

# War and Education: monitoring the impact of the war in Ukraine on education in the country and outside

Ukraine

May 17, 2022



# War in Ukraine

Year 2014

- Russia annexed Crimea, occupied part of Donetsk and Luhansk oblast
- launched a full-scale military invasion

February 24, 2022

# Context: Ukrainian Education

# The beginning of education reform, 2014

## Higher education

Academic mobility;  
Performance-Based Funding;  
Elective courses

## Secondary education

New Ukrainian School;  
Optimizing the school network;  
Decentralization;  
Digitalization

## Autonomy of educational institutions

Institutions have academic, financial, human and organizational autonomy



# The number of displaced and injured children

- 14,2 million people have been forced to leave their homes: 8 million moved within the country, and 6.2 million went abroad. Most of these people are women and children
- UNICEF reports that more than half of Ukrainian children—4.3 out of 7.5 million—have been forced by war to leave their homes
- According to the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine, As of May 16, 229 children died and over 421 have been wounded due to the war

# Damaged and destroyed infrastructure by Russia's actions in Ukraine

- As of May 16, 144 institutions have been destroyed completely, and 1748 have been damaged
- Almost 800 secondary education institutions have been damaged and 93 have been destroyed completely
- At least 37 university buildings have been damaged and 4 have been destroyed
- Kharkiv Region has suffered the most: 51 education institutions have been completely destroyed and 362 have been damaged there

# Education process

- Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, kindergartens, schools and universities have been put on a break according to a MES recommendation under the conditions of martial law
- Since March 14, the education process has begun to resume in the regions where the security situation allowed it. The decisions as to where and how classes should be held were made by regional administrations and education institutions
- The project “Learning Without Borders” for grades 5 through 11

# Education process

- As a May 16, the education process at secondary education institutions was taking place remotely in 15 Ukrainian regions (including Kyiv); in some regions, education was organized partially, or the schools were still on holiday, or studies had been paused depending on the community
- Almost 3.6 million students went back to their studies. 92,500 internally displaced children have joined the educational process
- The education process at higher education institutions was taking place remotely in 17 Ukrainian regions



# Education process

- The students who have left their homes can resume their studies in their temporary locations of residence, both in Ukraine and abroad
- Students who have been displaced within Ukraine can continue their studies as a part of academic mobility in the universities which located in safer regions of Ukraine
- The educational workers are able to work from any location of their temporary residence, including from abroad

# Educational institutions as shelters and centers for humanitarian aid

- In the regions which receive internally displaced people, preschools and secondary schools have been serving as shelters for people who need temporary accommodation
- Internally displaced people are accommodated in dormitories of professional and higher education institutions
- Schools and preschools also act as hubs for collecting, sorting and distributing humanitarian aid, while school buses are used for evacuation

# Relocation of universities

- Since 2014, some universities from Donetsk and Luhansk Regions as well as Crimea have been moved to safer cities within the same regions or to other regions.
- According to The Ministry of Education and Science, 17 universities have been relocated from temporary occupied territories and dangerous areas to safer regions
- Some universities have been relocated two times now. For example, the Volodymyr Dal East Ukrainian National University has been evacuated from Severodonetsk to Kamyanyets-Podilskyi, and the Luhansk Medical University has been evacuated from Rubizhne to Rivne (both had previously been evacuated from Luhansk)

# Occupied territories

- Education institutions continue working remotely according to Ukrainian standards and curricula
- The occupation government tries to resume the education process under its management, in Russian and with Russian textbooks for certain subjects, possibly according to Russian standards
- The education process does not take place at all due to intense hostilities and the absence of the participants of the education process who have been evacuated from the city, town or village

# Attempts to russify education in the occupied territories

## Pressure on the administration and employees of institutions

The occupation authorities appoint new education administrators who contact educators and demand that they resume working; they also appoint new school headmasters

Educators in the occupied territories are under significant pressure and threat due to their professional activities.

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## Changing educational content

New subjects are introduced in the schools— Russian Language and Literature, Social Studies, History

Forced switch to Russian curricula

Mandatory militarization of underage students in the occupied territories in Luhansk and Donetsk Regions



# After the "Russian world" came to school

Photos of schools from territories occupied by Russian troops



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# Deportation of Ukrainians to Russia

- ~ **1.1 million** have been deported to Russia, about 200,000 of them children\*
- Federation Council Committee on Science, Education and Culture of the Russian Federation: the deported Ukrainian children do not speak Russian “at a sufficient level”

\*the Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights Lyudmila Denisova



# Education abroad for Ukrainian children

- Education Ombudsman of Ukraine reports cases when Ukrainian Saturday schools in other countries were actually organized by Russian organizations
- Some parents and children have difficulties with access and communication with their schools in Ukraine
- There are learning loss due to language barrier, psychological condition

# Thank you for your attention and support of Ukraine!

<https://cedos.org.ua/en/>

