Highlights

- During 2019, the situation in eastern Ukraine continued to be volatile and unpredictable. While the year saw less ceasefire violations compared to 2018, the number of attacks on civilian infrastructure remained high, with 88 reported incidents of shelling or small arms fire targeting WASH infrastructure and 36 such incidents affecting education facilities. Mines and unexploded remnants of war continued to be the cause of casualties among the civilian population.

- A new President and Parliament were elected by a landslide majority in, respectively, April and July 2019. This political change brought new hope and a new dynamic for eastern Ukraine, with the new President showing commitment to find a solution to end the six-year long conflict. Recent negotiations with the Russian Federation resulted in an exchange of prisoners, the re-establishment of the dialog through the Normandy Four Summit, and the disengagement of armed forces from three locations along the Line of Contact (LoC).

- In 2019, boys, girls and their families living on both sides of the LoC continued to require access to basic services, psychosocial support and protection. In response, UNICEF and its partners worked to ensure children and families had uninterrupted access to water, education and child protection services reaching over 1.7 million people (including children) with critically required humanitarian support.
UNICEF’s Response with Partners

Number of people in need: 3,000,000\(^2\) (2019 UNICEF HAC). Number of children in need of humanitarian assistance: 500,000\(^3\) (2019 UNICEF HAC).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector/Cluster</th>
<th>UNICEF 2019 Target</th>
<th>Cumulative Results (#)</th>
<th>Cluster Target</th>
<th>Cumulative Results (#)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
<td>260,494*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>24,800</td>
<td>2,069</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>1,967,828</td>
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<td>WASH</td>
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<td>1,638,316</td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
<td>257,328</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>170,000</td>
<td>77,165</td>
<td>200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
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<td>39,652</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>979</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

HEALTH

The ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine continued to cause considerable disruption to the health system in both Government-controlled areas (GCA) and Non-government-controlled areas (NGCA), marked by damage to health infrastructure, shortages of qualified personnel and increased risks for mortality and morbidity. During 2019, UNICEF made efforts to strengthen the health system in the conflict-affected areas of GCA in line with ongoing health reform. Using immunization as an entry point, UNICEF achieved positive systemic changes in the NGCA. To ensure proper, uninterrupted vaccine supply management at the regional level, UNICEF supported the opening and equipping of a new cold chain room in Donetsk Oblast, enabling effective storage of vaccines to cover immunization needs of 1.5 million people in the oblast, including 300,000 children.

During 2019, UNICEF supported several important capacity-building activities in close collaboration with regional health authorities and professional medical associations. Key highlights include a one-day workshop organized to introduce the Universal-Progressive Patronage Home-Visiting Model and enabling around 190 family doctors, nurses and healthcare managers to discuss how to adapt this model for the primary health care transformation and patronage services. UNICEF also supported training for 200 health professionals on immunization through which participants were able to refresh their knowledge on international recommendations for vaccination, organization of immunization campaigns, development of medical communication strategies and ensuring vaccine safety and managing side effects.

In the NGCA, following discussions with the de-facto authorities, gaps in polio vaccination were identified for about 50,430 of children. During the first half of 2019, UNICEF persistently negotiated the launch of a polio vaccination campaign. After reaching agreement, UNICEF procured and delivered 110,000 doses of inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) IMOVAX and essential cold chain equipment. 25 health facilities in

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\(^1\) The Cluster results are reported on a quarterly basis. The results in the table are as of September 2019.

\(^2\) Please note that the Health Cluster figure with * refers to “# of people benefiting from direct health services provision,” whereas UNICEF indicator reports on the # of mothers and children only.

\(^3\) While the 2019 HRP estimates that 700,000 children living in conflict-affected areas are in need, only 500,000 children in need live in the 20-kilometre zone on both sides of the Contact Line and in non-government-controlled areas.
Luhansk NGCA and 76 in Donetska NGCA received cold chain equipment (freezers, refrigerators, cold boxes and fridge-tags).

Ahead of the immunization campaign, UNICEF supported a workshop on the theme of "End-Game Polio Eradication" with more than 61 medical doctors receiving up-to-date information on immunization approaches and particularities of polio-vaccination.

By the end of the year, the de-facto authorities in Luhanska and Donetska NGCA had planned a second round of IPV vaccination for about 9,328 children who had received the first round, and a first round of IPV for about 41,102 additional children, with a second dose planned for early 2020. The immunization catch-up is supported by an information campaign and monitoring services provided by UNICEF. Due to the difficult operating environment and limited access to sites and communities, coverage numbers are still being confirmed.

UNICEF also supported an E-voucher programme for vulnerable families with children under 5, through which free medicine for children and pregnant and lactating women and medical kits for normal delivery as well as surgical kits for emergency cases, including through Caesarean-section, were provided. UNICEF reached 745 beneficiaries (501 children and 174 women) in NGCA and 264 beneficiaries (230 children and 34 adults) in GCA.

From the third quarter of 2019, UNICEF re-focused this program on HIV- and TB-affected children and their families in Donetska NGCA. To ensure smooth E-voucher provision, about 20 doctors specializing in HIV and TB care received information on proper drug prescription and software use, while a market analysis was conducted to select the best pharmacy network for this program. 498 HIV- and TB-affected children (246 girls and 252 boys) and 441 their parents (303 women and 138 men) received lifesaving medicines.

The target population continued to receive HIV prevention, care & support and psycho-social services at the level of households and in state care facilities. About 119 HIV positive children and 334 babies under 18 months old, born from HIV-positive mothers, received medical services provided by multidisciplinary clinical teams consisting of a medical doctor, nurse and social worker.

In partnership with Donetsk AIDS Center, UNICEF promoted and monitored HIV testing among pregnant women. In this period, about 11,341 women undergone the first testing, of which over 9,500 women underwent the second testing and about 9,100 did the third testing. As a result, UNICEF supported over 30,000 testing of pregnant women. UNICEF also supported capacity-building events for 160 medical service providers on new WHO recommendations related to the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT).

Continued psycho-social support was provided in Donetska NGCAs for 75 children living with HIV and 32 children with HIV/TB to overcome stigma, anxiety and to improve treatment adherence. 64 caregivers for HIV-positive children were also provided by psycho-social support services every month to ensure a safer environment in families affected by HIV. During the year, 53 adolescents were trained as volunteers and received refresher training as peers for their schoolmates. They provided HIV-related informational services for 6,000 children, aged 10 to 17, in Donetsk schools, while supporting weekly psycho-social support programs for 54 HIV-positive children in a government care facility. In addition, the adolescent volunteers supported weekly psycho-social support programs for 52 HIV-positive children in an orphanage home. In total during 2019, 729 children received HIV-related services, and 250 pregnant women and young mothers were supported to undergo HIV testing.
WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

In 2019, UNICEF ensured access to safe drinking water for 1,444,575 people in Donetsk and Luhansk oblast through the provision of water treatment chemicals to Voda Donbasu (January-October) and Popasna Vodokanal (January-July). UNICEF also supported key utility companies operating in NGCA with critical equipment, which will help in monitoring the water quality and enhance access to water for the affected population. In NGCAs of Luhansk oblast, the procurement and installation of a sodium hypochlorite production plant contributed to the improvement of access to safe drinking water for 100,000 residents of Alchevsk, Krasnyi Luch, Antratsyt and other settlements.

In NGCA, through the rehabilitation of toilets, heating system and water networks in 19 schools/kindergartens and seven healthcare facilities, over 9,500 children, teachers and patients received access to safe and decent sanitary facilities. In GCA, installation of water tanks in 26 educational institutions and the city primary health care centre in Bakhmut reduced water supply interruptions for 22,574 children and patients.

From June-December, UNICEF supported water trucking to two checkpoints in Mariinka and Pyshchevyk and a range of educational, health care and social institutions as well as other settlements located along the LoC with limited access to drinking water. Overall, 5,500 residents of the assisted villages and towns and around 84,500 people at the checkpoints benefitted from water trucking. As a specific emergency intervention, residents of several settlements that experience regular cuts of water supply also received bottled water in GCA.

The E-voucher hygiene programme continued for most vulnerable groups. In 2019, 10,368 households in 10 rayons (an administrative unit consisting of many villages and towns) located along the LoC received E-vouchers for hygiene supplies, including additional amounts to meet the needs of children, women of reproductive age, the disabled and elderly by covering the cost of baby products, menstrual hygiene supplies and diapers for adults. Overall, three rounds of distribution to the households were conducted in 2019. E-vouchers were also provided to 235 educational, healthcare and social institutions. Overall, 41,547 vulnerable individuals benefited from improved access to hygiene supplies while a total of 101 shops in towns and villages in GCA took part in the programme, benefiting the local small business. Additionally, 15,800 individuals from vulnerable households along the LoC who could not benefit from the E-voucher scheme received hygiene kits.

Hygiene promotion edutainment sessions were conducted in schools, kindergartens and recreation summer camps reaching 16,162 children. Additionally, over 300 teachers and kindergarten educators participated in the training and increased their knowledge of ways to communicate the hygiene promotion messages to children.

During the year, UNICEF also set new trends in community behaviour change. In May, a campaign was launched to raise awareness amongst youth on menstrual hygiene management (MHM), promote positive behaviour and address stigma. The U-Report polls on menstrual hygiene conducted in 2018 had raised the need to include the topic into UNICEF Ukraine agenda. The campaign included a digital component with YouTube Channel as a part of behavioural change campaign and featured famous Ukrainian pop-singer Michelle Andrade, the actors of popular TV series ‘School’ and a teen YouTube blogger, who were vocal in their communication with young audiences. The nationwide campaign on
MHM reached 454,364 individuals via Facebook and Instagram and 3,281,473 via YouTube (both male and female). Out of them, 379,572 users were from the conflict-affected areas (151,828 are aged 13-18).

According to the last U-Report poll on menstrual hygiene conducted in December 2019, 68 per cent of girls and 67.2 per cent of boys claimed to be looking at information on what they can/cannot do during menstruation. Among them, 24 per cent girls and 20.6 per cent boys received information through video. Moreover, 46.6 per cent children stated that teachers should feel free talking about this topic in schools while 44.3 per cent indicated they would like to see external experts involved in lessons, and 25.1 per cent would prefer the use of interactive teaching method for the lesson to be more interesting.

Finally, UNICEF continued to lead the WASH Cluster, contributing to the overall coordination of work of local and international organizations that are active in Eastern Ukraine, as well as contributing to the mapping of existing projects, services, initiatives, and advocacy. On the latter, the consolidated reporting mechanism to record any events relating to WASH facilities being impacted is still active, informing the national and international community on the matter.

**CHILD PROTECTION**

In 2019, UNICEF in cooperation with local and international implementing partners continued to provide pre-school, school and community-based psychosocial support (PSS) and other child protection services to around 40,000 children and their caregivers in Donetska and Luhanska Oblasts (both GCA and NGCA). Additionally, 12 UNICEF-supported mobile teams responded to around 4,000 cases of gender-based violence (GBV) and provided PSS first aid and protection services to more than 500 children affected by violence (including 15 children and 10 women with disabilities). The provided services included necessary survivor-friendly case management, PSS and referral services for boys, girls, women and men who suffered from different forms of violence in Donetska and Luhanska Oblasts (GCA).

Through capacity-building programmes implemented by partners, around 2,200 professionals and community members in eastern Ukraine increased their knowledge of child protection issues, specifically:

- Community professionals from police, child affairs services, and social services gained knowledge and skills to identify and address GBV and violence against children (VAC) cases;
- Educational, community professionals, caregivers gained knowledge on prevention and response to child protection risks and vulnerabilities; and
- Community professionals and child rights specialists, including staff from the Office of the Ombudsman, improved their knowledge on quality monitoring and response to child rights violations.

These trained professionals continued to receive regular face-to-face and online supervision to strengthen the gained knowledge and to obtain support in dealing with more complex issues. As a result, 1,350 individuals (boys, girls and their caregivers) benefitted from tailored mitigation activities aimed at reducing violence. Moreover, to address the increased level of violence cases in the east of the country, as well as challenges faced by adolescents, in 2019, UNICEF developed a training package on positive parenting. More than 600 parents and caregivers and their children benefited from sessions on positive parenting.

Through the partnership with Ukrainian Child Rights Network (a coalition of local NGOs) and with the engagement of staff of the Office of Ombudsman from Donetska and Luhanska GCA, monitoring was carried out in several institutions identifying child rights violations in residential care institutions. The
findings and the recommendations of the monitoring reports were used to advocate with local government for family-based alternative care models and promotion of community prevention services.

In late-2018, the Government approved the Mine Action Law as the guiding document for Mine Risk Education (MRE) and Mine Victims Assistance coordination and scaling up. Thus, in 2019, UNICEF continued to build knowledge and motivate safe practices related to mines and unexploded ordinance through C4D interventions. MRE activities directed at behaviour change were implemented through capacity building and awareness-raising covering around 37,000 children and their caregivers. Furthermore, in partnership with Danish Refugee Council-Danish Demining Group, a situation analysis on child mine victims and mapping of available services was conducted. This was the first-ever attempt to strengthen the protective environment for child mine victims through community support networks and awareness-raising, which contributes to the development of essential foundation blocks for a comprehensive child mine victim assistance in Ukraine. Within this intervention, 35 child and caregiver victims of landmines/ERW benefited from case management and targeted individual assistance.

UNICEF also joined efforts with other UN agencies updating the paper on challenges and recommendations for birth registration of children born in NGCA. This paper is included in the advocacy package on social cohesion shared with key national stakeholders and donors. Furthermore, UNICEF facilitated multiple discussions with the representatives of the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, CSOs and other relevant stakeholders in order to simplify and accelerate the process of registration of births and deaths.

Finally, UNICEF continued to lead the Child Protection Sub-Cluster, contributing to the overall coordination of work of local and international organizations that are active in the East, as well as contributing to the mapping of existing projects, services, initiatives, and advocacy. Concurrently, UNICEF contributed to the implementation of the emergency child protection programmes under the HRP and HAC, and development of new plans and programmes.

EDUCATION
In 2019, UNICEF’s Education in Emergency (EiE) response reached over 38,400 vulnerable school-aged children in NGCA and in areas along the LoC in GCA (0-20kms), providing them with educational supplies, school furniture and sports equipment. This programme also included the rehabilitation of schools in most critical need and capacity building of 680 teachers on identified priority topics (Life Skills Education (LSE), Conflict Sensitive Education (CSE), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)).

In total, UNICEF carried out emergency repairs in 22 educational facilities, 10 of which were within the 20 km zone of the LoC in GCA and a further 12 in NGCA. This benefitted 9,600 children and included the provision of educational supplies including sports equipment and school furniture. A further 17,400 children directly benefitted from the distribution of individual education kits and early childhood development (ECD) kits, of which 10,800 children live in NGCA in vulnerable situations. Some 200 winter clothing sets were distributed to the most vulnerable families as part of the programming.

On 20 November, Ukraine became the 100th country to endorse the Safe School Declaration (SSD). The landmark commitment follows four years of advocacy efforts by UNICEF and its partners and represents a milestone in ensuring safe, continuous access to education for school children in the conflicted affected areas of Ukraine. At the request of the Government, UNICEF provides policy advice, technical assistance and capacity-building assistance for the implementation of the SSD.
Based on evidence on the need for building resilience among adolescents, UNICEF supported regional and local education authorities on resilience and positive coping mechanisms for children affected by the conflict. Building on the success of the LSE curriculum for secondary school-aged children, UNICEF and its partner provided online and face-to-face training to 680 primary school teachers who subsequently integrated life-skills learning into curricular activities reaching over to 13,000 children in Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts, GCA. The in-service teacher training institutes of the oblasts trained another 1,250 teachers enabling the training of additional 18,000 children. UNICEF and its partners developed a Disaster Risk Reduction (DDR) approach aimed at mitigating the potential impact of conflict-related environmental and industrial hazards. The DDR program will be implemented jointly with Conflict Sensitive Education (CSE) capacity building program in 25 education facilities in 2020.

In 2019, UNICEF, together with Save the Children, co-led the Education Cluster coordinating over 20 Education Cluster partners alongside of regional education authorities. The Cluster developed its own strategy covering 2019-2020 in consultation with partners and in alignment with the multi-year Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). This Strategy is aimed at building a common understanding and commitment among partners, ensuring not only global minimum standards as our joint foundation but also that the context-specific standards are set, shared and adhered to.

COMMUNICATION
In 2019, UNICEF scaled up its communications about the situation of children in Ukraine, including the most vulnerable in the conflict-affected areas and UNICEF’s response, to drive support and stimulate local and international action to protect and improve the wellbeing of children in Ukraine. Humanitarian needs of children and families in Ukraine, attacks on schools and water infrastructures, as well as mine threads remained key topics for external communication and advocacy in 2019. Through the year, UNICEF Ukraine also continued to cover the situation of children living in conflict-affected areas on its social media channels reaching to over 145,000 followers.

UNICEF’s messages on eastern Ukraine were shared by such media outlets as AFP, BBC Xinhua, CNN, Voice of America, Radio Free Europe, Deutsche Welle, Le Monde and Reuters. This was enabled by organizing of several strategic media moments following incidents that affected children and families, particularly on water and education infrastructure, as well as the telling of engaging and compelling stories about children who have no option but to stay in these areas.

In addition to media outreach and digital products, UNICEF organized several awareness-raising and advocacy events to highlight the impact of attacks on water infrastructure on children and the risks faced by water workers. In March, UNICEF with support of the Government of Germany opened a photo exhibition entitled “Water Under Fire in the Kyiv downtown.” Ukraine was also featured in the UNICEF global advocacy report ‘Water Under Fire’ launched by UNICEF on World Water Day.

In July, UNICEF issued a global press release to highlight a recent increase of attacks on water and infrastructure objects in eastern Ukraine “Millions of people risk being cut off from safe water as hostilities escalate in Eastern Ukraine – UNICEF”. Advocacy around water needs continued during 2019 World Water Week when UNICEF Ukraine has developed a multimedia content package focusing on a family in frontline village in Luhansk, which had little choice but to use dirty water for cooking and laundry, as well as promoting the ongoing WASH projects and achievements.
In May 2019, Ukraine CO joined the UNICEF global advocacy efforts to promote the Safe Schools Declaration. Ahead of the Third Safe School Declaration Conference, UNICEF Ukraine issued a global press release about increasing numbers of attacks on education in eastern Ukraine, which was supported by a video about heavily damaged school in Lugansk region and mini web portal Schoolchildren caught in the crossfire, outlining stories of the conflict-affected community and response provided by UNICEF with ECHO funding. Ukraine was also featured in the UNICEF global multimedia project The class of no tomorrow installed at the Mallorca international airport during the Third International Safe School Declaration Conference.

Advocacy and communication efforts by UNICEF and partners resulted in a stronger commitment from the Government, as Ukraine became the 100th country to endorse the Safe Schools Declaration in November 2019. Further to the media statement by the UNICEF Executive Director, UNICEF Ukraine issued a local press release to acknowledge endorsement of the Safe School Declaration by the Ukrainian Government, which symbolically took place on World Children’s Day.

On October 1, UNICEF together with DRC/DDG presented the first Mine Victim Assistance Needs report, calling for more support for child mine victims and offering recommendations on to improve assistance to the families of child mine victims. To support the presentation and a local press release, a series of stories (Ukrainian boy who lost his hand in explosion powers through “For children growing up in eastern Ukraine, danger is never far away”) was developed for the UNICEF regional and global platforms to highlight risks for boys and girls living in one of the world’s most heavily mined regions.

In the framework of the 30th Anniversary of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, UNICEF engaged youth activists from conflict-affected areas to participate in the “Kids Takeover” in the Ukrainian Parliament. Stories of children from Donetsk and Luhansk regions were incorporated in the series of educational videos on child rights, produced by the leading TV channel 1+1. On 26-27 November, UNICEF Ukraine jointly with the Ombudsman Office in Ukraine organized a regional conference ‘Ensuring Child Rights in Armed Conflict, which was opened by the Head of Ukrainian Parliament Dmytro Razumkov and attended by UNICEF Regional Director Afshan Khan.

On 2 December, following the visit of Regional Director to Ukraine, UNICEF issued a press release to highlight the impact of protracted conflict on children living in the conflict zone in eastern Ukraine.

SECURITY

Analysis shows that the overall security situation on the ground in the Eastern Conflict Area (ECA) remained volatile over the year. Despite achieving disengagement of forces in three locations along the LoC, the hostilities and shelling of critical infrastructure remained a major challenge. However, the overall number of ceasefire violations reported by the sides declined. While during 2018, more than 279 conflict-related civilian casualties were recorded by UN (OHCHR), this figure declined to 167 cases in 2019 – in 27 of these cases civilians were killed.

The demining activities inside the three disengagement areas were confirmed by the armed formations. The entrance/exit checkpoints (EECPs) operated according to the pre-agreed schedules for the summer and winter periods. Misery and hardships faced by civilians at checkpoints along the Line of Contact remained intense and unchanged.
Funding

UNICEF’s 2019 humanitarian appeal requirement for Ukraine is US$21,067,799. During 2019, UNICEF’s total humanitarian programme budget was $8,205,029, including the funds carried forward from the previous year and funds received in 2019. This reflects only 37% of the required resources. The underfunding situation of the HAC is putting at risk UNICEF interventions to address major humanitarian needs across all sectors, in areas along the Line of Contact and NGCA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Funds received in current year</th>
<th>Carry-forward</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
<th>Funding gap %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Health</td>
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<td>Water, sanitation and hygiene</td>
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<td>Child protection</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>3,321,242</td>
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</table>

*Total funding available includes total funds received against current appeal plus carry-forward


UNICEF Ukraine Crisis: [www.unicef.org.ua](http://www.unicef.org.ua)

UNICEF Ukraine Crisis on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/unicef.ukraine](http://www.facebook.com/unicef.ukraine)

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