The EU swiftly activated the Temporary Protection Directive, granting temporary protection in the EU to people fleeing the war in Ukraine. EU support is available for Member States to help meet the needs of these displaced people, including for Poland, which is one of the most affected Member States. In this context, various EU Funds also cover measures supporting unaccompanied minors or war orphans.

Recent amendments to the cohesion and home affairs funds facilitate Member States’ access to unspent funding from the 2014-2020 programming period. The Commission has also paid EUR 3.5 billion in advance payments under REACT-EU, including EUR 562 million for Poland, to help Member States support persons fleeing the war.

Various EU funding instruments include provisions to prioritise the needs of children in migration, particularly unaccompanied minors and those at risk of abuse or human trafficking. The AMIF, for example, supports the effective protection of children in migration, including assessments of the best interests of the child and the strengthening of guardianship systems. The AMIF currently funds reception accommodation that is adapted to unaccompanied minors and families, including non-institutionalised care integrated into national child protection systems. The ERDF also supports this shift from institutional to family- and community-based services in the mainstream community for children deprived of parental care. The Council Recommendation for a European Child Guarantee guarantees the access of children displaced from Ukraine to key services, again prioritising community- and family-based care.

---

3. Including the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument, the European Social Fund, the European Regional Development Fund, the Fund for European Aid for the Most Deprived and the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF).
4. The Cohesion Action for Refugees in Europe (CARE) and related amendments have amended the Common Provisions Regulation (covering ERDF and ESF) and FEAD regulations in order to provide greater flexibility to Member States in making use of existing funds, notably via increased co-financing, enabling the interchangeable use of ESF and ERDF funding, and retroactive eligibility as of 24 February 2022. Adopted amendments to the home affairs funds 2014-2020 allow Member States to easily and flexibly use unspent funds.
6. This refers to support for non-residential family- and community-based services and refurbishing, building, purchasing accessible social housing in the mainstream community/non-segregated areas, accompanied by complementary measures to facilitate access to mainstream services in education, employment, health- and social- care, as well as equipment and accessible transport. Children deprived of parental care should be placed in foster families, who can also benefit from the above-mentioned support. Cohesion policy does not support investments that lead to segregation or isolation, or that provide parallel services.
The Commission does not keep data on Ukrainian children in children’s homes in countries neighbouring Ukraine.