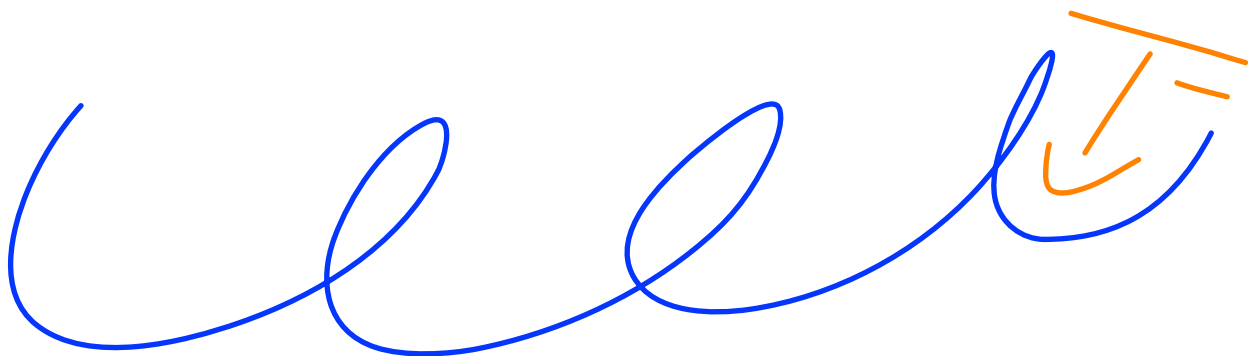




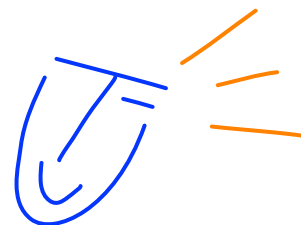
**TEACH FOR UKRAINE
FINAL REPORT**

THE CATCH-UP SUMMER ACADEMY FOR CHILDREN



September 2024

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND



Teach For Ukraine is a local non-profit organization and a member of the Teach For All global network. We exist to ensure that every child, regardless of their circumstances, can fulfill their potential through quality education, especially during the war. We recruit and train passionate individuals to become impactful educators in underserved communities, where they not only teach but also serve as inspiring role models for children.

In response to the ongoing war in Ukraine, Teach For Ukraine launched several emergency programs to help children regain stability and continue their education. The Summer Academy (SA) is one such initiative aimed at addressing learning losses and equipping them with essential skills for emotional, social, and academic resilience.

Problem Statement

The ongoing large-scale invasion of Ukraine has severely disrupted the education of children, particularly those in rural areas and war-affected zones. These disruptions have resulted in significant learning losses, as children have faced prolonged school closures, displacement, and trauma. The lack of consistent access to education has not only affected their academic progress but also their emotional and social well-being. In response to this critical challenge, Teach For Ukraine has been organizing the Summer Catch-Up Academies as part of a broader initiative to mitigate these learning deficits. The Academies aim to provide children with a structured academic catch-up program, as well as emotional and social support, in a safe and nurturing environment.

Objective of the Summer Academy

The main objective of the Teach For Ukraine Summer Academy is **to provide children with emotional and social support in a safe learning environment while helping them catch up on the education they've missed due to war-related disruptions.** The academy also aims to foster resilience, critical thinking, and leadership skills among students.

Methodology

The program curriculum was designed by Teach For Ukraine experts in partnership with selected educators, incorporating academic catch-up elements and project-based learning. Teachers participating as instructors were selected through a rigorous process and received intensive training before the start of the academy. Student participation was voluntary, and children were selected through community outreach efforts in Bila Tserkva, Kyiv region, and surrounding areas with a focus on IDP students.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

This year, the Summer Academy took place from July 15 to July 26, 2024, in Bila Tserkva, Kyiv region, Ukraine, with **150 children** (76 girls and 74 boys) participating. Of these, 89% were from Bila Tserkva. Children aged 11-12 made up 60% of the participants.

Despite challenges such as power outages, air raid alarms, and a heatwave that reached 40 degrees Celsius, the Summer Academy maintained high attendance, with an average of 120 children attending daily.

Throughout the program, students received 288 hours of training and support, including 112 hours of lessons with catch-up elements. and 56 hours of project-based activities.



IMPACT OF THE CATCH-UP PROGRAM

57% of students

reported improvement in at least one subject taught
at the Summer Academy.

Most of them stated that a crucial role in their drive to learn played the TFU fellows teaching the subject and their attitude towards students, as well as the lesson's structure, which considered their closest development zone and had a personal approach instead of just curriculum requirements.



KEY PROJECTS COMPLETED

During the project-based learning sessions, teachers mentored students as they worked on various group projects, gaining experience in project management and other practical skills. By the end of the second week, nine projects were successfully implemented, including:

A photo exhibition about the history of Bila Tserkva

Acquired skills: critical thinking, research skills, creativity, event organization, and public speaking.

A project of recycling Tetra Pak boxes into an umbrella prototype

Acquired skills: environmental awareness, engineering skills, teamwork, innovative thinking.

A project on recycling paper into envelopes for plant seedlings

Acquired skills: environmental awareness, practical skills, creativity, organizational skills.

A cat cafe concept and brand to raise funds for the shelter

Acquired skills: entrepreneurial skills, marketing, creativity, and social responsibility.



IMPACT ON THE SOCIO-EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

The Summer Academy played a crucial role in creating a safe and supportive environment where children could heal, thrive, and rediscover their enthusiasm for learning. By the end of the program, significant improvements in students' socio-emotional well-being were observed:

17% fewer students

reported **feeling tired** (34% before the start of the Summer Academy and 17% after),

16% fewer students

felt **insecure**/thought they were doing something wrong (from 30% to 14%).

Also, we noticed some improvements in their soft skills, precisely – critical thinking and emotional intelligence:

- the number of students who do not easily express their emotions and feelings decreased (from 22% to 16%);
- the share of those who are reluctant to share new knowledge and do not use it in everyday life has decreased (from 24% to 19%).



STUDENT TESTIMONIALS



“Although I don’t like math, I enjoyed it here.”

— A student at the Summer Academy.

“The most memorable part was making new friends, experiencing new feelings, learning new lessons, and interacting with kind and sincere teachers and children in the camp.”

— A student at the Summer Academy.

“I don’t usually like English lessons at school, but I enjoyed Anhelina’s class.”

— A student at the Summer Academy.

“Thank you, I had fun and made a new friend during these days 🌹”

— A student at the Summer Academy.

“Thank you so much for the unforgettable memories!!”

— A student at the Summer Academy.

“I love Bohdana, Kseniia, Andrii, and Dmytro, give me teachers like that 🥰👩🏻❤️”

— A student at the Summer Academy.

IMPACT ON TEACHERS

This year, we selected **33 young teachers** to serve as instructors for the Summer Academy, which also served as a practical component of their teacher training, designed to enhance their skills and knowledge.

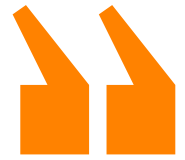
The training program included:

119 hours of training	50 hours of individual work	40 hours of group and individual support
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During the Summer Academy, each teacher received **25 hours of teaching practice**, and each student benefited from **36 hours of teacher-led training and support**. The hands-on experience of teaching in real-world conditions provided significant professional growth for the teachers. Many reported improvements in lesson planning, classroom management, and student engagement, which they plan to apply in their future teaching careers.





PARENT AND TEACHER TESTIMONIALS

“Thank you very much for the opportunity to participate in the Summer Academy. The creative approach to our children’s development, the meaningful time spent, and the new friendships left a positive impact!”

— Victoriia, mother of a Summer Academy student.

“I mastered the basics of practical teaching and gained a solid foundation to grow more confidently in pedagogy. Planning and conducting lessons now feel more comfortable. Additionally, the confidence I’ve gained in my teaching abilities makes developing my soft skills and leadership qualities easier.”

— Yelyzaveta, a teacher-instructor.

“My child is thrilled!!! She has never hurried to school as much as she has run to this camp!!!”

- Yana, mother of Summer Academy student



CHALLENGES

Despite numerous challenges, including power outages, air raid alarms, and a severe heatwave, the program successfully adapted to ensure students' and staff's safety and well-being. Teachers followed flexible schedules, and contingency plans were enacted to accommodate unexpected disruptions, such as air alarms and extreme temperatures.

SUSTAINABILITY AND NEXT STEPS

The success of the 2024 Summer Academy has laid the foundation for future iterations of the program. Teach For Ukraine plans to expand the Summer Academy to additional regions in Ukraine, incorporating feedback from students and teachers. The long-term goal is to build sustainable educational programs that can continue to support children affected by the war.



A THANK-YOU NOTE

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to UCAP for their generous support, which made the 2024 Summer Catch-Up Academy possible. Your funding has enabled Teach For Ukraine to provide critical academic, emotional, and social support to students who have been deeply affected by the ongoing war. Thanks to your partnership, 150 children had the opportunity to continue their educational journey, develop essential skills, and find a safe space for healing and growth. Additionally, your support empowered 33 young teachers with valuable hands-on experience that will shape their future careers in education. We are truly grateful for UCAP's commitment to helping us build a brighter future for Ukraine's children and educators.

