

PRESS RELEASE

With the support of the Crisis and Support Centre (CDCS) of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, Acted is reconstructing, repairing and equipping schools damaged by the conflict in Chernihiv oblast and Kharkiv City, Ukraine.

Kharkiv city remains one of the most acutely impacted areas by the conflict in Ukraine. Aerial bombardment from missiles and drones remains a fact of life and, at times, a daily occurrence. Despite this, residents of Kharkiv remained determined to adapt in response to the threats. Public services and businesses remain open, but are subject to stringent legislation to ensure the safety of communities. For public services, such as education and healthcare, there are extensive requirements for the use of highly resilient and specialised bomb shelters that can endure the intense bombardment the city is subjected to. Due to the scope and complexity of these bomb shelters, many public facilities remain closed for in-person services due to the financial cost of adapting shelter spaces. This has a direct impact on those who require in-person access to public services – most notably for children who miss out on in-person education.

ACTED'S RESPONSE

In Kharkiv School #3, Acted is conducting an overhaul of the school bomb shelter in order to align with legislation and open for in-person education. The bomb shelter will have a hosting capacity of 140 persons at a time, and will work on a rotational basis with Kharkiv School #3 and other schools in the area to widen access to in-person education in Kharkiv city. In line with the complex legislative requirements for functional bomb shelters in Kharkiv city, this will allow the safe resumption of in-person education, which is critical for children who have experienced more than 3 years of disruption. Moreover, the shelter will be fully equipped with relevant equipment for continuing educational services during air raids, and will be accessible for those with disabilities. While restoring access to in-person education has been a hope for children, parents and teachers in Kharkiv for more than 3 years, Acted, in collaboration with local authorities, is working to make this a reality.

“Education is the key to a happy future for every individual, which is why we are deeply grateful to all the organizations that contributed to the construction of the protective shelter at Municipal Institution "Kharkiv Lyceum No. 3." This will enable students to attend classes offline. Everyone who is working to create a safe space for children is showing great responsibility and doing their best to repair the shelter as efficiently and quickly as possible. Modern equipment and bright, welcoming classroom design will make the learning process even more engaging.” -
Larysa Gyrova, Director of Studies of Kharkiv Lyceum No3

After three years of disruption, supporting the recovery of Ukraine's education sector remains critical to minimise the long-term impact on education, employment and economic security for conflict-affected children. Acted's bomb shelter overhauls in Kharkiv city will play a pivotal role in paving the way for adaptation in the education sector in Ukraine.



Figure 1: Acted's team on a field visit to Kharkiv School #3, July 2025.



Figure 2: The final stages of interior works on the bomb shelter, July 2025.

CONTACTS

Joseph TESSE, Directeur Pays Adjoint – Ukraine, joseph.tesse@acted.org

Maksym VIAKHIRIEV – Chef de Projet RestoreEdu – maksym.viakhiriev@acted.org