

Press Release - 11 December 2023

UNOPS renovates eight schools damaged in the war in Ukraine

UNOPS has completed the repair of the first batch of eight schools, which were damaged in the ongoing war in Ukraine. With repair works starting in late June 2023, the School Repairs in Ukraine project, funded by the European Union and implemented by UNOPS has facilitated the return of more than 2,300 students to safe and accessible learning environments in which they now can benefit from face-to-face education.

During the initial phase of the project, light damages to roofs, walls and floors were repaired and destroyed windows and doors replaced in schools across Kyiv, Kharkiv and Chernihiv oblasts. Based on construction assessments and designs by UNOPS specialists, the repair work ensures that the buildings are both structurally sound and comfortable for returning students.

"The war damages to schools have disrupted the learning conditions of millions of children in Ukraine, compromising no less than their future. The renovation of schools will enable quality education again and provide a sense of normalcy and stability for the children affected by the conflict," says UNOPS Ukraine Country Director Tim Lardner.

The destruction of schools in Ukraine is at a massive scale. According to the [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#) (28 November 2023), nearly 3,800 schools have been damaged or destroyed in the war between February 2022 and October 2023 in Ukraine, affecting 5 million children with only one in three able to attend school.

The scope of the project is the refurbishment of 73 schools across Kyiv, Chernihiv, Sumy and Kharkiv oblasts in partnership with the EU. In addition, UNOPS will repair or establish shelter facilities for the schools to provide a safe space for students and staff in case of an attack wherever feasible. In conformity with national safety legislation, it is anticipated that the repair work will allow a total of 14,000 students to return to face-to-face education. Repairs of the remaining schools will continue into 2024, in parallel with providing shelter facilities for all schools. It is planned to complete all works by the end of June 2024, provided no further deterioration of the security situation and associated complications affecting supply chains.

"The EU's commitment to providing Ukrainian children with education stays strong. By supporting projects that fix war-damaged schools, we're not just renovating buildings but investing in a future where children can learn and grow in conducive environments. It's a testament to the EU's dedication to children's better and promising days ahead," says Claudia Amaral, Head of the EU humanitarian office in Ukraine.

One example of the renovated schools is the Pisky School that caters to remote communities in Chernihiv oblast. The small school was damaged during fighting in February and March 2022, since then children have had no safe location for education. UNOPS reinforced damaged walls and replaced windows and doors blown out in blasts. In addition, UNOPS constructed a new roof as the security assessment revealed the school was unfit to operate safely due to the precarious state of the old roof. Repairs have directly facilitated the safe return of 87 children and 16 teachers. Support to Pisky School remains ongoing beyond the completion of repairs to provide a shelter as a safe place for children and teachers.

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Notes to the editors:

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Press contact details:

Uyen Phuong Tran, Communications Officer, UNOPS Ukraine, uyent@unops.org

Jérôme de Thysebaert, Senior Communications and Liaison Associate, UNOPS Brussels Liaison Office, jeromedt@unops.org, mobile +32 (0) 499 197 497

Lothar Mikulla, Regional Communications Advisor, UNOPS Europe and Central Asia, lotharm@unops.org, mobile +33 (0)6 70 32 65 07

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