



EXPERIENCE FROM POLAND: ENSURING ALTERNATIVE CARE FOR EVACUATED CHILDREN FROM UKRAINE

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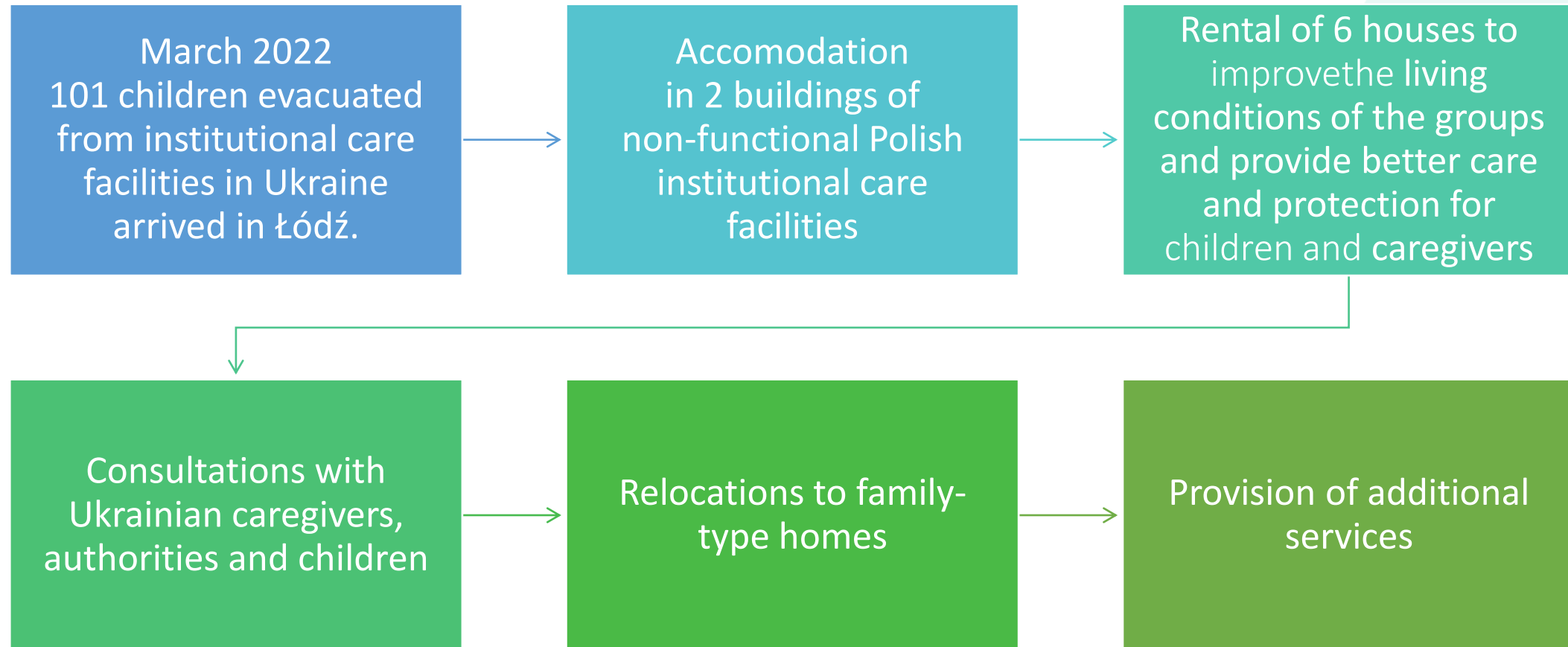
1. SITUATION OF CHILDREN EVACUATED FROM INSTITUTIONS IN UKRAINE TO POLAND

2022: 2365 children evacuated to Poland

2024: nearly 1000 remain in Poland

- Unclear status of facilities
- Outside of the Polish alternative care system
- Funding from government for basic needs
- Majority accommodated outside of cities with limited access to services
- From ~9 to ~300 children in each facility
- Infants to 18 years olds and above
- 1 caregiver from Ukraine caring for up to 23 children
- Children with disabilities in majority of facilities

CASE OF ŁÓDŹ MUNICIPALITY



THE SUPPORT PROVIDED

In the family-type homes

- **medical:** health checks, specialists, treatments, dental care, rehabilitation for CwD
- **psychological:** support for children and caregivers
- **educational:** enrollment into local schools
- **caregiver support:** additional caregivers hired to support caregivers who arrived with children from Ukraine, assistance with administrative procedures, capacity building, supervision
- **specialists:** pedagogues, speech therapists, lawyers
- **monitoring and engagement** of local authorities





Individualized approach

Recognizing, that every child has unique needs, employees of the Alternative Care Center in Łódź prioritize a **personalized approach** to the **children's care and development.**

Andryi*

was diagnosed with congenital developmental defects of the intestinal attachments, which meant that he was vomiting most of the food he was eating. In 2023, Andryi underwent his first laparoscopy procedure and surgery. Currently, the boy's health problems with the digestive system have subsided, and he enjoys good health and can eat without fear.



SCALING UP THE MODEL

- The model initially developed to support the first groups of children from institutions in Ukraine has gained **recognition as a solution for those not within the Polish alternative care system** but still receiving strong support from it.
- The model is now being **replicated for other children evacuated from Ukrainian child care institutions** across Poland.

20

family type-homes are already functioning in Poland, for children who were relocated from temporary facilities

210

children evacuated from institutions in Ukraine currently living in the family-type homes

96

caregivers from Ukraine are employed to support the children in the homes in Łódź

VIDEO

A family environment for
children evacuated from
childcare institutions in
Ukraine



Foto credit: UNICEF



2. ESTABLISHING UKRAINIAN FOSTER FAMILIES IN POLAND

It is estimated that over 4500 Ukrainian children (0.9%) may enter the alternative care system in Poland.

- Targeted foster care campaign
- Development of a comprehensive training programme approved by Government
- Specialist support
- 17 Ukrainian foster families established in 1 year

