Ukraine

In eastern Ukraine, some 3.4 million people, including 430,000 boys and girls, are living along the 420-km contact line. These people are bearing the brunt of the five-year, protracted conflict, with direct threats to their physical and mental well-being, and limited access to basic services. In one of the world’s most mine-contaminated areas, fear of stepping on a landmine is a daily reality for conflict-affected communities. The area is also prone to freezing temperatures in winter, which further increases vulnerability. Water infrastructure is relentlessly damaged in 2019 compared with 16 in 2018. With no resolution in sight, children and their families require continuous psychosocial support and protection services, including for gender-based violence and violence against children. Ensuring access to basic services, including safe water supply, sanitation, hygiene and education, remains a priority. Given the disturbingly low immunization rates and high HIV prevalence, access to essential health services, especially for children and women living with HIV, is of critical importance.

Humanitarian strategy

In 2020 and 2021, UNICEF’s strategy in Ukraine will focus on protecting children and realizing child rights on both sides of the contact line. Responding to the urgent needs of 800,000 children and their families, UNICEF will continue to strengthen social protection and psychosocial support, as well as health, education and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services. The capacities of local professionals, authorities and civil society actors will be enhanced to strengthen preparedness and accountability to affected children. UNICEF will improve access to quality, inclusive, age- and gender-sensitive social services for children and families to increase their resilience to protection-related risks, including through cash-based interventions. UNICEF will work with humanitarian partners to target those closest to the contact line, while also strengthening educational and community-based systems to support those impacted by the conflict. This bridging of humanitarian action and development programming will be central to UNICEF’s approach. As lead agency for the WASH and education clusters and the child protection sub-cluster, UNICEF will continue to advocate with parties to the conflict to comply with international humanitarian law and child rights standards. This includes intensifying advocacy efforts with the Government to endorse and implement the Safe Schools Declaration.

Results from 2019

As of 31 August 2019, UNICEF had US$7.1 million available against the US$21.1 million appeal (33 per cent funded). The provision of water treatment chemicals and pipes to water utility companies facilitated uninterrupted access to safe water for 1.3 million people. Over 90,000 children, women and persons with disabilities benefited from hygiene promotion activities and the distribution of hygiene kits. After comprehensive assessments, UNICEF completed the rehabilitation of seven educational facilities in areas along the contact line, ensuring safer learning environments for over 3,000 children and reaching some 7,100 children and educators with life-skills education. Mental health and psychosocial support services reached more than 25,000 children, youth and caregivers, and over 25,000 children and families received mine risk education. UNICEF also carried out the first-ever needs assessment on mine victims. Mobile teams provided psychosocial support and referral services to over 1,500 survivors of gender-based violence, trained over 900 community professionals; and provided awareness and prevention sessions to 3,500 people. UNICEF supported 1,000 vulnerable women and children under 5 years through an e-voucher system, while a polio campaign for three cohorts in non-government controlled areas (NGCAs) is planned for late 2019. Over 500 children living with HIV received comprehensive care services.

Humanitarian Action for Children
UNICEF 2019 targets

Cluster 2019 targets
Cluster total results
UNICEF 2019 targets
UNICEF total results

**HEALTH AND NUTRITION**

- Mothers and children under 5 years benefiting from direct health service provision: 1,300,000
- Pregnant and lactating women reached with infant and young child feeding counseling: 2,000
- Health facilities supported with the provision of medical supplies and equipment: 0
- Immunization coverage of diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, measles, mumps, rubella and polio vaccines: Not available

**WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE**

- People benefiting from repairs/maintenance/replacement of the pipes/tanks/pumps of existing centralized piped water supply systems: 1,223,832
- People reached with hygiene promotion messages: 2,000,000
- People in social institutions benefiting from direct improvements to the reliable provision of sufficient water of adequate quality: 127,500

**CHILD PROTECTION**

- Boys, girls and caregivers reached with mental health and psychosocial support: 50,000
- Community professionals gained enhanced capacity on child protection risks and vulnerabilities: 1,300,000
- Children and their families receiving mine risk education: 110,000

**EDUCATION**

- Children in conflict-affected areas have access to basic education and early childhood education and care: 200,000
- Boys, girls and educators received life-skills education and information on educational options: 10,500

**HIV AND AIDS**

- Pregnant women provided with HIV diagnostic tests to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV: Not available
- Parents living with HIV with access to uninterrupted antiretroviral treatment: 200

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**Funding requirements**

In line with the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan, UNICEF is seeking US$9.8 million to respond to the needs of conflict-affected children and families in Ukraine. UNICEF is sharpening its focus on those most in need of assistance and protection, especially in NGCAS. This funding will enable UNICEF to fulfill its commitments to children on access to education, WASH, psychosocial support, health and HIV and AIDS services. Humanitarian initiatives will be complemented by development efforts to strengthen capacities. In 2021, UNICEF will monitor how the situation evolves and adjust its funding requirements accordingly.

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1 All UNICEF results are as of 31 August 2019. All sector results are as of 30 June 2019, as clusters report on a quarterly basis.

2 Although results are low as of 31 August, UNICEF is in the final stages of planning a polio vaccination campaign for children in NGCAS, which will benefit over 50,000 children in 2019.

3 WASH sector targets and results are set and reported against the cumulative indicator of “number people benefiting from WASH interventions,” covering water supply, hygiene awareness and kit distribution and improvements of WASH facilities in social institutions.

4 Targets were overachieved due to an extension of UNICEF’s core funding in this area, allowing UNICEF to support key water facilities with chemicals for water treatment for 12 months instead of the seven months planned.

5 Results on WASH rehabilitation of conflict-affected social institutions are lower than the targets due to the chronic lack of funding for WASH in general, and for these activities in particular.

6 Child protection sector targets and results are set and reported against the cumulative indicator of “number children, caregivers and community professionals benefiting from child protection services,” covering psychosocial support, training of community professionals and mine risk education.

7 In relation to the provision of psychosocial support, UNICEF is facing funding challenges, as well as the limited absorption and technical capacity of partners in NGCAS, and the high sensitivity of the local authorities, requiring low-profile intervention modalities.

8 The lower than planned results for mine risk education are due to the late arrival of funding but will be compensated for through the intensification of activities in the last quarter of the year.

9 Due to limited data availability, UNICEF estimated the targets. During implementation, UNICEF has identified and supported greater numbers of patients living with HIV.

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**Sector**

**2020 requirements (US$)**

- Health: 610,000
- Water, sanitation and hygiene: 3,700,000
- Child protection: 2,000,000
- Education: 2,424,000
- HIV and AIDS: 500,000
- Cluster/sector coordination: 600,000
- **Total**: 9,834,000

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2 While the 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview estimates that 545,000 children living in conflict-affected areas are in need, only 430,000 children in need live in the 20-km zone on both sides of the contact line of separation in NGCAS, which have been prioritized by UNICEF.

3 Since the beginning of the conflict in February 2014, through 15 May 2019, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) recorded a total of 3,033 civilian deaths, including 147 children. Taking into account the 298 deaths following the crash of Malaysian Airlines flight MH17 in July 2014, the total civilian death toll of the conflict is at least 3,331. The number of injured civilians is estimated to exceed 7,000. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Report on the Human Rights Situation in Ukraine 16 February to 15 May 2019, OHCHR.

4 According to UNICEF SCORE 2018, among adolescents aged 13 to 17 in Donetsk and Luhansk regions (government-controlled areas) 16.7 per cent of girls and 10.3 per cent of boys were at risk of developing clinical levels of anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, self-harm and suicidality; and, 8.5 per cent of girls and 18.5 per cent of boys displayed high levels of behavioral problems such as delinquency, physical aggression, substance use and risky sexual behavior.


6 According to UNICEF’s Needs Assessment on Mine Victims, of the 1,582 casualties of landmine/explosive remnants of war explosions, 119 were children (73 mine/explosive remnants of war accidents), of whom 105 child victims (64 accidents) were in Luhansk and Donetsk regions (65 per cent in NGCAS).

7 This is based on the WASH target, which is the highest of all programme targets. Women/girls represent 54 per cent (432,000) and men/boys represent 46 per cent (368,000) (State Statistics Department).

8 This figure is based on the WASH target, which is the highest of all programme targets. Women/girls represent 54 per cent (432,000) and men/boys represent 46 per cent (368,000) (State Statistics Department).

9 The Sanitary Epidemiological Services Department reported 99 diarrhoeal cases, out of which 73 are children, from 12 to 15 April 2019 in Ivanopillia, Pleschiivka, Dyliivka and Oleksandro-Shultyne (Donetsk region), after the disruption of water supply due to intentional power cuts at Voda Donbassa facilities.

10 This was calculated based on 16 per cent of the total WASH target, which is 128,000 (16 per cent being the ratio of children according to the 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview). This includes 48 per cent girls (61,400) and 52 per cent boys (66,500).

11 Direct health provision includes immunization, among other health services.

12 This includes 30,000 children benefiting from face-to-face sessions with trained community professionals.

13 Due to limited data availability, UNICEF estimates the targets. During implementation, UNICEF has identified and supported greater numbers of patients living with HIV.