

CHILD PROTECTION AREA OF  
RESPONSIBILITY – UKRAINE

**MID-YEAR NARRATIVE  
RESPONSE  
REPORT**

JANUARY – JUNE 2025

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## 1. CONTEXT AND OVERVIEW

The humanitarian crisis in Ukraine remains protracted, with continued hostilities and displacement patterns evolving across the country. **As of June 2025, 3.47 million people are estimated to be in need of child protection assistance, with 2.06 million targeted through the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP).** The operational context has been characterized by intensified attacks in frontline oblasts, growing needs in displacement areas, and shrinking humanitarian access in some high-risk zones.

The protracted conflict continues to generate a severe and multifaceted child protection crisis across Ukraine. Needs assessments conducted by various national and international partners throughout 2025 consistently highlight that children’s safety, well-being, and development are profoundly undermined by the direct and indirect consequences of the war. The ongoing war has inflicted profound psychological and emotional distress on children across Ukraine. Constant exposure to hostilities, including shelling, air raid sirens, and explosions, has normalized a state of fear and anxiety. This trauma is not limited to frontline areas. Displacement creates immense stress from the loss of homes, friends, and community networks, leading to severe adaptation difficulties. For children, this manifests as heightened aggression, withdrawal, developmental regression, and an inability to concentrate on learning. The lack of access to specialized MHPSS services, particularly in rural and newly accessible areas, exacerbates this crisis, leaving a generation at risk of long-term mental health disorders. The primary protective environment for children—the family—has been systematically fractured by the conflict. Mass internal and external displacement has separated millions of children from their parents, siblings, and extended family. Children



**3.47M**  
PEOPLE IN NEED



**2.03M**  
CHILDREN IN NEED



**2.05M**  
PEOPLE PLANNED TO ASSIST



**214**  
PARTNERS  
(78% NGO)



**19.4%**  
FUNDING COVERAGE  
(\$25.1m out of \$128.9m)



**467,722**  
CHILDREN ASSISTED  
(55% girls, 45% boys)



**131,398**  
CAREGIVERS ASSISTED  
(82% women, 18% men)



**21% GENERAL HNRP**  
**29% PRIORITIZED HNRP**



**288 Projects**  
(55% carryover)

continue to be killed and injured at an alarming rate due to the indiscriminate use of explosive weapons in populated areas. Damage to critical civilian infrastructure, including homes, schools, and hospitals, not only causes direct casualties but also creates perilous living conditions. Children living in frontline areas are exposed to the constant threat of shelling, missile strikes, and drone attacks. Furthermore, Ukraine is now one of the most mine-contaminated countries in the world. The **RDNA4** report highlights explosive hazards as a major cross-cutting challenge. Children are particularly vulnerable to explosive remnants of war (ERW) due to their natural curiosity and inability to recognize danger. These risks severely restrict children's freedom of movement, preventing them from playing outside, walking to school, or helping with household farming, thereby confining them to environments of fear and inactivity. The war has devastated the Ukrainian economy, plunging millions of families with children into poverty. Livelihoods have been destroyed, unemployment is high, and inflation has eroded savings, making it impossible for many families to afford basic necessities like sufficient food, heating, hygiene items, and healthcare. This severe economic pressure is a significant driver of other protection risks. It forces families into negative coping mechanisms, such as choosing between food and medicine, taking on debt, or returning to unsafe areas where they might have housing. For children, this hardship can lead to malnutrition, school dropout, child labor, and increased exposure to exploitation and domestic violence as household stress escalates.

As part of the HCT-endorsed strategic priorities, the Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CP AoR) aligned its response to support:

1. Populations near the frontline.
2. Children and families during evacuation.
3. Emergency response following strikes.
4. Vulnerable internally displaced people (IDPs).

Despite the volatile environment and severe funding constraints, CP partners reached **599,120** individuals in the first half of 2025, including **467,722** children and **131,398** caregivers. However, only **21%** of the overall HNRP target and **29%** of the prioritized target have been met by mid-year.

In April 2025 due to shortfalls in the global humanitarian funding CP AoR were tasked to do prioritization task of the HNRP 2025. **It's resulted in prioritization of 48% of the original HNRP 2025 and 57% decrease in funding requirements to \$73.5 M.** Exercise was based on prioritization of cluster objective 1 within raions with severity 4 and 5.

## 2. FUNDING AND OPERATIONAL PRESENCE

The CP AoR continues to face a critical funding gap. Out of the USD **128.9** million requested, only **19.4%** had been received by July 2025. This shortfall has limited scale-up and sustainability of key services, including MHPSS for caregivers, emergency response, and legal support. Despite this, **214** partners (including **194** implementing organizations) have been actively delivering CP interventions across the country.

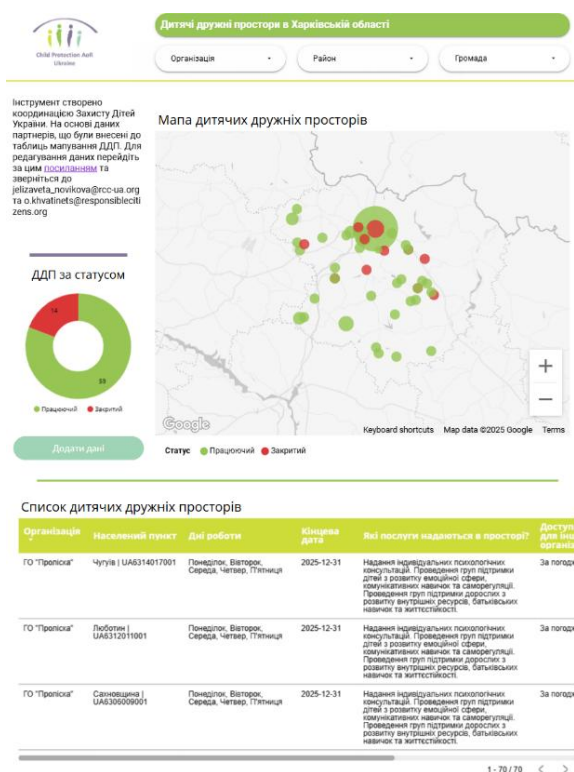
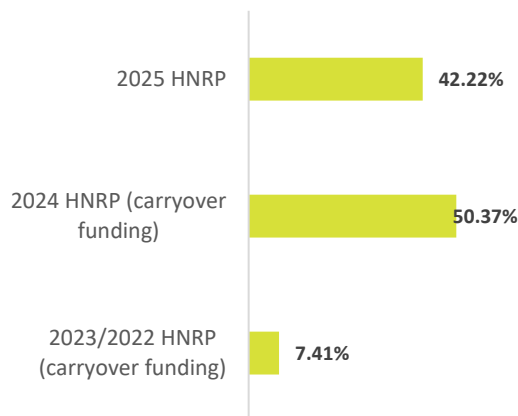
As per information received from the partners through Activity Plannin Module (APM) overall number of projects with CP component is **270**.

Based on that, most of the projects which are implementing in first half of 2025 is based on carryover funding (50% of total).

To enhance planning and coordination, CP AoR launched an updated [child-friendly spaces \(CFS\) facility mapping tool](#) and scaled up real-time referral mapping across 1,000+ hromadas. Subnational coordination hubs remained active in the East, South, and Centre, with **49** coordination meetings conducted by June.

Despite trends from the global level, CP AoR have successfully advocate at country level to secure funds from country-based pool fund (UHF). As per results Child Protection partners have received around **\$10M** for **24** partners.

# of projects by type of HNRP



### 3. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES – CHILD PROTECTION RESPONSE

#### SP1: SUPPORT TO THOSE NEAR THE FRONTLINE (20KM ZONE)

A total of **68,010 individuals** were reached with CP services within 20 km of the frontline. This marks a significant improvement from earlier reporting and reflects an expanded outreach in oblasts like **Kharkivska, Donetsk, Zaporizka, and Khersonska**. Services included mobile **MHPSS** teams, case management, child-friendly spaces, and coordination with local authorities for rapid response.

##### Partners contributing to SP1

UNICEF | UNHCR | PHK | Posmishka | DLSW | CaritasUA | Girls | Lumos | SUHC | IRC | SC | SCI | Ndawn | UEP | UFF | Jointly | R2P | EWBF | CARE | VIS | SWH | IOM | HWI | AOS | UFPH | JERU | WoP | PIN | ROKADA | LMW | Perspective | ADRA Ukraine | BCRD | PMG | FFU | Vplyv | INTERSOS | EI | UBLFC | MTI | USTRATEGY | Spring | CoP | SWoman | URCS | DRC

#### SP2: SUPPORT TO EVACUATIONS

Child protection partners reached **1,626 individuals**, including **667** caregivers and **959** children, during organized evacuations or self evacuees from areas in the frontline. Support included psychosocial first aid, emergency case management, referrals, and distribution of information. Key implementing organizations included **IRC, Lumos, Save Ukraine, and Children New Generation**. The partners use [the Guidance on Humanitarian Evacuations of Civilians in Ukraine with Special Considerations for Children](#). The guidance supports CP actors and partners across clusters in ensuring child-sensitive planning, safe identification, and tailored support throughout evacuation and transit phases.

##### Partners contributing to SP2

CNG | Lumos | SUHC | IRC | Vplyv

#### SP3: EMERGENCY RESPONSE AFTER STRIKES

A total of **1,007 individuals** were reached following sudden attacks on residential areas and infrastructure. Partners provided emergency case management, psychological first aid, legal support, and coordination with health and shelter actors. Although the scale remains limited, it reflects progress in mobilizing faster post-strike responses.

##### Partners contributing to SP3

CNG | Lumos | SUHC | IRC | PIN

## SP4: SUPPORT TO VULNERABLE IDPS

The highest number of individuals reached was under SP4, with **116,858 people** supported. Interventions were delivered in central and western oblasts, particularly in IDP-hosting communities, and included group PSS, parenting programs, in-kind support, and referral services. Of those reached, **93,000** were children and **24,000** caregivers.

### Partners contributing to SP4

UNICEF | UNHCR | PHK | Posmishka | BT | DLSW | SOSCV | CNG | CaritasUA | 100%Life Zaporizhzhia | WVI | Girls | Lumos | IsraAID | SH | SUHC | CSPESUA | IRC | SC | SCI | Ndawn | UEP | VC | UFF | AVSI | Jointly | R2P | EWB | FCU | CARE | Pluriton | MI Lviv | VIS | SWH | TDH | IOM | HWI | Okhtyrka YC | SF | Avalyst | Equilibrium | SOSCDH | AOS | UFPH | JERU | WoP | PIN | TDH-IT | SpivDiia | ALEC South | ROKADA | LMW | Helpcode | FADV | Perspective | ADRA Ukraine | BCRD | HELP e.V. | Caritas Donetsk | PMG | BGSB | FFU | CaritasCZE | Vplyv | Mclub | INTERSOS | Brothers | DUA | PAH | WCU | ASB | Impuls.UA | GNJ | UP | Triangle | EI | UBLFC | CWBFU | MC | Dobrobut | MTI | U&S | USTRATEGY | BGV | Soleterre | LAPWD | NEEKA | Spring | Dobrobud22 | YouToo | PWJ | Lampa | DCA | WBW | CWS | CoP

## 4. CORE CHILD PROTECTION INTERVENTIONS

### 4.1 CASE MANAGEMENT

A total of **43,235** children received structured case management services, reaching **49%** of the overall HNRP target and **64%** of the prioritized target. Largest caseloads in frontline and high-IDP oblasts such as **Dnipropetrovska, Zaporizka and Kharkivska**, while western and central regions reported more moderate coverage. The response has remained strongly child-focused, with most beneficiaries being girls and boys, and some progress in reaching children with disabilities, though

reporting remains

uneven. Several gaps persist, low coverage in certain oblasts such as **Luhanska, Rivnenska and Ternopil'ska**, and

disparities between IDPs and non-displaced populations in some regions. An additional **151** children were reunified with their families. However, no unaccompanied or

separated children (UASC) were reported, signaling under-identification and reporting.

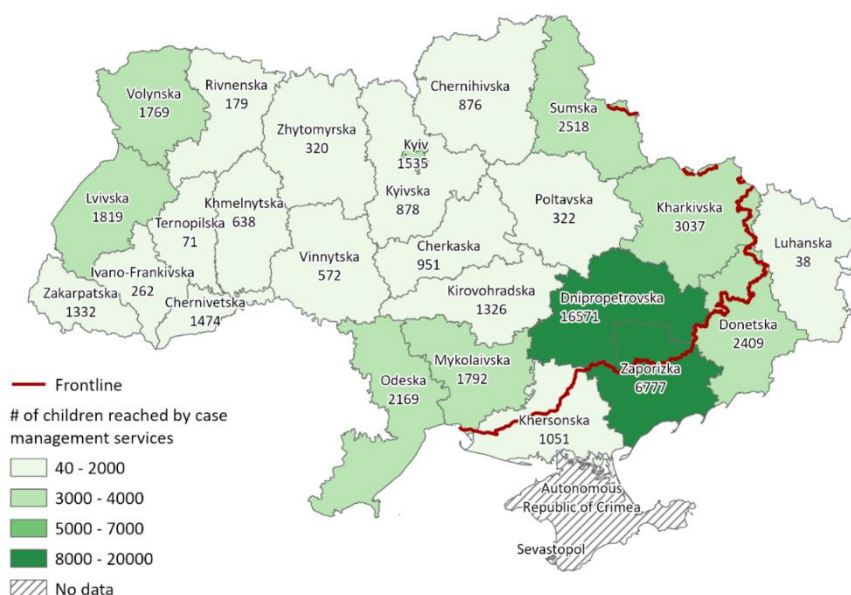


Figure 1. # of children reached by CM



## 4.2 MHPSS

MHPSS services reached **304,979** children (**42%** of prioritized HNRP target) and **61,951** caregivers (**19%** of prioritized HNRP). The highest coverage was reported in **Dnipropetrovska, Kharkivska, Khersonska, Sumska and Zaporizka** oblasts, each with tens of thousands of people reached, reflecting both the intensity of needs in frontline and high-displacement areas and strong partner presence. Services were provided at scale to girls and boys through individual and group activities, complemented by structured sessions for parents and caregivers, demonstrating an integrated family-centered approach. In western oblasts such as **Lvivska, Chernivetska and Zakarpatska**, and in central regions like **Kyiv** city and oblast, coverage was also significant, indicating steady support for displaced families who fled to safer areas. Importantly, the data shows progress in inclusion of persons with disabilities, with thousands reached in key oblasts, though reporting remains uneven across regions. However, several challenges persist: some oblasts, including **Rivnenska, Ternopil'ska and Vinnytska**, reported relatively low coverage despite hosting displaced populations, suggesting gaps in outreach or



Figure 2. # of individuals reached by MHPSS

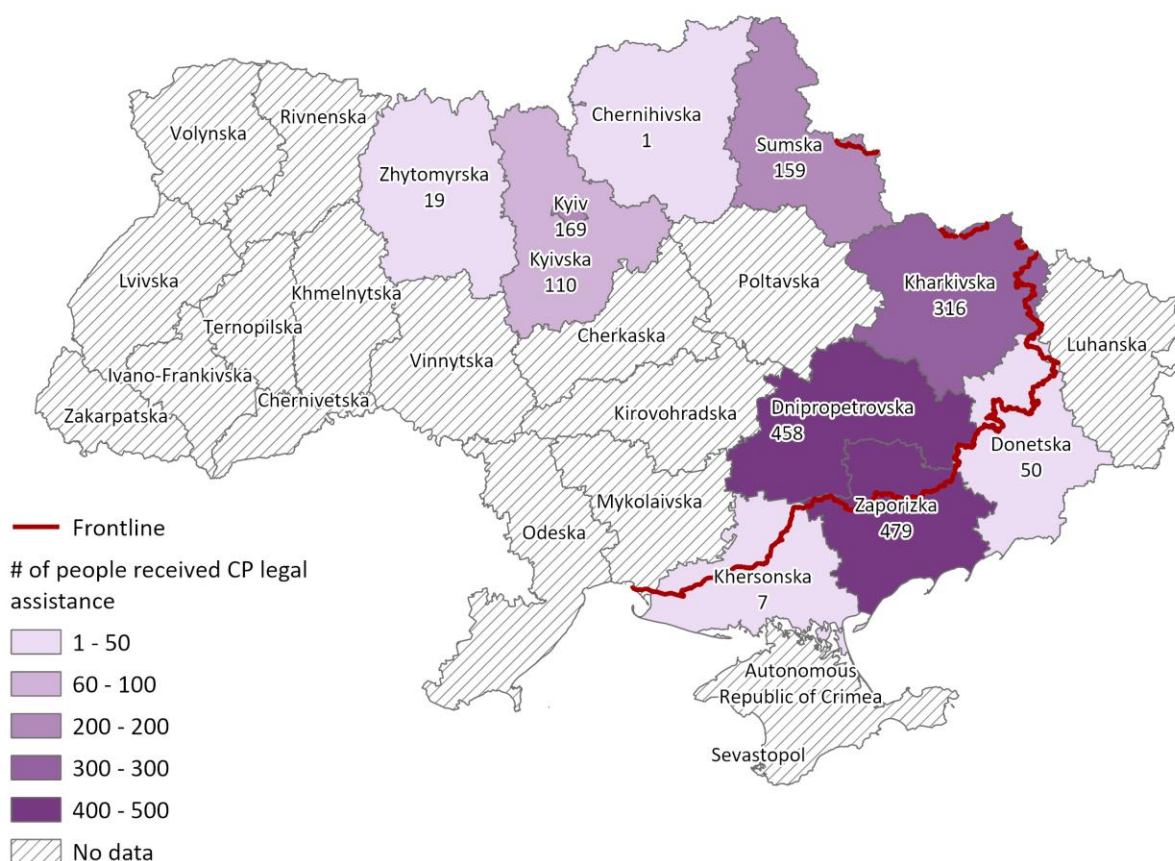
partner capacity. Similarly, caregiver participation, while notable in larger hubs such as **Dnipropetrovska, Khersonska and Kharkivska**, remains much lower than the number of children engaged in most oblasts, highlighting the need to strengthen adult involvement in psychosocial interventions.

Though children's MHPSS is expanding, caregiver support remains underfunded and underreported.



### 4.3 LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Legal support reached **1,261** individuals (**44%** of general HNRP target), addressing issues such as custody disputes, conflict with the law, and child documentation. The largest caseloads were recorded in **Dnipropetrovska and Zaporizka**, where both internally displaced and non-displaced populations accessed services, largely adults but also some children. **Kyiv city and Kyivska oblast** together accounted for around **280** cases, primarily non-displaced children and adolescents, showing that demand for legal aid also exists in urban hosting areas. Smaller caseloads were reported in **Sumska, Zhytomyrska, Chernihivska and Khersonska**, highlighting that access remains uneven and highly dependent on partner presence. The data suggests that women are the main adult group benefiting from legal support, particularly in **Dnipropetrovska, Zaporizka and Sumska**, reflecting their role in seeking remedies for children or family members.



#### 4.4 FAMILY-BASED CARE AND REUNIFICATION

Only **171** children were supported in family-based care, meeting **17%** of the reprioritized target.

Services were concentrated in a few oblasts, with the highest numbers reported in **Dnipropetrovska, Vinnytska, Cherkaska, Kirovohradska, Kyiv city and oblast, and Lvivska**, though caseloads remained very modest in each location. The data shows that both girls and boys benefitted in nearly equal numbers, with only a handful of children with disabilities identified. Most beneficiaries were non-displaced children, while IDP coverage was very limited outside **Kharkivska** and **Vinnytska**, access for displaced children at risk of separation remains a significant gap. Achievements include ensuring some level of protection for children outside parental care, particularly in frontline and hosting regions where risks of family separation are elevated, and providing targeted support to caregivers in alternative arrangements. However, the overall scale of this intervention is minimal compared to the level of need, and geographic coverage is highly uneven, with many oblasts not reporting any cases.

Reunification figures also remained low, and both areas require urgent scale-up and clearer referral pathways.

#### 4.5 EMERGENCY CASH AND IN-KIND SUPPORT

Emergency case management funds supported **2,350** individuals (16.6% of general HNRP), while **27,590** received in-kind assistance (15% of general HNRP).

**Emergency case management funds** were mobilized across multiple oblasts to support both internally displaced and non-displaced populations, with notable concentrations of assistance in **Chernihivska, Zaporizka, Dnipropetrovska, Khmelnytska, and Kyiv city**. The response primarily supported children, particularly girls and boys, alongside targeted engagement of adult women and men in a smaller number of cases. While the overall reach was modest compared to other forms of emergency support, the funds played a crucial role in addressing urgent protection needs, enabling partners to respond flexibly to critical cases requiring immediate resources. Regional disparities were evident, with higher coverage in oblasts directly affected by displacement and host communities, while in western and some central oblasts the scale remained limited. The inclusion of persons with disabilities was reported, though at lower levels, pointing to the need for stronger accessibility considerations within emergency cash and case management modalities.

**Emergency in-kind support** reached a significantly larger caseload than case management funds, with more than 20,000 individuals assisted, reflecting the critical role of material and non-food items in stabilizing children and families during acute emergencies. The highest coverage was reported in **Zhytomyrska, Zakarpatska, Kharkivska, Sumska, and**

**Dnipropetrovska oblasts**, where both internally displaced and non-displaced populations benefited from large-scale distributions. The assistance addressed immediate needs for children and caregivers, with strong reach to girls and boys and substantial inclusion of adult women and men, including persons with disabilities in several regions. However, the scale of distribution varied widely, with oblasts such as **Rivnenska, Volynska, and Vinnytska** showing very limited coverage compared to the eastern and central regions.

Expansion of these services is needed in frontline and newly displaced areas.

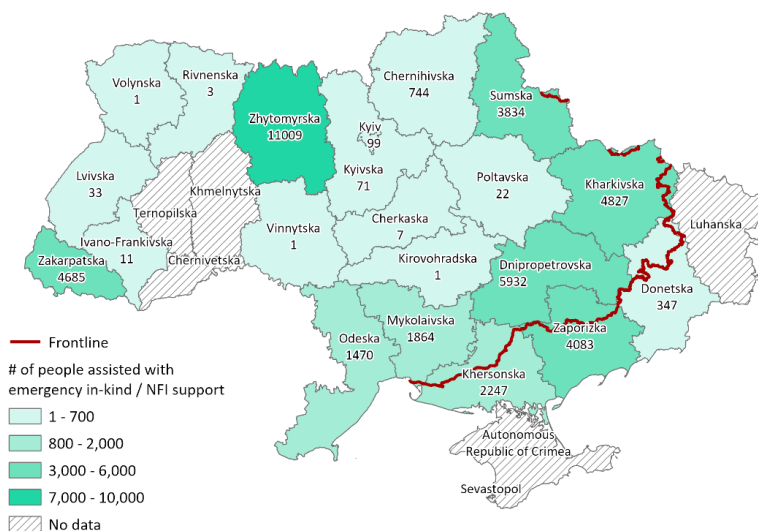


Figure 3. # of individuals assisted by in-kind/NFI support



Figure 4. # of individuals assisted by ECMF

## 5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND AWARENESS

Awareness-raising reached **109,087** individuals with life-saving child protection messages, while **23,605** received information on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). Community-based child protection programming reached **29.7%** of the prioritized target, with major activities including family clubs, school-based awareness sessions, and community PSS.

To support awareness-raising and information dissemination about available CP services for affected population CP AoR have developed region-based booklets that could be disseminated within partners, collective centers, child-friendly spaces etc. Such materials are developed for:

- [Sumy](#);
- [Zaporizha](#);
- [Kharkiv](#);
- and [South regions](#).



Figure 5. Booklet of available CP services in Kharkiv region

## 6. CAPACITY BUILDING AND SYSTEM STRENGTHENING

A total of **2,953** child protection professionals, **272** non-specialist actors, and **4,447** community members were trained during the reporting period. Highlights include:

- Six CPHA trainings reaching **147** frontline staff
- Two CPIMS+ ToTs and cascade trainings for **34** caseworkers across East and South hubs
- National ToT on case management and rollout to frontline responders

## 7. CPIMS+ AND CASE MANAGEMENT

CPIMS+/Primero remains the primary inter-agency case management platform for child protection in Ukraine. As of July 2025, a total of **31,132 cases** have been registered, with **5,350 cases still open**. The system is used by **728 users** across **94 organizations**.

Key protection concerns recorded include:

- **Psychosocial distress:** 14,598
- **Neglect:** 6,852
- **Highly vulnerable care arrangements:** 6,160
- **Lack of documentation / birth registration:** 2,493
- **Physical abuse / violence:** 583

Achievements include:

- Multiple rounds of onboarding, including two national ToTs and regional training cascades.
- Active engagement with the global Primero team on transition options.
- CMWG discussions in July 2025 on dashboard development, supervisor access, Donetsk-specific challenges, and child online safety in Ukraine.

Challenges persist around consistency between the CPIMS+ and Activity info reporting. Plans are underway to improve reporting and inter-sectoral data sharing.

Also to streamline data sharing and support analyses of child protection need's in Ukraine CP AoR Ukraine have successfully created [CPIMS+ Dashboard](#).



Figure 6. CPIMS+ Ukraine dashboard



## 8. SUBNATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

**South Hub: Odesa, Mykolaiv, and Kherson** experienced frequent drone attacks. In response, over 100 children received MHPSS, legal assistance was provided in Kherson, and evacuation equipment was distributed. CP partners are exploring Barnahus and Green Room projects.

Coordination in **Kherson** is co-lead by **Nonviolent Peaceforce (NVPF)** together with **United by Love for Children (UBLFC)**. In **Mykolaiv** coordination efforts is co-lead with **Save the Children (SCI)**.

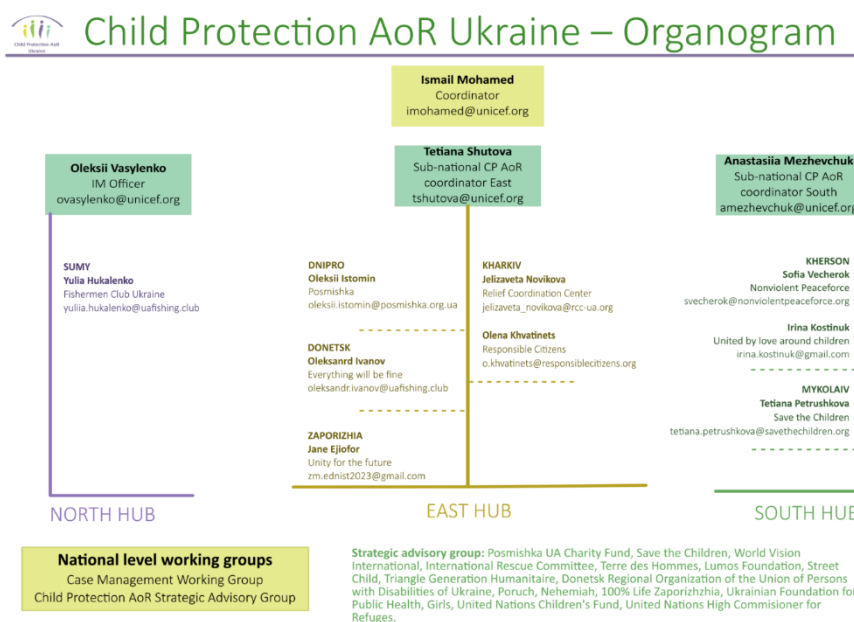
**East Hub:** Focused on capacity-building, case management rollout, and emergency response. Save Ukraine assisted a family affected by a deadly April 4 strike in Kryvyi Rih. Several CPIMS+ trainings were conducted for partners in **Donetsk, Sumy, and Zaporizhia**.

To increase localization efforts within coordination, all east regions are co-lead by NGO. **Dnipro** region is co-lead by **Posmishka UA Charity Fund (Posmishka)**. **Donetsk - Everything Will be Fine - Ukraine (EWBF)**. **Zaporizhia** is continuously co-chaired since 2022 by **Unity for the Future (UFF)** and **Kharkiv** region is co-chaired by **Relief Coordination Center (RCC)** and **Responsible Citizens (RC)**.

**North Hub:** Since March 2025 significantly increased hostilities and military activities within Sumy region have resulted in emergency evacuation of more than 2000 families with children to more safer areas. With a big support from **Fishermen Club Ukraine (FCU)** and **Street Child (SC)** who is CP AoR co-chairs in Sumy and have successfully coordinated Child Protection strengthening of the emergency response within region.

Continuous coordination within **Chernihiv** oblast is required to avoid creation of gaps particularly within hromadas that are touching North border.

Overall during first half of the year CP AoR have successfully conducted coordination **48** meetings.



## 9. KEY GAPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In terms of **gaps** there is a general observation that hard-to-reach frontline areas and smaller rural hromadas, remain underserved due to access and security constraints. Parallel observation of uneven partner distribution in urban areas, particularly (Kharkiv and Dnipro), which could lead to duplication of services. From activities side case management and specialized child protection services are less available compared to MHPSS, despite high needs in conflict-affected areas. Support for children with disabilities and unaccompanied/separated children is limited. On system strengthening, reliance on humanitarian actors is high, with limited involvement of government social services due to resource and capacity constraints.

**Key recommendations** includes prioritization of underserved frontline and rural hromadas through mobile teams, outreach, and partnerships with local actors along with expanding presence in southern and northern oblasts. Another recommendation is ensuring that all child-focused interventions include a family/caregiver component, with attention to parenting skills and adult psychosocial well-being.

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## ANNEXES

- [Child Protection AoR Ukraine - Partner Achievements 2025](#)
- [Child Protection AoR Ukraine - 2025 1st Quarter Response Snapshot - Ukraine | ReliefWeb](#)
- [Child Protection AoR Ukraine - 2025 2nd quarter response snapshot - Ukraine | ReliefWeb](#)
- [Child Protection AoR Ukraine. Partners Presence as of July 2025 - Ukraine | ReliefWeb](#)