



Ukraine

Humanitarian Situation Report #3

15 March 2014



Highlights

- *The political situation in Eastern and Southern Ukraine remains unstable, especially in Crimea, threatening increased displacement of people from Crimea, with a small flow of people already leaving the Russian-controlled peninsula.*
- *On Sunday March 16, Crimea will conduct a referendum on whether it should join the Russian Federation. This action has been condemned by Ukraine and it is feared the result could spark a conflict with the ethnic Tatar population that makes up about 12% of the population.*
- *Services to vulnerable children and families are currently under threat in light of Ukraine's budgetary constraints. The Government is considering having to lose the jobs of 12,000 social work specialists introduced in 2012. This might have a major impact on the provision of social services related to families.*
- *UNICEF concluded contingency planning developed for a scenario envisaging potential displacement of up to 5,000 people, mainly from Crimea. An inter-agency contingency plan is also in the process of being finalized in coordination with the State Service of Emergency.*
- *UNICEF has re-programmed regular resources in order to undertake monitoring assessments and planning and to begin the process of pre-positioning supplies.*
- *The situation in Crimea threatens to potentially disrupt distribution of OST and ARVs medications due to interrupted delivery systems.*
- *UNICEF in Ukraine continues with support to psychosocial responses to children and young people in following the social unrests and political violence in February.*

# of people in Crimea ¹	2 024 056
# of Russians in Crimea ²	1 180 441
# of Tartars in Crimea ³	243 433
# of Ukrainians in Crimea ⁴	492 227
# of children in Crimea ⁵	344 263
# of children in the Eastern regions ⁶	1 413 142

¹ All-Ukrainian Census of the population, 2001, electronically: http://database.ukrcensus.gov.ua/MULT/Database/Census/databasetree_uk.asp

² All-Ukrainian Census of the population, 2001,

³ All-Ukrainian Census of the population, 2001,

⁴ All-Ukrainian Census of the population, 2001,

⁵ Data as of 01 January 2013, State Statistics Committee of Ukraine, upon request of UNICEF Ukraine CO – attachment enclosed. In printed sources: State Statistics Committee of Ukraine publication "Protection of Children Deserving Special Attention of the Society" – p. 8.

⁶ These are the Eastern regions covered: Luhansk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, regions bordering with Russia. Children 0-17. Disaggregated by regions: for Luhansk, 334 455 of children; for Donetsk, 662 245 of children and for Kharkiv, 416 442 of children.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Crimea remains the area of immediate humanitarian concern, where the pro-Russian majority is actively pursuing an association with Russia. On the eve of the referendum, Ukraine's border guards reported that in the last few days, close to 560 people have been reported as fleeing Crimea, with almost 400 of these arriving in the neighbouring regions accommodated by relatives and friends. On Wednesday alone, 158 people left Crimea.

A number of NGOs are on the ground in various cities in Crimea conducting assessments. Daily life for most citizens is going on as normal but the health sector is assessed as the most vulnerable to any emergency situation. Growing concern about security has been reported amongst the Crimean Tartars. Plans to evacuate women and children to relatives and friends in other regions of Ukraine, especially Kherson and Odessa have been reported from some members of these communities.

On March 13, The Ukrainian Parliament voted to address the UN with a respective request over Russia's flagrant violation of the fundamental principles of the international law, vested in the UN Charter, in respect of Ukraine. During this session, the Parliament also declared its right to self-defence and right, if necessary, to resort for help to any State or regional system of collective security to restore its sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability.

Instability in Crimea threatens a potential interruption of availability of Oral Substitution Therapy (OST) and Anti-Retro Viral (ARV) medications for HIV patients due to delivery problems in the area. The director of the Ukrainian Centre for Disease Control stated that Crimea has only a one month stock of OST. Unconfirmed reports exist of doctors in Crimea taking OST patients off methadone and placing into detox therapy, under the assumption that OST may become illegal if power changes to the Russian Federation.

The Global Fund Board's March 2014 decision increased resource allocation to US\$ 184.6 million for addressing HIV and tuberculosis in Ukraine.

In light of Ukraine's budgetary constraints a draft resolution initiated by the Ministry of Finance calls for the liquidation of the 12,000 social work specialists introduced in 2012. The resolution is expected to be discussed at a government meeting this week. To-date, the resolution has not been passed. This may have a significant impact on reducing the capacity of social workers, whose role is critical to provide social support and care services to vulnerable families.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

The Head of the Regional OCHA Office for Central Asia and South Caucasus remained in Ukraine this week to assist UNCT to finalise the interagency contingency planning process.

UNICEF has developed the contingency plan with the help of the Regional Chief of Emergency, in alignment with the UN contingency plan developed with the overall coordination from OHCA. UNICEF leads to coordinate the response of the Education and WASH Cluster in the UN Contingency Plan.

UNHCR, UNICEF and OCHA continued the discussion with the Ukrainian State Service of Emergency to coordinate the contingency plan and response preparedness.

Summary Analysis of Programme response

Continuously monitoring the situation of children, UNICEF maintains regular information exchange with NGO partners in Crimea, Eastern and Southern parts of Ukraine. Partners in Eastern Ukraine have reported a spike in the demand for social services over the last month, while partners in Central and Western Ukraine have not

experienced any change in the demand for social services. Partners from both regions note rising stress in the general population, resulting in increased aggression and family violence.

UNICEF continues to support the national hotline for children operated by the Ukrainian NGO 'La Strada' to increase its operation from 4 to 8 hours per day, providing psychological and legal counselling. UNICEF is planning further support to enhance social care and support service capacity in order to respond more effectively to children's trauma and stress during the difficult time.

Implementation of the regular Country Programme in Ukraine continues with some constraints. Capacity-building for health workers on MCH was affected as participants from Crimea could not attend.

Supply and Logistics

UNICEF is currently in the process of repositioning the locally procured contingency stock of hygiene items. UNICEF, UNHCR and OCHA are jointly preparing the logistics planning in South-Eastern Region of Ukraine.

Security

UN is currently with travel restrictions to the Crimea, with UNDSS and DO reviewing the situation on daily basis.

Next SitRep: 17/03/2014

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**Who to
contact for
further
information:**

Yukie Mokuo
Representative

Ruediger Luchmann
Deputy Representative

Veronika Vashchenko
Communication Officer

UNICEF Ukraine
5 Klovisky Uzviz, 01021 Kyiv, Ukraine
Tel: (+ 380-44) 5210125, 254 2439,
(+ 380-44) 230-2514 ext.119
Fax: (+380-44) 230 2506
E-mail: rluchmann@unicef.org
Web: www.unicef.org.ua