

Ukraine

Executive summary

The occurrence of two cases of polio in Western Ukraine was confirmed by the Ministry of Health on 1 September 2015 and prompted a global sense of urgency and response to the situation. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Ukraine mobilized vaccines and government support for a mass polio-immunization campaign. UNICEF Ukraine also signed a long-planned Memorandum of Understanding on vaccine procurement services with the Government of Ukraine, guaranteeing a sustainable source of quality vaccines at a competitive price.

The UNICEF Ukraine Country Programme recorded progress towards impact-level results in the area of juvenile justice. A further reduction in the number of children in detention of 14 per cent (534 cases) was recorded. The number of children deprived of parental care also showed a reduction of more than 7 per cent in 2015.

Progress towards reducing equity gaps for vulnerable children, such as children with disabilities or children at risk of contracting HIV, were documented through various results at the system-change level. These included a newly launched strategy for early intervention and improved access to voluntary HIV testing and counselling nationwide.

UNICEF Ukraine research on social vulnerabilities in relation to the crisis impacted the development of the Government's National Poverty Reduction Strategy, as well as resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine developed in 2015, which targeted poverty and social vulnerabilities among internally displaced persons (IDPs).

In 2015, UNICEF Ukraine introduced a number of innovations, such as U-Report and digital campaigns for behaviour change, which were well-accepted during their initiation and will be assessed and evaluated in the coming years(s).

UNICEF Ukraine only received 34 per cent of the overall Humanitarian Action for Children funding requirement of US\$55.8 million. Nevertheless, significant humanitarian results were recorded in the areas of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education and child protection, for which UNICEF Ukraine also provided coordination for the sub-cluster. Notably, in 2015, UNICEF Ukraine managed to procure and supply antiretroviral (ARV) drugs to non-government controlled territories where the lives of 8,000 people were at immediate risk after stocks had run dry.

Slower-than-expected progress was made towards the establishment of specialized social services to reduce social vulnerability. UNICEF Ukraine continued to apply a mixture of strategies to import knowledge and expertise from other countries to develop governance tools for a reformed social service system. However, the pace of these developments was far behind the expectations. UNICEF Ukraine is committed to further strengthening the evidence-base for reform of this important sector in 2016.

Limited access to non-government controlled areas remains a critical concern. Although UNICEF Ukraine has established a field presence in both Luhansk and Donetsk within the United Nations inter-agency compounds in those locations, local de-facto authorities have created a number of obstacles and conditions for United Nations agencies. At times, these have proven unacceptable and have obstructed UNICEF's implementation capacities on the ground for children in urgent need. UNICEF Ukraine will invest in building trust in 2016 to establish a stronger footprint in non-government controlled areas where humanitarian needs are highest.

UNICEF Ukraine experienced continued growth in bilateral and corporate contributions from major donors, with US\$36.1 million received in 2015. This constitutes a tripling of resources compared with the US\$10.26 million received in 2014.

UNICEF's response to the crisis in Eastern Ukraine has supported the established of new partnerships with corporate donors. Contributions received from private and corporate donors rose from US\$550,000 in 2014 to over US\$5 million in 2015. Of this amount, received in 2015, approximately US\$1.2 million was in-kind donations.

The mid-term review (MTR) was finalized in early 2015. The main outcomes and recommendations were to fully mainstream the emergency response into the Country Programme; to strengthen knowledge management, social policy, governance of social services, communication and communication for social change; and to expand fundraising and funds leveraging from the private sector and the Government.

Humanitarian assistance

Since early 2015, the humanitarian situation in Eastern Ukraine has deteriorated further, bringing more suffering to affected populations, especially children, and increasing the need to expand the humanitarian response. Despite the signing of Minsk II in February 2015, the renewed ceasefire agreed to by parties to the conflict in September and the progress made towards de-escalation, the situation in Eastern Ukraine remains volatile and is affecting over 3 million people, including 1.7 million children. Children are particularly vulnerable. Their families are exposed to significant stress due to protracted and often multiple displacements, and family coping mechanisms and savings are exhausted. The conflict has severely weakened the formal and community-based child protection environment due to the lack of capacity of local institutions (most staff members have fled from these areas or are overwhelmed by the increased workload), weak rule of law and restrictions imposed on protection monitoring. Similarly, 800,000 people, including 100,000 children living near the front-line, are at daily risk of shelling, mines and unexploded ordnances. Due to the interconnection of the water supply, central heating systems, the electricity supply and sanitation needs, some 2.9 million people are at risk of suffering various levels of service disruption due to conflict-related damages or breakdown. UNICEF Ukraine and partners are supporting the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach children and families in need of life-saving support and the protection of their rights.

UNICEF Ukraine and the World Health Organization (WHO) have supported the Ministry of Health since the onset of the polio outbreak by providing technical assistance, procuring required vaccines, improving the capacity of health workers and supporting diversified communications strategies to tackle parent scepticism. UNICEF Ukraine has trained approximately 3,000 professionals, including 50 media speakers, on polio-related issues and provided the first two rounds of oral polio vaccine and inactivated poliovirus vaccine for some 1.5 million children under 6 years. The third round is planned for the beginning of 2016.

UNICEF Ukraine provided safe drinking water to almost 820,000 people through water trucking, the provision of critical treatment chemicals and the reconstruction of infrastructure. More than 180,000 people benefited from hygiene and sanitation awareness programmes, including the distribution of hygiene supplies. By strengthening local partnerships, UNICEF Ukraine increased the efficiency of the water supply system and built community resilience to water supply shortages. Nearly 80 water tanks have been installed in the most-affected communities, reaching some 20,000 people. Psychosocial support was provided to around 50,000 children through a network of 16 community protection centres and educational facilities in Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv and government-controlled areas of Luhansk and Donetsk regions. Although restricted access to non-government controlled areas affected UNICEF Ukraine's ability to support the well-being of children and their caregivers and protect children's rights, UNICEF Ukraine and local partners continued to reach a limited number of children with psychosocial support and mine-risk education in non-government controlled areas. The presence of landmines and unexploded ordnance continued to be a major threat to children's lives. In response, UNICEF Ukraine reached nearly 280,000 children with life-saving mine-risk education activities.

Despite access restrictions and challenges in operating in the non-government controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk, UNICEF procured and successfully delivered ARV drugs and diagnostic kits to prevent treatment interruptions for 8,000 people (including children) living with HIV/AIDS, living in the most critical conflict-affected areas.

To increase access to education for the most vulnerable conflict-affected children, UNICEF Ukraine supported the rehabilitation of 45 damaged educational facilities in Donetsk and Luhansk government-controlled areas. Working with partners, including the LEGO Foundation, UNICEF Ukraine established a large support system where teachers, psychologists, social workers and parents can learn how to identify heightened stress caused by conflict and support positive coping mechanisms and resilience building. This system is being implemented in 120 schools, kindergartens and community protection centres attended by 20,000 children in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

UNICEF Ukraine continued to lead the WASH and education clusters and the child protection and nutrition sub-clusters and played an active role in the development of the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan in order to continue addressing the needs and vulnerabilities of conflict-affected people.

Mid-term review of the Strategic Plan

The UNICEF Ukraine Country Programme 2012-2017 currently covers all Strategic Plan 2014–2017 outcomes. The emergency response established for Eastern Ukraine necessitated the incorporation of WASH, nutrition and education components into the overall Country Programme. The Country Programme underwent an MTR earlier this year and is fully aligned with the Strategic Plan. The main lessons learned following the first two years of implementation of the Strategic Plan are described below.

Complementing sector-based approaches by providing more attention to synergies across sectors and multi-sectoral actions became a Country Programme reality. This was reflected in the revised Country Programme Action Plan results matrix, which ensured that different sectors work across silos and are mutually reinforcing. The emergency response, which continues to be of relevance to the ongoing crisis in Eastern Ukraine, was fully mainstreamed into the regular

programme. Starting in January 2016, the Country Programme will be delivered as a coherent whole. It is expected that the system's weaknesses, which the conflict made more evident, will effectively support immediate and longer-term needs and ensure a closer link between humanitarian, recovery and overall long-term resilience and system strengthening. The integration of regular and emergency programme components, and the structural nature of interventions, will ensure more effective impact of current humanitarian efforts. The Monitoring Results for Equity System framework has been fully integrated into the Country Programme response to enhance the delivery of results for children. Theories of change were developed for every single programme component and structural barriers and bottlenecks were identified to strengthen the effectiveness of interventions and the delivery of results.

Innovation became one of the key programme strategies and has produced remarkable results, particularly in youth and adolescent programming. For example, a two-wave digital Communication for Development (C4D) 'Get Tested' campaign has to date reached more than 800,000 young people and has motivated many of these young people to seek out HIV testing and counselling. Establishing an online platform for research and data, capacity building and best practice exchange has increased the knowledge of approximately 8,000 community professionals on adolescent health. In 2015, UNICEF Ukraine also initiated the introduction of U-Report, a platform for youth participation and broader real-time social monitoring. Given the complex and fluid operating environment in Ukraine, the Country Programme needs to become more agile and responsive to new and emerging challenges. To this end, a more integrated, flexible and adaptive planning framework is now being discussed, tested and introduced and will be fully operational as of the beginning of 2016.

Summary notes and acronyms

ARV	antiretroviral
C4D	Communication for Development
CEE/CIS	Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States
CMT	Country Management Team
CPMP	Country Programme Management Plan
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
ECHO	European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GPS	global positioning service
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
ICT	information and communication technology
IDP	internally displaced persons
MTR	mid-term review
NGO	non-governmental organization
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OMT	Operations Management Team
PRIME	Plan for Research, Impact Monitoring and Evaluation
RKLA	Regional Knowledge and Leadership Agenda
SMS	short message service
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDSS	United Nations Department for Safety and Security
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VHF	very high frequency
VISION	Virtual Integrated System of Information
WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene

Capacity development

In support of the polio outbreak response plan, approximately 3,000 medical workers from most of Ukraine's regions were trained on effective counselling on polio, antenatal care and immunization. A network of local trainers was established, and, as a result, some 300 medical professionals practicing throughout the country became UNICEF-certified trainers on effective counselling for immunization, polio and maternal and child health. Education modules on antenatal care were developed and are being piloted within the National Academy of Postgraduate Education for further integration into the official curriculum. A draft national communication strategy on maternal and child health was also developed. Two regional communications strategies on maternal and child health were developed and finalized.

Because of the continuous technical assistance and capacity development provided at a systemic level, an action plan for the reform of vaccine procurement was developed, and recommendations were submitted to the Ministry of Health. As a result, Parliament has adopted two bills to enable international procurement. The capacity of health care professionals to provide quality care, treatment and support to HIV-positive children was also improved in 2015. A network of paediatric HIV specialists practicing at tertiary-level health facilities was established.

UNICEF Ukraine developed the capacities of community professionals on psychosocial support and outreach in response to the urgent protection issues stemming from the conflict. A total of 426 school psychologists were trained on psychosocial support outreach and an additional 4,716 school psychologists, teachers and parents learned about psychosocial support approaches. Ministry of Education and Science colleagues were involved in the development of the training programme from the beginning to ensure buy-in and ownership. As a result, the training programme was integrated into the Ministry of Education and Science's in-service programme.

Working with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and other United Nations agencies, UNICEF Ukraine improved staff and partner capacities for emergency preparedness and response through regular training activities and the development of contingency plans.

Evidence generation, policy dialogue and advocacy

Evidence generation, advocacy and policy dialogue are key strategies in the UNICEF Ukraine Country Programme.

In 2015, a study on the impact of socio-economic changes on the social vulnerability of children in Ukraine was completed. The main recommendations were widely used in the development of the draft National Poverty Reduction Strategy. The Strategy aims at the gradual reduction of poverty and social exclusion by creating an enabling environment for reducing unemployment, increasing incomes, improving access to social services for high-risk groups and developing equity-based social assistance schemes. For the first time, the Strategy also includes a section on child poverty, as well as related child poverty indicators.

UNICEF Ukraine continued to support the generation of evidence on the cost-effectiveness of social services. The findings were used extensively in the ongoing policy dialogue with the Ministry of Social Policy and the Ministry of Education and Science. In particular, the results of

the analysis delivered by the Academy of Finance informed the development of the draft amendments to the Budget Code of Ukraine. A draft law on social services was developed with UNICEF Ukraine technical assistance and submitted to Parliament for adoption. These policy initiatives aim to operationalize the market of social services and accelerate the development of community-based social services.

The year 2015 was a challenging year for children's rights in Ukraine. UNICEF Ukraine continued to advocate strongly with the Government, civil society and the donor community for the rights of children in armed conflict. The gathering of information on children affected by the conflict has enabled the establishment of a regular monitoring mechanism with the Ombudsman Office and civil society.

The polio crisis also offered the opportunity to strengthen advocacy and policy dialogue around the urgency of reforming the national procurement system and the relevance of vaccination.

Partnerships

In 2015, UNICEF Ukraine significantly expanded its partnerships with the private sector. In particular, the emergency response provided an opportunity to strengthen and integrate corporate engagement combining programmatic cooperation and resource mobilization.

Within the framework of the global partnership, UNICEF Ukraine cooperated with the LEGO Foundation to promote quality early learning through play for conflict-affected children in Ukraine. In 2015, psychologists and teachers from 110 kindergartens and schools in Eastern Ukraine were trained, and more than 1,600 LEGO charity boxes were donated to support play and early childhood development opportunities for more than 18,000 children in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. Proctor & Gamble donated US\$400,000 (both in-kind and cash) to support the WASH programme in Eastern Ukraine, namely the provision of hygiene supplies to conflict-affected children and families. SAP, the ING Group and the American Chamber of Commerce donated funds to support UNICEF Ukraine's regular and emergency programmes for children.

UNICEF Ukraine intensified its partnerships with celebrities and opinion-makers. Top music bands BoomBox and PianoBoy engaged with youth and promoted the #FightUnfair and Imagine initiatives. Football celebrities helped to support the children's rights agenda within the framework of UNICEF's cooperation with the Football Federation of Ukraine.

UNICEF Ukraine collaborated extensively with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative to stop the polio outbreak. As a member of the initiative, UNICEF contributed to the response with funds, human resources and by supporting the vaccine procurement, communication and capacity building components of the response.

External communication and public advocacy

UNICEF Ukraine's position as a trusted independent voice for the rights of vulnerable children was strengthened through integrated digital and traditional media outreach, new partnerships and public advocacy. As a result, according to the latest WIN/Gallup survey, the brand awareness of UNICEF Ukraine increased by 22 per cent in 2015, and trust in the organization increased by 31 per cent. These results showed the most improvement of all countries measured.

In 2015, communication interventions on key programme issues generated positive coverage in the Ukrainian media (more than 1,300 stories). Moreover, global audiences were reached with

information on the challenges faced by conflict-affected children, as well as the UNICEF emergency response in the country, through regular interviews with international media (e.g. CNN, Reuters, Mashable, the British Broadcasting Corporation, DW, the Associated Press and Agence France Presse), press briefings in the Palais des Nations in Geneva and regular placement of UNICEF Ukraine content on UNICEF's global website, blog and social media accounts.

UNICEF Ukraine successfully released the Ukrainian version of the song, 'Imagine', which had more than 115,000 views within its first three days on YouTube, and organized the #FightUnfair for #EveryChild Youth Forum, which included the participation of more than 100 young people from all over the country who addressed the Government to protect children's rights through an online petition.

Investment in expanding UNICEF Ukraine's social media presence and web-based communication continued in 2015. In addition to the UNICEF Ukraine blog and website, three priority social media platforms – Facebook, Twitter and Vkontakte – reached more than 93,000 people, demonstrating the growing recognition of UNICEF Ukraine.

As part of the polio outbreak response, UNICEF Ukraine and partners implemented a communication and social mobilization strategy, including crisis communication interventions. Through digital communication, more than 3 million people aged 24 to 50 were reached with messages on polio risks and the importance of vaccination.

South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation

In 2015, UNICEF Ukraine and UNICEF Bulgaria established a partnership in the area of social service reform and de-institutionalization. Bulgaria's experience with reforming its social services, especially strategic planning for social services, as well as the development and implementation of large-scale de-institutionalization strategies initiated in 2010, proved to be highly relevant for Ukraine given its ongoing social service reform and its association with the European Union.

Representatives of the Ukrainian Ministry of Social Policy, Ministry of Finance, the Office of the Presidential Commissioner for Child Rights and the non-governmental organization (NGO) community undertook a study tour to Bulgaria to explore social service reform and de-institutionalization. Subsequently, the partnership continued with Bulgarian experts coming to Ukraine to assist in developing community needs assessment instruments and broader planning strategies for social services. The Bulgarian experience motivated Ukrainian state partners to focus on linking their social services strategy with a clear de-institutionalization strategy and to their actions for entering the European Union.

Identification and promotion of innovation

In 2015, UNICEF Ukraine continued to strengthen its use of innovations to ensure social mobilization, real-time monitoring and the participation of young people. To increase HIV testing and counselling among young people, UNICEF Ukraine implemented a two-wave digital C4D 'Get Tested' Campaign that has reached more than 800,000 youth to date. To ensure broad outreach, two interactive websites were developed in 2015. Among the young people accessing the websites, 30,000 adolescents were engaged with the interactive content and received information about HIV testing and prevention. Some 5,500 young people were directly engaged with the motivating content and received direct messages with the address of the nearest HIV testing clinic.

Another innovative strategy was the establishment of an online platform for research, data, capacity building and best practice exchange. To date, the platform has increased the knowledge of approximately 8,000 community professionals on adolescent health. UNICEF Ukraine has also initiated the introduction of U-Report as a platform for youth participation and broader real-time social monitoring. U-Report uses RapidPro to ensure youth participation and polling through short message service (SMS).

These innovations use channels of communication that have been proven effective with young people to conduct outreach and participation and use youth-friendly problem-solving techniques. It is expected that the U-Report platform will provide invaluable real-time monitoring data on youth that will help UNICEF Ukraine and the Government better tailor youth-related strategies, policies and programmes.

Support to integration and cross-sectoral linkages

The needs of children are comprehensive and cross-sectoral in nature. Work in social sector reform requires coordination with other interlinking reform processes, such as Ukraine's poverty and human rights strategies, the decentralization process and health- and education-sector reform processes. Recognizing this cross-sectoral need, UNICEF Ukraine has initiated a social protection platform comprised of specialists and colleagues from civil society organizations that will work with line ministry partners to coordinate responses among the different reform processes. This will serve as a clearing house for information exchange and for linking the social sector reform process with other reforms in health, education and decentralization.

A cross-sectoral approach has also been applied to the development of early intervention services. Effective early intervention requires coordination with the health and social protection sectors as well as with the education sector for identification and referral.

One of the major lessons learned was the need to merge the emergency response programme and the regular programme. It is expected that system weaknesses further exacerbated by the conflict will be addressed both to ensure emergency response and recovery and to achieve overall long-term resilience and system strengthening. The deeper the overlap between the regular and emergency programme component is, the better the long-term impact of the current humanitarian efforts will be.

Human rights-based approach to cooperation

UNICEF Ukraine finalized the situation analysis in mid-2015 by applying human rights-based and results-based planning in cooperation with partners. The document analysed deprivation patterns affecting children and capacity gaps on the side of rights holders and duty bearers.

The subsequently conducted MTR established approaches to mitigate equity gaps and shortcomings in the realization of children's rights. The revised post-MTR Country Programme explicitly aims to support those who have obligations to respect, protect and fulfil rights by helping them develop their capacities to do so.

Acting from a humanitarian imperative, UNICEF Ukraine identified gaps where stakeholders and duty bearers fell short of comprehensively responding to the situation of women and children suffering the worst deprivations due to the conflict. A significant focus of the Country Programme has therefore been to support children and women affected by the conflict with access to education, protection services, safe drinking water and hygiene items.

UNICEF Ukraine addressed one of the key elements of the human rights-based approach to programming, by helping those with rights develop their capacity to claim their rights. This was done by supporting the participation of the most-at-risk adolescents as rights holders during all stages of the programming for developing the pilots at five most-at-risk adolescent project sites. OneMinutesJr video-making workshops were facilitated to provide tools in the fight against stigma and ensure that voices of vulnerable children are heard. This allowed children affected by the conflict and youth in detention to make their voices heard in a participatory way.

UNICEF Ukraine supported the Government to develop the Human Rights Strategy (adopted 25 August 2015) and its action plan, which will serve as a strategic roadmap for addressing human rights gaps in a comprehensive, coherent and coordinated manner. The draft National Poverty Reduction Strategy is based on UNICEF-supported research on the impact of socio-economic changes on children.

Gender mainstreaming and equality

Gender equality has been a central issue throughout the Country Programme, which aims to ensure that policies, programmes, partnerships and advocacy efforts contribute to poverty reduction and the achievement of the MDGs for the protection, survival and development of girls and boys on an equal basis.

In 2015, all activities introduced gender-responsive, comprehensive and integrated services that addressed the needs of the most vulnerable. An example is a comprehensive psychosocial support programme developed to reach conflict-affected children and adolescents with specific attention to differences in impact upon boys and girls and different age groups.

As a member of the United Nations Thematic Working Group on Gender, and within the emergency context, UNICEF Ukraine continued to participate actively in the gender-based violence protection sub-cluster and initiated an internal discussion on the most effective engagement in this area based on the UNICEF comparative advantage. Within the framework of the '16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence', UNICEF and partners conducted a series of education and advocacy events, targeting the elimination of violence against women, girls and boys.

UNICEF Ukraine continued to collect better gender-disaggregated data. A gender component was built into research on the impact of socio-economic changes on the social vulnerabilities of children aimed at reducing child poverty and disparities. Evidence generated on the most-at-risk adolescents and HIV service delivery models was documented and influenced the roll-out of the 'All In!' UNICEF most-at-risk adolescents initiative for adolescent boys and girls in Ukraine. A child-protection monitoring framework was established in 2015. Assessment and monitoring of child protection issues were initiated in regards to the conflict (with particular attention to children in state institutions and those evacuated from both non-government and government-controlled areas).

Environmental sustainability

UNICEF Ukraine does not systematically conduct an environmental impact assessment of its interventions, likely due to the nature of its work in Ukraine, where the primary focus of the Country Programme is on policy and advocacy work. The recovery following the emergency situation caused by the conflict in the East is an opportunity for UNICEF and its partners to look at the overall programme through an environmental lens and consider the increased impact of

climate change. Even given climate change, however, Ukraine is at very low risk of natural disasters. As a part of overall office management, more emphasis has been placed on reducing office waste, recycling and optimizing energy consumption in the office.

Effective leadership

The 2015 Annual Management Review meeting examined UNICEF Ukraine's 2014 performance against the established management indicators. In 2015, UNICEF Ukraine made an effort to address identified areas for improvement, which pertained mainly to timeliness and overall implementation rates of management processes and risk-control mechanisms.

In 2015, the Country Management Team (CMT) met regularly to review top-line management indicators pertaining to the programme and management performance. Action points were systematically reviewed in subsequent meetings. In 2015, the CMT action point completion rate was 80 per cent. The CMT undertook a number of measures to maintain programme and operations efficiency vis-à-vis the situation in Eastern Ukraine, as well as the continuously expanding UNICEF Ukraine team. The progressively unstable situation in non-government controlled areas prompted UNICEF Ukraine to strengthen its business continuity and enterprise risk management strategy with regards to emergency preparedness, staff security training, budgeting for security equipment purchases and maintenance, as well as strengthening of United Nations Coherence in these areas to ensure reliable back-up solutions.

Critical risks were identified by UNICEF Ukraine and fed into the risk profile, together with the respective action plan. For example, the risk of local currency depreciation, leading to devaluation of local salaries could result in staff demotivation, high turnover and loss of capacity. To counteract this, a detailed mitigation plan was developed by the Local Salaries Survey Committee and the United Nations Country Team Operations Management Team (OMT) and was successfully implemented in mid-2015.

The MTR conducted in 2015 identified a number of areas to be strengthened within the remainder of the Country Programme. Recommendations to strengthen the areas of social protection, knowledge management, C4D and partnership resulted in subsequent recommended changes to the Country Programme Management Plan (CPMP), which were established jointly with the local staff association and the Joint Programme Coordinator and discussed openly with all office staff. The amended CPMP was approved by the programme budget review in late 2015.

Financial resources management

In 2015, the CMT continued to act as one of the key UNICEF Ukraine governance bodies. During each CMT meeting, management indicators were reviewed, including for donor reports monitoring, budget implementation, contributions management and monitoring of the liquidation of direct cash transfers. Performance management dashboard and Virtual Integrated System of Information (VISION) reports were used as regular monitoring tools. Donor reporting was thorough, in accordance with the grant requirements and conditions. In order to ensure accurate and high quality reporting to various donors, UNICEF Ukraine further applied the Donor Quality Management System, enabling the reports to pass the control and verification stages before timely submission to donors. No serious deviations deserving immediate action were observed during the year.

Budget implementation was regularly monitored at the CMT, programme, emergency and operations meetings. The budget review included all types of budgets, looking into the

implementation progress against the defined annual plan for grants and closely examining the expiring grants. While ensuring the all-time complete grant utilization, UNICEF Ukraine paid special attention to the grants of the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO), the Government of Japan and OCHA Central Emergency Response Fund grants, which were to be fully spent by the grant expiry dates.

UNICEF Ukraine managed to timely and effectively utilize all types of resources, including institutional budget, regular resources, other resources and other resources emergency. In-kind contributions and donations (mainly from Proctor & Gamble, SAP and the ING Group) were duly agreed to and cleared by the relevant colleagues in the Division of Private Fundraising and Partnerships, with whom communication was constantly maintained in 2015.

The bank reconciliation process is well established and was performed accurately each month, with no deviations or challenges. UNICEF Ukraine carried out the monthly and year-end closure of accounts in line with the requirement, with no deviations. UNICEF Ukraine had no outstanding direct cash transfers exceeding six months.

Funds utilization was at the following level: institutional budget – 100 per cent; regular resources – 100 per cent; other resources emergency – 100 per cent; other resources regular – 97 per cent; and other – 97 per cent.

Fundraising and donor relations

Owing to a well-composed mix of targeted short-, medium- and long-term programme goals and the proven ability to deliver on planned results, UNICEF Ukraine experienced a continued growth in bilateral contributions from major donors, topping the amount of US\$36.1 million in resources received in 2015, which constitutes a tripling of resources compared with the US\$10.26 million received in 2014.

UNICEF Ukraine pursued systematic engagement with a group of donors that were identified as the 'core donor group' and for which a number of joint field trips, official ceremonies and solid media coverage was provided. All donor reports were processed through the established quality assurance mechanism and were on time.

Coordination and expertise provided by the cluster heads proved vital to marking UNICEF's position as leader in the areas of child and social protection, WASH and education. Regular briefings were frequently provided by the Representative, Deputy Representative and Emergency Coordinator for donor missions that benefited from this coordination.

High visibility, constant and targeted engagement and overall well-maintained donor-steward relationships also led to an increase in the amount of funding received from private and corporate donors, from US\$550,000 in 2014 to over US\$5 million in 2015. Of this amount received in 2015, roughly US\$1.2 million were in-kind donations for the ongoing emergency programme in Eastern Ukraine.

UNICEF Ukraine continues to ensure the long-term and lasting effect of contributions received in the context of the crisis response, which is also given high priority by most donors. The overall amount of contributions aimed at rehabilitation and sustainable development has been increasing constantly. By the end of 2015, UNICEF Ukraine was approximately US\$1 million short of reaching the other resources ceiling and will request an increase in the other resources ceiling in early 2016.

Evaluation

Overall performance of the evaluation function was good, with few but high-quality evaluations produced as needed.

The Plan for Research, Impact Monitoring and Evaluation (PRIME) (formerly the Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan) was developed in the beginning of the year and its implementation was closely monitored. In 2015, the status of PRIME activities was documented regularly and reviewed on a monthly basis during CMT meetings. As of mid-December 2015, 62.5 per cent (10 PRIME activities) were fully completed with final reports available; 6 per cent (one activity) had been postponed to 2016; and 31.5 per cent (five activities) were being finalized.

The most recent evaluation of prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and improving neonatal outcomes among drug-dependent pregnant women and the children born to them was completed in late 2014. The evaluation's recommendations and lessons learned shaped HIV programme interventions during the year. In particular, outreach to drug-dependent pregnant women was strengthened with special attention to non-government controlled areas and respective services were improved.

Efficiency gains and cost savings

In 2015, UNICEF Ukraine continued to focus on efficiency gains in all possible areas, which included achieving cost savings. The targeted areas were as follows:

- Virtual no-cost modalities for training (Agora (UNICEF learning module) system, specialized online courses, WebEx sessions), meetings, teleconferences, interviews and other kinds of briefings/discussion
- Avoiding the additional work load and consumption of related administrative maintenance resources through the utilization of common services (for travel, translation, communication, procurement, human resources expertise, etc.)
- Arrangement of United Nations logistical hubs (common premises) in the field to ensure respective United Nations (UNICEF among them) presence for providing immediate crisis response. Savings were achieved through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) acting as administrative agent, which released UNICEF from this responsibility. Additional efficiency and savings were obtained through cost-shared budgeting, based on the rented space.

The 'best value for money' principle was continuously observed in UNICEF Ukraine procurement related to:

- Acquiring goods and services competitively unless there was no clear evidence to the contrary (sole source, continuation of the service, tender offer remaining valid as per the regulations)
- Avoiding unnecessary purchases (purchase requisitions were approved by the respective authority)
- Ensuring that beneficiary needs are met and not exceeded (clear specifications were received from partners)
- Ensuring joint orders through section collaboration, where applicable (for events, delivery, etc.)

- Streamlining the procurement process (through revised processes) and finance process (through non-delayed payment upon the confirmation of goods received).

Supply management

The supply component functioned effectively in 2015. Major activities included local procurement of different commodities, offshore procurement (ensuring quick delivery of emergency supplies), procurement services and in-country logistics. The total value of supplies received in 2015 was US\$16,446,023.

In terms of in-country logistics, UNICEF Ukraine expanded its warehousing capacity by using a warehouse provided by the Government, a commercial pharmaceutical warehouse for medicines, and the state enterprise Ukrvaccine warehouse for vaccine storage. Strategic sourcing was realized through the establishment of local long-term agreements for transportation services, the assessment of implementing partners, various types of kits and contracting major local manufacturers. United Nations logistic cluster services were used for storage, transportation and operational support. The value of the inventory of programme supplies controlled by UNICEF Ukraine, recorded as being physically in the warehouse as of 31 December 2015, was US\$121,043, out of which US\$11,597 was for supplies pre-positioned for emergencies. The value of programme supplies issued from the local warehouse controlled by UNICEF Ukraine in 2015 was US\$4,559,899. The total value of supplies managed in UNICEF Ukraine's controlled warehouse was US\$4,680,943.

UNICEF Ukraine supplied 1,260,550 doses of oral polio vaccine in response to the polio outbreak and cooperated with the Government on in-country logistics. In terms of strategic partnership with state enterprises, UNICEF Ukraine is working on developing capacity by supplying cold chain equipment.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between UNICEF Ukraine and the Ministry of Health for the procurement of ARV medications and vaccines. UNICEF Ukraine has implemented emergency funding from the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and supplied a total of 54 cubic metres/13,370 kilograms of ARV medications and diagnostics to the non-government controlled areas in Eastern Ukraine in cooperation with the logistics cluster and other United Nations agencies.

UNICEF successfully cooperated with the LEGO Foundation, Proctor & Gamble and AbbVie Logistics B.V. and received in-kind contributions for the cumulative amount of US\$909,300.

Security for staff and premises

UNICEF Ukraine focused extensively on managing and enhancing the safety and security of staff and premises in 2015. UNICEF Ukraine managed to ensure the following strategic measures to strengthen safety and security:

- Ensuring field office compliance with the Minimum Operating Security Standards through 1) implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS) security assessments; and 2) ensuring all of the key elements of the Minimum Operating Security Standards compliance were in place. This was regularly monitored by UNDSS and the OMT.
- Conducting regular briefings/sharing the relevant security information to keep the staff updated and aware of the steps required under different security-affected conditions.

The UNICEF Ukraine security focal point remained accessible 24 hours per day, seven days per week to address security incidents and/or escalate incidents to UNDSS or the UNICEF Operations Centre. UNDSS provided detailed security briefings for all new staff and experts on mission. Respective updates of security operation procedures for crisis-affected zones were disseminated.

- Ensuring the availability of security-related equipment, including armoured vehicles, satellite phones, communications terminals, personal protective equipment, emergency trauma bags, global positioning service (GPS) navigation units and very high frequency (VHF) radios. In 2015, UNICEF Ukraine ordered three additional armoured vehicles as well as six soft-skin four-wheel drive vehicles to effectively implement operations in Eastern Ukraine. Cooperation with other United Nations agencies in Ukraine was also actively used for joint convoys or borrowing armoured vehicles for critical missions.

Office cars were equipped with GPS navigators. VHF radios were procured to ensure mission safety. New safety and security equipment was identified and requests were sent (and approved) to UNICEF Headquarters in New York for security funds.

In September 2015, a mission was arranged by UNICEF Office of the Security Coordinator to visit field offices in Ukraine, check on their security status and provide relevant recommendations. A list of steps to be implemented was provided to UNDSS and UNICEF Ukraine, the realization of which began immediately.

Human resources

Following the 2014 programme budget review approval, UNICEF Ukraine completed the Emergency Response Team in Kyiv and in the field. The human resources fast track was applied, which significantly facilitated the recruitment process. Recruiting WASH staff was the most challenging due to the lack of appropriate local expertise in line with UNICEF standards. The stand-by partner and an international consultancy filled the gap.

The need for specific, in-depth VISION training for staff was defined, so that the skills could be freely applied to effectively follow up on grant monitoring and quickly identify solutions for VISION challenges.

Following the MTR, UNICEF Ukraine prepared a CPMP submission that was approved in October 2015. Changes recommended through the MTR were thereby introduced into the UNICEF Ukraine organizational structure. Later in the fourth quarter of 2015, UNICEF Ukraine received funds from Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), which required further modifications to the staffing structure.

Throughout the year, UNICEF Ukraine was grateful to receive valuable support for various functions within and beyond the region. Stand-by partner expertise was also used, but to a lesser extent than in 2014.

The performance management cycle was properly observed, with regular open Performance Appraisal System discussions. These were encouraged not only in regards to the defined milestones but also as often as needed to ensure that any performance challenges were addressed.

The local Staff Association rigorously followed up on the Global Staff Survey results by planning a staff counsellor visit, reviewing the inception package and providing a recap of the overtime

policy. Staff salaries were revised during the Comprehensive Salary Survey and returned to competitive levels.

UNICEF Ukraine is committed to UN Cares, which ensured that the 10 minimum standards on HIV in the workplace were implemented.

Effective use of information and communication technology

The information and communication technology (ICT) function focused on maintaining and improving UNICEF Ukraine's reliable and secure infrastructure and granting access to corporate applications. This was aimed at efficiently and effectively supporting UNICEF Ukraine's business continuity in line with the latest UNICEF standards. In order to ensure this with due quality, the ICT unit carried out the following activities:

- Modified and increased the information technology infrastructure triggered by UNICEF Ukraine's extension of operations, both in Kiev and in the field. The field office (United Nations logistical hub) infrastructure is administered by UNDP in line with the signed Memorandum of Understanding for each location.
- Maintained and checked the connectivity of key office and infrastructure applications, including VISION, Office Hyper-V, Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol server, Client Bank, back-up internet connectivity channel, virtual servers data back-up, etc.
- Cooperated with reliable telecommunications support companies.
- Supported the Broadband Global Area Network terminal, the procurement and activation of additional Iridium satellite terminals and ultra-high frequency Motorola radio stations.
- Unified communications and collaboration (Voice-over Internet Protocol services, Polycom, Skype) enabled UNICEF Ukraine to guarantee cost-effective and high-quality staff communication within and beyond the region, resulting in time and cost savings.

ICT resources were extensively engaged in the implementation of open-source and mobile tools with partners through Skype conferences, arranging remote financial assessment if no physical access was possible and utilizing social media platforms for information sharing.

UNICEF Ukraine effectively took advantage of social media, in particular, Facebook, Twitter, VKontakte, LinkedIn, Instagram, etc. for supporting the efficiency of the communication function, sharing information, strengthening visibility and assisting the human resources function through vacancy advertisements.

UNICEF Ukraine successfully continued to chair the ICT Working Group to ensure a proper qualified crisis response and to streamline ICT process across United Nations agencies.

Programme components from the Results Assessment Module

ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

OUTCOME 1 Programme support

Analytical statement of progress:

UNICEF Ukraine effectively implemented the 2015 Programme Management and Operations Support Strategy, which led to the following results:

- Maintained an effective and results-ensuring governance system through the effective functioning of office committees, the mid-year budget review and optimization through important cost-saving initiatives; promoted participatory decision-making; updated the risk profile.
- Managed key processes through VISION.
- Completed the UNICEF Ukraine team to ensure proper and immediate crisis response. Staffing gaps were covered by stand-by partners and expertise from or beyond the region.
- Ensured further focus on cost savings.
- Enabled the effective functioning of the Operations manager as the OMT chairperson, which enabled the OMT to work coherently and achieve key results, including the comprehensive review of salaries, the establishment of logistical hubs in the field and the improvement of common processes and joint fundraising.

OUTPUT 1 Governance and systems

Analytical statement of progress:

The oversight structures were provided through the Annual Management Review, the Mid Term Review , Country Management Team meetings, programme and operations meetings and emergency meetings. Monitoring mechanisms were rationally distributed between the mentioned meetings, and the CMT oversaw the implementation rates and accountability structures. All of the office committees established for 2015 functioned well.

Business continuity and emergency preparedness remains critical due to the unpredictability of the security situation and the further deepening of the crisis in eastern Ukraine.

Emergency preparedness was monitored:

- The vehicle fleet was maintained, in compliance with security requirements for arranging missions to authorized crisis-affected areas. Three additional armoured vehicles were procured.
- Satellite phones and necessary security equipment were made available.
- Staff compliance in security certification and security standard operating procedures
- Recommendations from the Security Specialist monitoring visit were implemented.

OUTPUT 2 Financial resources and stewardship

Analytical statement of progress:

The effective and efficient management and stewardship of financial resources was significantly impacted by external factors, which UNICEF Ukraine took into account when reviewing its operations strategy (including the crisis response). These factors included local currency depreciation and growing inflation, as well as critical changes in the banking system, which had a strong impact on market activities.

The budget was regularly monitored using the reports in the VISION system and the performance management dashboard.

Scheduled audits were completed as planned. A tender for identifying long-term agreement holders for micro-assessment was held, and holders were selected respectively.

Planned financial assessments were completed. UNICEF Ukraine continuously explored cost savings in all possible areas.

OUTPUT 3 Human capacity

Analytical statement of progress:

UNICEF Ukraine did its best to complete the team to be professionally equipped to provide the crisis response. In October 2015, the programme budget review approved the UNICEF Ukraine CPMP with the modified organizational structure.

UNICEF Ukraine has an established Local Training Plan that was formed based on the individual development plans discussed and approved within the Performance Appraisal System planning. Performance Appraisal System discussions were timely, as much as possible, and focused on staff development and workloads under the current conditions, given that staff are significantly affected by the deteriorating crisis situation (morally and in terms of workload).

UNICEF Ukraine took an active part in the Local Salary Survey Committee , which contributed to the successful finalization of the comprehensive salary survey.

OUTCOME 2 Government of Ukraine is supported in its effort to reduce social exclusion and disparities at the national and sub-national levels.

Analytical statement of progress:

After a number of years of capacity building, lobbying, evidence generation and advocacy, in 2015, a set of laws, policies and strategies to decrease social exclusion and poverty were introduced in Ukraine. UNICEF Ukraine research on social vulnerabilities in the context of the crisis has been directly linked to the National Poverty Reduction Strategy and the Cabinet of Ministers resolutions targeting poverty and social vulnerabilities among the internally displaced population, both of which were developed in 2015. The progress of the National Poverty Reduction Strategy and the Cabinet of Ministers' resolutions can be attributed to the progress made towards the Convention on the Rights of the Child recommendation number 18, which is in line with the Country Programme outcome to decrease social exclusion and disparities affecting children. This positive trend is encapsulated within the National Plan of Action for Children, which was developed by the Government of Ukraine and which received a relatively good funding base in 2015 of US\$19.5 million. This achievement is a direct match to the Convention on the Rights of the Child recommendation number 14.

With the described planned course of action and in terms of results generated towards Regional Knowledge and Leadership Agenda 8, impact level results for the reduction of child poverty can be expected within the next Country Programme cycle. A critical prerequisite for this, however, will be an improved mechanism to measure monetary poverty on the household level in a longitudinal way. To improve the above, first steps have been taken by UNICEF Ukraine in collaboration with the State Statistics Office that will be systematically expanded in 2016.

Progress has been slow towards establishing specialized social services to reduce social vulnerability. UNICEF Ukraine continued to apply a mixture of strategies to import knowledge and expertise from other countries, develop governance tools for a reformed social service system and bring together key ministries and NGOs to collaborate on this agenda. However, the pace of these developments remains far behind the expectations. UNICEF Ukraine remains committed and will continue to push the reform agenda for specialized social services, drawing from a growing base of civil society organizations that provide specialized social services for individuals affected by the crisis.

OUTPUT 1 The Ministry of Social Policy, in collaboration with relevant development partners, ensures a functioning governance system (including coordination, monitoring, reporting and follow-up) over the key institutional changes at the national level that are needed to address outstanding the Convention on the Rights of the Child recommendations 12, 14 and 18 (Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)/C/UKR/CO3-4).

Analytical statement of progress:

The work on governance for children continued to address critical bottlenecks to preventing the achievement of system-level results for children, such as the unavailability of up-to-date evidence to inform policy decisions, the lack of coordination among policy makers and weak monitoring of child rights by government agencies.

In 2015, a study entitled ‘The impact of social and economic changes on the factors of social vulnerability of children in Ukraine’ was carried out. The study analysed the impact of socio-economic factors on poverty trends and the results informed the development of the new National Poverty Reduction Strategy.

On a policy front, the draft National Poverty Reduction Strategy and the National Plan of Action for implementing the Strategy during the 2016-2017 period were developed. The Strategy determines the goal, stages and strategic directions of poverty reduction and prevention through 2020. The Strategy aims at a gradual reduction of poverty and social exclusion through the following: 1) shaping conditions for improving the employment rate; 2) increasing incomes; 3) improving access to social services for groups at high risk of social exclusion; 4) allocating all types of social assistance in a socially just manner; and 5) preventing negative impacts on people affected by the hostilities.

During the period under review, the inter-ministerial Commission for Child Rights continued to function as a platform for the development of a coordinated policy response on different issues affecting children and families. Two meetings of the Commission were held in 2015 that focused on the social and legal protection of children who have fled from the area of armed conflict; review of international cooperation in the area of child rights; Ukraine’s cooperation with international organizations; the ratification and implementation of the Hague Adoption Convention; and the adoption of a report on the situation of children in Ukraine. The Commission’s decisions provided an important framework for coordinated policy development, implementation and monitoring and will further shape policy responses to the issues affecting children and families in Ukraine.

The National Plan of Action for Children 2015, which was developed with support from UNICEF Ukraine, was adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers in August 2015 (CRC Recommendation Number 14). In addition, approximately US\$19.5 million was allocated for the implementation of the Plan. This was particularly important given the current fiscal constraints and the overall reduction of social benefits and privileges. The National Plan of Action promotes a holistic and comprehensive approach to child policy implementation, has produced tangible results for vulnerable children and has generated significant budget resources since its adoption as a law in 2009.

New changes in the procedure for the appointment of state social assistance to low-income families were adopted on 26 August 2015 with Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine Number 638 (CRC Recommendation Number 18). The amount of social assistance was increased for each child, but non-monetary aspects of social protection (social services to the most vulnerable) still need to be improved.

OUTPUT 2 The Ministry of Social Policy oversees fully funded policy framework that focuses on the protection of families and prevention of institutionalization of children

Analytical statement of progress:

With the continuing conflict in eastern Ukraine, the need to enhance protection environments for children and their families has made efforts to reform Ukraine's social services even more critical. Although the conflict has delayed the reform, important steps have been agreed upon with the Ministry of Social Policy and the Ministry of Finance. This output addresses key structural bottlenecks in social services reform, such as out-dated and ineffective mechanisms for financing social services and a lack of community and family-based alternatives to the placement of children in institutions.

In 2015, changes in the top management of partner line ministries required UNICEF Ukraine to rebuild its partnerships with the new heads of the Ministry of Social Policy and the Ministry of Finance and establish plans for the next steps in Ukraine's social service reform. Working with UNICEF Bulgaria, UNICEF Ukraine fostered a South-South partnership on social protection reforms, wherein key partners from the Ministry of Social Policy and the Ministry of Finance participated in a study tour to Sofia, Bulgaria to exchange ideas with their Bulgarian counterparts in the development of social service tools. This partnership built momentum in the reform process, with commitments from partners at the Ministry of Social Policy to develop new strategies on social services and de-institutionalization.

In order to make funding more flexible and encourage the development of community-based social care services, UNICEF Ukraine continued to work on a new social service funding model by developing a methodology for costing social services that has been tested in two regions – Lviv and Chernihiv. Use of the tool was tested through its application in the social services context, for children/families in difficult life circumstances. The costing methodology is a critical component of the newly developed funding model for which a work plan has been established and will be piloted with the Ministry of Social Policy and the Ministry of Finance. At the same time, steps were taken to enhance the capacities of local administrations and specialists in the pilot regions to apply the new financing for social service mechanisms.

In terms of governance, UNICEF Ukraine, the Ministry of Social Policy and Ukrainian and Bulgarian experts fine-tuned a community-needs assessment tool for annual planning, assessment and testing with two local administrations in order to define specific types and scopes of services required for various clients (children, people with disabilities, the elderly, etc.). An action plan for the development of a long-term planning strategy for social services was developed to provide links between the annual tool and the strategy planning process. To advance a more cohesive approach to Ukraine's social service reform, in late 2015, UNICEF Ukraine and NGO and international partners established a platform for reviewing and coordinating social policy initiatives and linking this reform process with other interrelated processes such as decentralization, health and education reform, and de-institutionalization. The first task of the platform is to take stock of reform actions to-date and propose recommendations to key stakeholders for next steps.

OUTCOME 3 The Government of Ukraine's response to the conflict in Eastern Ukraine is supported through interventions in WASH, child protection, education and health sectors

Analytical statement of progress:

The situation in Eastern Ukraine remains volatile despite the signing of Minsk II in February 2015, the ceasefire agreed to by all parties to the conflict in September 2015 and the progress

made towards the de-escalation of the conflict. Over 3 million people are currently affected. Children are particularly vulnerable, with families exposed to significant hardship related to protracted and often multiple displacements and the depletion of coping mechanisms and savings.

UNICEF supports the most vulnerable children and their families in Eastern Ukraine through its five field offices, including the offices in the non-government controlled territories of Luhansk and Donetsk, , and by engaging with community-based partners operating in conflict-affected areas. UNICEF Ukraine works with schools and community centres as well as through mobile teams to ensure access to services and support the well-being of conflict-affected children, including those in remote areas and at the front-lines.

In 2015, UNICEF Ukraine provided access to safe water for some 820,000 people through the provision of critical treatment chemicals and infrastructure reconstruction and provided hygiene supplies to more than 70,000 people.

In addition to providing vaccines and technical support for the polio vaccination of nearly 1.7 million children, UNICEF Ukraine reached 130,000 people through the distribution of basic emergency health kits. Some 13,500 women and children were supported with midwifery kits, which include medicines, medical equipment and consumables for maternity wards. UNICEF Ukraine supported the HIV testing of 12,700 pregnant women in non-government controlled areas and provided ARVs to prevent mother-to-child transmission to 200 women who tested positive for HIV. In addition, 7,773 people in non-government controlled areas were provided with ARV treatment.

UNICEF Ukraine provided psychological support and counselling to more than 57,000 children and trained nearly 6,000 community professionals on the identification of children's stress due to the ongoing conflict. More than 35,000 children and women participated in activities within safe spaces provided by UNICEF Ukraine aimed at encouraging family unity and well-being.

To increase access to education for the most vulnerable conflict-affected children, UNICEF Ukraine supported the ongoing rehabilitation of 45 damaged schools in Donetsk and Luhansk government-controlled areas. UNICEF Ukraine actively engaged in and provided educational support to more than 200,000 children, offering psycho-social support and other educational support where needed.

Nearly 250,000 children were reached with life-saving mine risk education information and 115,000 people were reached with hygiene and sanitation promotion messages. An additional 73,400 mothers gained knowledge on the benefits of breastfeeding in emergencies.

Despite the limited access for United Nations agencies, including UNICEF, to the non-government controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk and challenges to the delivery of humanitarian aid, particularly to the most vulnerable children and their families, UNICEF Ukraine will continue to work with affected communities to provide necessary support and protect the rights of the children in the non-government controlled areas.

OUTPUT 1 Girls, boys and women in affected areas have protected and reliable access to sufficient, safe water and sanitation and hygiene facilities

Analytical statement of progress:

The provision of liquefied chlorine gas to all water filter stations in the government-controlled area of Donetsk ensured that more than 1 million people are receiving potable water. While UNICEF Ukraine has only been able to provide chlorine to the government-controlled areas, about one third of the people reached live in the non-government controlled area because the water mains cross the contact line. In Luhansk, UNICEF Ukraine has supported an ongoing water-trucking operation reaching more than 65,000 people in those cities where repair to the water supplies cannot be carried out due to the ongoing conflict. The provision of various pipes and pumps restored water for approximately 50,000 people in the non-government controlled areas of Donetsk. Three mobile package water treatment plants were provided to the government-controlled Donetsk oblast, and, when all else failed, bottled water was provided to nearly 30,000 people on both sides of the front line. Finally, chemicals and reagents were provided to both Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts to ensure that water quality surveillance could continue.

Nearly 36,000 hygiene kits were supplied to the most vulnerable displaced persons and those along both sides of the front line in the so-called contact areas. An additional 177,000 hygiene items were provided as an in-kind donation by Proctor & Gamble. Taken together, more than 150,000 people benefited from these items. To compliment this effort, a hygiene promotion campaign was conducted, including interpersonal communication at the time of distribution, reinforced by a mass media campaign.

OUTPUT 2 Girls' and boys' rights to protection from violence, abuse and exploitation are sustained and promoted

Analytical statement of progress:

The conflict in Ukraine has severely weakened the child protective environment. The conflict has brought separation from families, extreme stress on their caregivers and has weakened the formal child protection system. Lack of a policy framework and lack of supervision in children's institutions leaves the most marginalized child groups unprotected and potentially more exposed to harm and other violations. Furthermore, the conflict has led to social fragmentation, family separation, economic problems, unaddressed psychological needs and an unclear future, which can cause social tensions and conflict within communities and families.

To address these needs, UNICEF Ukraine and NGO and government partners have developed protective responses with particular attention to psychosocial intervention. In 2015, around 50,000 children and 28,416 caregivers benefited from psychosocial support through community-based and school-based interventions. Out of this number, 2,329 children and 161 caregivers living in highly conflicted-affected areas were reached with psychosocial interventions through mobile outreach teams. Sixteen community protection centres were established in the five eastern oblasts most affected by the conflict, providing protective services to children and caregivers including legal assistance, psychosocial support, employment assistance, humanitarian aid and other information outreach. At the same time, the national public campaign, '[Words Help](#)', which focused on psychosocial support for children, reached 50,000 children and caregivers through outdoor advertisement, social media and the dissemination of resource materials. An additional 320,324 children and caregivers received information on psychosocial support, mine risk education and nutrition and hygiene messages, to learn how to change their behaviour to better support themselves and others.

At the same time, crisis counselling was provided through the child hotline service, where more than 20,000 calls were received for 2015, with 94.1 per cent of the calls coming directly from girls and boys. So far, 426 school psychologists have been trained to identify and respond to

children's heightened distress and an additional 4,716 school psychologists, teachers and parents learned about psychosocial support approaches. With these specialists, more than 11,000 children and caregivers received short-term psychosocial interventions. The project's effectiveness was shown through a pre- and post-survey of children in the Donetsk affected areas. Prior to the intervention, 37.5 per cent of the children interviewed showed high levels of distress, whereas after the two-month intervention, this percentage dropped to 11.3 per cent. The Ministry of Education and Science approved the programme to become part of their in-service training for school psychologists.

Another key component of the child protection response to the conflict is the monitoring of child rights. Challenges have been faced due to reduced access to the non-government controlled areas and difficulty providing humanitarian support. However, UNICEF Ukraine collaborated with NGO partners to monitor the protection issues of some of the most vulnerable groups of children, such as children in institutions. UNICEF Ukraine is placing high attention on this issue and will continue to strengthen its monitoring capacities in order to better inform its programme development and uphold critical protection rights.

OUTPUT 3 Girls and boys access safe and secure education and critical information for their own well-being

Analytical statement of progress:

In 2015, UNICEF Ukraine provided 203,700 children most affected by the conflict with locally procured education kits (27,067) and school supplies distributed to IDP settlements, local schools and NGOs in affected non-governmental and government-controlled areas. UNICEF Ukraine has embarked on rehabilitating 45 schools and kindergartens in the government-controlled areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and purchased and delivered the required new furniture, WASH supplies and sports equipment to 45 rehabilitated schools. As a result, 18,000 children will have a safe learning environment in the renovated schools and kindergartens. The same children also received school bags during the first month of the school year.

UNICEF Ukraine has procured supplies that will be delivered to kindergartens in the three oblasts with the highest number of internally displaced persons – Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia. The supplies include furniture, textiles, sports equipment and development toys for the 12 kindergartens with the largest number of internally displaced children in these three regions. In total, up to 1,000 children will receive access to pre-school education with the above-mentioned assistance.

In partnership with the LEGO Foundation, UNICEF Ukraine developed a programme with education facilities in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Under the programme, some 1,600 kits were distributed to the education facilities, and trainings were provided to almost 200 teachers, educators and caregivers to use play as a tool for children's learning and provide stress and trauma treatment for severely affected children aged 2 to 9 years. The programme was implemented in 120 education facilities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, attended by nearly 20,000 children.

UNICEF reached 247,900 children with information on mine and unexploded ordnance risks and safe habits.

OUTPUT 4 Children and families in affected areas are protected from negative effect of humanitarian crisis on their health and nutrition status

Analytical statement of progress:

Conflict and displacement negatively affects the health and development of young children. Decreasing breastfeeding rates due to conflict-related stress, suboptimal nutrition of the mother, increased use of breast milk substitutes and bottles with teats, especially where access to safe water is impeded, and introducing baby foods too early or too late all carry risks of increased morbidity and mortality of infants and young children. UNICEF Ukraine's crisis-related programmes and activities in 2015 focused on assuring that infants and young children affected by the crisis receive optimal nutrition by supporting and promoting breastfeeding as well as working with partners to provide appropriate complementary foods for infants and their families to ensure optimal growth and development and prevent disease. UNICEF Ukraine conducted assessments to gauge the impact of the crisis on infant feeding, formulated tailored evidence-based messages addressing critical behavioural challenges, and developed educational materials promoting appropriate breastfeeding and supplementary feeding practices delivered to more than 30,000 families with infants and young children under 2 years. UNICEF Ukraine also worked with major partners delivering large amounts of complementary baby food packages to conflict-affected populations to prevent indiscriminate distribution of infant formula and tailor the content of food baskets to optimally support breastfeeding mothers and promote the growth and development of young children. As a result, the major partner delivering more than 90 per cent of all baby food packages in the conflict zone changed its strategy, stopping the indiscriminate distribution of baby formula and instead providing nutritious foods to support lactating mothers. Monitoring of baby food distribution activities to affected populations is ongoing to prevent violations of international regulations on breast milk substitute distribution by other volunteer, faith-based organizations and NGOs. UNICEF Ukraine is also working with major nutrition partners and the Ministry of Health to build their capacities to support optimal breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices and prevent excess infant morbidity and mortality.

OUTPUT 5 Coordination and monitoring conflict-affected areas: Humanitarian response is coordinated in collaboration with government and other national/international partners.

Analytical statement of progress:

Following the activation of the cluster system in late December 2014, UNICEF leads the WASH and education clusters, as well as the child protection and nutrition sub-clusters. Clusters continue to be the primary area for coordinating and planning activities with partners and national authorities. UNICEF Ukraine's expertise, technical knowledge, tools and processes were instrumental in shaping the cluster and sub-cluster responses to the crisis, as well as in coordinating the response in conflict-affected areas of Eastern Ukraine.

To enhance coordination at the field level with local government bodies, NGOs and civil society representatives, UNICEF Ukraine expanded its field presence in early 2015, and by the end of the summer, six zone offices were present in Kharkiv, Kramatorsk, Mariupol and Dnipropetrovsk, as well as Donetsk and Luhansk. In the Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia regions, UNICEF Ukraine worked closely with the regional education authorities to identify strategies to address the shortage of capacity for kindergarten instruction, which resulted in pilot projects where UNICEF Ukraine provided infrastructure and material support, and municipalities integrated the new classes into the budgets. Through its field presence, UNICEF Ukraine continues to advocate for the community-based approach to providing vulnerable children and their families with needed support. In coordination with partners, UNICEF Ukraine has the long-term strategy to build a large support system where teachers, psychologists, social workers and parents can learn how to identify and support positive coping mechanisms for conflict-related stress. This strategy is being implemented in 120 schools,

kindergartens and a network of 16 community-protection centres in Eastern Ukraine.

In the non-government controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk, UNICEF Ukraine maintained good working relationships with stakeholders in key areas that allowed the deliveries of life-saving ARV drugs for the treatment of HIV infection among adults and children and for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, as well as WASH activities, limited psychosocial support and mine risk education.

UNICEF Ukraine works closely with local authorities as well as with the water utility companies providing piped water to 4 million people in conflict-affected areas. UNICEF Ukraine also works with these utility companies and local authorities to prioritize key infrastructure repairs of conflict-related damage, upgrades of distribution systems, and to build community resilience to water shortages including key institutions such as schools and health facilities. Building the capacities of local NGOs as well as coordination and partnerships with international NGOs, local governments and United Nations agencies provided opportunities for strengthening local systems to provide support for the most vulnerable children and their families.