



Ukraine CO

Humanitarian Situation Report



SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Highlights

- A temporary solution was found to maintain the water supply to 1.2 million people in Luhansk Oblast, affected when the electricity supply to the Popasnyanskyi Vodokanal system was cut off on 26 September. It is urgent however to apply more permanent solutions to the payment of utilities crossing the contact line.
- UNICEF supported the repair works in 20 settlements close to the contact line, ensuring the continued provision of safe water to 18,375 people.
- On 4 October, in cooperation with the City Council of Mariupol and Mariupol Vodokanal, UNICEF launched the 'Social Water' project to provide free drinking water to schools, kindergartens and hospitals, and low-cost drinking water to vulnerable people as identified by the Municipality. Approximately 40-50,000 children will benefit from this project.
- UNICEF distributed 4,000 educational kits to 25 schools, school furniture for 70 classrooms, 40 water storage tanks, and 705 midwifery kits in the Donetsk Oblast non-government controlled area (NGCA).
- Initial findings from an ongoing UNICEF assessment indicate that there are at least 42,000 children living within 15 km of the front line from both sides. Many of them have to spend time frequently in bomb shelters and basements, and suffer high levels of psychosocial trauma as a result.
- Since the beginning of 2016, 3,842 teachers, 420 school psychologists and 112 social workers from eastern Ukraine were trained to gain knowledge and skills in providing psychological support to school-aged children.

1-31 October 2016

580,000

of children affected out of

3,700,000

of people affected

(HAC January 2016)

Internally displaced

235,667

of children affected

1,696,697

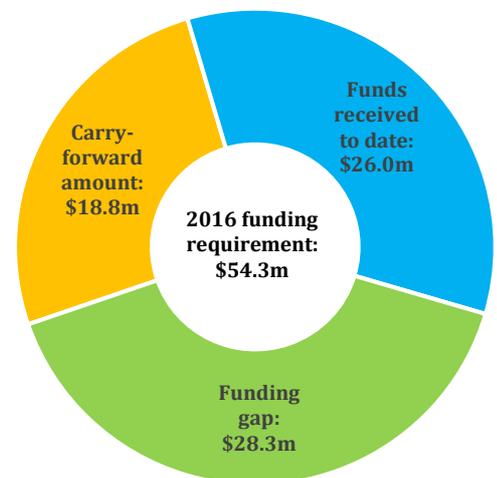
of registered IDPs

(Ministry of Social Policy, 29 September 2016)

UNICEF Appeal 2016*

US\$ 54.3 million

2016 Funds Available



UNICEF's Response with partners

Sector	UNICEF Number of beneficiaries		Sector/Cluster	
	UNICEF Target	Cumulative results (#)	Cluster Target	Cumulative results (#)
WASH	1,200,000	2,523,524	1,700,000	2,610,478
Education	300,000	142,466	tbc	167,650
Health	400,000	tbc	tbc	tbc
Nutrition	80,000	43,879	80,000	45,863
Child Protection	400,000	207,753	tbc	224,546
HIV/AIDS	30,000	33,079	30,000	33,079

*tbc = to be confirmed.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Despite the 'ceasefire' negotiated in early September and the 'separation of forces' in October, heavy weapons and armed formations have yet to be withdrawn from the contact line. During the reporting period, there was an increase in ceasefire violations compared with the previous month, especially in the area around Mariupol. There were 66 casualties recorded by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), including eight killed and 58 injured. This is three times higher than the level of the previous month.¹ It is hoped that talks, which took place in Berlin on 19-20 October under the 'Normandy Format,' involving France, Germany, Ukraine and Russia, will provide renewed impetus to the implementation of the Minsk Accords.

Access for humanitarian organizations to non-government controlled areas (NGCA) remains a concern. However, the volume of the international humanitarian assistance reaching the most vulnerable populations in the Donetsk NGCA has increased, with transports being allowed on a case-by-case basis. During the reporting period, UNICEF provided educational supplies and equipment to Donetsk NGCA and distributed school furniture for 70 classrooms, 4,000 educational kits, 705 midwifery kits and 40 water storage tanks.

The crisis continues to weaken the protective environment around children, increasing their vulnerability. It is estimated that at least 42,000 children are living in areas within 15km of the contact line, of whom 36,000 are of school age, frequently looking for safety in basements and bomb shelters. UNICEF continued to support the child protection response, in partnership with local civil society organisations.

Access to water on both sides of the contact line continues to be frequently interrupted for varying lengths of time, posing a humanitarian risk, which is difficult to mitigate, given the size and complexity of the system. On 4 October, a temporary solution was found to restart the water supply for the 1.2 million people in Luhansk NGCA whose water had been cut off for 8 days in end September/early October. However, this arrangement will expire at the beginning of December, raising the need for a longer-term solution. Voda Donbassa, the main water supplier to over four million people in Donetsk Oblast had its bank accounts frozen on 12 October due to non-payment of electricity bills (around \$5 million, but with significantly larger long-term debts). Voda Donbassa continues to operate thanks to fuel supplied by ICRC, with UNICEF delivering necessary chemical supplies. The fact that there have now been two similar cases where payment problems have threatened the water supply, underlines the need to advocate for permanent solutions to be found for water utilities on both sides of the contact line, and for the debts of utility companies to be restructured. The consequences of not doing so would be extremely severe for the five million people directly affected, and might cause problems for Ukraine as a whole, if people felt the need to move en masse due to a water supply shortage.

The key health- and nutrition-related concerns continue to be the lack of health care professionals (up to 50 per cent in some areas), interrupted state funding and supply of medical consumables and drugs - all of which hamper access to basic health care services. Primary health care services are largely unavailable, especially in the rural areas and near the contact line. People in affected areas have difficulty obtaining medicines due to shortages and increasing drug prices. In order to have a Ukrainian birth registration, pregnant women are obliged to travel and give birth in maternity units in the GCA, which exposes them to long queues at checkpoints. The de facto authorities are reporting availability of vaccines in NGCAs as an issue of great concern.

October saw a sudden drop in temperature as winter approaches, raising concerns about the humanitarian situation in the conflict-affected area, given the number of damaged houses caused by recent fighting in eastern Ukraine, as well as interruptions to electricity, water and gas supplies. UN agencies including UNICEF, its partners and local authorities have commenced supporting winterisation efforts. Of high concern to UNICEF is the lack of heating systems in kindergartens, schools, maternity units and primary healthcare centres. There is a financial gap, which prevents this issue from being addressed appropriately.

¹ In September 2016, OHCHR recorded 22 conflict-related civilian casualties: eight killed and 14 injured.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

The WASH and Education Clusters, and the Child Protection and Nutrition Sub-clusters continued to contribute to the development of proposals, objectives and criteria for the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO). As part of ongoing consultations, an all-day workshop was held on 26 October, led by the Humanitarian Coordinator and OCHA, attended by all the Cluster Coordinators, the UN Humanitarian Country Team, donors, NGOs and other partners. The Clusters also participated in three cross-sectoral field consultations organized by OCHA in Sieverodonetsk, Kramatorsk, and in Donetsk NGCA. The WASH Cluster advocated for a resolution to the situation at Popasnyanskyi Vodokanal and continues to advocate for a more durable solution that can allow for payments across the contact line.

The Education Cluster team completed the first round of data collection for the school-level humanitarian needs survey in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts (GCA), in conjunction with the Oblast-level departments of education. A total of 657 education facilities participated in the survey, including 425 schools, 20 orphanages, 160 kindergartens, 20 afterschool education facilities and 32 technical colleges. The main preliminary analysis and findings were included in the draft of the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO). The Education Cluster, UNICEF and Save the Children also participated in a series of meetings on determining the messaging and strategy to promote and facilitate the signing of the Safe School Declaration.

In October, UNICEF participated in a working group under the Mine Action Sub-cluster on injuries surveillance from mines and explosive remnants of war (ERWs). A methodology was presented for establishing the mechanisms of data collection within the health system. UNICEF also shared with partners the data collection forms to be used at the primary level for the collection of data. The methodology and forms comply with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and Information Management System (IMSMA) requirements.

Humanitarian Strategy

UNICEF continues to implement the overall strategy to meet humanitarian needs and promote early recovery and rehabilitation. 1.5 million conflict-affected people, including 400,000 children, are supported through UNICEF field offices in Kramatorsk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, and Mariupol, and a field presence in Luhansk. In total, the country office employs four international and 24 national staff in the field. UNICEF works with partner organizations, schools, community centres and through mobile teams to ensure access to services and support the well-being of conflict-affected children. Mine risk education (MRE) is provided to populations at risk. Access to safe drinking water continues through the provision of critical treatment chemicals, rehabilitation of infrastructure, provision of alternative sources and WASH supplies. UNICEF promotes the basic principles of infant and young child feeding in emergencies, and continues to lead the WASH and Education Clusters and the Child Protection and Nutrition Sub-clusters. It also contributes to the Health Cluster and the HIV/AIDS and Mine Action Sub-clusters.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

During the reporting period, UNICEF continued to supply chemicals to water treatment facilities and maintained its strategy of securing water provision through repair and construction works of water supply infrastructure in conflict-affected settlements in the government controlled areas (GCA) and NGCA. UNICEF partners carried out repair works in 20 settlements close to the contact line, ensuring the continued provision of safe water to 18,375 people. In places with a need for emergency water provision, UNICEF partners conducted water trucking, benefiting 9,212 people in Donetsk Oblast GCA.

The distribution of hygiene kits and hygiene promotion activities to support the needs of the most vulnerable people also continued. A total of 4,388 people received hygiene supplies in October, including 3,470 children and 450 women. In total, 3,502 hygiene kits were distributed.

On 4 October, UNICEF, together with the City Council of Mariupol and Mariupol Vodokanal, launched the 'Social Water' project to provide free drinking water to social institutions such as schools, kindergartens and hospitals, and low-cost drinking water to people who are registered with the Mariupol City Social Services as being in social need. It is estimated

that between 40,000 and 50,000 children could benefit from this project from now until the end of the project in March 2017.

There is an urgent need for educational supplies and equipment along the contact line and in the Donetsk and Luhansk NGCA. Following negotiations with the authorities there, UNICEF responded to this need and delivered educational kits through a local partner to 25 schools, benefiting 4,000 children. Supplies including furniture, bedlinen, developmental toys and playground materials were also delivered to 16 preschool institutions situated near the contact line in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, (GCA), benefiting 2,000 young children.

During October 2016, the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy conducted the final 16 trainings for teachers and school psychologists in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts (GCA), attended by 312 participants. Since the beginning of the project in November 2015, 3,842 teachers, 420 school psychologists and 112 social workers have attended trainings in five eastern Oblasts of Ukraine. The trainings are part of a series aimed at providing education professionals with new techniques and methodologies to provide support to students experiencing war trauma, as well as for resolving conflict situations and reducing tension among students, teachers, and parents.

The UNICEF-supported hotline run by the NGO 'La Strada,' which provides information, psychological and legal assistance to children, their parents and guardians, received a total of 1,527 calls from children, and 411 calls from caregivers. Continuing the trend of the past few months, there was another reported increase in the number of domestic violence cases by demobilised soldiers during October. The referral system is continuing to function and provide support where needed.

Community Protection Centres (CPCs), operating in communities on both sides of the contact line, reported an increased demand for the services of psychologists and speech therapists for children who are experiencing anxiety and inability to concentrate. CPCs and mobile teams in the towns of Krasnohorivka and Mariinka, which have experienced frequent shelling, reported that children had 'got used' to shelling and developed a false sense of security as a coping strategy.

Communications for Development

In cooperation with the Ministry of Health, UNICEF conducted a high-level roundtable on immunization to mark World Polio Day on 24 October. Participants in the roundtable included the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Health, the Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine, and prominent international experts. Wide media coverage of the event, (more than 50 articles) highlighted the fact that promoting the take-up of immunization in Ukraine is a priority for the government.

UNICEF conducted a media event at the Kyiv City polyclinic with the US and Canadian Ambassadors, the Minister of Health and the Mayor of Kyiv, in support of the immunization programme and international procurement. The event generated a large amount of positive media coverage, with over 100 reports in national and regional media.

Supply and Logistics

Through the Logistics Cluster, supplies for WASH and Education were delivered in Donetsk, as reported above.

Media and External Communication

Within the framework of UNICEF's Sport for Development programme, there was a public launch of the first UNICEF Volleyball Cup competition for 3,500 schoolchildren (from host communities and displaced population), in five eastern Oblasts - Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia. The opening of the tournament on 3 October took place in Kharkiv, and games played in the five Oblasts during the month have received regular coverage in regional and district media channels.

Security

In eastern Ukraine, violations of the ceasefire continued to be reported, especially in the area to the north and west of Mariupol. The security level in the rest of Ukraine remained relatively calm. Marches by a variety of political, military and religious organisations on the Day of Defenders (14 October) occurred peacefully, thanks to a large security presence, avoiding the violence that had marred last year's event, during which four people were killed.

Funding Requirements (as defined in Humanitarian Appeal 2016 for a period of 12 months)				
Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds received	Funding gap	
			\$	%
Nutrition	1,000,000		1,000,000	100%
Health	4,450,000		4,450,000	100%
Water, sanitation and hygiene	30,400,000	1,939,842	28,460,158	94%
Child protection	8,500,000	1,899,471	6,600,529	78%
Education	5,850,000	2,862,568	2,987,432	51%
HIV and AIDS**	3,500,000		3,500,000	100%
Cluster/sector coordination	600,000	533,913	66,087	11%
Sub-total	54,300,000	7,235,794	47,064,206	87%
Carry-forward to 2016		18,805,681		
Total funding available*		26,041,475		
Total	54,300,000	26,041,475	28,258,525	52%

Next SitRep: 06/12/2016

UNICEF Ukraine Crisis: www.unicef.org.ua

UNICEF Ukraine Crisis Facebook: www.facebook.com/unicef.ukraine

UNICEF Ukraine Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal: <http://www.unicef.org/appeals/>

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Annex A

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS

	Cluster Response			UNICEF and IPs		
	2016 Target	Total Results	Change since last report ▲▼	2016 Target	Total Results	Change since last report ▲▼
WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE						
Number of conflict-affected people who gained access to safe drinking water.	1,700,000	2,610,478	-	1,200,000	2,523,524	+27,587
Number of people with access to hygiene supplies.	412,500	351,299	+2,220	300,000	307,153	+4,568
EDUCATION						
Number of children who benefited from rehabilitated education infrastructure, life skills training and education supplies	TBC	167,650	+13,617	300,000	142,466	+6,222
HEALTH						
Number of children who received regular immunization through the enhancement of cold chain and vaccine distribution systems	TBC	TBC	-	400,000	0	-
Number of health professionals who gained increased knowledge and capacity for the implementation of public health campaigns	TBC	TBC	-	2,000	1,165	-
NUTRITION						
Pregnant or lactating women reached with infant and young child feeding counselling	80,000	45,863	-	80,000	43,879	-
CHILD PROTECTION						
Number of affected children, youth and caregivers provided with psychosocial support	TBC	224,546	+48,812	400,000	207,753	+17,653
Number of children and their families who received MRE	TBC	TBC	-	400,000	251,143	-
HIV and AIDS						
Number of pregnant women provided with tests for diagnostic of HIV to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV	30,000	33,079	+3,079	30,000	33,079	+3,079