



Ukraine

Humanitarian Situation Report #4

21 March 2014



SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Highlights

- *The impact of rapid geopolitical changes and military operations in the Crimea have caused displacements of people and increased the risk of further displacements from Crimea.*
- *2,000 IDPs of mainly Tartar ethnicity (80%) from Crimea have arrived and sought refuge mainly in western parts of Ukraine.*
- *UNICEF has ordered first batch of hygiene kits (1,000 sets) in Ukraine while awaiting a review of custom regulations by the Government to facilitate importation of humanitarian supplies.*
- *A UNICEF's multi-sector rapid assessment confirms psychosocial interventions as a priority for IDPs and resident Crimea children and it is reported that 4345 people with HIV including 192 children in Crimea are under threat of HIV treatment interruption.*
- *A UN Human Rights monitoring team has been deployed to Ukraine to help establish the facts about alleged human rights violations, including those in Crimea.*
- *Russia's President has signed the law formalising Crimea's 'accession' to Russia and the EU and Ukraine sign association accords.*

# 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

Overview

The situation in Ukraine remains tense and sombre. Following heavy clashes between authorities and pro-Russia protestors which caused fatalities over the past weekend in the eastern cities of Kharkov and Donetsk, the situation has now cooled but remains volatile. A heavy military build-up by Russia on Ukraine's eastern border is adding to widespread anxiety and political tensions in Ukraine. The Ukrainian Parliament formally decided to create a 20,000 strong National Guard and partially mobilize the armed forces. In Crimea several Ukrainian army units remain trapped in their barracks and bases in Crimea; a number of them have been stormed by force with casualties and death reported.

The fallout from the Crimea secession referendum and the subsequent actions by Russia to annex Crimea is being felt across the CEE/CIS region as well as provoking global diplomatic responses including sanctions. The European Union and the Government of Ukraine have signed the political chapter of the Association Agreement. Ukraine's decision not to sign this agreement last year provoked the political turmoil in the first place.

The Crimean moves carry significant security developments for the entire region which has a number of frozen conflicts. Earlier this week, political parties in Transnistria in Moldova voiced their desire to follow the example of Crimea by seeking accession to the Russian Federation.

The UNSG has expressed his "deep disappointment" and concern about the development and this week he visited Moscow and Kyiv. Following the visit of the UN ASG for Human Rights Ivan Simonovic last week, a UN human rights monitoring team has been deployed throughout Ukraine to help establish facts surrounding alleged human rights violations, including in Crimea. Members of the 40 person strong monitoring team have already started their work.

Humanitarian Needs

As of 21 March, UNHCR estimates approximately 2,000 displaced persons have been accommodated in cities in western and central parts of Ukraine, namely Lviv, Vinnytsia, Ivano-Frankivsk. 80% of the displaced are women and children with 80% of all IDPs being ethnic Tartars. Oblast administrations in all locations have provided temporary accommodation and are delivering education and health services free of charge. There are currently no reports of authorities being unable to meet needs of displaced. According to UNHCR, the vast majority of IDPs (75%) are not planning to permanently stay in their current locations rather planning to return to Crimea. UNICEF will assess the situation of IDPs in western parts of Ukraine during the week of 24 March 2014

UNICEF has become aware of reports that Government contingency plans for the accommodation of IDPs in Kherson which neighbours Crimea include using schools as temporary accommodation facilities. UNICEF has dispatched a mission on 21 March to Kherson to evaluate this information and if correct advocate with local authorities to identify alternatives to using schools as accommodation centres.

On 20 March UNICEF in collaboration with UNHCR started a field assessment mission to Kherson, Mykolaev and Odessa to assess the needs of people displaced from Crimea, as well as the response capacity of local administration to address needs in health, WASH, education and psychosocial support.

Across all of Ukraine there have been no reports of disruptions in social services and no arrears in payments of state social support. As of March 13th, all regions reported that they had completed paying social support to low-income families, families with children, and children with disabilities. Earlier reports that 12,000 social workers could be dismissed under planned budget cuts have not occurred to date. However the economic situation including government finances is under pressure. WHO reports that ART & TB drugs stock in Ukraine are sufficient until approximately October 2014.

UNICEF continues to monitor the situation of children in Crimea through local partners. There schools are operating regularly with normal attendance. Local NGOs have reported increased demands in responding to psychosocial needs of children. OST is being replaced by de-tox therapy in Crimea, reversing progress and

achievements made in Ukraine over the past couple of years. According to the Network of People Living with HIV, 4345 people with HIV including 192 children in Crimea are under threat of HIV treatment interruption.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

Two UNICEF international staff members arrived in Kyiv on surge this week – one from PD to support a WASH assessment and one from UNICEF's office in Kosovo (UNSCR 1244) to support emergency coordination. Inter-agency sector response plans have been finalized, with the support of OCHA, with UNICEF taking the lead in Education and WASH, and a partnering role in Protection and Health.

A working group to coordinate and harmonize field assessments has been established by operational UN agencies in Ukraine with the support of OCHA. The chair of the group revolves among agencies with UNHCR accepting the chair for next week.

Summary Analysis of Programme response

Working with partner organizations in most regions of Ukraine, UNICEF conducted another nationwide multi-sector assessment of needs through partners on 19 March. Partners report an increased level of stress and anxiety in the southern and eastern parts of the country, where children and parents were subjected to intimidating and contradicting messages. Families perceive personal insecurity, a growing fear of violence, and uncertainty about their welfare. Psychosocial support remains high on the priority list of UNICEF's programme response and the child protection team is developing concrete actions to build the response capacity of social workers and psychologists in both state services and civil society organisations.

Emergency Programme Funding (EPF) amounting to USD 250,000 was received on 19 March and will be used to support the CO to monitor the situation, support psychosocial activities and procure and preposition additional supplies in the area of WASH, recreational and educational supplies for potential influx of IDP's.

The national hotline for children providing psychological and legal counselling operated by the Ukrainian NGO 'La Strada' continues to operate 8 hours daily. So far for the month of March, they received 1365 calls, which translates to more than 105 calls on average per day.

An exercise to review and adapt the ongoing country programme was concluded this week. Areas that need to be adapted and accelerated in order to strengthen emergency related activities related to psychosocial counselling and social support.

Supply and Logistics

In coordination with other UN agencies that are participating in the crisis response, UNICEF has locally purchased 1,000 hygiene kits for IDPs and will start repositioning 200 kits in Kherson, next to Crimea as early as this week.

Next SitRep: 28/03/2014

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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