

#### EDUCATION IN COMMUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE OF UKRAINIAN CHILDREN!

## Swiss-Ukrainian Project DECIDE -

Decentralization for Improved Democratic Education





Creation of **25** educational hubs in shelters

**School** in Chernihiv

Inclusive Resource Center in Borodianka

# **DECIDE: VIDBUDOVA**

## SCHOOL RECOVERY INITIATIVE



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF UKRAINE







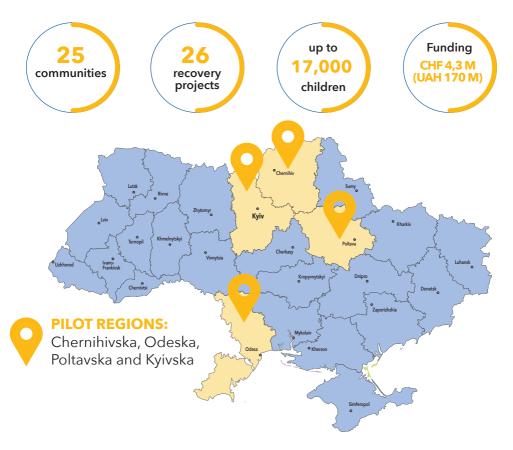
# SWISS-UKRAINIAN DECIDE PROJECT: RECONSTRUCTION AND RECOVERY PROJECTS

### **About DECIDE Project**

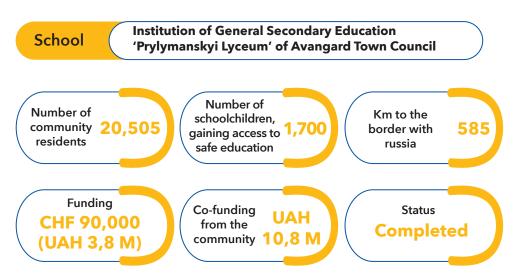
The Swiss-Ukrainian project DECIDE - "Decentralization for Improved Democratic Education" - aims to support two important reforms: education and decentralization. Its goal is to promote involvement of citizens of territorial communities in democratic governance, the equal use of its results and access to quality education. The project is implemented in Ukraine by the NGO "DOCCU" in partnership with the Zurich University of Education (Switzerland) with the support of Switzerland.

## **DECIDE: VIDBUDOVA Initiative**

DECIDE:VIDBUDOVA is an initiative of DECIDE to implement reconstruction and recovery projects with an aim to provide children access to safe education in shelters during air raid alarms.

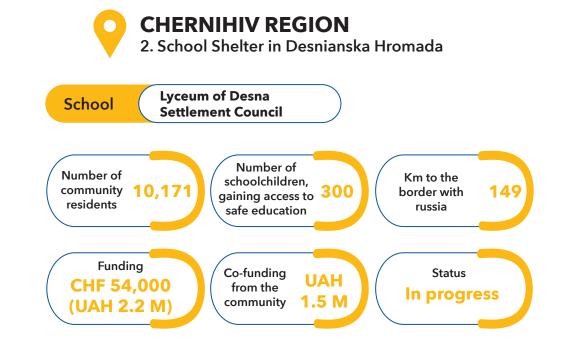


## **ODESA REGION** 1. School Shelter in Avanhardivska Hromada



"Our community pays great attention to the arrangement and construction of shelters. The priority is to make people feel protected. There are many young families in the community, including parents (one or two) who serve in the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Some people work and pay taxes. So it is our responsibility to ensure that these parents do not worry about their children. At the same time, more than 1,700 children study at the school where we have set up a shelter. We in the community believe that the best investment is in our children. Children are the great future and they will have to rebuild Ukraine after the victory," - SERHIY KHRUSTOVSKYI, Head of Avanhardivska community.

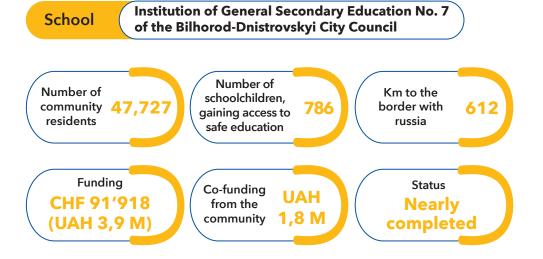




"First of all, it is the incredible emotions of our children and staff. This is a state-of-the-art facility equipped with the latest innovations and interactive technologies. We hope that children will learn new skills and, most importantly, maintain their mental health while staying there during the air raid," - **NADIIA GURTOVENKO, Head of the Education Department.** 

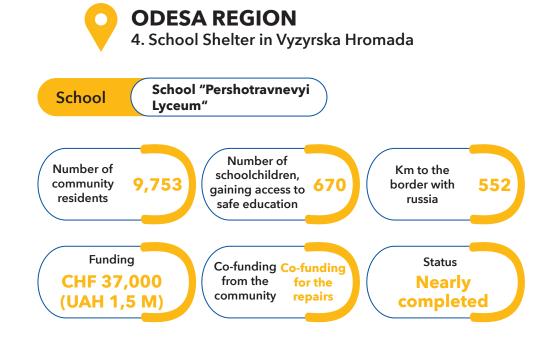






"The shelter is very comfortable. We can study some lessons and work with the educational material. The light is very cool, so it's nice to be there. There are even beds where we like to rest. In fact, in such a difficult time, we are all very anxious, and in the shelter I feel really calm and protected. I finally feel safe, it is very valuable," - **ANASTASIA KOVAL, eleventh grader.** 

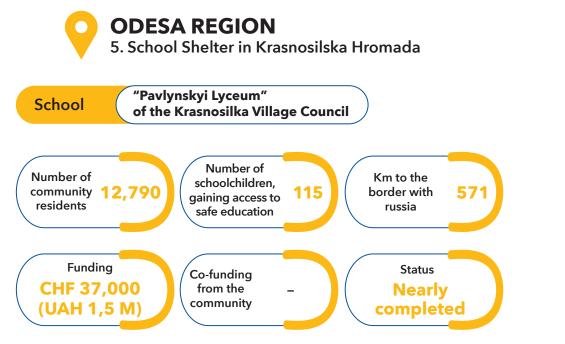




"The idea of creating a multifunctional shelter-space appeared at the beginning of martial law to restore the quality of the educational process. However, the shelter needed major repairs and large financial investments. We managed to implement the project only thanks to our

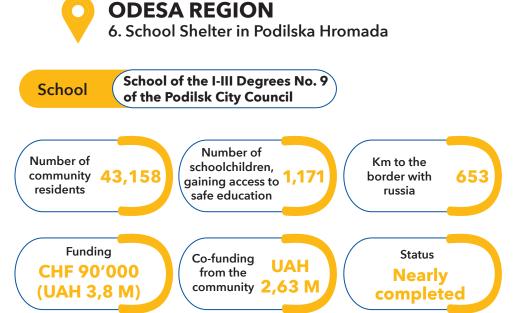
cooperation with you. The launch of the shelter as an equipped hub means improving the provision of educational services, a safe learning environment, a modern educational process, the use of modern communication technologies in the information space of the institution, and the formation of an attractive image of the educational institution," -KHARLAMBOVA VALENTYNA, Head of the Department of Education, Youth and Sports.





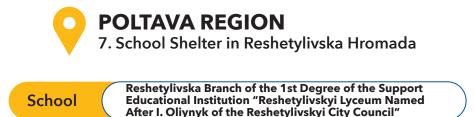
"The shelter that DECIDE is repairing and equipping is critically important for the community and the educational institution. We have been waiting for this opportunity since the beginning of the war, as a modern shelter protects the participants of the educational process and provides psychological comfort during emergencies. It also contributes to the continuity of the educational process and protects children and staff, which is a priority for any educational institution. We are confident that the renovation of the shelter will provide reliable protection and comfortable stay of all participants in the educational process during emergencies, and thanks to the modern equipment, will help make the students' stay interesting and productive," -MARIA DOLGYI, Head of Education Department.

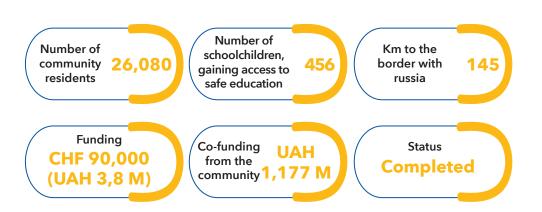




"Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, the community has tried to equip as many shelters in educational institutions as possible. However, due to limited financial resources, it was not possible to pay attention to all 24 institutions. Thanks to international support, the restoration of the shelter has now begun. It is very important that the shelter will be equipped with an educational hub, which will expand opportunities for students to receive certain educational services. After the shelter is opened, pupils will be able to study in two full shifts, which will improve the level of educational services in the institution. In addition, the launch of the educational hub will create opportunities for learners to acquire additional knowledge and skills," - VOLODYMYR SAMBORSKYI, Acting Head of the Department of Education and Humanitarian Policy of Podilska City Council.

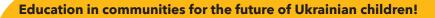


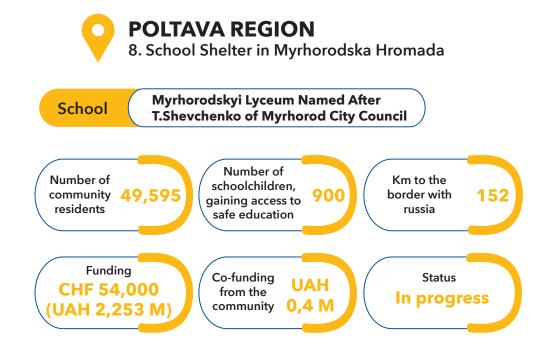




"The shelter equipped in the Reshetylivka branch of the first degree is important not only for the institution but also for the community. Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, residents of nearby high-rise buildings have been taking refuge there. At first, the conditions were unsatisfactory, and up to a dozen trucks of garbage were removed. The preparation of the shelter itself began in the summer of 2022, but all the work was done on a do-it-yourself basis, by the team, as there was not enough money for highquality repairs. In the future, this shelter will be used for club work, after-school programs, and in the future, we may attract clubs from out-of-school education institutions," – **KOSTOHRYZ ALLA, Head of the Education Department of Reshetylivka City Council.** 

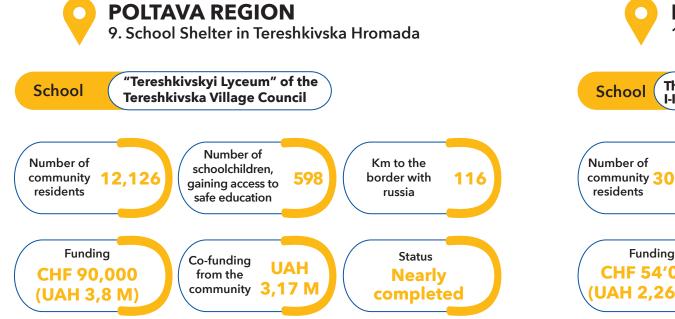






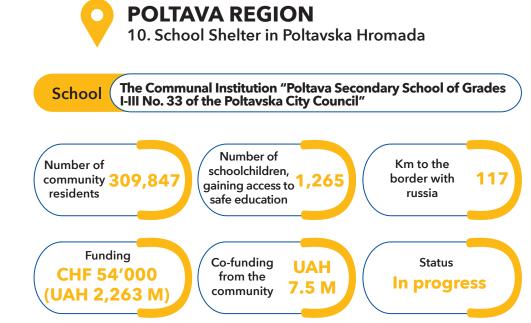
"In wartime, when a large number of alarms sound in Myrhorod throughout the day, students of the Taras Shevchenko Lyceum (one of the largest educational institutions in the city) spend a lot of time in the shelter. And it is very important for us that they have comfortable conditions here and can study at the educational hub, at least in turn. Our institution is located in the city center, so there are many clubs from out-of-school education institutions that work there after school hours, and the club members should also be able to use the shelter and the educational hub. The lyceum hosts city-level events, and the participants of these events also want to be able to stay in safe and comfortable conditions," -**IRYNA SHEVCHENKO, Director of the Taras Shevchenko Lyceum in Myrhorod.** 





"From the first days of russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, repairing and equipping the shelter was a priority. It was the only shelter on the territory of the TG. There was a lack of local funds for major repairs and arrangement. The completion of the repair and arrangement of the shelter will allow students to be safe during the alarm and fully carry out the educational process," -LARYSA SHEVCHENKO, the Director of the Institution.

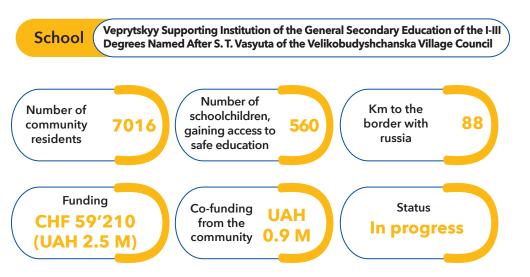




"Repairing the shelter at Lyceum No. 33 of Poltava City Council plays a key role in the life of the educational institution, as it will allow pupils to have full lessons even during air raids and without disrupting the learning process. This is very important for our community and the children living in its territory," -**ROMAN CHERKUN, Deputy Director, Head of International Projects Coordination and Investment Attraction Department at the City Development Institute.** 



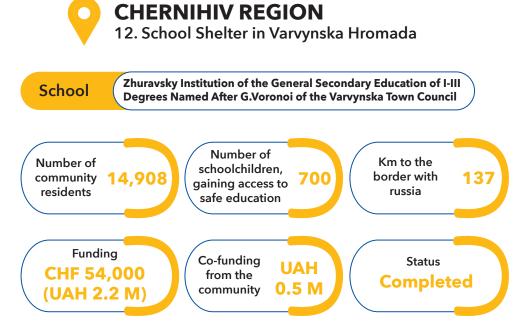
## **POLTAVA REGION** 11. School Shelter in Velykobudyshchanska Hromada



"This shelter is very important for our community, as it is located in our hub facility, which is the only and largest in the community. We have now started the final repair work, which will take a month and a half at most. We really want to have a modern and comfortable shelter for our children. Fortunately, starting September 1, everyone will be able to study offline," - SERHII TOVCHYRYCHKO, Head of the Department of Education, Youth and Sports.



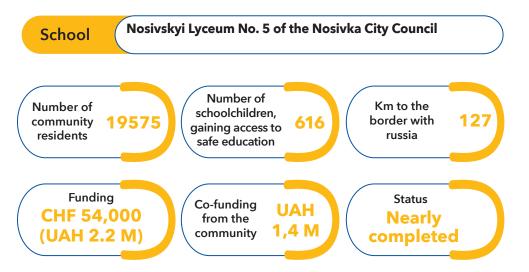




"I feel calmer in the renovated shelter than in the old one. Here you can do a lot of things and just get away from this current situation. In addition to lessons, we can play chess, checkers, and talk with friends. Our teacher also plays the guitar, and we sing," - **ANASTASIA POTAPOVA, Sixth grader.** 

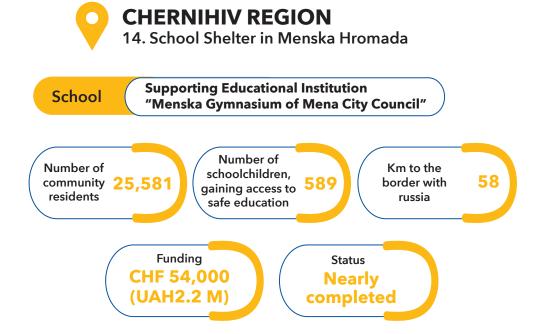






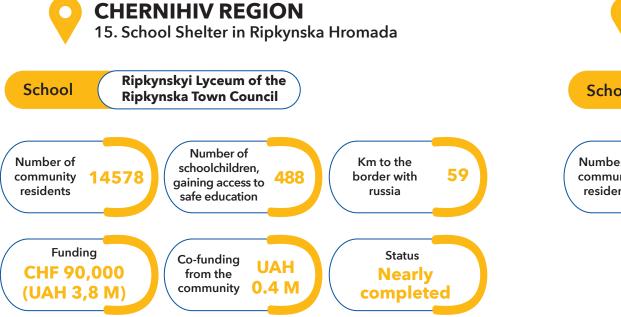
"The repaired shelter is extremely important for our community, as it ensures the safety and protection of educational participants during emergencies. We have been planning to renovate the shelter since 2020, but limited funding and lack of resources did not allow us to implement this project earlier. The new shelter will return the opportunity to study 100% full-time. Safe and effective!" – NATALIIA TONKONOH, Head of the Department of Education, Family, Youth and Sports of the Nosivka City Council.





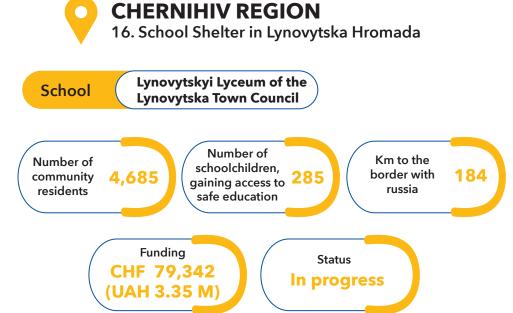
"Our old school basement has been given a new modern life. These are bright, warm, spacious rooms with modern, comfortable furniture and appliances. Teachers have the opportunity to conduct full lessons in the shelter during air raids, and students have the opportunity to learn in comfortable conditions. In addition, we have good access to the Internet. We also use this space as a movie theater. Various events are also held here (for example, mine safety talks, psychological trainings). And now graduates from several communities have the opportunity to take the NMT without worrying about air raids and the security situation, because the NMT center is located in the renovated shelter. We are grateful for such a safe modern educational space," - **ANGELINA SAMOILIUK, graduate of 2023-2024.** 







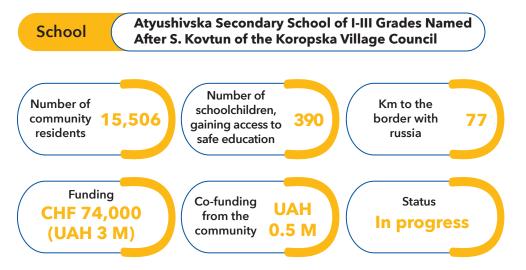
"The shelter is extremely important for the community, as the institution in which it is being arranged is the hub with the largest number of participants in the educational process. In addition, during air raids, pupils of the preschool education institution stay there. The shelter was planned to be restored immediately after the full-scale invasion of russia. The idea to restore it could not be implemented due to a lack of funds in the local budget. Once the shelter is fully operational, the educational process will be organized in a highquality and complete manner. In addition, the educational hub will allow classes to be held right in the shelter in comfortable conditions." -**ANATOLIY DEBELYI is the Head** of the Education Department of the Ripky Village Council.



"This is the only shelter in the Lynovytska community with a high-quality, modern renovation. And the educational hub is a dream that you have realized. Our lyceum is the only one in the community that was the first to start working in full-time mode on September 01, 22. We made cosmetic repairs on our own, but were not able to hold classes. After the full launch, we hope that there will be fewer educational losses due to air raids. Children will be comfortable, interested, their emotional state will improve, and the shelter will become a SAFE educational environment. Thank you, we cannot believe that our institution has received such support," - SILENKO NATALIA, Director of Lynovytskyi Lyceum.



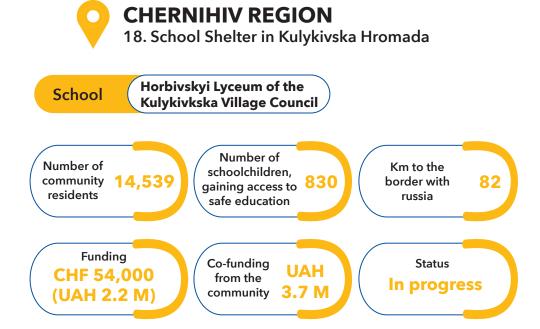




"After the renovation, the premises will be improved in terms of appearance, lighting and microclimate. The room will be filled with new modern, comfortable furniture, and an educational hub with computer and multimedia equipment will be created, which will allow for high-level interesting lessons not only during air raids but also at other times. Thanks to an independent power supply, classes can also be held in the event of a power outage for a long time. A relaxation corner with board games and sports equipment is planned to be created in the recreation shelter, which will allow students to spend their free time during breaks and after school and distract them from gadgets," - MYKOLA SVERDLOV, School Principal.



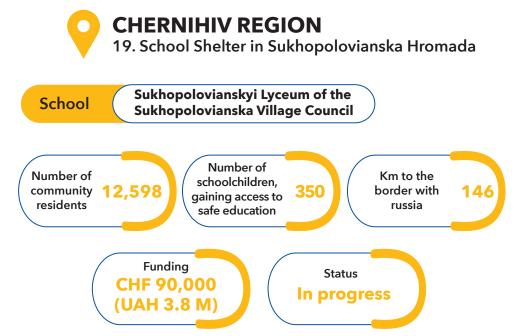




"The arrangement of a shelter at the lyceum is an urgent issue, and now we will have a safe educational space. This will not only protect the lives of the students, but will also allow us to conduct full training during air raids. Having a shelter is a big bonus, because it is live communication, which our children desperately need in times of war. It will give them a sense of protection and security. Additionally, a student project will be implemented in the shelter. We believe that our students' dreams will come true!" - LARYSA BAGLAY, Deputy School Principal.



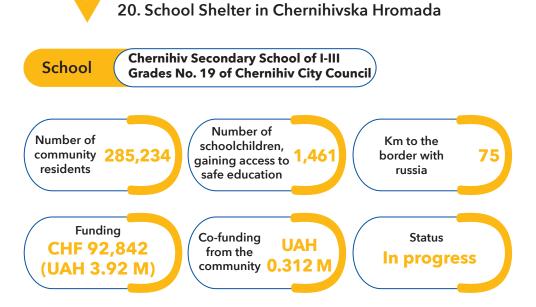
**CHERNIHIV REGION** 



"The shelter is located in a general secondary education institution, the overhaul of which will ensure the provision of quality educational services in safe and comfortable conditions. It will increase the percentage of full-time education in the community. Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, the issue of creating safe conditions in educational institutions has become a priority. Some of the shelters were repaired at the expense of the local budget, and this did not allow the institution to be fully operational. We started looking for additional opportunities. The overhaul of the shelter will make it possible to resume full-time education for more than 200 pupils. The refurbished shelter will not only be a safe place, but

also a comfortable one, with the ability to conduct classes in a modern digital hub," - TETIANA REVA, Head of the Department of Education, Youth and Sports of Sukhopolovianskyi Village Council.

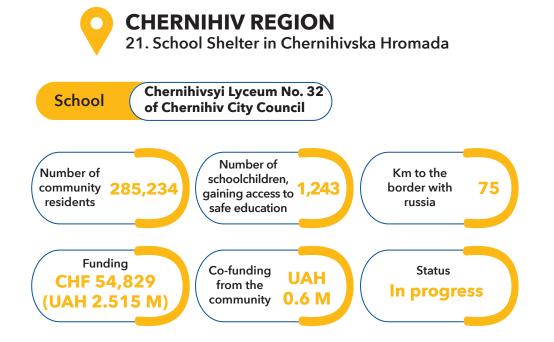




"Our school was damaged by russian aggression during the shelling of the city in 2022. Thanks to this project, pupils have the opportunity to gain additional knowledge and skills through courses and classes in various subjects in a safe and well-equipped shelter. The main convenience for teachers is the ability to use a TV, projector, and free access to the Internet in the shelter. They can conduct group lessons not just sitting at desks, but also use sofas and poufs, where children can sit in a comfortable position, giving them a sense of comfort. This shelter takes into account the needs of children with special educational needs, of whom there

are already more than 14 students in our school. There is a room for them where they can relieve themselves psychologically, thanks to the presence of various locations - creative, research, motor activity and silence. The latter is extremely important for some children during air raids," - LIUDMYLA KORIN, Deputy School Principal.

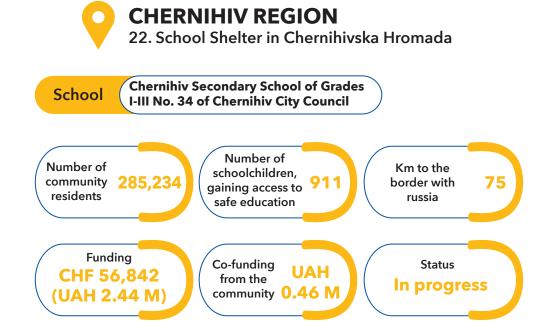




"The shelter is not just being repaired, but an interactive space with a comfortable seating area is being created, where children will be able to be positively filled during air raid alerts and play board games. This room will help to solve such issues as the organization of training during air raid alerts, leisure activities, the ability to conduct lessons and workshops, and create an atmosphere of comfort, peace and safety for both children and teachers. Each pupil can bring books to read. In

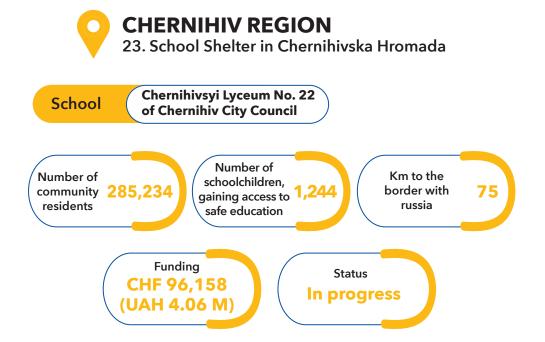
order to maintain mental and physical health, the project includes an area where you can relax. A decorative wall that imitates a graphite board will provide an opportunity for lessons, workshops, and various art therapies. The lounge area will create a pleasant atmosphere of safety for communication, well-being, and balancing studying with leisure," -**OLENA YACHMINNYK, Deputy School Principal.** 





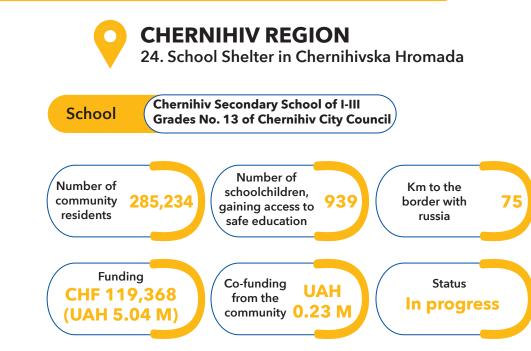
"We are creating a truly modern space in our shelter! In addition to cosmetic repairs, we have received comfortable furniture that will make the stay in the shelter more pleasant for schoolchildren. By equipping the space with a projector and tablets, we will be able to use the latest teaching methods and technologies, which will significantly increase its effectiveness. The shelter is being made cozy and safe, which will help reduce the level of anxiety and stress among students during emergencies. Thank you for helping us grow and develop in a safe environment," - **VICTORIA LYTVIAK, school principal**.





"I like this work, I can try myself in it. We need to work more in a team," - the pupilparticipant of the training for school teams on designing projects for recovery and arrangement of shelter.



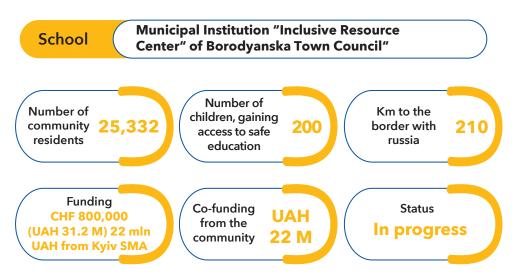


"This school year, pupils of our school had the opportunity to contribute to the improvement of the shelter space. We took part in the implementation of school projects as part of the DECIDE Project initiative «DECIDE: VIDBUDOVA». Our shelter was equipped with everything necessary for a comfortable stay. I am very grateful to our most active students and everyone who worked on this project. Now we can be sure that in case of danger we will be protected, safe, and all the students of our school will have a rich, interesting leisure time. Our shelter will become a place where we can wait in peace until everything is safe," - DANYLO SKRYABIN, 9th grade scholar.



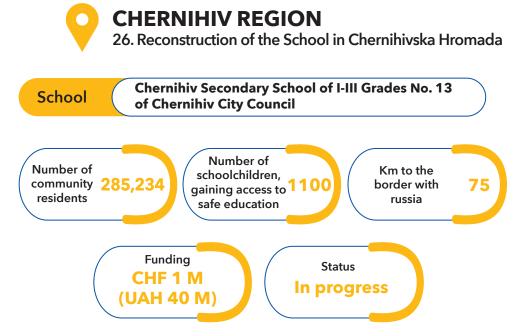
**Education in communities for the future of Ukrainian children!** 





"The shelter of an inclusive resource center is extremely important for the functioning of an institution that provides assistance to children with special educational needs. Every year the number of children with SEN in schools and kindergartens in the community increases, and they need the help of IRC specialists. Every day is extremely important for the development of these children. Therefore, ensuring the work of the center is an important contribution to the correction of children's development and assistance to parents," - NATALIIA NOVIKOVA, Head of the Education Department of Borodyanka Village Council.





"Our shelter is being renovated. When it is finished, our shelter will be very comfortable and safe. We will be able not only to protect ourselves, but also to spend time with benefit and fun. I really want everything to turn out as we dream, and then even in such difficult moments we will be warm and cozy," - **ANASTASIA LYLKA, 4th** grade scholar.

