crisis Coordinator who outlined a plan to assist the nine MOs in developing a project plan and budget.

The selection of these nine MOs for participation in the process was based on their existing efforts and the plans they already had to further enhance their support. Collaboration and contacts were also quickly established with UNICEF regional and country-based emergency teams.

## April 2022

### Partnership agreement

In order to establish a partnership agreement, a set of ambitious key performance indicators (KPIs) were defined as well as the corresponding targets to be achieved across the nine partner countries. To accelerate this collaborative process, the Regional Symposium event was utilized, which brought together the International Commissioners of the countries and the staff team responsible for leading the process. The existing data was leveraged, such as the current membership of the MOs and real-time refugee data, along with qualitative information obtained during the weekly needs assessment calls, to make informed predictions for these KPIs.

The key project objective was defined: to provide on-ground emergency support to children and young people displaced or affected by the war in Ukraine. This included supply distribution, referral to the UNICEF/UN Blue Dots and other services, integration efforts and non-formal education.

In addition, a clear goal of the project was created: to leverage a universal youth engagement platform by mobilising and orienting Scouts and young volunteers to support UNICEF ECARO cross-sectoral response to the Ukraine refugee crisis through the delivery of frontline support, integration, competency-building methods, and meaningful participation.

Working together, the WOSM UAct team and UNICEF ECARO created a robust and relevant partnership agreement. The final agreement was signed and confirmed on 29 March 2022 for the duration of 1 April 2022 – 1 April 2023.

Throughout the project, the partnership agreement was amended twice, to reflect the changing realities of the war and the response required. This not only included amendments to the project phases and KPIs but also increased the project budget. In the final months, there was one final no-cost amendment, to ensure strong reporting and knowledge management as an outcome of the partnership.

Ultimately, partnering with UNICEF helped enhance the impact and sustainability of efforts, increase access to resources, and ensure a coordinated and comprehensive response to meet the needs of the most vulnerable populations, particularly children and their mothers.

### Recruitment

The recruitment began to appoint MO focal points in each country for the project, as well as a Regional UAct Project Team. A total of 5 staff were recruited at a regional level (Programme Officer, Project Officer, Finance Officer, Communications Officer, and Administration Officer). Across the different MOs, nine project focal points were recruited and other staff positions.

### UAct Kick-off Meeting

To launch the project and align the nine organizations on outputs and KPIs, the Regional UAct team held its first project meeting, with all nine focal points. The meeting discussed project objectives, developed a Theory of Change for each MO, and capitalized on peer-to-peer learning, coupled with online training by UNICEF on critical issues such as child safeguarding, PSEA, psychological support, communications etc.

### Quarterly meetings – April 2022, September 2022, December 2022, March 2023

Every quarter, a meeting was organized and hosted by one of the nine UAct MOs. These gatherings brought together the Regional UAct team and the nine focal points, creating a platform to share success and challenges, reassess action plans, receive updates and support related to deliverables, and learn from the ongoing initiatives in the host country. As part of these meetings, the team had valuable opportunities to visit projects like the Kucko project in Hungary and the Scout EduHub in Romania, among other learning moments. Ensuring alignment with financial reporting and project requirements was crucial during these meetings, as much as building a safe collaborative network of UAct actors, to maintain effective operations.

## May 2022

### **Establishment of coordination and communication lines**

The smooth coordination and effective promotion of the project relied on the establishment of various coordination and communication channels. A weekly call was put in place between the Regional Crisis Coordinator and UNICEF ECARO. This provided a platform for sharing updates, collaborative problem-solving, and enhancing the collective output.

Bi-weekly meetings were organized between the Regional UAct team and the MO focal points. These meetings served as a forum to discuss the project, assist in programme development, gather essential data, coordinate expenditure, and ensure that everyone involved felt supported in their respective roles.

Additionally, in countries where UNICEF Country Offices or newly established UNICEF Regional Response Offices were stationed, regular communication was maintained by UNICEF ECARO to reinforce the national response efforts.

### **Capacity building & training – May – September 2022**

All MOs benefited from a diverse range of online trainings facilitated by UNICEF and the Regional UAct team. These multi-country trainings were designed to enhance the overall response by providing guidance and skills development in areas such as data analysis, reporting templates, humanitarian volunteering, child safeguarding, dialogue facilitation, psychological first aid, and communications & visibility. As a result, MOs were able to enhance the capacity of their volunteers, strengthen adult volunteer training programmes, and equip young people with the necessary knowledge, skills, and attitudes to actively participate in the response. The trainings played a pivotal role in empowering the MOs to contribute to the project's objectives and deliver impactful assistance.

## September 2022

## October 2023

### **Midterm Report – October 2022**

The [UAct Midterm Report](#) was collated to highlight the impact of the project after six months.

## November 2022

### **Partnership review – November 2022, January 2023, March 2023**

A continuous review of the partnership between WOSM and UNICEF was essential, it involved regular evaluation meetings, reassessment of objectives, and adaptation to the specific needs of each country. These reviews were conducted through a combination of online and in-person meetings with various stakeholders. The importance of conducting these reviews was to ensure the ongoing evaluation of the partnership, working relationships, targets, and budget, allowing for the identification of any additional needs and the mitigation of future risks. The reviews were informed by feedback from MOs and regional colleagues, promoting transparency and fostering a collective responsibility to achieve greater outcomes at the core of the partnership.

## February 2023

### **1 Year Commemoration (WOSM) - February 2023**

As part of the one-year commemoration of the war, European Scout Committee Vice Chairperson, Martin Persson and the Regional Crisis Coordinator visited the Polish border with the Polish MO. They witnessed the remarkable work of Scouts who were operating Blue Dots at various locations along the border. Additionally, they attended the Polish-Ukrainian winter camp, which provided a sense of belonging, psychological support, and a moment to celebrate hope in many significant ways for Ukrainians. During this visit, they met with UNICEF to explore the ongoing potential of interventions and directly witness the impact of local actions.

The Region reaffirmed its commitment to the [Conference Resolution](#) and the continuous support provided to the affected population. To showcase the diverse range of efforts undertaken by the UAct MOs, a series of videos were published, capturing the essence and impact of their collective endeavors ([Poland](#), [Lithuania](#) and [Czechia](#)).

Finally, the [1-Year Report](#) was created in collaboration with UNICEF, to capture the extent of the intervention and impact of the European and Eurasia Scout Regions during the ongoing humanitarian crisis.

## March 2023

### **Sustainable impact – March 2023**

Following the conclusion of the project and the evaluation conducted by WOSM and UNICEF, the great potential for future collaboration was evident, and a continued need to support Ukrainians in neighboring countries. The UAct Regional team initiated a collaborative exercise to assess the priorities of MOs for the future, their strategic plans, and their capacity to further enhance initiatives related to UAct and beyond.

In partnership with UNICEF ECARO, the Regional Crisis Coordinator prepared a future proposal document that outlined additional priorities for youth-led social cohesion, presenting a future action plan. The proposal is currently undergoing review and will be shared with donors once approved, ensuring transparency and accountability. The aim is to foster ongoing engagement and secure support for the proposed initiatives, building on the achievements and lessons from the UAct project.

## May 2023

### **Project Closing & Sustainability – May 2023**

In the final quarter of UAct, significant efforts were made to ensure the sustainability of national-level partnerships with UNICEF and MOs. Conversations were held with national UNICEF offices to align or support priorities for further youth engagement at the local level. To facilitate this process, each MO received support from a WOSM Consultant who helped assess their experience in the project and identify areas for further focus or development required to sustain their actions or enhance the capacity of the MO as a whole. Based on these assessments, the Consultant proposed specific WOSM services to encourage the MOs to continue their investment and expand their impact.

Moving forward, WOSM will conclude the project in this final report and by participating in the UNICEF internal audit. This signifies the closure of all activities funded by UAct.



## Successes and challenges in the process

Creating a partnership between two Scout regions (European and Eurasia Scout Regions) was a new experience, though it was crucial in order to provide the most appropriate and timely support. With the addition of the regional partnership with UNICEF ECARO, in which the European Region took a leading role, the endeavour became even more intricate. Throughout this process, numerous complexities were encountered that presented valuable learning opportunities.

**Below are the key successes and challenges from this partnership and multi MO cross-regional project:**

# Success:



## Utilising the Scout Method to provide holistic support to refugees and IDPs

- Summer & winter camps
- Weekly activities
- Non-formal education approach
- Support at refugees centres, shelters and transit points by providing safe space, games for children etc.



## Rapidity of action, rapidity of building an effective partnership that contributed towards an effective and relevant early response in support of vulnerable refugee populations in a context of the rapid onset crisis and the uncertainties of the evolving situation.

- coordination and action at regional level between UNICEF and WOSM teams allowed for "economies of scale" as the Regional Agreement provided an effective "umbrella" agreement for the partnership, avoiding the need for individual country-level administrative processes while still allowing adaptation and tailoring to local situations and specific needs in countries.
- the regional umbrella facilitated multi-country timely capacity building and other support that benefited multiple countries simultaneously, which was particularly important in the early phases when there was a shortage of staff.



## Reinforcement and consistent implementation of Safe from Harm (SfH) and Psychological First Aid (PFA) in Humanitarian Action

- Reviewing and strengthening Safe from Harm policies of MOs and their unique events
- Training adults to deliver Psychological First Aid, championed by UNICEF, and to facilitate access to specialised support offered by professional psychologists for camps, activities, and information centres
- Providing further support and training related to Safe from Harm, including a specific e-learning on "[SfH for First Responders](#)"
- Working closely with safeguarding experts in UNICEF to ensure compliance of WOSM's safeguarding approach and strengthening WOSM's existing material including policy, code of conduct, psychological support, prevention of sexual [exploitation and abuse training](#) etc.
- Contributing to the prevention of child exploitation and trafficking by raising awareness and introducing practical steps for reducing risks related to cross-border travel



## Redefining youth-led humanitarian action and setting a global precedent – by youth!

- Hosting an online Youth Panel to emphasise the powerful role of young people in responding to a humanitarian crisis
- Empowering UNICEF to strengthen its regional and influence the global framework for working WITH and FOR young people, including in humanitarian and protracted crisis, by integrating the BY <sup>(\*)</sup> pillar into it. Maximizing the role young people played in the response meant joining them on the borders, at the train stations and in the communities, and supporting them with what they needed to be able to continue providing vital help to the refugees. Doing so contributed to continuity in response, challenged existing perceptions on young people's role in emergencies and positioned them among the key partners and young leaders in the humanitarian response to the Ukraine crisis.
- Creating the WeAct Forum – engaging with partners, global MOs and UAct MOs on the topic of humanitarian action
- Encouraging MOs to prioritise enhancing their role in social cohesion, diversity & inclusion practises, and competencies in peace education



## Recognition and credibility of Scouts as strong community partners, demonstrating preparedness as humanitarian actors

- Working with UNICEF strengthened the credibility of youth-led humanitarian action in local communities, at border points and nationally when working with municipalities or seeking further institutional support
- Recognising the preparedness and capacity of local Scouting, during the emergency response phase
- Scouts and their MOs were called on by their governments, municipalities, and other civil society organisations to be actively engaged, as well as selected to represent youth voices at the United Nations General Assembly.

\*1. IASC Guidelines (2020) on Working with and for Young People in Humanitarian and Protracted Crises developed by UNICEF, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and UNFPA, as part of the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action

# Challenges:



## Continuously refocusing and identifying ways to expand the project reach to the affected population, in the changing circumstances and existing project plans and budget.

- There was some misalignment between partnership information, deliverables, and stakeholders during the first six months, which affected the engagement of some MOs and/or compromised MOs' engagement
- Changing circumstances meant last-minute requests and deliverables changing from UNICEF side, leading us to quickly establish a more accessible space for quick questions or urgent answers when needed



## Supporting staff and volunteer motivation, capacity and wellbeing

- Many MO volunteers were active for over 2 months prior to the UAct project, and there was minimal wellbeing support or help to manage their roles as volunteers transitioned to a larger scale response in UAct
- Due to Scouting's unique volunteer structure and varying capacities of MOs, realigning and managing certain expectations in the partnership required more effort at the beginning, which resulted in some limitations in project deliverables and data gathering



## Financial management

- Managing such a large grant, between two regions and 9 MOs was inevitably challenging, it also required additional capacity at all levels to ensure smooth financial management and alignment with UNICEF processes. As a result of this, financial delays were experienced by both parties during the project.
- The ICE and FACE forms are relatively new within the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM), resulting in a need for a quick learning curve for all partners for comprehending and implementing UNICEF's financial reporting system.



## Data collection and reporting

- MOs and WOSM have limited mechanisms for data collection, which resulted in significant challenges during the reporting for the project across the different levels of intervention. For example, from local to national levels, MOs were required to report as much disaggregated data for each KPI
- KPIs were changed based on the needs of UNICEF, the affected population, and with the project's amendment which added more load on MOs and made it challenging to ensure accurate data collection
- Ensuring that one action reached one person, without duplicating data was a challenge



## The complexity of a cross-regional, cross-departmental project

- With various UNICEF teams involved from a regional and a national level, some misunderstandings arose regarding the project's goals and deliverables
- Some UNICEF refugee response and/or country offices had different expectations regarding deliverables and data gathering, which caused confusion among MOs and disrupted national office relations
- Collaborating between two WOSM regions, with different approaches and responsibilities in the project, made rapid essential information transfer difficult and resulted in delayed results or miscommunication between regions and MOs.



# The true meaning of youth-led Humanitarian Action, and its multifaceted impact

There is an urgent need to involve young people during every stage of humanitarian response. It is necessary to develop processes that systematically include ways of engagement and partnership with young humanitarians as well as with youth organisations, throughout all the phases of humanitarian action. This concept was also outlined in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings, where facilitating conditions for community mobilisation and ownership during humanitarian response was emphasized as a way to address a crisis response in all sectors.

The concept of humanitarian action being carried out “by youth” acknowledges that young individuals have the skills, knowledge, energy, expertise, and innovative approaches to foster more inclusive, sustainable, and impactful youth-led humanitarian responses.

Ukrainian young people have not only demonstrated being experts in understanding their own needs but also possess a remarkable ability to connect with and support their fellow peers who are fleeing. Many stories showcase how they Ukrainian young Scouts have been considered trustful references at borders and in camps for their invaluable guidance and empathy.

Although this can be achieved in different ways including sharing information, involving youth in decision-making, and allocating budgets, young people must still be provided with the required opportunities that enable them to participate meaningfully. This could include a process of training, mentorship and accessible resources, to equip young people to lead humanitarian action programmes of their own from needs identification to the delivery of the response.

It is time to set the foundations for the new phase of this approach to encourage the provision of humanitarian action to be led by more young people.

This is a response where young people are the ones identifying the issues of concern, researching and initiating the process as well as the outcomes, and where adults work hand-in-hand with them but as facilitators and supporters, ensuring that young people have the tools, the knowledge, and support to carry out a successful humanitarian response.

## **Enabling young people to be the voices and actors in humanitarian response brings multiple advantages such as:**

- Opening the space for fresh perspectives and innovation: Creativity, enthusiasm, and the ability to think outside the box are some of the crucial skills that young people bring to their approaches to humanitarian crisis.
- Engaging and empowering communities: young people have a unique ability to connect with and mobilize their peers and local communities. Their understanding of community dynamics, cultural nuances, and their digital literacy and proficiency can inspire community-driven initiatives and foster sustainable solutions.
- Amplifying voices of the marginalized: young people have successfully demonstrated that they can be active advocates for the rights and needs of vulnerable groups, including children, women, and refugees. Through their passion for social justice, young leaders bring attention to underrepresented issues and advocate for inclusive policies and practices.
- Using the competencies of flexibility and adaptability throughout a response: young leaders have often demonstrated their capacity to overcome complex situations with agility, finding innovative solutions to overcome obstacles.
- Bridging generations: young people act as bridges between generations, fostering intergenerational dialogue and collaboration. Their involvement in humanitarian action is

*The memory which will always be in my mind is when I came to the Ukrainian/Slovak border for the first time and saw all the Scout volunteers helping there during the first weeks of the war, and especially how the Scouts were all professional and skilled in the tasks they were given. I was truly proud to be representing Slovak Scouts at the borders and throughout the whole project.*

### Z.S, a 25-year-old Scout in Slovakia

fundamental to 'leave no one behind' and develop projects and programmes that have a long-term impact. Young people as part of a future generation and leaders of the future, will need to have an equal space in this process, as it will be theirs and the next generations who will be impacted by the decisions made in the present.

- Developing global citizenship and solidarity: As noted in recent years in international forums, and as seen after the COVID-19 pandemic, the only way forward in current society is to act globally and respond together to the challenges and situations being faced. Young people engaged in humanitarian action develop the sense of global citizenship and solidarity. They gain a firsthand understanding of the interconnectedness of global challenges and their responsibilities as active global citizens. This global perspective fosters empathy, tolerance, and a commitment to creating a more equitable and sustainable world. Involving young people in the action bridges generations, creating a 360° approach to the project. Creating the space for young people to be the main actors in humanitarian action entails:
  - Giving them a space at the table, where their inputs are considered during the development of laws and policy reforms, and seen as a strong ally to advocate for change
  - Encouraging young people to make decisions and have access to leadership positions
  - Recognizing their capacities and strengths in technology and networking and consider this when developing projects
  - Enabling young people to communicate about prevention, preparedness,

response, and recovery within their communities

- Mainstreaming gender equality and empowerment of young women in all training and planning to ensure inclusive policies
- Training young people from affected populations, such as refugees, to take various roles in projects
- Equipping young people with the skills to be effective peacebuilders and agents of reconciliation
- Development and humanitarian actors must advocate with governments for law and policy reform and budget allocations that are responsive to the needs of young people and rooted in their participation

The response that the nine UAct MOs have given to the needs of Ukrainian refugees has witnessed a remarkable phenomenon where young people have acted as leaders and key drivers of the humanitarian response process. In each country, young individuals have taken ownership of initiatives, demonstrating exceptional resilience, creativity, and dedication to supporting refugees and IDPs.

These case studies exemplify the immense potential of young people in humanitarian action, highlighting the need for the concept of «humanitarian action by young people» to be integrated. The addition of the word «by» alongside «with» and «for» when discussing young people's capacity to drive a humanitarian response brings a significant shift in perspective. While «with» and «for» young people emphasize the involvement of young people, «by young people» emphasizes their active role as leaders, initiators, and innovators in the humanitarian response process.

**Below are summaries of case studies that can be found in more detail in the Annex-Case Studies, which empirically show the success and impact of humanitarian action when it is done with and by young people, based on the experiences of the nine UAct MOs:**



### **Romania: Building a community around a youth centre**

Romanian Scouts opened the [Scouts EduHub](#) in 2022 to act as a gathering place for both local Scouts and Ukrainian refugees living in Bucharest. A daily [programme of activities](#) was taking place at the EduHub, led by Scout volunteers and staff who were using the Scout Method to generate [team work](#), [personal progress](#), and [learning by doing](#). The youth centre was a space that catered to Ukrainian young people and their parents, as well as Scouts from Romania.



### **Moldova: Giving an example. Giving purpose.**

Moldovan Scouts excelled at [delivering](#) humanitarian aid tailored to the exact needs of Ukrainian refugees, by visiting [households](#), shelters, and [listening to what they needed](#), and providing it. [Feeling the joy](#) of receiving this aid, an 8-year-old Ukrainian boy was inspired and became a volunteer with the Scouts, joining them on aid delivery visits to extend this assistance to other Ukrainians.



### **Poland: Psychological First-aid offered through a 7/24 hotline**

Over 6,400 Ukrainian children and young people participated in [camps](#) organized by the Polish Scouts, where together with the Scouts, the Ukrainian participants got to learn new [life skills](#) and form friendships. To ensure the [safety](#) of all participants, Polish Scouts trained all their [Scouts leaders](#) on Safe from Harm and Psychological First-Aid, and established a 24/7 hotline made up of [trained Scouts](#) and professional psychologists for over one year, that supported 4,600 Ukrainian children, young people and Scout leaders.



### **Czechia: Making the integration of refugees into Scouting accessible**

To alleviate any financial barriers preventing Ukrainians from participating in Scouting [activities and camps](#), Czech Scouts developed a [micro-grant financial](#) programme that offered [local Scout groups](#) financial support to cover the participation of Ukrainians, and ease their [integration](#) into the local community. This initiative not only motivated local Scout leaders to welcome [Ukrainians](#) and develop activities together, it enabled 788 Ukrainian children and young people to [access Scouting](#) across the country.



### **Slovakia: Networking with humanitarian organisations for an aligned response**

Being one of the [first responders](#) present at the border with Ukraine, Slovakian Scouts have shown immense capacity in their coordination. During this response, [Slovakian Scouts](#) built strong relationships with other humanitarian organisations on the ground and earned the role of leading the volunteer management of every volunteer at these sites that were [receiving the influx of refugees](#). Given their extensive experience in organising large-scale events, the Scouts were present at the refugee sites coordinating volunteer roles, shifts and ensuring the delivery of support to Ukrainians.



### Ukraine: Creating a Youth Programme for Ukrainians living away from home

In addition to the [critical humanitarian support](#) Ukrainian Scouts provided to Ukrainians fleeing the war-affected areas, their work also focused on the development of a [Youth Programme](#) specifically designed to benefit [refugees and internally displaced people \(IDPs\)](#). After the war, Ukrainian Scouts believed they needed to update and adapt their Youth Programme to align with the new context to better support the [wellbeing of children](#) and young people, and [equip Scout leaders](#) with the skills to deliver the [educational activities](#).



### Latvia: Youth leading the way in advocacy

Since the war in Ukraine started, Latvian Scouts engaged in a [network of actors](#) involved in the provision of humanitarian response. Latvian Scouts were already a trusted stakeholder given their longtime involvement in advocacy and policy-making for the youth sector in Latvia, which they leveraged to [advocate for young refugees](#) from Ukraine. Some outcomes of their engagement in this advocacy network were adjustments in the school system to better [accommodate the needs of Ukrainian students](#), and prolonging financial support and benefits for refugees.



### Lithuania: Providing training to maximise humanitarian preparedness

Lithuanian Scouts had a strong focus on training their [Scout leaders](#) to be able to effectively and [safely respond](#) to the humanitarian needs of refugees. This led them to create tailor-made training sessions that cater to the actual needs of the Scout leaders and identifies which competencies the sessions should help them develop. In total 50 hours of online sessions were delivered during the year and in-person trainings gathered around [200 Scout leaders](#).



### Hungary: Kucko Team - the Scout caravan connecting formal and non-formal education

Ensuring that Ukrainian refugees had access to quality [education](#) was a priority in the humanitarian response of the Hungarian Scouts. The challenges facing refugee children when entering a new school system inspired the [Hungarian Scouts](#) to create a mobile team, the Kucko Team, that [visits schools](#) and [refugee shelters](#) to deliver educational support with [homework](#), language, and school lessons. Sharing a common interest, six institutions partnered with the Kucko Team, welcoming them to lead their activities with Ukrainian children, while teaching Hungarian children about inclusion and practicing solidarity.





## Competency Development: Setting the foundation for preparedness

### Core competencies that comprise humanitarian preparedness

Throughout the implementation of the UAct project, it became evident that certain competencies played an essential role in responding to the humanitarian crisis. In order to identify the most prevalent competencies used in the response, a comprehensive assessment was conducted. This assessment involved a bilateral approach, incorporating reflections and evaluations from the nine MOs regarding their specific activities and approaches, which highlighted the most valuable competencies within the UAct project. Additionally, the UAct team members conducted an end-of-project self-assessment to further pinpoint these competencies.

It is important to note that the competencies listed below are based on the experiences of the UAct project and should not be considered exclusive in nature.

The table below outlines the essential competencies, their relevance to humanitarian action, and to Scouting's core values and mission with reference to country-specific case studies that reflect how each competency was applied.

Competencies	Explanation	Relevance to humanitarian action and Scouting's core values	Reference to case study
<p><b>Programme design and delivery</b></p>	<p>Scouts used their expertise by establishing safe non-formal education spaces where refugees and local youth could gather to learn skills for life and have fun.</p> <p>In UAct, Scouts built the foundation for youth centres, organised teams of facilitators to deliver educational programmes, and provided guidance to their peers to integrate refugees into events, summer camps, daily camps etc.</p>	<p>Non-formal education opportunities provided refugee children with a safe space to continue to develop their wellbeing and learn new skills far away from home.</p> <p>Scouting's mission is to contribute to the education of young people.</p> <p>During crisis, Scouts offer educational opportunities to youth beyond its members, ensuring that young people can develop their skills under any circumstance.</p>	<p>Romania Hungary Ukraine Czechia</p>
<p><b>Training design and delivery</b></p>	<p>To ensure Scout leaders had the needed competencies to engage in humanitarian action, trainings were designed based on the needs of the leaders and MO context. Trainings were given both online and in-person, specific for local group or with a national or regional participation.</p>	<p>Trainings were designed and delivered in a time and cost-efficient approach.</p> <p>The impact of Scouting is strongly dependent on the quality of the training provided to its adults and young people, which reflects in their work in humanitarian settings.</p>	<p>Poland Lithuania Ukraine</p>
<p><b>Psychological First-Aid (PFA) provision</b></p>	<p>PFA is as relevant as physical first-aid, and more in humanitarian contexts where the need for PFA is high.</p> <p>Scouts learned it by following a 3-step approach where they assess risks, listen actively without judgement and direct people to specialised support when needed.</p>	<p>Providing PFA is a key competency that boosts self-confidence and gives volunteers clarity on their responsibilities, limitations, and existing procedures for guiding people to specialised support.</p> <p>For Scouts, being helpful and helping others is a core value, and learning PFA developed their capacities to provide support.</p>	<p>Poland Lithuania Ukraine</p>
<p><b>Safe from Harm implementation</b></p>	<p>Safe from Harm aims to create a safe and inclusive environment for everyone. During humanitarian crises, Scouts must be informed on all safety procedures and respect them throughout their involvement, ensuring that everyone involved is safe from any harm.</p>	<p>MOs strengthened their commitment to apply the Safe from Harm policy and develop specific procedures to engage Scouts in humanitarian action.</p> <p>An e-learning on Safe from Harm for first-responders in Humanitarian Action supported this. Scouts are committed to take the necessary steps to ensure everyone is safe.</p>	<p>Poland Lithuania Hungary</p>
<p><b>Volunteer management</b></p>	<p>Management of volunteers during crisis differs from the regular approach and includes updated procedures, to ensure safety of volunteers and flexibility in response. Mental health and emotional wellbeing, as well as sporadic volunteering were some of the aspects that Scouts considered during their involvement.</p>	<p>During the first phase, Scouts set up new procedures on managing volunteers, for safety reasons and to streamline processes to have a more efficient use of resources in this context. Scouts proved readiness to take action and quickly mobilised internally to support others.</p>	<p>Slovakia</p>

Competencies	Explanation	Relevance to humanitarian action and Scouting's core values	Reference to case study
<b>Leadership</b>	<p>The project saw thousands of young people engaged in relief actions by delivering non-formal educational opportunities in creative ways.</p> <p>The principle of youth empowerment was mirrored in the high number of young people taking leadership roles at local, national and regional level.</p>	<p>Engaging in humanitarian response, Scouts learned a lot, and about contemporary threats around peace and justice.</p> <p>The initiative taken by Scouts across UAct, highlights the vision of Scouting, which refers to enabling youth to become the leaders of tomorrow. They are active and trustworthy citizens, ready to take action under any circumstance and not bystanders.</p>	<p>Moldova Slovakia Latvia</p>
<b>Strategic planning</b>	<p>Through UAct, Scouts made a lasting impact on over a million refugees and IDPs by employing strategic planning at regional and national levels. This approach, combined with adaptability to local contexts, ensured that grassroots needs and recommendations were prioritized in quarterly activities. Effective strategic planning necessitates robust collaboration between national and local levels.</p>	<p>Planning strategically includes anticipating trends and needs of affected populations in the short and long-term. The phased approach of UAct reflected this as its humanitarian efforts covered refugees' basic needs, non-formal education opportunities, skills development, and wellbeing support.</p> <p>With over 57 million members, Scouting has the power to assess local needs and plan future activities accordingly, based on regular consultation and collaboration at all levels.</p>	<p>Lithuania Czechia Slovakia Ukraine Moldova Poland</p>
<b>Critical thinking</b>	<p>In their response, Scouts applied their existing competencies and used their networks and expertise to generate impact.</p> <p>Critical thinking regarding the effective and diverse use of resources, increased the impact of UAct.</p>	<p>In a humanitarian crisis, it is often difficult to engage resources efficiently, create strong partnerships, or prioritise needs. Scouts proved their capacity to think critically by leading actions where they had expertise or interest to develop.</p> <p>In conditions which require fast response, Scouts proved their capability to think critically, stay true to the Scout values and operate with respect for all humans.</p>	<p>Poland Lithuania Czechia Hungary Latvia</p>
<b>Communication</b>	<p>In humanitarian contexts, the need to set clear communication procedures is stringent.</p> <p>Scouts communicated within their teams, cross-teams, with beneficiaries, including when providing PFA – and with stakeholders, like media to partner organisations.</p>	<p>Active listening, transmitting clear and factual information, and giving interviews to media, are just examples of the important role played by communication in humanitarian contexts.</p> <p>A Scout's duty is to be loyal and trustworthy in any circumstance, and in humanitarian action this is even more prominent, as safety and security related risks are present.</p>	<p>Moldova Latvia Czechia Romania</p>

Competencies	Explanation	Relevance to humanitarian action and Scouting's core values	Reference to case study
<b>Adaptability</b>	Throughout UAct, Scouts showed their adaptability to rapid changes and focused on creating a foundation and space for integrating refugees in the best and most suitable way for the refugees.	Adaptability played an essential role in Scouting's response. Every day, Scouts are proving to be adaptable to the needs of their members and are continuously seeking ways to improve their educational offering. This regular practice gave MOs a certain level of comfort to adapt quickly and constantly to the needs of the refugees and of local groups.	Romania Moldova Hungary Slovakia
<b>Relationship building</b>	Building genuine interpersonal connections is common in Scouting. During UAct, Scouts built relationships with the Ukrainian communities living in their countries: by understanding the psychological background of forced migration they set up processes in anticipation of refugees' needs, being effective in their response, and yielded maximum impact.	Scouts were reliable actors in the response, one of the reasons being that they formed strong connections with Ukrainians living in their countries.  A core value of Scouting is to be friendly and this helped Scouts in their humanitarian involvement, as they built relationships with parents of children and gaining the trust of parents to see Scouting's benefits to their children.	Romania Moldova Ukraine
<b>Partnership building</b>	During UAct, MOs identified their strengths and priorities in humanitarian contexts, areas of improvement, and identified the benefits of partnerships.  The partnership with UNICEF equipped MOs with a clear understanding of processes to be considered when managing large partnerships and funding.	The collaboration between UNICEF and WOSM brought benefits to both parties, including on the MO level which encouraged them to build partnerships with more organisations with whom they share values, and unite efforts to create a better world together within UAct and beyond the project.	Romania Hungary Slovakia Latvia
<b>Advocacy</b>	The grass-roots mobilization of Scouts across countries and their capacity to collaborate and align their procedures, reveals the strength of Scouting to engage in societal issues.  Their collaboration and link with local level needs, was the foundation for advocacy actions where Scouts got engaged locally, nationally and globally.	In humanitarian action, societal issues and injustices are under spotlight. This is why through their involvement in this response, Scouts, advocated for refugees' rights. Using their networks and the information collected, Scouts contributed in bringing the voices of those in need of support to the forefront	Latvia
<b>Grant management and fundraising</b>	In Scouting, local Scout groups receive guidance from national and regional structures. The same approach was followed during UAct: local groups' efforts were supported by the MO and Regions, which empowered Scouts to manage micro grants in order to deliver their grass root activities, and to identify their priorities in order to fundraise/ request budget to reach their humanitarian objectives.	Humanitarian crises require timely response and a capacity to manage all forms of processes, especially funding. Scouts learned that managing funds required a strong coordination among local-national-regional levels, with an attentiveness to all requirements and standards.  A Scout is to be trusted: this is manifested in financial management too, proving that Scouts are transparent and trustworthy partners.	Czechia

## The UAct Self-Assessment: a summary of the main findings

Scouts engaged in UAct, whether as focal points or in roles such as project, programme, and communication officers, developed the competencies outlined above to varying degrees, depending on their role. Each individual embarked on a learning journey, becoming more aware of societal issues and gaining more confidence in their ability to affect positive change.

A self-assessment survey was conducted among UAct MOs and the regional team members, to support

the reflection on their individual learning journeys. Their valuable input informed the development of the mentioned humanitarian action competencies that resulted from the project. Additionally, the self-assessment offered a deeper understanding of the personal and professional growth experienced by the Scouts involved, highlighting the essential attitudes, knowledge, and skills needed in humanitarian action.

Captured below are the main reflections and insights from the survey responses.

*"I learned so much, especially that freedom and peace cannot be taken for granted."*

*"I feel that I am more patient and empathetic. I can approach people who fled war or dealt with a traumatic experience more sensitively."*

*"I learned to monitor a project closely and report weekly."*

*"Self-awareness, problem solving, and critical thinking were things I developed in the project."*

*"It gave me the desire to express my views in my own MO and to talk to others about how I see Scouting in my country."*

*"I think the WeAct Forum showcased exactly the importance and continuous impact of Scouting at every single level of society."*

*"I am confident in the power of the international Scout network and that together we can find a solution for each problem, no matter how difficult it may seem."*

*"I found out that I hold inner resources that I had no idea about."*

*"I developed strong project management skills, as well as adaptability, and giving and receiving feedback."*

*"I feel now even more equipped to work in an international context as well as work across different responsibilities outside of my comfort zone."*



## Building humanitarian action competencies and strengthening preparedness

Scouts are committed to create a better world and considering the unfortunate reality the world faces, this requires strengthening our humanitarian preparedness. The UAct project proved Scouts' capacity to engage safely and impactfully in society, exemplifying that in times of crisis young people play a pivotal role. To build on this momentum and increase preparedness for humanitarian action, it is vital for Scouts to receive relevant training to strengthen their capacities.

The competencies shown through UAct shed light on critical areas that Scouting's Youth Programme can focus more on as well as training for Adults in Scouting, as seen in the competencies table.

Throughout the project, Scouts acquired competencies through experiential learning, following the principle of <learning by doing.> While Scouting traditionally focuses on equipping young people with essential life skills for future challenges, the UAct project made Scouts learn while taking action, without a comprehensive understanding of the broader humanitarian response process and its complexities. While many competencies gained in Scouting are transferrable to the humanitarian context, it remains crucial to acknowledge the necessity of a focused humanitarian perspective for a strong humanitarian action.

Fortunately, Scouting's non-formal education methods already foster engaging and meaningful learning contexts that enable young people and adults to develop these competencies. However, this should act as a foundation to inspire the provision of focused humanitarian support and training that would allow Scouts to develop the knowledge and skills in advance, to be more prepared when a crisis emerges.

This was further highlighted during the WeAct Forum. Over 140 participants, from 42 countries, involved in humanitarian action, concluded the Forum with a set of recommendations that would support an increased youth involvement in the humanitarian action of MOs and local Scout groups, putting young people at the forefront of humanitarian response initiatives.

This annex captures their reflections, serving as a guide for Scouts and other organisations involved at local and national levels. The recommendations offer a unique perspective on the existing needs at the grass root level, to inform the kind of training and programmatic requirements that would strengthen their preparedness and that of the MO.

These recommendations are not official but rather an informal guide that represents the voices of Scouts globally involved in humanitarian action at different levels.

Humanitarian action starts locally, and by equipping Scouts with the relevant competencies propels us forward to ensure that Scouts are confidently capable to lead humanitarian action and remain relevant and impactful in today's society!





## 1. What is non-formal education (NFE)?

Learning is a lifelong process that develops individuals as active citizens. Non-formal education (NFE) complements formal education and should be recognized for its unique contribution. NFE is learner-centred, voluntary, and promotes skills, values, and attitudes for the 21st century. It is offered by various providers and has a transformative impact on individuals and communities.

The World Non-Formal Education Forum acknowledges that NFE is part of lifelong learning, covers all ages, and is delivered through different means and modalities. The Forum recognises the various definitions for NFE, and highlights, in particular, the Council of Europe definition, which has been reiterated by the Big 6 Youth Organizations in their Joint Position on Non-Formal Education: Non-formal education “refers to planned, structured programmes and processes of personal and social education for young people designed to improve a range of skills and competencies, outside the formal educational curriculum,” as stated in the [Rio Declaration on Non-Formal Education](#).

### NFE can be characterised as:

- A planned learning process with educational objectives
- Participatory and learner centred
- Open to the input of learners to the process and encourages making links to real life
- Voluntary
- Inclusive and accessible
- A mix of individual and group learning, and encourages people to learn from each other
- Learning life skills and preparing for active citizenship
- Holistic: emotional, mental, and physical

The World Non-Formal Education Forum, spearheaded by WOSM, concluded the [Rio Declaration on Non-Formal Education](#).



## 2. What is the Scout Method?

As a non-formal educational Movement, Scouting continues to explore new ways that contribute to the development of young people. Scouting's unique educational approach includes learning through fun activities, outdoor engagements, and meaningful experiences that challenge and encourage young people to gain confidence, courage, and enjoy their journey of growth within a structured system.

The Scout Method is an essential and unique system for progressive self-education.

Scouting empowers young people to become active citizens, by engaging them in meaningful experiences that promote social responsibility, community involvement, and leadership development. Through Scouting activities and projects, they gain practical skills, such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and decision-making, which are essential for actively participating in their communities.

## 3. Settings used to deliver NFE in Humanitarian Action contexts (differ with each MO)

Across different countries, Scouts have delivered programme through various settings and activities to support the well-being and integration of individuals.



### Local Scout group activities & camps:

- Through daily camps or longer summer & winter camps
- Outdoor Scouts activities for young refugees
- Different programmes and activities for Ukrainian children (Scout games, handcraft activities, playhouses, etc.)
- Supporting the liaison between refugee shelters and local Scout groups nearby to offer programmes
- Weekly events at refugee shelters, where Scouts play with children, organize small trips, and other activities
- Inclusion and integration activities for young refugees joining local Scout groups
- Developing new programme, for example «Scouts Merit Badges» and translating them into Ukrainian
- Promoting and facilitating assistance to both day and summer camps, through local community centres, municipalities etc
- Delivering Dialogue for Peace training in the Scout EduHub



### Schools:

- Organising language classes
- Hosting afternoon study sessions, providing homework support, language lessons, and assistance to smaller groups of children
- Offering different programmes for children and young people, tailored to their age group-including activities like colouring, painting, and joint games
- Creating informal classes for young people in the evenings, on various topics
- Refugee shelters, borders & railway stations:
- Providing activities for children at reception points and shelters
- Creating Children's Day Programme for refugee children in different locations
- Programme at day care centres
- Coordinating with other youth centres, to offer different activities
- Training more Scout volunteers, to provide activities at refugee shelters and other reception centres
- Online Sessions and community events:
- Providing care for Ukrainian children when parents or family members are occupied
- Delivering Dialogue for Peace training online for adults
- Organizing online music sessions
- Collaborating on fundraising activities with other organizations
- Supporting other local events and community activities

These different settings and activities provided non-formal education, supported integration, and created positive experiences for young refugees in humanitarian contexts.

## 4. The power of the Scout Method

Through the Scout Method and its non-formal education approach, both personal and social benefits permeate across groups, communities, and contexts. The power of this approach can be seen in many shapes and forms, and often unseen. Scouting creates a safe environment for young people to grow, develop leadership skills, and acquire life skills. It inspires purpose, action, and self-fulfilment, rooted in ideals of equality, inclusivity, respect, sustainability, harmony, and optimism.

### 1. For the volunteers who deliver the Scout programme

- **Learning by doing:** it encourages a mindset of active, continuous learning, enabling individuals to adapt to new challenges, acquire new knowledge, and stay relevant in a rapidly changing world.
- **Community Impact:** it can take place within many spaces within communities, affording opportunities to grow as a volunteer and contribute to social cohesion within their own environment. It strengthens social relationships, empowers individuals to become active citizens, and encourages collective problem-solving and collaboration.
- **Innovation and Creativity:** through a less rigid structure compared to formal education, it encourages volunteers to be innovative, creative, and critical thinkers. This creates a learning environment that nurtures curiosity, exploration, and out-of-the-box thinking.
- **Personal Fulfilment:** volunteering can be personally fulfilling, to see the growth, development, and transformation of learners, as well as the volunteers' personal development and employability skills, as a result of their role and contributions.
- **Tailored Approach:** through the learner-centred approach, it enables volunteers to prepare for and work with different young people with different learning styles, paces and through diverse methods. This experience increases emotional intelligence and intercultural understanding.

### 2. For participants and beneficiaries of the Scout programme

- **Flexibility:** it provides a flexible learning opportunity, that can be tailored to the specific needs and interests of young people, accommodating diverse schedules and learning styles.
- **Inclusivity:** Scouting actively promotes inclusivity through the programme, to reach young people who may have limited access to formal education due to various circumstances.
- **Holistic Development:** considers the holistic development of all young people, by focusing on personal, social, and emotional growth.
- **Tailored Approach:** through the learner-centred approach, it recognizes that young people learn at different paces and through diverse methods, so it can be tailored to individuals and contexts.
- **Personal Progress:** participating in non-formal education is unique, the young person is able to see and craft their own growth journey, as well as develop additional knowledge, skills, and attitudes that are otherwise less accessible in formal education.

Overall, the power and benefits of the Scout Method, lie in its ability to reach a diverse range of learners, promote practical skills, support holistic development, and foster lifelong learning, while being flexible, inclusive, and responsive to individual needs and the needs of communities.



## 5. How did Scouts foster a sense of belonging and support safe integration for Ukrainians?

The Scout Method serves as a valuable complement to formal education, as it effectively addresses specific needs, develops competencies, and imparts practical knowledge and skills that may not receive extensive coverage in traditional educational settings. Scouting has a proven track record of fostering a strong sense of belonging among its members and the broader community, as evidenced by its positive impact in UAct and beyond.



**Learning by doing:** active engagement in shared activities promotes mutual understanding and breaks down barriers.



**Personal development:** character building, leadership skills, and community service develop empathy, respect, and positive interactions.



**Small Group System:** working in diverse small groups fosters interaction, cooperation, and a sense of belonging.



**Service to others:** engaging in community service projects bridges gaps and builds connections within the new community.



**Progressive programmes:** progressive programmes provide opportunities for cultural exchange, fostering unity and inclusivity.



**International Scouting:** global Scouting events and programmes promote intercultural dialogue and cross-cultural friendships.

One notable example is the Scouts from Hungary, who used the Scout programme to help local schools and the formal education sector ease the transition into the new community and the continuation of formal education in a new school. In engaging in the Scout programme, they offered fun activities, language support, and an opportunity to build friendships, which allowed for a more informal, gradual, and comfortable integration. As a result, it fostered stability and enhanced the capacity later, for full engagement with the educational opportunities in the new country. This approach effectively addresses the previous challenges of resistance and frustration that arose when students were immediately thrown into an education system that was lacking the necessary resources to support them.

By incorporating the principles and methods of Scouting, such as learning by doing, small group systems, progressive programmes, personal development, service to others, and international Scouting, the Scout Movement can play a significant role in building bridges within a new community. It promotes understanding, cooperation, and a sense of belonging among individuals from different backgrounds, ultimately fostering integration and unity.

# Status of the European Scout Region

## What were the most valuable lessons from the project?

The partnership with UNICEF and leading the UAct project has provided valuable insights and lessons. Some key takeaways are:

- **Collaborative relationships:** Partnering with UNICEF has emphasised the importance of building collaborative relationships with external organizations. Working together has enhanced the national response and allowed for a better understanding of individual and shared priorities.
- **Tailored humanitarian activities:** Each Member Organization adapted their humanitarian activities and interventions based on their national context, MO capacity, and the refugee/IDP situation. This highlights the significance of tailoring approaches to meet specific needs and circumstances.
- **Expertise and resource-sharing:** This collaborative approach not only allows for the adaptation of resources but also enables Scout organizations and other civil society actors worldwide to benefit from the valuable outcomes and shared experiences. By sharing expertise and resources, the partnership created a multiplier effect, amplifying the impact and effectiveness of the project.

Overall, the partnership with UNICEF and the UAct project reinforced the value of collaboration, customisation, sustainability, and resource-sharing in youth-led humanitarian responses.



## How to continue working toward these topics?

In order to ensure a sustainable impact and to effectively respond to evolving social needs, Scouts should continue to focus on skills building, preparedness, and active inclusion. By providing knowledge, skills, and attitudes to improve programme quality and empower volunteers, organizations can deliver activities and educational programmes for underrepresented communities and vulnerable groups, at any time.

Through UAct, it was noticed that this approach not only enhances the organization's ability to meet intersecting priorities but also strengthens their platform for positive change. Additionally, fostering resilience and safety through community engagement, leveraging partnerships for preparedness, and promoting active inclusion as a means of social responsibility are vital aspects of achieving long-term impact and social cohesion.

The insights gained from UAct enable us to reinforce three fundamental pillars, providing a stronger foundation for an inclusive and prepared Scouting experience for all.

### 1. Skills building for sustainability, integration and coexistence

To ensure sustainable and relevant impact for the organization, in particular, their capacity to respond to evolving social needs, and to develop the ability of volunteers in responding to these needs. This core area focuses on providing knowledge, skills and attitudes to improve the quality programme, and the confident response of Scouts, by delivering activities and educational programmes for underrepresented communities, and groups in vulnerable situations.

### 2. Preparedness – Scouting is a community pillar for resilience and safety

Focused on the long-term impact and sustainability of youth actions in humanitarian responses, social integration, and preparedness in crisis situations. Member Organizations (MOs) require national and local partnerships, with strong mechanisms and structures to leverage them and their members, in specific contexts.

### 3. Active inclusion – share social responsibility

By understanding the value of inclusiveness and social cohesion, Scouts engage as change agents and peer support in their communities by removing barriers to participation and integrating new and underrepresented groups. This will put a focus on inclusive communication, reducing inequality and discrimination, extending reach, adaptive youth programme and organisational governance capacity to welcome new members.

Scouts continue to be humanitarians throughout their everyday Scout values and Scout activities. In particular, through:



**Integration** – Engage and integrate affected populations through local and national Scout camps and local activities, utilising different spaces (border crossings, refugee shelters, etc) to facilitate access to services and availing all forms of support.



**Education** - Design, promote, and disseminate educational programmes and capacity-building training, integrating components for preparedness into new and current initiatives. This develops a critical mass of self-assured and capable young people to promote and foster a culture of peace.



**Collaboration** – Scouts are a sustainable universal youth engagement network that mobilizes and orients Scout volunteers to actively support a cross-sectoral response to humanitarian and social issues, by providing frontline assistance, integration programmes, and non-formal education. This is achieved through intervention and service delivery development in collaboration with municipalities, partners, and even across MOs and cross-regional collaboration.



## The Future

For the MOs in the Eurasia and European Scout Region, this project presented a unique opportunity to empower Scouts in reinforcing their activities, spreading the message of peace education and investing in preparedness for humanitarian action.

Throughout the project, targeted support was provided specifically in two areas: partnerships and programme development. Towards the end of the project, the UAct regional team and MOs engaged in discussions with a WOSM Consultant and additional regional staff with expertise in partnerships and organizational development. Together, they assessed the future potential and priorities of the organizations, identify areas for development, and determine future needs. As a result, the UAct regional team was able to offer further customized support and forward-thinking strategies tailored to meet the specific requirements of the organization beyond the project.

### WOSM Consultant process

Collaborated with a WOSM Consultant, who devoted time to each MO since March 2023. The consultant's primary objective was to gain a comprehensive understanding of the MOs' journey throughout the project, extract valuable lessons learned, and identify areas for future development. This consultant actively participated in regular one-on-one sessions, facilitated focused discussions, and provided additional direction on new WOSM Services. The consultant's involvement also extended to the WeAct Forum, where they contributed with expertise and insights.

### National level partnerships

Within the UAct MOs, extensive efforts have been exerted to foster collaborative relationships and a shared understanding of individual and collective priorities for enhancing the national response between UNICEF Country Offices or emergency response teams present in their locality. Additionally, deliberate steps have been taken to ensure the sustainability of these relationships beyond the project's closure, enabling seamless facilitation of future collaboration opportunities.



### Future UNICEF Partnership

The success and uniqueness of the partnership between the Eurasia and European Scout Region and UNICEF has led to further recognition of significant potential, acknowledging the importance of considering a new formal partnership agreement for two key purposes. Firstly, to enhance the ongoing response and ensure the sustained impact of the current project, which entails strengthening the existing initiatives and programmes to achieve even greater outcomes. Secondly, the partnership offers an opportunity to expand investment in youth-led actions for promoting social cohesion and fostering integration. By working together, the European Scout Region and UNICEF are collectively working towards new proposals and donor appeal to achieve shared objectives and creating a lasting positive impact on local communities.

## Blue Dot Safe Space, Protection and Support Hub



### Continuation of the Blue Dots

Due to the remarkable success of the Polish Scouts in running and organizing the Blue Dots Child Protection and Family Support centres, these crucial points of assistance will continue to operate across the country until the end of the year (December 2023). The Scouts, who have proven their expertise and unwavering empathy, will remain the main actors and coordinators of these centres, providing invaluable support to the Ukrainian refugee population who have sought refuge and guidance at the Blue Dots.



### Scout Donation Platform

To continue to support where it is needed most, the European Scout Region has launched a new funding appeal through the [Scout Donation Platform](#). This initiative seeks to provide safe spaces for young refugees from Ukraine, by organising summer camps and Scouting activities in nearby countries to ensure continuous and sustainable integration and inclusion support.



### UAct °360

The [interactive webpage](#) serves as a one-stop-shop for resources and tools created by the nine UAct MOs in response to the humanitarian situation in Ukraine. These resources cover a range of areas, including project management, partnership building, communication guidelines, and educational methods for integrating refugees in Scout activities. The purpose of this webpage is to facilitate the sharing and adaptation of these resources by other Scout organizations worldwide, fostering confidence in a peer-led, learning-by-doing approach.

The partnership between WOSM and UNICEF in the Eurasia and European Region has resulted in a significant outcome: young people are now more recognized externally as important partners with the responsibility to take action and lead change. WOSM will continue to play a crucial role as a preferred partner and key stakeholder in youth-related approaches within UNICEF. Additionally, the European Scout Region reaffirms its commitment to addressing humanitarian crises through the Humanitarian Crisis Resolution (annex- as above) passed at the 24th European Scout Conference. Drawing from the valuable lessons learned through the UAct partnership, the European Scout Region takes a leading role in promoting peace education as part of its [Regional Scout Plan](#).



It is important to understand that humanitarian action goes beyond immediate emergency response. It encompasses a wide range of activities aimed at fostering individual autonomy, rebuilding communities, and supporting the integration of affected populations. By shifting our perspective and considering humanitarian action as a long-term tool for change, we can enhance its sustainability and effectiveness. This means recognizing that humanitarian action involves not only providing immediate relief but also empowering individuals, rebuilding communities, and ensuring lasting positive impacts. Scouts and Member Organizations are uniquely positioned to understand the needs of affected communities due to their grassroots knowledge and presence within these communities. They can act as bridge builders between affected populations and relevant stakeholders.

To achieve these goals, ongoing collaboration and support from donors, government agencies, and civil society organizations are essential. The ongoing conflict in Ukraine highlights the importance of sustained funding and resource allocation to enable Scouts and MOs to continue their humanitarian work beyond the immediate response phase. By investing in long-term strategies, we can foster resilience, empower communities, and create lasting positive change. Scouts and MOs can act as catalysts for positive transformation, addressing the diverse needs of marginalized communities and working towards a fairer future for all.



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