

**The Including Children Affected by Migration Programme (ICAM) has been adapted for 2.4 million displaced Ukrainian children**

**THE ICAMucs PROGRAMME FOR UKRAINE**

**Welcoming refugee Ukrainian children to a school community**



Pictures of Ukrainian children in 2022

# Urgent support for schools

“Polina came to our bedroom awakened by the sound of explosions. I didn’t know and still don’t know what to tell her. Her eyes today are full of fear and terror; eyes of all of us.”

*Alina, mother of two children from Kyiv on instagram. Her daughter Polina is 7 years old.*

Eurochild is a founder member of a partnership with Terre des Hommes (TdH), The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Including Children Affected by Migration network (ICAMnet Aps) that has produced an urgently needed programme for the improved inclusion in schools for the 2.4 million displaced Ukrainian children in European countries.

Based on restoring the social and emotional wellbeing without which upset or distressed children are unable to return to learning, the programme makes an important contribution to implementing the EU Policy Guidance on the inclusion of Ukrainian children in Education produced by the GRP-EU Education Solidarity for Ukraine - Working Group Schools to which Eurochild contributed.

### **The Including Children Affected by Migration Programme (ICAM)**

With the urgent imperative to meet the physical needs of child refugees and overcome communication difficulties when there are differences of language and culture, consideration of the emotional and social needs of displaced children may be postponed. **Yet the need for restoring children's Social and Emotional Wellbeing is equally urgent and may help to prevent problems that endure long after the immediate crisis is over.**

This realisation is at the core of the Including Children Affected by Migration (ICAM) programme which has been shortened and focused to produce the ICAM programme for the inclusion of displaced Ukrainian children in school (ICAMucs)

Based on research into the long-term effects on children displaced during the second world war, the ICAM) programme is available right now to help schools offer a secure and safe environment of 'convivencia' (a Spanish word meaning 'living together in harmony') in which **all** children affected by migration can immediately begin recovering from the disruption to their lives, their learning and their development that they have suffered.

The business of schools is learning. Children's brains will not allow them to learn effectively if they are uncomfortable, frightened or unhappy. The ICAM approach improves the social and emotional wellbeing of displaced children in school and in the home so that they can recover from traumatic experiences and start restoring learning relationships allowing them to thrive again.

**If you would like to find out more about the ICAM programme you can watch 2 short videos:**

**An outline of the ICAM programme:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1GYEJAp7ksI&t=38s>

**How the ICAM programme works:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YLLTwoqEQ5M>

**The ICAM programme has been adapted to form the ICAMucs for Ukraine programme.**

ICAMucs provides the most urgent guidance, lesson materials and parent/carer support needed by schools welcoming refugee Ukrainian children in 5 essential areas of school provision.

- 1. Staff awareness of the past and present experiences of refugee children and their possible effects.**

ICAMucs helps school staff understand the severe effects of separation and loss on children who have been displaced and refugee Ukrainian children in particular.

## **2. Applying effective strategies for the induction of displaced children into the school community**

There is guidance on how to welcome and settle refugee Ukrainian children into their new school community.

## **3. Providing additional support for displaced children's social and emotional learning and general wellbeing**

A series of mentored sessions for refugee Ukrainian children to help restore their social and emotional wellbeing. There are programmes for both secondary and primary children.

## **4. Implementing effective strategies to ensure the safety and the wellbeing of children in and around school and when using the internet.**

Displaced children suffer more violence and abuse than other children particularly on-line. ICAM applies effective whole school strategies for violence reduction and provides sessions for refugee Ukrainian children on safe and responsible on-line behaviour, developing resilience to on-line abuse and the effects of fake news.

## **5. Forming a supportive partnership with the parents / carers**

A series of workshops for displaced Ukrainian parents/carers to help them form partnerships with the school and continue helping restore their children's social and emotional wellbeing in the home.

Coaching for School ICAMucs leaders is provided during 2 half day workshops. The ICAM partners are available to advise and support national or international agencies. We can make all materials freely available on-line in the form of guidance and detailed tutoring sessions. If required, face to face or on-line coaching with on-going support can be provided for agencies implementing programmes of support.

**You can find out more about the Including Children Affected by Migration programme for Ukraine (ICAMucs) by watching a short video:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XbTbXqyUoJ4>

**Information and all ICAMucs resources are free and can be found on the ICAM website**  
[www.icamproject.eu](http://www.icamproject.eu)

## **Latest Developments**

### **Nationwide implementation of ICAMucs for Ukraine in Romania**

With funding from UNHCR and the NGO Swiss Solidarity, Terre des Hommes, with the support of The Romanian Ministry of Education, have organised the cascade coaching for a total of 50 National ICAM Facilitators and School ICAM Leaders as the first stage of a Romania wide development of the ICAMucs programme for the inclusion in schools of an estimated 30,600 displaced Ukrainian children in Romania, starting with schools in Bucharest in December 2023.

### **Applying ICAMucs in the community to improve school enrollment of displaced Ukrainian children.**

The recent UNHCR report on the education of Ukrainian refugee children identifies varying levels of enrollment in school country by country, averaging at only 50% and worryingly, seeming to be decreasing rather than improving. Consequently, the ICAMucs programme is

being promoted for use by community and welfare groups in outreach centres as workshops for parents and carers to help improve child and family wellbeing and consequent their ability and willingness to enroll their children in school.

### **Developing ICAMucs in Poland**

With nearly half a Million Ukrainian children in Poland the ICAM partners with Terre des Hommes is supporting initiatives by UNHCR to improve both enrollment and inclusion in schools. Although progress is slow we hope to begin support in early 2024.

### **Presentations at Conferences**

The ICAM programmes, and particularly the Be Cyber Safe and Responsible programme for protecting Children Affected by Migration from on-line abuse and exploitation will be publicised at the OSCE International Conference on Preventing trafficking in human beings and increasing identification of and assistance to victims amid refugee flows from Ukraine: the role of civil society and anti-trafficking hotlines, taking place in Vienna on 6-7 December 2023.

The ICAM programme will be further publicised at The Eurochild sponsored Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations for the Child (FONPC) Conference The Role of Civil Society Organizations in Facilitating the Integration of Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Migrants in Social and Protection Systems in European Contexts - Good Practices and Lessons Learnt – In Bucharest 9 - 12 January 2024

**For more information please visit the ICAM website [www.icamproject.eu](http://www.icamproject.eu)**

The ICAM partners will be delighted to hear from anyone who shares our mission to support the inclusion of Children Affected by Migration in school and in society and their rights under the United Nations Charter on the Rights Of the Child.

**Please contact via email: [info@icamprogramme.eu](mailto:info@icamprogramme.eu)**

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