

Fundamental rights of children displaced in the EU following the Russian war of aggression

Italy

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1. Children fleeing Ukraine

1.1. Data on children fleeing Ukraine

Table 1 Children fleeing Ukraine

| Category of child | Registration system Y/N | Number of children (as disaggregated as possible) (as of 30 April 2023 unless otherwise specified) |
|---|-------------------------|--|
| Overall number of children | Yes | 49,459 ¹ |
| Arrived accompanied by mother, father or another legal guardian | | |
| Arrived without parents, but with other family members, neighbours or family friends | | |
| Arrived unaccompanied | Yes | 4,706 (2,402 girls – 84.0%) ² |
| Arrived within a group of children, as an organised evacuation from Ukrainian institutions or foster carers (with or without an appointed legal guardian) | | |
| Arrived within a group of children, through private initiatives, such as football clubs (with or without an appointed legal guardian) | | |

Source: 1. [Data Dashboard](#) elaborated by the Italian Civil Protection Department; data as of 30 April 2023. This Dashboard provides data specifically concerning people – including children – displaced from Ukraine after the beginning of the war. 2. Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, [Monthly report on unaccompanied migrant children](#); data as of 30 April 2023. The monthly data collection carried out by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies concerns all unaccompanied migrant children.

The data which is publicly available is reported in the table; access to data has been requested to the following institutions: Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, Ministry of the Interior, Department of Civil Protection, Authority for the Protection of Childhood

and Adolescence. The Ministry of Labour and Social Policies replied that they do not collect such data. The Department of Civil Protection has replied expressing their availability to collaborate to the research: we are waiting for them to share data and information. We are pending the reply of the other stakeholders.

1.2. Crimes against children fleeing Ukraine and children going missing

Table 2 – Serious crimes against children fleeing Ukraine and children going missing

| Issue / risk | Number of cases i) reported and ii) investigated |
|---|--|
| Violence, including domestic violence | |
| Sexual abuse | |
| Trafficking for exploitation | |
| Children reported as missing | The Ministry of Labour reported that as of 30 April 2023, 71 children from Ukraine were reported as missing and 916 had returned to Ukraine ¹ . |
| Other crimes against children fleeing Ukraine | |

Source: The Ministry of Labour provided data on missing children; such data is collected in the framework of the Ministry’s monitoring activity of all unaccompanied migrant children.

The requested data is not publicly available; access to data has been requested to the following institutions: Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, Ministry of the Interior, Department of Civil Protection, Authority for the Protection of Childhood and Adolescence. The Ministry of Labour and Social Policies replied that they do not collect such data. The Department of Civil Protection has replied expressing their availability to collaborate to the research: we are waiting for them to share data and information. We are pending the reply of the other stakeholders.

In Italy, in May 2022, the association “Telefono Azzurro” – which manages the 116 000 hotline of Missing Children Europe – issued a report concerning data on Ukrainian children gone missing². During the period 1st January – 30 April 2022, 29 cases were

¹ Ministry of Labour and Social Policies interviewed on 22 June 2023.

² Telefono Azzurro (2022), “[Sui bambini non si tratta](#)”, May 2022.

registered (18 males and 11 females). As per reasons of the disappearance, 8 cases were due to war, 8 to runaways, 6 to parental abduction, 2 to children missing in migration. Out of these missing children, 11 had the Ukrainian nationality.

2. Child protection – legal, policy framework and procedures in place

2.1. Responsibilities of child protection authorities

2.1.1. Individual children, including unaccompanied and separated children

In Italy, in March 2022 the Ministry of the Interior adopted the Plan on unaccompanied migrant children from Ukraine³. On 13 April 2022 an Addendum to the Plan⁴ was published to establish the appropriate procedures to optimise communication flows between Institutions and associations to ensure the necessary reception and protection, in the best interests of the child, in the event of transfers of unaccompanied Ukrainian foreign children to Italy. This demonstrated particularly crucial in preventing possible displacement/disappearance of the children from the place identified for their reception and to tackle human trafficking. Eventually, the Deputy Commissioner drawn on 20 May 2022 specific Guidelines to prevent the displacement and disappearance of children from Ukraine⁵. The institutional responsibilities in the field of protection and support to Ukrainian children are organised as follows: the Department of Civil Protection is the institutional body in charge of managing the emergency and the temporary protection measures, including those destined to accompanied and unaccompanied children; the Ministry of the Interior, and more specifically its Departments of Immigration and civil freedom, and of border police, are in charge of monitoring the number and type of children crossing the Italian borders; the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies which is the ministerial authority in charge of monitoring unaccompanied migrant children, including Ukrainian ones, also collecting data to be reported in the central Child

³ Ministero dell'Interno (2022), "[Piano Minori Stranieri Non Accompagnati](#)", 25 marzo 2022.

⁴ The Addendum is available at the [website](#) of the Italian Government.

⁵ Ministero dell'Interno (2022), "[Piano Minori Stranieri Non Accompagnati. Ricerca in caso di scomparsa](#)", 20 maggio 2022.

Information System database (*Sistema Informativo Minori* - SIM); the Ministry of Justice as far as guardianship is concerned; at local level, police headquarters, juvenile courts, prefectures, municipalities and local social services. This distribution of tasks and roles does not differentiate among the different types of unaccompanied children from Ukraine; however, specific measures are in place for unaccompanied children as compared to accompanied ones who can benefit from the presence of parents and/or other family members. Unaccompanied migrant children from Ukraine benefit from the system of protection and services in place for any unaccompanied migrant child, which is governed at legislative level by the Law No. 47/2017 on “Dispositions for the protection of unaccompanied migrant children”⁶.

2.1.2. Children evacuated from Ukrainian institutions

In Italy, there is not a different system of institutional responsibilities for children evacuated from Ukrainian institutions; the same government and local bodies described in the previous sections are involved. The Ministry of Interior specified that children arriving in Italy alone - whether they have travelled without reference adults or with one or more adults who have only accompanied them during the journey - in the absence of parents or guardians exercising parental responsibility, may be received by the Italian reception system. In such cases, the child must contact the Office for Foreign Children of the municipality of arrival or, alternatively, the local social services or the nearest police station. This system provides that a guardian will be appointed for each of these children, who will take the place of the holder of parental responsibility in Italy. In addition, placement in reception centres or with foster families will be guaranteed. Therefore, it will be the guardian, together with the foster families and the managers of the reception centres, who will be responsible for applying for residence permits and other documents for the children, as well as for their integration at school and the care of their health, and for maintaining contact with the family in the country of origin. Obviously, if the child's parents are in Italy, it will be facilitated and ensured that all procedures are carried out for the child to be reunited with them. The Ministry of the Interior with the Circular Letter No. 0020815 of 10 March 2022⁷ has established that "In the presence of children accompanied by adults who declare their parental authority, if it is impossible to verify with certainty the truthfulness of the document attesting to

⁶ [Legge 7 aprile 2017, n. 47](#), “Disposizioni in materia di misure di protezione dei minori stranieri non accompagnati”.

⁷ Ministero Interno, [Circolare n. 0020815 del 10 marzo 2022](#), “Misure di protezione temporanea in favore delle persone sfollate dall’Ucraina a seguito dell’invasione militare delle forze armate russe”.

parental authority, without prejudice to the need to notify the Juvenile Court, the Ukrainian diplomatic representation in Italy should be interested in the appropriate checks on the documentation submitted attesting to the family bond". In the same Circular Letter, the Ministry specified that in the event that the children are accompanied by adults other than those exercising parental authority (relatives, acquaintances, operators or private social bodies, including staff of Ukrainian institutions), they must be considered as "unaccompanied foreign children" and it will be necessary to activate the procedures provided for by the in-force legislation with immediate notification to the Juvenile Court of the activation of the procedure for the appointment of a guardian. In such cases, following due immediate reporting by the Police to the Juvenile Court and/or the Prosecutor's Office at the Juvenile Court, the procedure for the appointment of a guardian will be opened. In conclusion, children evacuated from Ukrainian institutions arriving in Italy alone – without adults of reference – are considered by Italian authorities as unaccompanied children and entitled to the same rights and reception measures as any other unaccompanied migrant child; if they arrive in Italy with adults working for these institutions, they are nonetheless considered as unaccompanied migrant children. This approach was subject to judicial controversy (as reported below in Section No. 4.2).

Moreover, [the European Disability Forum reported](#) that a group of children from an Ukrainian orphanage intended to travel and settle in a small town in northern **Italy**. As of December 2022, 93 children aged 8-18 had been evacuated from the same institution located in Berdyansk. The case of these children is unique in Italy as there is no other group this large that has been left united. The group includes 26 primary school-age children (primary), 31 secondary school-age children (middle school), 34 attending vocational training courses and three adults (persons aged 18) attending online courses at the Ukrainian University. The evacuation was possible thanks to Zlaghoda, a Ukrainian association based in Bergamo, had taken up the appeal of the orphanage in Berdyansk, whose managers were looking for a place to move the children housed there. Children were accommodated by municipal authorities in a local empty and no longer used hotel. In April, the Juvenile Court of Brescia, in agreement with the Prefecture of Bergamo, ruled that the preferable solution in the interest of the children was to keep them all together, considering the legal guardianship of all guests for the deputy director of the Ukrainian institution – travelling to Italy with the children – to be valid⁸.

⁸ Il Post (2022), "L'orfanotrofio ucraino che ha cambiato un paese delle valli bergamasche", 25 December 2022.

In this respect, UNHCR and UNICEF issued in March 2022 specific recommendations to Italian authorities⁹, stressing that children who are evacuated from institutions in Ukraine should not all be considered orphans: each child has their own personal and family history, and the reasons why they did not live together with their family may be manifold, so it is essential to pursue an approach based on the assessment of the individual case.

2.2. Safeguards and measures addressing risk of violent crimes against children fleeing Ukraine

2.2.1. Safeguards to protect and defend children from crimes

In Italy, no specific measures were adopted to protect and defend children displaced from Ukraine against the risk of violent crimes. These children can benefit from the protection measures in place to protect all children, and unaccompanied migrant children and children victims of trafficking in particular. The Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and the Authority for the Protection of Childhood and Adolescence were contacted to obtain more specific information but they did not provide feedback, yet.

2.2.2. Support for children victims of crimes

In Italy, no specific measures were adopted to protect and defend children displaced from Ukraine against the risk of violent crimes. These children can benefit from the protection measures in place to protect all children, and unaccompanied migrant children and children victims of trafficking in particular. The Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and the Authority for the Protection of Childhood and Adolescence were contacted to obtain more specific information but they did not provide feedback, yet.

⁹ UNHCR, UNICEF (2022), "[Crisi Ucraina – Raccomandazioni dell'UNHCR e UNICEF a tutela della protezione di bambini e bambine in fuga](#)", May 2022.

2.3. Guardianship/legal representation arrangements for unaccompanied and separated children fleeing Ukraine

2.3.1. Arrived unaccompanied

In Italy, the ordinary system for unaccompanied migrant children – as governed by the abovementioned Law No. 47/2017 – is used to provide legal representation to Ukrainian children fleeing the conflict, as confirmed by the specific Plan adopted in March 2022. More specifically, any person identifying an unaccompanied child is requested to report their presence to the local police authorities who will be in charge to inform the juvenile judicial authorities, the municipality and its social services. The child is subsequently identified by the police and the age assessment procedure is carried out if the age cannot be ascertained with certainty using an identity document. The local juvenile court is the authority in charge of providing the child with a legal representative/guardian: the Law No. 47/2017 introduced in Italy voluntary guardians – that is adult citizens who willingly decide to accommodate unaccompanied migrant children, after being adequately assessed and trained – and this is the option primarily privileged by judicial authorities. In case no voluntary guardians are available in the concerned location, an institutional guardian is generally appointed: it can be the municipality's mayor or a delegate. Italian authorities – and more specifically, the Department of Civil Protection – have introduced additional and specific reception measures to cope with the Ukrainian emergency, namely the so-called widespread reception (*Accoglienza Diffusa*), governed by Art. 31 of the Law-Decree No. 21 of 21 March 2022¹⁰. This type of accommodation is managed by NGOs and local authorities and is meant to integrate the ordinary reception system, providing accommodation solutions in local families and facilities reconverted from their original purpose (such as hotels). However, this type of reception cannot be used for unaccompanied Ukrainian children who are hosted in specific reception facilities, namely those that are used for any unaccompanied migrant child. This latter information was confirmed by the Department of Civil Protection, interviewed on 14 July. The professional reported that unaccompanied migrant children displaced from Ukraine were accommodated in ordinary reception facilities for unaccompanied migrant children managed by municipalities and associations at local level. Other types of accommodations – specifically activated to respond to the Ukrainian emergency, such as the so-called

¹⁰ [Decreto-Legge 21 marzo 2022, n. 21](#), “Misure urgenti per contrastare gli effetti economici e umanitari della crisi ucraina”.

widespread reception – were activated at local level with the operational support of the Department of Civil Protection but accessible only to accompanied Ukrainian children with their families. As far as this sub-group is concerned, the interviewed professional reported that accompanied children hosted in widespread reception have been 5,470 since September 2022, and were 1,582 at the moment of the interview.

2.3.2. Arrived without parents, but with other family members, neighbours or family friends

In Italy, the Plan adopted in March 2022 explicitly states that guardianship must be avoided in favour of temporary foster care if suitable family members are identified to take care of and legally represent the Ukrainian child, as established by Art. 19 of the Legislative Decree No. 142/2015¹¹, implementing the Directive 2013/33/EU. The Ministry of the Interior issued a specific Circular Letter – Circular Letter No. 0020815 of 10 March 2022¹² - clearly specified that Ukrainian children must be considered unaccompanied unless they arrive with the persons officially exercising parental responsibility. This means that family members, neighbours, family friends, professional working for NGOs or institutions, cannot be considered holders of parental responsibility and cannot be considered these children’s guardians or legal representatives. However, these adults can lodge a request by the Juvenile Court competent for the case, asking to be appointed as guardian of these children that can therefore be hosted with them. Italian NGOs suggested¹³, where possible, to put in writing the consent of the holders exercising parental responsibility (parents, guardian) for the children in Ukraine to be entrusted to the relatives/acquaintances present in Italy who have expressed their willingness to receive the children. As a rule, it would be important to have a notarial deed or a deed drawn up before a public official to be translated and legalised for use in Italy. However, in the present emergency situation, it is suggested to put this will in writing, by simply writing by hand a declaration clearly expressing the will to foster the child, indicating precisely and in detail the personal details and residence of the holders of parental responsibility and the potential foster carers (attaching copies of all identity

¹¹ [Decreto Legislativo 18 agosto 2015, n. 142](#), “Attuazione della direttiva 2013/33/UE recante norme relative all'accoglienza dei richiedenti protezione internazionale, nonché della direttiva 2013/32/UE, recante procedure comuni ai fini del riconoscimento e della revoca dello status di protezione internazionale”.

¹² Ministero Interno, [Circolare n. 0020815 del 10 marzo 2022](#), “Misure di protezione temporanea in favore delle persone sfollate dall’Ucraina a seguito dell’invasione militare delle forze armate russe”.

¹³ Save the Children (2022), [“FAQ Emergenza Ucraina”](#), 2022.

documents, with recognisable signatures of both parents or the guardian) and the reasons for fostering (emergency, impossibility of following the children and the foster carers' relationship with the children). Normally, the fostering procedure involves the social services competent in the territory of the potential foster child. It is therefore suggested to contact the social services, who will take charge of the application and then submit it, if necessary, to territorially competent Juvenile Court for ratification. In some cases, alternatively, with the help of a lawyer, an appeal may also be filed with the Juvenile Court, always attaching the above-mentioned documentation. This approach was questioned by UNHCR and UNICEF that issued in March 2022 specific recommendations to Italian authorities¹⁴: according to the two organisations, the best protection for every child is growing up in a family; everything possible must therefore be done to maintain family unity and speed up the eventual reunification of families, ensuring that any decision is made with the best interests of each child. Children travelling alone or who have been separated from their families must be assisted to be reunited with their families as quickly and safely as possible, either within or outside the host country, through the procedures already in place. Entrusting the task of tracing family ties to the competent authorities, avoiding recourse to informal mediators. Unaccompanied children travelling with adults should not automatically be separated from them. Rather, a thorough assessment should be carried out by the social services in charge to ascertain whether there are any indicators of trafficking or and whether it is a secure care relationship that can be authorised to continue, in the best interests of the child and with the guarantees provided for by legislation, with particular attention to those related to the fight against trafficking.

2.3.3. Arrived within a group, from Ukrainian institution or foster carers (with or without an appointed legal guardian)

In Italy, no specific measures have been adopted to manage this specific case. The ordinary procedures apply, as described in sections 2.3.1 and 2.3.2. As reported above, the Ministry of the Interior's Circular Letter clearly established that Ukrainian children evacuated from institutions or travelling with adults who do not hold parental responsibility must be considered in Italy as unaccompanied, and entitled to the same rights and treatment as any other unaccompanied migrant child. In this respect, UNHCR and UNICEF in the recommendations mentioned in Section 2.3.2, stated that children who are evacuated from institutions in Ukraine must not necessarily be considered

¹⁴ UNHCR, UNICEF (2022), "[Crisi Ucraina – Raccomandazioni dell'UNHCR e UNICEF a tutela della protezione di bambini e bambine in fuga](#)", May 2022.

orphans. The fact that they were living in an institution or in an 'orphanage' in Ukraine should not lead to the assumption that they cannot count on any family figure. It is essential that an approach based on the assessment individual case is used by local social services, to consider whether or not and to what extent contact with the family should be re-established.

2.3.4. Arrived within a group, through private initiatives, such as football clubs (with or without an appointed legal guardian)

In Italy, no specific measures have been adopted to manage this specific case. The ordinary procedures apply, as described in sections 2.3.1 and 2.3.2. No further specific information on this issue to report; the same approach and considerations reported in Sections 2.3.2 and 2.3.3 apply.

2.4. Placement of unaccompanied and separated children fleeing from Ukraine

Table 3 – Placement of unaccompanied and separated children

| Type of placement | Number of children | Details |
|---|--------------------|--|
| With adult relatives | 2,513 | Data provided by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies interviewed on 22 June 2023. Data refers to the situation as of 31 May 2023. |
| With a foster family | | The Ministry of Labour and Social Policies – interviewed on 22 June 2023 – reported that this data is not collected. |
| With person who looked after the child when fleeing | | The Ministry of Labour and Social Policies – interviewed on 22 June 2023 – reported that this data is not collected. |

| | | |
|---|-----|--|
| In reception centres for unaccompanied children (all nationalities) | 755 | Data provided by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies interviewed on 22 June 2023. Data refers to the situation as of 31 May 2023. |
| In reception centres for children fleeing Ukraine | | The Ministry of Labour and Social Policies – interviewed on 22 June 2023 – reported that this data is not collected. |
| Other placement | | The Ministry of Labour and Social Policies – interviewed on 22 June 2023 – reported that this data is not collected. |

Source: [Type your source here.](#)

This data is not publicly available. The Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and the Authority for the Protection of Childhood and Adolescence were contacted to have this data disclosed; the two authorities have not provided feedback, yet. It is also worth mentioning that there is not a common database in place registering information on children in foster and community care.

2.5. Children evacuated from Ukrainian institutions

2.5.1. Institutional placements

In Italy, no specific measures have been adopted to manage this specific case. The ordinary procedures apply, as described in sections 2.3.1, 2.3.2 and 2.3.3. However, this specific case was dealt with by an Ordinary Court which ruled that it was in the best interest of the child to recognize as legal representative in Italy the guardians the children had when living in institutions in Italy (if the guardians are themselves displaced to Italy). The case is described in further detail in Section 4.2.

2.5.2. Alternative care

In Italy, no specific measures have been adopted to manage this specific case. The ordinary procedures apply, as described in sections 2.3.1 and 2.3.2.

2.5.3. Safeguards for children placed in institutional care settings

In Italy, no specific measures have been adopted to manage this specific case. The ordinary procedures apply, as described in sections 2.3.1 and 2.3.2. More specifically, children displaced from Ukraine and deprived of parental and family support are appointed either a voluntary guardian or an institutional guardian; they are accommodated in second-level reception facilities managed by Italian municipalities and NGOs.

2.5.4. Access to local services and support

In Italy, no specific measures have been adopted to manage this specific case. The ordinary procedures apply, as described in sections 2.3.1 and 2.3.2. Unaccompanied children from Ukraine are accommodated in second-level reception facilities managed by municipalities and NGOs, and they are entitled to all services at the same conditions of any unaccompanied migrant children and Italian children, primarily education and healthcare assistance as described in Section 3 of this report.

2.6. Child-friendly information and means to ensure participation of children from Ukraine

2.6.1. Child friendly information

In Italy, the information materials developed and disseminated by public authorities are primarily destined to adults and do not use a child-friendly language and style. This is the case of the “Welcome to Italy”¹⁵ information sheet developed by the Ministry of the Interior and the Department of Civil Protection in March 2022 to provide useful information to people displaced from Ukraine at the beginning of the emergency. The information sheet was made available in Italian, English, Ukrainian and Russian, and it

¹⁵ The information sheet is available at the [website](#) of the Italian Government.

included information on the Covid-19 emergency, the vaccination procedure, and the administrative procedures in place to be registered by Italian authorities. The sheet also included a QR code to be used on mobile phones. Similarly, the booklet “Information for the population fleeing Ukraine”¹⁶ – developed and disseminated by the Department of Civil Protection in July 2022 – is primarily destined to adults and include information in Italian and Ukrainian on: reception, temporary protection, healthcare assistance, education, labour market and a list of useful contacts, including the Department’s Contact Centre. The booklet also includes a Frequently-Asked-Questions section based on the questions and issues raised by the associations of Ukrainian people active in Italy.

2.6.2. Child participation

In Italy, no initiatives to foster child participation were adopted, so far. However, at the end of March 2022, the National Authority for Childhood and Adolescence had issued a recommendation on the importance of listening to and considering the opinions and experiences of unaccompanied migrant children, including Ukrainian displaced children, living in the Italian reception system. According to the Authority, this active participation is key to design reception measures that can adequately meet their needs. The Authority has also started a tour to meet unaccompanied migrant children living in Italian reception facilities to collect points of view and direct experiences. This initiative was organised with the cooperation of the Association of Italian Municipalities, the UNHCR and Unicef¹⁷.

¹⁶ The booklet is available at the [website](#) of the Italian Government.

¹⁷ AGIA (2022), “[L’Autorità garante: Per le politiche di inclusione degli Msna bisogna ascoltare i ragazzi](#)”, 29 March 2022.

3. Access to social rights

3.1. Access to health care

3.1.1. Scope of medical care for children fleeing Ukraine

Table 4 – Scope of medical care for children

| Scope of medical care for children | Y/N | Reference / details |
|---|-----|--|
| Only emergency care/essential treatment of illnesses (Article 13.2 TPD) | N | Children displaced from Ukraine are entitled to the enrolment to the national healthcare system through the provision of a Temporary-present-third country citizen Code (<i>codice Straniero temporaneamente presente</i> – STP). Holding this code is the necessary step to have access to all healthcare provisions (not just emergency and essential care) at the same conditions of Italian citizens, as ruled by the Ministry of Health . The same applies to unaccompanied children from Ukraine, as stated in Part II, Section IV of the above-mentioned Plan. |
| Complete medical check -up / health screening | N | A compulsory medical check-up is not envisaged; however, as stated above, people displaced from Ukraine who hold the STP Code are entitled to all medical provisions and services, at the same conditions as Italian citizens. This right also applies to unaccompanied Ukrainian children. |
| Mental health screening (PTSD, depression, anxiety) | N | A compulsory mental health screening is not envisaged; however, as stated above, people displaced from Ukraine who hold the STP Code are entitled to all medical provisions and services (including mental health services), at the same conditions as Italian citizens. This right also applies to unaccompanied Ukrainian children. Moreover, the Italian Paediatric Society developed a vademecum on healthcare assistance for children fleeing Ukraine where it is clearly stated that these children must be provided psychological assistance and cultural mediators, also ensuring that family reunification is achieved as fast as possible. |
| Vaccinations for children | Y | The Ministry of Health clarified that children fleeing Ukraine must undergo the compulsory Covid-19 vaccination when crossing the border or immediately |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | | after. Moreover, they are subject to all compulsory vaccinations envisaged by the in-force legislation. This obligation also applies to unaccompanied Ukrainian children . In December 2022, the coordinator of the Technical Table on Infectious Diseases of the Italian Paediatric Society reported during an interview that many Ukrainian children arrive in Italy without the Covid-19 vaccine, since the overall vaccination rate in Ukraine is about 34% and even lower among children. Moreover, some parents are overtly against vaccines. Other crucial vaccines are generally performed in the first two years of life of the children; while recalls around the age of 5 seem to be absent. Despite the additional effort that this situation requires on the Italian medical staff, children (and families where any) are reported to be cooperative and to not oppose treatment ¹⁸ . |
| Mental health / psychosocial support | Y | As stated above, people displaced from Ukraine who hold the STP Code are entitled to all medical provisions and services, at the same conditions as Italian citizens. This right also applies to unaccompanied Ukrainian children. |
| Children with disabilities and those with chronic illnesses have access to the medical care needed | Y | As stated above, people displaced from Ukraine who hold the STP Code are entitled to all medical provisions and services, at the same conditions as Italian citizens. This right also applies to unaccompanied Ukrainian children. |

Source: Official governmental documents.

3.1.2. Challenges in practical provision

In Italy, in November 2022 the NGO Emergency¹⁹ stressed some critical aspects of the provision of healthcare assistance to people displaced from Ukraine. More specifically, the NGO recognised that formal access to the national healthcare system – through the issuing of the STP Code – is generally ensured; however, no guidance and information in any language (Italian and/or Ukraine) are provided on how practically have access to healthcare services. According to the NGO, formally being entitled to a right is not enough: people displaced from Ukraine should benefit from a social and healthcare

¹⁸ Società Italiana di Pediatria (2022), [“Ucraina, Esposito: “Piccoli profughi sereni ma con alterazioni importanti dello stato nutrizionale”](#), 4 December 2022.

¹⁹ Vita (2022), [“Casa, scuola, lavoro: le difficoltà dei profughi ucraini oggi”](#), 11 November 2022.

counselling service to help them in their integration process in the locality where they are accommodated.

3.1.3. Mental health and psychosocial support for children fleeing Ukraine

As reported in Section 3.1.1, in Italy, Ukrainian children – including unaccompanied ones – are entitled to the STP Code and therefore to the access to all healthcare services (including mental health services and psychological assistance) at the same conditions as Italian citizens. Specific services of this type are also provided by NGOs and associations to further respond to the children’s needs and prevent further trauma and distress. For instance, the organisation UNICEF²⁰ has provided between 2022 and 2023 social and psychological support to more than 500 Ukrainian children, as well as to 600 women with children, relying on specialized local services. The NGO “Doctors Without Borders” (*Medici Senza Frontiere* – MSF)²¹ developed since March 2022 a specialized psychological support service in some Italian cities – Milan, Rome, Trieste and Naples – where most displaced people are located. In each city, an MSF team is active – made of psychologists, nurses and cultural mediators – to promote healthcare assistance and identity vulnerabilities; the teams are mostly active in reception facilities where Ukrainian refugees (including children) are accommodated. The goal of this activity is to take care of the possible physical and psychological consequences of the traumatic events caused by the war these people have been suffering. Eventually, a similar initiative was developed by the NGO “Save the Children”²² in Rome and Milan: in local reception centres where children are accommodated (with or without their families), professionals working for the NGO (psychologists, social assistants and cultural mediators) are deployed to provide psychological assistance and develop a individualised integration path; moreover, in Catania a social, health and legal support service is provided by the NGO in close collaboration with the local Juvenile Court. The NGO has also set up a phone helpline, available in several languages, to respond to the needs expressed by Ukrainian families and children, including cultural mediation, legal assistance, psychological support, identification of vulnerabilities.

²⁰ UNICEF (2023), “[In un anno raggiunti oltre 15 mila rifugiati ucraini in Italia con interventi diretti di protezione e inclusione](#)”, 24 February 2023.

²¹ MSF (2022), “[Profughi ucraini in Italia: supporto psicologico e orientamento alle cure](#)”, 11 April 2022.

²² Save the Children (2023), “[Un anno di guerra in Ucraina: gli aiuti a bambini e famiglie](#)”, 23 February 2023.

3.2. Access to education

3.2.1. Types of schooling

Type your text here.

Table 5 – Enrolment and attendance of children fleeing Ukraine

| Types of schooling | | Number of children enrolled | Number of children attending | Source |
|---|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| National formal educational system | Children in nursery | 5,060 as of 9 May 2022 | This information is not available | Ministry of Education |
| | Children in primary education | 10,399 as of 9 May 2022 | This information is not available | Ministry of Education |
| | Children in secondary education | 5,226 in middle school and 2,103 in high schools as of 9 May 2022 | This information is not available | Ministry of Education |
| Physical attendance of Ukrainian led school / educational setting | | This information is not available | This information is not available | |
| Online attendance of Ukrainian led school / educational setting | | This information is not available | This information is not available | |

Source: Ministry of Education (data concerning the schoolyear 2022/2023 were formally asked to the Ministry and not provided, yet).

3.2.2. Support to integration in the formal educational system

In Italy, as stressed by the Circular Letter of the Ministry of Education of 4 March 2022²³, Art. 38 of the Consolidated Immigration Act (*Testo Unico Immigrazione*) guarantees the right to have access to the education system for: foreign children present on the Italian territory and provides for the application of the relevant national provisions; children seeking international protection; children of applicants of international protection; unaccompanied foreign children. In application of the above provisions, schools and regional education offices oversee the educational integration, including psychological assistance and language and cultural mediation to facilitate interactions and communication, of Ukrainian students fleeing war, ensuring schooling as close as possible to the places where they find accommodation and trying to safeguard, as far as possible, the networks of relations, family or community existing among the refugees, and between them and the Ukrainian citizens already present in Italy. As governed by the Ministry of Education's Communication of 14 April 2022²⁴, Ukrainian children subject to compulsory education are enrolled in the class corresponding to their age, unless the teachers' board decides to enrol the child in a different class, for example due to differences in the study system of the country of origin, which may determine enrolment in a class that is immediately lower or higher than the one corresponding to their age. A specific section focusing on the Ukraine emergency was created at the website of the Ministry of Education²⁵. This section collects updated data on school integration, education materials that can be useful for Italian teachers (including an overview of the functioning of the Ukrainian school-system), the in-force legislation, a collection of direct experiences of Ukrainian students arrived in Italy during the war. The Note of the Head of Department for the Education and Training System of 24 March 2022²⁶ suggests three distinct time frames for the schools' actions: a first phase of "slow reception time", until the end of the school year 2021/2022, aimed primarily at the reconstitution of socialisation groups, the acquisition of initial communicative skills in Italian, dealing with traumas and, as far as possible, to give continuity to interrupted educational paths; a second phase of "consolidation and strengthening", also with the collaboration of the territorial communities, through community pacts, during the Summer period; a third phase of "school integration", in the 2022/2023 school year, with diversified modalities depending on the availability of schools at local level to

²³ Ministero dell'Istruzione - Dipartimento per il sistema educativo di istruzione e di formazione, "[Accoglienza scolastica degli studenti ucraini esuli. Prime indicazioni e risorse](#)", 4 marzo 2022.

²⁴ Ministero dell'Istruzione - Dipartimento per il sistema educativo di istruzione e di formazione, "[Accoglienza scolastica degli studenti ucraini esuli. Indicazioni operative](#)", 14 April 2022.

²⁵ The section is available at the [website](#) of the Ministry.

²⁶ Ministero dell'Istruzione - Dipartimento per il sistema educativo di istruzione e di formazione, "[Studenti profughi dall'Ucraina. Contributi alla riflessione pedagogica e didattica delle scuole](#)", 24 marzo 2022.

integrate Ukrainian students and on the wider conflict situation. As far as unaccompanied Ukrainian children are concerned, the above-mentioned Plan includes a specific section (Part II, Chapter 7) is dedicated to school integration: the Plan clearly states that unaccompanied Ukrainian children are entitled to school enrolment at the same conditions as Italian citizens; at this end, public and school administration must ensure their access to all school and training services. Moreover, enrolment can happen at any moment of the schoolyear.

3.2.3. Data on drop outs and NEETs (not in education, employment, or training)

Information on this issue is not available. Further research is underway: the Ministry of Education was contacted but did not reply to our information request, so far.

3.3. Access to social welfare – forms of social assistance related to children

In Italy, temporary protection beneficiaries have complete access to the social services offered by the municipality of residence. Social welfare provisions are ensured to both accompanied and unaccompanied Ukrainian children. Beneficiaries of temporary protection who have an independent accommodation will receive a monthly allowance of EUR 300 for each beneficiary for a maximum of 3 months from entering the Italian territory (the date of the application for temporary protection will apply). An extra EUR 150 allowance is provided per each dependent child under the age of 18. The allowance does not depend on the income of the applicant. The contribution cannot be requested by beneficiaries of temporary protection accommodated in organised facilities, [as specified by the Italian Ministry of the Interior](#). As of 2 May 2022, the platform that allows people fleeing the war in Ukraine to apply for a contribution of subsistence for themselves, their children and children for whom they have legal guardianship is available [online](#) at the website of the Department of Civil Protection. Unaccompanied Ukrainian children are entitled to social assistance as any other unaccompanied migrant children; however they are not entitled to the financial contribution described above which is granted to parents of accompanied Ukrainian children. A financial contribution is nonetheless provided to the municipalities that expressed their availability to accommodate these children in local second-level reception centres. On 8 August 2022, the Ministry of Interior issued Guidelines on the Access of Municipalities to Refunds for

Reception Activities²⁷. In particular, a contribution of EUR 100 per capita per day is envisaged for unaccompanied children from Ukraine placed in municipalities' reception facilities, while in the case of family foster care, an average amount of EUR 20 per capita per day is envisaged, which must in any case be in line with the relevant regional and provincial provisions. A dedicated computer system, called SIMP 2 UKR, has been set up to manage applications for access to funds. The Guidelines illustrate the procedure for the accreditation of the municipalities to the dedicated system, which is possible after registration with the above-mentioned SIM database of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies.

²⁷ Ministero dell'Interno (2022), "[Linee Guida sull'accesso dei Comuni ai rimborsi per le attività di accoglienza](#)", 8 August 2022.

4. Additional legal and practical barriers and challenges

4.1. General challenges

In Italy, a few challenges immediately emerged as far as the management of the inflow of people displaced from Ukraine is concerned. The first criticism²⁸ that emerged since March 2022 concerns the Government's decision to declare the state of emergency on 28 February 2022²⁹ and appoint the Department of Civil Protection as the institutional body in charge of managing reception and assistance on the entire national territory, instead of using the ordinary measures in place, that is the first- and second-level reception facilities, the ordinary healthcare and education system, etc. The decision to involve and give extraordinary decisional and operational powers to the Civil Protection – instead of relying on the ordinary administrations at all levels of government – has been perceived as the sign that the reception and support system envisaged by the in-force legislation and policies has not been deemed adequate to cope with the situation. The overlapping of the two reception systems – the ordinary one and the extraordinary one set up to cope specifically with this emergency – has resulted into a lack of consistency and of clear operational dispositions, as stressed by the president of the Association of Italian Municipalities (*Associazione dei Comuni Italiani* – ANCI) in April 2022³⁰. Another critical issue concerned the funds made available for the emergency³¹: Italian municipalities and civil-society organisations – which participated to the public calls for reception projects launched by the Civil Protection to provide reception solutions to Ukrainian displaced people – complained that the proposal were assessed with delay and the funds earmarked slowly so that the proponents had to anticipate the financial resources that were needed to activate the projects (with some municipalities

²⁸ Openpolis (2022), "[La crisi Ucraina e la gestione emergenziale dell'accoglienza](#)", 29 March 2022.

²⁹ [Delibera del Consiglio dei Ministri del 28 febbraio 2022](#) - Dichiarazione dello stato di emergenza in relazione all'esigenza di assicurare soccorso ed assistenza alla popolazione ucraina sul territorio nazionale in conseguenza della grave crisi internazionale in atto.

³⁰ ANCI (2022), "[Decaro: Comuni pronti pur senza direttive, ora quadro più chiaro con circolare Protezione civile](#)", 1st April 2022.

³¹ Vita (2022), "[Profughi ucraini, le norme frenano l'accoglienza di famiglie e Terzo settore](#)", 24 August 2022.

withdrawing the reception proposals due to lack of funds). Eventually, a third challenge concerned the discriminations against third-country citizens in the access to temporary protection. Since the beginning of the emergency, the Association for Legal Studies on Immigration (*Associazione per gli Studi Giuridici sull'Immigrazione* – ASGI) publicly denounced³² how the Italian implementation of the EU Directive excluded people displaced from Ukraine who did not hold the Ukrainian citizenship, thus discriminating refugees depending on the nationality. The Italian Decree on temporary protection³³ grants the right to apply for this status to Ukrainian citizens residing in the country before 24 February, the day the Russian invasion began; to holders of international or equivalent national protection, for whom refugee status has already been granted, and their family members. A further category of people who can apply for temporary protection are holders of permanent residence permits who were in Ukraine before the outbreak of the conflict but cannot safely return to their country of origin. The Italian government, on the other hand, decided not to grant temporary protection to people who had fled Ukraine before 24 February due to the escalation of tensions, who were on EU territory (e.g. on holiday or for work purposes) close to that date but were unable to return because of the armed conflict. The main discriminating factor for ASGI, however, is the exclusion from the temporary protection mechanisms of third-country citizens who were in Ukraine with a non-permanent residence permit.

4.2. Challenges for children at multiple risk/disadvantage

In Italy, in April 2022 the Juvenile Court of Bolzano rejected the requests to ratify the reception measures and appoint a guardian for a group of Ukrainian children who arrived in Italy together with the head of an orphanage to which they were then entrusted. The case concerned seven children who had arrived in Bolzano together with the person in charge of the family-type orphanage where they were hosted in Ukraine: the woman was the professional managing the orphanage and legally representing the children in Ukraine. The foreign citizen had presented the measures adopted by the Ukrainian authorities by which the children had been entrusted to the family-type orphanage and the letters from the Ukrainian Consulate in Milan and the Ministry of

³² ASGI (2022), "[I diritti di chi fugge dall'Ucraina in Italia e applicazione della direttiva UE – Scheda ASGI](#)", 4 May 2022.

³³ [Decreto del Presidente del Consiglio dei Ministri 28 marzo 2022](#), "Misure di protezione temporanea per le persone provenienti dall'Ucraina in conseguenza degli eventi bellici in corso".

Justice of Ukraine confirming that she was their custodian and guardian. Despite this, the juvenile prosecutor on duty decreed the need to divide the nucleus beforehand and to consider the children as unaccompanied, in line with the Ministry of the Interior's Circular Letter mentioned above (Circular Letter No. 0020815 of 10 March 2022). The case was brought by the woman and her lawyer before the Juvenile Court: the Court rejected the prosecutor's decision and accepted the requests submitted by the foreign citizen and ordered the children to be entrusted to the social services of the municipality in order to discharge them from the community, entrust them to the Ukrainian citizen, and support her in the temporary integration in Italy and in the children's schooling³⁴.

In Italy, the Authority for the Protection of Childhood and Adolescence warned about the risks of reception in families for unaccompanied Ukrainian children³⁵. Even if families' availability to host children is clearly a sign of generosity, reception must always – according to the Authority – be managed through institutional ordinary channels since the risk of trafficking and labour or sexual exploitation is always lurking when it comes to children, and it is crucial to avoid that these children end up in the wrong hands. The Authority recalled that it is important that a legal guardian is immediately appointed for those who are without parents: if they arrived with an aunt or grandparent, once kinship has been ascertained, they will be the guardians, but the ordinary procedure must be followed for everyone. Also because this will allow the children to have health care, school enrolment and all the services they are entitled to.

³⁴ ASGI (2022), "[Minori dall'Ucraina: obbligo di rispettare la Convenzione dell'Aja e di non separare gli stessi dall'affidataria](#)", 20 April 2022.

³⁵ AGIA (2022), "[Ucraina, l'Autorità garante: Per aiutare i minorenni vanno seguite le vie istituzionali](#)", 10 March 2022.

5. Policies in place

5.1. Dedicated action plan and/or integrated measures

The most relevant Action Plans and measures adopted so far to provide support to displaced Ukrainian children have been described in previous sections. These include: the Plan on unaccompanied migrant children from Ukraine and the Addendum to the Plan, the Guidelines to prevent the displacement and disappearance of children from Ukraine, the Ministry of Health indications on the right to the healthcare assistance, the Italian Paediatric Society's vademecum, the Circular Letter of the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Education's Communication of 14 April 2022, the Note of the Head of Department for the Education and Training System of 24 March 2022. Moreover, general protection provisions also apply such as the Law No. 47/2017 on "Dispositions for the protection of unaccompanied migrant children" and the Legislative Decree No. 142/2015, implementing the Directive 2013/33/EU.

5.2. European Child Guarantee

In Italy, the Action Plan for the implementation of the European Child Guarantee was adopted in March 2022³⁶. The Plan includes a chapter (No. 3) on the identification of children facing difficulties in the access to services: in this chapter, a section (Section No. 3.1) specifically focuses on children displaced from Ukraine, describing the actions undertaken up to that moment from the Italian Government to provide them with assistance and reception. Children displaced from Ukraine are also included in the list of categories specifically protected and concerned by the Action Plan (Chapter No. 4): in this respect, the actions that will be adopted and implemented in the framework of the European Child Guarantee in Italy can be tailored to respond to the needs of this specific sub-category of children. Moreover, Chapter 7.3 of the Action Plan – on health and healthcare – explicitly includes Action 11 on "Interventions and Policies to provide reception and protection to children displaced from Ukraine". This line of action in particular recommends reinforcing the mapping of these children, as well as the

³⁶ [Piano di Azione Nazionale per l'Attuazione della Garanzia Infanzia \(PANGI\). Giuste radici per chi cresce](#), 28 March 2022.

measures in place to provide unaccompanied children from Ukraine with reception and assistance. Moreover, the Plan clearly states that these children must benefit from the in-force national and international legislation protection the rights of the child and the rights of unaccompanied migrant children.

5.3. Budget

In Italy, the Law-Decree No. 16 of 2 March 2023³⁷, on Urgent Temporary Protection Measures for People displaced from Ukraine, has extended up to 31 December 2023 all protection, assistance and reception measures destined to people displaced from Ukraine, thus also increasing the budget to finance them. More specifically³⁸, the Law-Decree earmarks EUR 40 million in 2023 for the one-off contribution to social services of municipalities hosting a significant number of applicants for temporary protection. Moreover, further EUR 137.9 are destined in 2023 to ordinary and extraordinary governmental reception facilities and EUR 52.3 in 2023 to the National Fund for Asylum Policies and Services (*Fondo nazionale per le politiche e i servizi dell'asilo*) which is used for the second-level reception facilities managed by municipalities (where unaccompanied Ukrainian children and families are accommodated). It is worth stressing that the budget described above is allocated for all people displaced from Ukraine and fleeing the conflict, not specifically for children, even if the measures it financed also target children (both accompanied and unaccompanied) and their needs. As far as the education system is concerned, in March 2022 the former Ministry of Education issued an operational note³⁹ announcing that EUR 1 million would be earmarked to foster school integration of displaced Ukrainian children: this first allocation was envisaged to support the schools that will welcome Ukrainian students and will be distributed on the basis of the needs that will be manifested by the regional school offices (*Ufficio Scolastico Regionale – USR*), in connection with the competent Prefectures. It will be used to support the costs of linguistic and cultural mediation, as well as all that will be necessary to guarantee the reception of children and young people and their literacy. In view of the fragile conditions of the incoming students, psychological assistance will be provided to them and their families. For this purpose,

³⁷ [Decreto-Legge n. 16 del 2 marzo 2023](#) - Disposizioni urgenti di protezione temporanea per le persone provenienti dall'Ucraina.

³⁸ Dossier XIX Legislatura (2023), "[Disposizioni urgenti di protezione temporanea per le persone provenienti dall'Ucraina](#)", 8 March 2023.

³⁹ Ministero dell'Istruzione (2022), "[Accoglienza scolastica degli studenti ucraini esuli. Prime indicazioni e risorse](#)", 4 March 2022.

schools will be able to use the funds allocated for this chapter in the last Budget Law. In addition, the USR, in coordination with the local authorities, will be able to activate the support of linguistic and cultural mediators for school personnel. In March 2023, the new Ministry of Education announced⁴⁰ that further EUR 32 million is going to be earmarked to support schools that have integrated Ukrainian students during the previous and current schoolyears. The contribution concerns 3,702 schools: the resources will be used to finance projects, also shared with local authorities and networks, for language integration, socialisation, integration and school continuity.

⁴⁰ Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito (2023), "[Dal Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito oltre 31 milioni di euro per le scuole italiane che hanno accolto bambini e studenti ucraini](#)", 2 March 2023.

Annex 1 – Research and data

Table 6 – Research on experiences of children fleeing Ukraine

| Surveys or research studies on experiences of children fleeing Ukraine | |
|--|---|
| Name/title | UNHCR, Intersos (2022), Refugees from Ukraine in Italy – UNHCR Profiling Exercise , 2022 |
| Main findings (max. 1000 chars) | Between November and December 2022, UNHCR carried out a survey involving 667 Ukrainian families displaced to Italy (1,531 participants – 930 adults and 601 children, of whom 45.8% are girls – living in Rome, Milan and Naples). 22% of the sample was aged 6-13, being it the second most represented age slot. Considering school-age children (6-18) in the sample (76%), 21% do not attend Italian schools. 97% are in Italy with a parent. 16% have a vulnerability. 56% are attending an Italian school, 23% are attending both Italian and Ukrainian schools in remote-learning, 16% are only attending Ukrainian school and 5% are not attending any school, although they are of school age. A large number of those not enrolled present a vulnerability. Four out of ten children are looking for an Italian course. |
| Highlight any findings re. gender, age, disability and diverse characteristics | Out of the 601 profiled children, 16% are classified as vulnerable and 11% presents a specific medical condition. The research also provides information on the barriers impeding or limiting the access to the Italian school system: language barriers and lack of cultural mediators (28%), preference for remote-learning in Ukrainian schools of origin (28%), lack of an official or stable residency in Italy (14%), lack of places in schools (12%), difficulties in dealing and communicating with school administrations (8%), lack of services for students with disabilities (6%), lack of compulsory vaccines (3%), discriminations (1%), lack of documents needed for school enrolment (1%). |
| Methodology (for surveys/polls indicate sample size and sample method) | UNHCR and Intersos – with the support of the Department of Civil Protection – carried out a survey between November and December 2022 (3 weeks), involving Ukrainian families living in Rome, Milan and Naples. The outreach and recruitment activities were carried out by the local branches of the two organisations and the participation was voluntary. As for the sample size: 667 families were profiled for a total of 1,531 people (930 adults and 601 children). |

| | |
|--------|---|
| Source | https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiNzJlZWQ0ZmltNzU3ZC00OTgxLWExMGQtYWl4YThjZjc4MGRlliwidCI6ImU1YzM3OTgxLTY2NjQtNDEzNC04YTBjLTY1NDNkMmFmODBiZSIsImMiOjh9 |
|--------|---|

Table 7 – Research on experiences of children fleeing Ukraine

| Surveys or research studies on experiences of children fleeing Ukraine | |
|---|--|
| Name/title | Save the Children (2022), “This is my life, and I don’t want to waste a year of it”, 2022 |
| Main findings (max. 1000 chars) | As far as Italy is concerned, children and young people's answers highlight three major themes: obstacles to integration, the psychological and emotional impact of displacement on their children, what the youngest see as necessary to feel at home. Adults find obstacles especially in access to work and medical care. Many of them feel that their children are sadder than before; more than 70% think that, in order to feel at home, it is necessary to learn the language of the host country; finally, for more than half, it is essential to find a job and for their children to attend school. The young people who answered the questionnaire say they have experienced restlessness and moments of anger in the last month, and, more than a third, worry about the future and loneliness. They also think that, in order to feel at home, one needs to learn the language, have friends, be at school with other students, have the opportunity to play and do sports. |
| Highlight any findings re. gender, age, disability and diverse characteristics. | The NGO recommends hosting countries to tailor free-time activities so that they are gender- appropriate and disability-sensitive and meet the needs and priorities of children, including adolescents. Moreover, one psychologist, interviewed in Italy, mentioned that reception centres (and by extension schools) should be aware of the impact of giving children unfamiliar foods, as it can lead to children not eating thus compromising their wellbeing. In his experience, parents complain that their children often do not eat for several days because they are used to different foods. He also noted that this is often less of an issue for children who left Ukraine after April and have experienced war directly, and consequently understand the meaning of leaving home. |
| Methodology (for surveys/polls indicate sample size and sample method) | Data collection for this report took place between July and August 2022, using a mixed-method approach involving primary (online survey of Ukrainian children and caregivers) and secondary data collection (desk research of relevant data and reports). The research was carried out in 8 countries, including Italy where 52 survey responses were collected. Moreover, one qualitative focus group was conducted in each country involving |

| | |
|--------|---|
| | children identified through Save the Children programmes and partner organisations |
| Source | https://s3.savethechildren.it/public/files/uploads/pubblicazioni/my-life-and-i-dont-want-waste-year-it_0.pdf?_gl=1*1c1w66w*_ga*MTk0ODQ5NDA2My4xNjc4MTA4NzEy*_ga_J4L0VBWH7F*MTY4NjY0ODE5MS4xOS4xLjE2ODY2NDgyNTQuNTcuMC4w*_fplc*U003dEtkeTd1dUI5Y0dHSkx3M0Z6Qm1DaG5KUWR5MDhqNHFMV3NBSzJsM092MHRVJTJGdFNMZkZnTjBpQTBnNDRteUlrUmd4cmVtMU9iUTNleEhoMTFxeU12bjBWRUhmbXRNTW1HMjE2NzhyeFI4b0RVUFJvJTJCWHk3aFA3RkFVZyUzRCUzRA.. |

Annex 2 - Promising practices

Table 8 – Promising practice # 1

| Promising programme / practices aimed at providing protection and support to displaced children fleeing the war in Ukraine | |
|--|---|
| Name/title | Mitigation of the risk of gender-based violence and protection mechanisms for children accommodated in the reception system. Practical guide and operational tools. (<i>La Mitigazione del Rischio di Violenza di Genere e i Meccanismi di Tutela di Persone Minorenni nel Sistema di Accoglienza. Guida Pratica e Strumenti Operativi</i>) |
| Implementing body (public authority, CSO etc) | Public authority (Civil Protection Department) and CSO (UNHCR and UNICEF) |
| Funding body | Civil Protection Department |
| Reference in EN and original language (incl. URL, where available) | Civil Protection Department, UNHCR, UNICEF (2023), “Mitigation of the risk of gender-based violence and protection mechanisms for children accommodated in the reception system. Practical guide and operational tools” (2023) (<i>Dipartimento della Protezione Civile, UNICEF e UNHCR (2023), “La Mitigazione del Rischio di Violenza di Genere e i Meccanismi di Tutela di Persone Minorenni nel Sistema di Accoglienza Diffusa. Guida Pratica e Strumenti Operativi”, 2023</i>) |
| Start / end date or ongoing | May 2023 - ongoing |
| Main target group | CSOs and associations managing the local reception system and families hosting Ukrainian children and families. |
| Scope (local/regional/national) | National |
| Objectives and outputs | The goal of the guide is to provide technical and operational guidelines to all stakeholders involved in the reception system at local level, including families hosting children and families. The overall aim of the practice is to reduce and identify the risk that children are exposed to and victims of gender-based violence in the reception facilities and families. |
| Brief description (max. 1000 chars) | In order to guarantee protection and assistance to the Ukrainian population fleeing the war and arriving in |

| | |
|---|--|
| | <p>Italy, since the beginning of the emergency, in addition to the ordinary forms of reception, the measure of 'widespread reception' (<i>Accoglienza diffusa</i>) has been introduced, through which CSOs guarantee accommodation and integration services with families or in small facilities. The Practical Guide is aimed at integrating the approach of mitigating the risk of gender-based violence and strengthening child protection systems in the reception processes of persons from Ukraine, in line with international standards, in order to ensure the safety and resilience of the accommodated persons, reduce the risks that can be created in emergency contexts and provide support to beneficiaries and survivors of violence. The document, addressed to CSOs involved in this type of reception, consists of 6 sections on policies and procedures to reduce risk factors and strengthen protection mechanisms, practical tools, reporting mechanisms and guidance on how to provide first support to persons at risk.</p> |
| <p>Highlight key elements of the programme/practice which makes it promising (sustainability, measurable impact etc) (max. 500 chars)</p> | <p>The Guide is a tool of immediate application in the context of the so-called "widespread reception" of the Ukrainian population but adaptable also to different emergency contexts. The Guide is addressed to the institutions involved in the different phases of reception of migrants and refugees in Italy, to the bodies engaged in the diffused reception and to civil society organisations. It can therefore be adapted to reception measures and solutions of all migrants and people in need of protection in Italy.</p> |
| <p>Monitoring and evaluation and the bodies involved</p> | <p>The Guide envisages that CSOs involved in the so-called "widespread reception" provide for tailored methods and tools dedicated to monitoring. Monitoring is useful to assess the progress of family-based care, gather information on strengths and weaknesses, and to know the general impact of the reception programmes on the beneficiary families. Monitoring and evaluation should also include elements related to the standards of support and protection.</p> |

Table 9 – Promising practice # 2

| Promising programme / practices aimed at providing protection and support to displaced children fleeing the war in Ukraine | |
|---|---|
| Name/title | Blue Dot. Safe Space, Protection and Support Hubs |
| Implementing body (public authority, CSO etc) | CSOs |
| Funding body | UNHCR and UNICEF |
| Reference in EN and original language (incl. URL, where available) | UNHCR, Blue Dot. Safe Space, Protection and Support Hubs |
| Start / end date or ongoing | 2022- ongoing |
| Main target group | Children and families fleeing the war in Ukraine |
| Scope (local/regional/national) | International |
| Objectives and outputs | The goal of the Blu Dot project – developed by UNICEF in partnership with UNHCR – is to provide support and information to displaced people fleeing the war in Ukraine – especially children, vulnerable subjects and women – in different European countries, including Italy. |
| Brief description (max. 1000 chars) | The Blue Dots safe spaces, protection and support hubs provide practical support and information to children and families in their onward journeys. Blue Dots also provide specialist support for those in need of protection, such as children traveling on their own, women with young children, persons with disabilities or survivors of sexual violence. Child-friendly spaces offer a welcoming space for kids to rest, play, and simply be a child at a time when their world has been turned upside down in fear and they are facing the trauma of leaving friends, family and all that is familiar to them. Blue Dots are established in locations where refugees arrive at border crossings and along routes of major refugee flows. They are also being created in refugee registration sites, reception facilities, or cash distribution points. Services that are generally provided at Blue Dots include: identification and referral of children at risk; mental health and psychological support; legal aid and counselling; information and advice desks on available services, asylum and family reunification procedures; child- and |

| | |
|---|---|
| | <p>family-friendly spaces. Since the beginning of the Ukraine emergency, two Blue Dots were established in Italy in Friuli Venezia Giulia, at the two border-crossing points of Trieste and Udine.</p> |
| <p>Highlight key elements of the programme/practice which makes it promising (sustainability, measurable impact ect) (max. 500 chars)</p> | <p>The practice was established at the beginning of the war in Ukraine to provide support and information to people fleeing the conflict, especially children, families and vulnerable persons. Since then, the Blue Dots have been replicated in several locations, where deemed necessary through the assessment carried out by the two organisations in partnership with local authorities. Besides this specific emergency, the practice – which was also replicated far from borders, in reception facilities and other crucial locations – is a promising one that can be replicated at all borders, where the migrants and protections seekers are concentrated in order to improve the level and quality of assistance provided to vulnerable people on the move.</p> |
| <p>Monitoring and evaluation and the bodies involved</p> | <p>N/A</p> |
