

## FROM DIRECTOR'S DESK

### War in Ukraine

### Food Shortage; Rise in Oil Price; Women & Children Exposed To Trafficking and Exploitation

On this 31<sup>st</sup> day of war in Ukraine, (as this article is being written) it is reported 64 children have been killed in the Kyiv region and 50 children died in Donetsk region and in addition 199 children have been wounded, as per *Ukraine's Office Of The Prosecutor-General* .

An ongoing refugee crisis began in Europe in late February 2022 after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. More than 3.8 million refugees have left Ukraine (as of 26 March 2022), while an estimated 6.5 million people have been displaced within the country (as of 18 March 2022). In total, more than ten million people – almost a quarter of the population – had left their homes in Ukraine by 20 March. By March 24, 2022, according to UNICEF, **more than half of all children in Ukraine had been forced to leave their homes**. The invasion has caused Europe's largest refugee crisis since World War II and its aftermath, the first of its kind in Europe since the Yugoslav Wars in the 1990s, and one of the largest refugee crises in the world in the 21st century, with the highest refugee flight rate in the world.

#### Ukraine : Increased Risks of Human Trafficking : Children Gone missing :

Ukraine is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children trafficked trans-nationally for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced labour. Not many have forgotten the historic Ukrainian white slave markets that flourished during Ottoman's empire. Now, Children fleeing war in Ukraine are at heightened risk of human trafficking and exploitation, UNICEF warned today. Traffickers often seek to exploit the chaos of large-scale population movements, and with more than 1.5 million children having fled Ukraine as refugees since 24 February, and countless others displaced by violence inside the country, the threat facing children is real and growing.

According to a recent analysis conducted by UNICEF and the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking (ICAT), 28 per cent of identified victims of trafficking globally are children. In the context of Ukraine, UNICEF child protection experts believe that children would likely account for an even higher proportion of potential trafficking victims given that children and women represent nearly all of the refugees who have fled the country so far. Children are



going missing, and cases of human trafficking are being reported by aid groups and volunteers along Ukraine's borders amid the chaos of the refugee crisis triggered by the Russian invasion. Ukrainian refugees have been advised to be cautious while accepting transportation from strangers or fake volunteer who promise accommodation and jobs.

#### Food Shortage and hike in prices :

Russia, the world's leading wheat supplier, recently banned grain shipments abroad and sanctions are likely to affect future exports. Ukraine is a top supplier of sunflower oil and a major wheat producer in its own right. It has suspended port activity. Together, the two countries produce about 12 percent of the food calories consumed globally. Egypt, Turkey, Indonesia and Bangladesh are the top importers of wheat from Russia and Ukraine. Almost

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