



Ukraine Children's Action Project (UCAP)

(The indisputable urgency of childhood)

Mission:

UCAP, founded by Dr. Irwin Redlener and Karen Redlener, supports the essential needs of children who are part of the vast refugee crisis consequent to the war in Ukraine, specifically focused on:

- (1) the health and mental health needs of children and youth who have suffered the trauma of systemic violence, personal loss and/ or acute disruption.
- (2) loss of educational continuity.

Why UCAP?

UCAP serves as a conduit for U.S. donors who want to contribute to high impact local programs on the ground in Ukraine refugee host countries, such as Poland. UCAP evaluates and screens potential recipient organizations to assure their effectiveness and legitimacy on behalf of U.S. based donors who need to be confident that their contributions are being appropriately directed.

Rationale & Background:

The evolving realities of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia have taken a significant toll on all Ukrainians, especially children and youth. As of early May 2022, some 14 million people, nearly a third of Ukraine's population, have either left the country as refugees or have been displaced from their home communities to safer regions of the country. As many as half of the disrupted population are children and youth. There is every reason to believe that the problem of Ukraine refugee and displaced persons will continue as Russia's aggression remains unabated.

While the suffering and disruption are significant for the entire population this is especially true for children. And because the significant preponderance of child refugees from Ukraine are in Poland, that is where UCAP is focusing its efforts, at this initial phase.

Why focus on children and youth?

In general, of course, depending on age, children are far less capable of fending for themselves and identifying or accessing critical assets.

And children may be extremely vulnerable to long-term consequences of stress in the face of sudden traumatic disconnection from homes and communities, loss of loved ones or friends, disruption of school or lack of access to social support.

What must be developed and sustained are (1) immediate access to psychological support in those situations where it is deemed necessary; and (2) establishing educational continuity. *That is because sustained psychological issues or disruption of the educational trajectory can have serious consequences for the future of a child. Inability to function, undermining education can undermine the future success of children at risk.* That is something that must be avoided at all costs.

Why support Ukraine's kids through UCAP as opposed an existing organization?

Large-scale, mega international organizations, including private, national or U.N. agencies, present challenges to medium or small donors who may want to know where their donations are going and, to the extent possible, how much impact their gifts have had. Many huge international organizations have extremely large endowments and use a humanitarian crisis to attract further donations, often to hold for the next disaster. There is nothing inherently wrong with contributing unrestricted funds. But UCAP is designed for donors who want to know more precisely where their funds are going.

Smaller organizations working "on the ground" in response to a major crisis may have more visible high direct impact and the ability to demonstrate with some precision how donations are being utilized, i.e., greater accountability.

Providing humanitarian or recovery *services outside the U.S.* by local organizations, even those that are the local or national branch of a mega international organization may have additional challenges. These entities may be unfamiliar to U.S.-based donors, even though they are doing highly effective work throughout the crisis. UCAP's program team will be particularly useful in providing on the ground vetting of organizations anywhere, as well as follow-up, monitoring and reporting.

Considerations for UCAP funding:

Health and Mental Health Support

- Support of Ukraine speaking pediatric mental health providers and programs
- Support of health care services for children
- Supplemental food programs to meet the need of food insecure refugee children
- Support of special need refugee children, including orphans, those with disabilities, chronic medical concerns, or special learning challenges
- Technical advice to programs designed to support agencies and individuals responsible for well-being of refugee children.

Educational Continuity

- Support of dual/ multi language teachers
- Increasing school capacity with “container” classrooms in partnership with relevant city agencies
- Programs to screen children for health conditions that could be barriers to learning, e.g., vision deficits, psychological concerns, asthma, etc. (Modeled after Children’s Health Fund’s Healthy and Ready to Learn program)
- Development of “Remote Learning Systems (RLS)” to permit access to formal on-line learning
- Provision of tablets or laptops to access RLS
- Summer language camp programs for school age children who need recreational activities (and opportunity to have fun!), along with programs designed to teach the language of country hosting Ukraine refugees.
- Development of a program to pair up host country schools, especially secondary, with U.S. counterparts (“school to school” partnerships)

Other:

- U-CAP will also consider direct assistance to organization working directly in active conflict zones within Ukraine itself.

UCAP structure

UCAP has been established as a fund within the Entertainment Industry Foundation (EIF). EIF is a highly regarded, long-standing, low fee, LA-based organization that creates and manages new charities for celebrities and influencers. It covers setup, legal paperwork, financial and grant-making structure to ensure that funds it manages are, including UCAP, fully **compliant nonprofit, tax exempt 501c3** entities. UCAP will have:

- A minimal support staff responsible for evaluating legitimacy and effectiveness of potential recipients of UCAP funds, providing relevant reports to donors
- An active advisory board is in formation, but currently includes *Joan Baez*, *Nicolle Wallace* (MSNBC anchor), *Harold Kopolowitz*, MD (founder, Child Mind Institute), *Randi Weingarten* (president, American Federation of Teachers), *Rafal Trzaskowski* (Mayor of Warsaw, Poland), *Terry Press*, strategic consultant

For Contributions: www.UkraineCAP.org