Crisis Briefing for Business: Education and Ukrainian Refugees

INTERNAL BRIEFING NOTE – NOT FOR CIRCULATION

Justin W. van Fleet, Ph.D.
President, Theirworld
Executive Director, Global Business Coalition for Education
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The Ukraine Crisis: An Overview

• Since February 24, 2022, 3,169,897 refugees have fled Ukraine.

• Of the 7.5 million girls and boys who were living in Ukraine at the beginning of the war, 1.5 million have fled the country in search of safety.

• There are 5.7 million school-aged children between of 3 – 17 who are at risk of losing educational opportunities due to nation-wide closure of schools and education facilities.
The Ukraine Crisis: An Overview

As of March 17th, the countries supporting the largest number of Ukrainian refugees include:

- **Poland:** 1.91M
- **Romania:** 491,409
- **Moldova:** 350,886
- **Hungary:** 282,611
- **Slovakia:** 228,844

Latest statistics from UNHCR
Impact on Education

• Over 400 educational facilities have been damaged, with 59 destroyed completely.

• On average, more than 75,000 children in Ukraine have become refugees every day since the beginning of the war.

• This recent escalation in conflict – coupled with the still more widespread proliferation of small arms and light weapons – has severely increased the risk of recruitment of school-age adolescents into armed groups.

• School-aged children are in urgent need of psychosocial support as well as a return to learning.

• Teachers’ ability to teach is equally impacted by the erosion of safety and loss of normalcy and they are as both affected and as educators in need of coping strategies and tools.
Education in Emergency – Typical Responses

- **Integration**: refugees attend schools in the host community
- **Double-shift**: harness existing infrastructure if numbers overwhelm the system
- **Continuity of Ukrainian curriculum**: taught by refugee teachers or teachers within Ukraine remotely (provides learning continuity for students; opportunities for refugee teachers)
Education in Emergency – Typical Responses

• **Non-formal education**: play, sports, drama, language, or simple reading groups to provide safe places to learn

• **Accelerated learning**: help children catch up on missed time in school and/or adapt to host country curriculum

• **Higher education institutions**: language training; skills training (links to labor regulations)

• **Internal displacement pressures**: Schools in western Ukraine, may be over-run with internally displaced children, and they may adapt some of these tactics.
Humanitarian Appeals and Education

• UN Humanitarian Appeal: $1.7 B total
• Only 2.2% be devoted to education or about $11.40 per child in need.
• Minimum benchmark: 4-6% of humanitarian funding for education.
• Ideal Target: 10-15% of humanitarian funding for education (set by the European Union at the World Humanitarian Summit)
Next steps

• **Assess the ongoing developments:** the situation will continue to evolve, and responses will solidify in each country.

• **Put in place 30-day plans:** a place in school for every refugee within 30 days.

• **Mobilize funding:** We need to fund education now to avoid the “begging bowl” in the months to come.

• **Support host countries:** financing, technical expertise and support, connectivity, learning materials.

• **Support education inside Ukraine:** increase capacity in areas with influx of refugees and areas isolated due to war.
Guiding Business

• **Collective action**, versus small, short term and one-off

• **Understanding the urgency, but acting thoughtfully**
  • Options to contribute today to share corporate timeliness; 30 days to assess and make evidence-based decisions on programming

• **Emerging areas of need:**
  • early childhood education,
  • safe places to learn and psychosocial support,
  • skills for youth / employment opportunities
  • support for teachers
  • provision of learning materials, equipment and devices for distance learning;
  • connectivity and data,
  • data management systems
## Opportunities for Business

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| **Funding**                   | • Support education projects and community organizations via humanitarian relief funds  
                                 | • Encourage employee giving and matching                                                                                                        |
| **In-kind and technical support** | • More difficult to program if not substantial  
                                 | • Record with GBC-Education what is available; we can identify whether there is a need                                                             |
| **Education policy reform**   | • Encourage education in emergencies as a priority in government relations meetings  
                                 | • Potential issues of host country employment                                                                                                        |
| **Thought leadership**        | • Share importance of refugee education with peer companies, customers, and employees; speak to the media  
                                 | • Encourage public support for education                                                                                                              |
| **Corporate policies**        | • Assess opportunities for refugee employment  
                                 | • Alignment of business activities vis-à-vis Russia                                                                                                   |
GBC-Education Disaster Relief and Education Response Fund: Ukraine

When you engage with the Disaster Relief and Education Response Fund, we:

- Work with your company to establish priorities for desired action
- GBC-Education can take a tax-deductible grant to support emergency relief for education so you can start to tell the story publicly
- Provide a bespoke on-the-ground situation brief within 48 hours
- Provide a recommended social media package
- Conduct due-diligence, vet and identify effective partners to receive the funding within 30 days; we manage all contracts, safeguarding and oversight; pool resources where possible to create greater impact
- Report back on the impact of the funding for your company’s internal and external communications.
- Collaborate with employer Matching Gift Programs
About us

With a network of more than 150 influential private sector companies committed to best practice in supporting education and Sustainable Development Goal 4, GBC-Education has become one of the world’s most effective forums for connecting businesses that aim to make an impact on the lives of young people through education.

The Global Business Coalition for Education is registered as a 501(c)3 in the United States and works to proactively support the projects, campaigns and youth engagement of Theirworld to ensure maximum impact across the global organization.

Thank you