

Scoil Naomh Fhionain, St Finian's .N.S, Spunkane, Co. Kerry.

## Thank you so much for your kindness to children in Ukraine,

I just wanted to drop you a note from Ukraine and Afghanistan to say a huge thank you for your generous donation of €830.00 to help children like 15-month-old Artur. I met him and his family when I visited an air raid shelter in Lviv. This is the second time they've had to flee their home because of the violence, so the fact that people like you care about them means so much.

To a mother at her wit's end after travelling on foot with her small children in the bitter cold for three days, your gift of clean water is so precious. To a child who'll spend yet another night sleeping in an underground bunker instead of their bed at home, your gift of a blanket is so comforting. To the 140 people working for UNICEF on the ground here, your support means they can keep delivering blankets, water and first-aid to children and families in desperate need.

Thanks to the amazing help of people like you in Ireland and across the world, UNICEF has already delivered several tons of hygiene products, including diapers, disinfectant, and wipes to a temporary refugee centre at the Palanca crossing point on Ukraine's border with Moldova. And, as I write, we're opening child-friendly spaces, known as 'blue dots', along the refugee escape routes. These hubs provide refuge and help to families and give us a chance to identify children separated from loved ones so we can ensure their protection.

With your help, we won't stop until every child is reached. Thank you again.

James Elder UNICEF Spokesperson, Ukraine

This is me and Artur. His smile and giggles give a rare moment of respite in what is a terrible situation for so many families right now.

