Family of IDPs from Crimea in accommodation center. Vinnytsya, Ukraine
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Highlights

- The situation in South Ukraine and Crimea remains tense but quiet. Information about the military situation on the Eastern border of Ukraine is unclear with contradictory information.

- As of 1 April, 2,954 IDPs have made a precautionary movement from Crimea to mainly Kyiv, Lviv, Vynnytsya, and Ivano-Frankivsk. However, their movements are becoming complex and fluid. Some IDPs are moving between different regions, some are returning to Crimea while others continue to leave Crimea including 180 students who arrived in Lviv on 4 April.

- UNICEF dispatched 600 basic hygiene kits to Vinnytsya, Kherson and Odessa for distribution through local authorities and UNHCR. Additional 200 kits are in stock in Kyiv.

- A UNICEF staff member is deployed to Lviv for two weeks to facilitate psychosocial support for displaced children and women.

- UNICEF and WHO are promoting immunisation to IDPs to address possible behavioural barriers as many children are not vaccinated.

- Russia increases the price of gas for Ukraine which will have an additional adverse impact on vulnerable families.

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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,
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 ongoing tension between Ukraine and Russia has not abated. The situation in Eastern and Southern Ukraine remains quiet but tense. In addition there is contradictory information on the status of Russian forces stationed at the Russian-Ukraine border. Russia’s Gazprom has increased the price of gas to Ukraine by over 40 percent, what will further impact adversely on the already fragile economic situation in the country and especially vulnerable families.

This week the Ukraine Parliament adopted a resolution “On the immediate disarmament of illegal armed units” and compelled the Interior Ministry and the Security Service to immediately implement the disarmament of illegally armed groups and citizens. A preliminary report on the investigation of the deaths which occurred at the height of the protests in Kyiv has been released. Twelve members of Ukraine's now disbanded 'Berkut' riot police have been detained on suspicion of shooting anti-government protestors. In a separate development, Russia’s Federal Security Service (FSB) reported that it has detained 25 Ukrainians accusing them of planning terrorist attacks at about the time of last month's Crimean referendum. These recent developments continue to contribute to the complex political relations between the two countries.

The situation in Crimea is quiet but tense. Delegates to the Crimean Tatar congress (Mejlis) held on 28 March announced their intention to establish "a national autonomous territory of the Crimean Tatar people on their historical territory in Crimea". The ousted Ukraine President Viktor Yanukovich publically announced he would try to persuade Russia to return Crimea to Ukraine.

According to a statement by the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry, foreign citizens will need to receive a Russian visa to enter Crimea.

Humanitarian Needs

As of 1 April 2014, according to UNHCR approximately 3,000 Crimean IDPs are accommodated in Western, Central and Eastern Ukraine. The majority of them are hosted in Lviv (1,080 persons), Kyiv (823 persons), Vinnytsia (400) and Ivano-Frankivsk (155).

The movement of IDPs is complex and fluid with movement across Ukraine and back and forth to Crimea. There is uncertainty about the actual numbers of IDPs, caused by both discrepancies in IDP registration in the regions and the fact that many of IDPs are moving between different regions in Ukraine. Furthermore, there is no centralised registration system in place. 180 Crimean students arrived in Lviv on 4 April. They had no food and their bank cards were blocked, according to UNICEF field assessment. Several accommodation centres in Kyiv oblast are reported to host newly arrived IDPs. UNICEF and UNHCR are monitoring the situation. According to anecdotal information received during UNICEF field missions the return of IDPs to Crimea might be connected to the Mejlis decision, or because some want Russian passports in order not to lose their property.

There is conflicting information regarding the OST programme in Crimea. According to the Head of Russia's Federal Service for Control over the Trafficking of Narcotics, Viktor Ivanov, Russia will prohibit methadone maintenance in Crimea, which would jeopardize the access to treatment for over 800 patients. However, the Ukrainian agency in charge of supplying methadone and buprenorphine reports that the supply of pharmaceuticals to Crimea has been agreed with the Crimean authorities and is still on going.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

UNICEF, WFP, IOM, UNHCR conducted a technical working group meeting to share the field assessment findings and agree on future steps. As no major humanitarian crisis exists, the inter-agency sector response plan was not activated. The operational UN agencies reconfirmed their commitment to coordinated approach to all humanitarian actions in Ukraine, including assessment of the situation.
Summary Analysis of Programme response

UNICEF is reviewing the office Contingency Plan to reflect HQ feedback and new information and field mission findings.

To coordinate the field assessment, UNICEF prepared checklists to assess hygiene and health during the field missions and shared with the relevant agencies for their comments. Also, UNICEF is coordinating with WHO to promote immunisation to overcome possible behavioural barriers by IDPs to ensure vaccination of children.

On 28 March UNICEF staff visited IDPs accommodation centres in Vinnytsya. The majority of children do not attend school for the time being as many of IDPs consider their relocation is temporary. The mission revealed that many children are not immunized. The hygiene conditions are challenging and psychosocial needs are critical. Similar findings were revealed in a UNICEF assessment in Lviv. Following upon the completed field assessment mission, UNICEF has sent a mission to Lviv on 2 April for two weeks to roll out psychosocial support to displaced children and women. Small scale agreements with partners in Lviv and Vinnytsya have been developed and are about to be signed to meet psychosocial needs of displaced children, with a focus on educational and recreational activities and peer to peer support. Furthermore, in order to maintain regular monitoring, UNICEF field monitors are about to be deployed to continue monitoring of the situation in Western, Eastern and Southern parts of Ukraine.

Supply and Logistics

UNICEF has dispatched 600 basic hygiene kits to Vinnytsya, Kherson and Odesa for distribution through the local authorities and UNHCR in addition to the 200 kits delivered earlier to Lviv. Also, 200 kits are in stock in Kyiv. Additional procurement of ECD kits and comprehensive family hygiene kits including infant and feminine sanitary components, is now being prepared.

Next SitRep: 18 April 2014

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