

# 2024

## Rehabilitation of Protective Shelters in Educational Institutions in Chernihiv region







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Between February and September 2024, People in Peril was working on improving functionality and conditions in protective shelters of five educational institutions located in rural areas of Chernihiv region at the border with Belarus and Russia. Rehabilitations of protective shelters had a direct positive impact on safety, well-being and educational process of vulnerable children - significant upgrades were made to the interior of shelters, including new flooring, extensive repairs to walls and ceilings, installation of ventilation systems, and arrangement of bathrooms. The project included not only repair work, but also the provision of necessary equipment to create an educational space where children can continue learning during air alerts. Given its multi-purpose character, a school's protective shelter can be used even after the security situation in Ukraine stabilizes – as an additional classroom or space for extracurricular activities.

5 protective shelters in educational institutions repaired and equipped

Improved access to safe learning environments for 624 vulnerable girls and boys including children with disabilities

Increased resilience of 5 communities in Chernihiv region

Increased accessibility for people with disabilities in 4 protective shelters



Chernihiv region endured significant disruptions across various sectors during the Russian occupation in 2022, severely impacting the lives of civilians while placing a heavy toll on the access to education for children. Today, the quality of education remains compromised due to frequent air alerts and lack of protective shelters or their non-conformity with safety requirements. As of now, protective shelters are available in the majority of educational institutions, but the conditions in these shelters are often unsatisfactory and unsuitable for the educational process. Sometimes there is not enough space for all school children to attend school in person daily. The arrangement of protective shelters at educational institutions remains one of the main priorities in Ukraine.

“Us, teachers, stand here, right next to the entrance because there is not enough space. We use a blanket instead of a door and we safeguard the children with our own bodies.”

– Yuliana Tomylo is describing a small cellar located in the backyard of the kindergarten in Mykhailo-Kotsiubynske, which had been used as a shelter before the renovation of a more suitable underground space took place.

### Kindergarten in Mykhailo-Kotsiubynske

before



after





## Focus on safety

Safety first – an increased level of safety for children and personnel of the educational institutions were of the utmost importance when planning the scope of work. The result of the initial assessment of the existing conditions in protective shelters revealed that all protective shelters were lacking functional ventilation entirely or the existing systems were not sufficient. Some teachers shared their concerns regarding the impact of long stays in shelters on the health of children. Without proper ventilation, children start having breathing complications after a certain time spent in the protective shelter. During monitoring visits, the People in Peril team also assessed the availability of emergency lighting, first aid kits, fire extinguishers, safety locks and fire doors, as well as access to drinking water. When needed, additional first aid kits and fire extinguishers were supplied.

### Secondary school in Rybotyn



before



after







## Learning environment

Cold and wet basements were transformed into educational spaces in which students can carry on with their learning – essential equipment such as chairs and school desks were provided to create adequate conditions needed for offline education of children. All protective shelters are connected to internet, while multimedia equipment such as projectors and laptops give teachers more flexibility to continue with the educational process during air alerts, even when the space is limited, and it must accommodate mixed classes of students.

“ Teachers and parents have already very highly appreciated our shelter. A significant number of teachers said that they will conduct lessons and additional activities in the shelter even without air alerts. Because it has become a cool place. Our students even said that at school it is not as cool as in the shelter. ”

– Mykola Sylenko, the principal of the Gymnasium in Vykhvostiv, appreciates the conditions in the shelter after renovation.

before



Gymnasium in Vykhvostiv

after



after



before





## Contribution to inclusivity

Enhancing accessibility was prioritized by designing upgrades to ensure that protective shelters are inclusive and accessible for all children, including those with disabilities. The extent of accessibility achieved was tailored to the technical capabilities and specific conditions of each protective shelter. Key implemented features include inclusive bathrooms, access ramps, handrails, and widened doorways to facilitate movement for people with limited mobility.

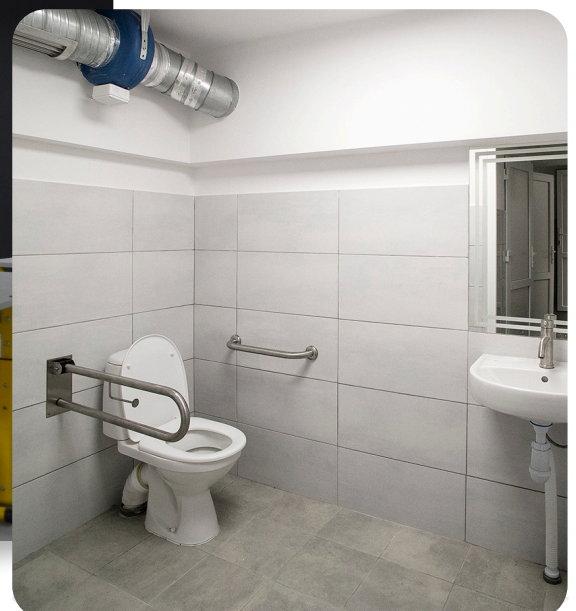
### Secondary school in Kholmy



before



after







## Ready for winter

During the cold winter months, focus in Ukraine shifts towards mitigation of impacts of the harsh winter weather. To prepare for the cold season, the isolation and water proofing of protective shelters was strengthened, and shelters were equipped with heaters and blankets. As targeted attacks on energy infrastructure in Ukraine will lead to power cuts and reduced heating capacity all around the country, one of the priorities was procurement of generators and power banks to increase the energetic stability of the protective shelters before winter. To further secure access to a back-up source of energy, solar panels were provided which can be used for charging the power banks when needed.

“ There is a separate bathroom for both children and staff, and there is heating. The most important thing for us is that there is heating and that we can be warm here. There is also a ventilation system - a new one was installed for us. But the most important thing is that you did the heating, which is very, very important to us.. ”

- Svitlana Zelenchuk, the principal of the kindergarten in Kozylivka, is summing up the most important upgrades performed in the protective shelter at the kindergarten.

### Kindergarten in Kozylivka

before -----



----- after







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## About People in Peril

People in Peril is committed to mitigating human suffering and enhancing the resilience, well-being, and dignity of conflict-affected populations in Ukraine. Our mission encompasses the provision of comprehensive humanitarian assistance and support across multiple sectors, including protection, inclusion, education, shelter, and livelihoods. We strive to ensure access to life-saving services, promote social cohesion, and foster sustainable development, with a particular focus on women, children, and vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities. Through strategic partnerships and collaborative efforts, PIP aims to address the adverse impacts of the ongoing conflict and contribute to the recovery and rebuilding of affected communities.

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