

# Frontline Action



## Ukraine Under Fire: WCF teams evacuate orphan centres in Ukraine and disburse emergency food aid

Helping Children in a  
World of Need

*“It’s a dark day for WCF and all of us throughout the world as we watch the images of Ukraine being invaded. Our liaisons in Ukraine are reporting on the terror of the war, gunfire, bombing and destruction. We are afraid for the children we support in Ukraine. We’re committed to evacuating as many children as possible to safety and we will continue to provide aid and financial support.”*

—Ruth Lam Kendrick, WCF International VP

**D**uring the first 24 hours of the assault on Kyiv, WCF program liaisons worked through the night to finalize the evacuation of 150 children plus their female adult caregivers. The children in the WCF supported orphan care center were evacuated amid the bombs and blasts striking Kyiv, the capital city, located less than thirty kilometers away. It is one of more than twenty orphanages that have been supported by World Children’s Fund in Ukraine for more than a decade.

As apartment buildings and other civilian targets were destroyed in Kyiv, teams organized the children and packed food, water, warm clothing,

**“This war is a nightmare for children who have already endured more trauma than one should have to confront in a lifetime.”**

and blankets for their journey west. A team from Germany was dispatched and began traveling with four empty buses toward Poland. They intercepted the children at the Volyn border between Poland and Ukraine.

**S**ince that fateful night, about 1000 children in Ukraine who were living in WCF supported centres have been evacuated. In addition to children from Kyiv, children have been evacuated to safety from Mariupol and Odessa, both southern port cities that were targeted early in the the war. Children have been relocated to Germany, Poland, Switzerland, and other bordering countries. They are waiting, day by day, with their caregivers.



Ruth Lam Kendrick, WCF International VP, meets with children from a WCF supported orphanage. The center was located less than thirty kilometers from Kyiv and was evacuated as Russia began its assault on the capital city.

# The orphan center near Kyiv is one of more than twenty orphanages that have been supported by World Children's Fund in Ukraine for more than a decade

The children are all hopeful that they can return to their homes in Ukraine. In addition to providing financial support to meet their daily needs, including food, medical and essentials, WCF has purchased passenger vehicles that are used to secure needed items for the displaced children and transport groups of them so they can spend time together and participate in on-going education and learning.

Many of the children being evacuated from the WCF supported orphanages are formerly homeless children in Ukraine. Children as young as eight years old begged in the streets before being referred into the safety and support of the network of centers supported by WCF throughout Ukraine. These children have endured abandonment and homelessness, begging, abuse and have scrounged for food to survive.

*"This war is an emotional nightmare for these children who have already endured more trauma than one should have to confront in a lifetime,"* says one WCF administrator.

The children have harrowing stories, like the three brothers who lived unsupervised in a village west of Kyiv in a small, abandoned shack. Alone and cold, the brothers ignited a near-fatal fire to keep warm and not freeze to death.

Ongoing donor support has saved the lives of thousands of Ukraine's children. Your generosity has provided a place to call home, a loving environment, safety, security, nutritious meals, access to education and necessities like warm coats, clothing, and shoes.

Now these children are facing another difficult chapter in their young lives.

In addition to evacuation and care of children from the orphan centers, WCF supported teams are operating from bases near Poland packing and disbursing emergency food aid. The emergency packs are provided to families who have been displaced from their homes and those seeking safety.

Emergency kits are filled with essentials like bread, water, rice, flashlights, candles, matches, toilet paper and staple items like canned meat, cooking oil and other desperately needed items for survival. The emergency packs contain enough food for four to five people for up to one week. The teams disburse an estimated one thousand packs per week.

We are grateful for every committed donor who is helping WCF to maintain support for the children of Ukraine who remain in Ukraine, as well as children who have been forced to flee to safety. Your donations are also facilitating ground teams who are able to reach Ukrainian families in desperate need emergency food aid and supplies. ■



Web site: [www.worldchildrensfund.org](http://www.worldchildrensfund.org)

Email: [info@Worldchildrensfund.org](mailto:info@Worldchildrensfund.org)