Highlights

- After a year of conflict, internal displacement continues to increase in Ukraine, with 1,228,090 people having fled the eastern part of the country, of whom 154,635 are children (Source: Ministry of Social Policy).

- IDPs and other conflict-affected people in the east of the country continue to face hardship and a lack of access to social services. The general humanitarian situation remains deeply worrying.

- UNICEF procured 72.8 tons of chlorine for five filter stations in the most affected government-controlled areas of Donetsk region to cover the needs of 400,000 people.

- To date, UNICEF has distributed education kits to 7,200 children and early child development kits to 12,780 children in Zaporizhia, Dnipropetrovsk, and Kharkiv regions.

- Since January, approximately 19,000 children have received psychosocial support or visited child-friendly spaces in Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhia, and Luhansk.
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Violence escalated in eastern Ukraine over the days preceding peace talks held in Berlin on Monday 13 April. Clashes continue to be reported on a daily basis in several areas, and especially around Donetsk, Mariupol and Luhansk cities. Allegations from both sides that heavy weapons, which should have already been withdrawn under the ceasefire deal, continue to be used and have further exacerbated the situation, amid reports of six Ukrainian soldiers killed and several wounded in non-government-controlled territories. On 13 April, the Foreign Ministers of Ukraine, Russia, France and Germany met in Berlin to discuss the next steps in implementing the ceasefire agreement, expressing their concerns about continuous violations of the ceasefire.

After a year of conflict, the overall number of people killed in the country has reached 6,108, including 65 children as of 16 April, according to WHO. As of 15 April, the Ministry of Social Policy reported that there are 1,228,090 registered IDPs across the country, including 154,635 children.

Since January, travel restrictions have not only limited the freedom of movement for civilians, but have also seriously delayed the delivery of humanitarian aid. The humanitarian situation remains of increasing concern amid impeded access to social services affecting IDPs and conflict-affected people in both government-controlled and non-government-controlled areas. A UNICEF mission to Mariupol (Donetsk region) from 30 March to 3 April found that some school teachers have not been paid salaries for the past three months, due to new administrative division changes. In addition, in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, teacher salaries have been reduced or cut in the past few months.

In Donetsk non-government-controlled areas, ten schools have been destroyed and eight schools are closed. Further to this, several schools in non-government-controlled territories have been damaged multiple times to some extent, with destroyed roofs and shattered windows reported. Efforts of local community members to repair the schools have been hampered amid continuing fighting. There are reports from non-government-controlled areas where children are missing school, because school buses are no longer running due to lack of fuel. Children are reportedly studying on distance education programmes, although not all students have access to the online educational services due to lack of access to internet, computers, and devices.

In Kharkiv and Mariupol, there are reports of an unknown number of IDP children dropping out of school. In Kharkiv, anecdotal evidence suggests IDPs intending to return home do not see the need to enrol children in school as a priority. Education Cluster partners agree that a stronger outreach and awareness campaign must be carried out targeting IDP parents to raise awareness on the importance of education for their children.

In Mariupol and surrounding areas, clashes during the past few weeks resulted in the heavy destruction of buildings and infrastructure and numerous hazardous objects remaining behind. The humanitarian situation in the area is dire, with local authorities reporting poor access to and poor quality drinking water in the city, while the surrounding area has been unable to access potable water and electricity.

As of 8 April, the Donbass Water Company reported that approximately 2,000 km of pipelines have been damaged, with repairs hampered by the lack of financial resources and difficulties in finding spare parts. In addition, the
Company also reported a lack of funding for water treatment, specifically concerning chlorination and filtration of the water supply system. The most crucial unmet needs include reagents for water treatment and water quality, monitoring of water quality, as well as tools and spare parts for small repairs. Damage to water networks have been identified in several locations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Most rural areas have yet to be assessed to identify the extent of damage to water supply networks. Almost all cities and villages in Novoazovsk district, Donetsk region have no access to the water supply, with reports of wells reportedly accessible only for technical needs.

WASH needs outside Donetsk city are of increasing concern. The identification of areas, especially rural locations, with no water supply due to damaged equipment and lack/or of electricity is vital to ensure quality drinking water is provided to people in need. The need for hygiene items for elderly people has been highlighted in all affected areas. Elderly people in Donetsk city are in need of an average of around 25,000 diapers per month.

HIV/AIDS related needs in non-government controlled areas are of concern. There are reports of problems with supplies of HIV rapid tests and early infant HIV diagnostics. There are risks of interruptions of antiretroviral treatment for children and adults in these territories, including for pregnant HIV positive women. In the context of reports of increased gender-based violence in the conflict areas, there is a need to provide HIV/sexually transmitted infection post-exposure prophylaxis kits together with training on how to use them. HIV positive IDP people need better access to information on how to receive care and support.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

Three Nutrition Sub-Cluster coordination meetings have been held in Kyiv during the reporting period, leading to better defined needs and priorities for the Nutrition Sub-Cluster. Four organizations were identified to be conducting inappropriate general distribution of breast-milk substitutes to children under 1 year of age. The Nutrition Sub-Cluster is working to educate them, other potential donors, partners, church and volunteer organizations about the harmful impact of such donations and distributions.

UNICEF and WASH Cluster partners are assisting local water companies in pipelines repair works to meet the needs of local populations with no access to safe drinking water. Decentralization of cluster coordination has started in Donetsk.

Education Cluster partners have highlighted the need to establish a comprehensive review of the needs of children in and out of school in both government-controlled and non-government-controlled areas.

Summary of Programme Response

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015 PROGRAMME TARGETS AND RESULTS</th>
<th>Cluster 2015 Target</th>
<th>UNICEF 2015 Target</th>
<th>UNICEF Results as end of 2014</th>
<th>UNICEF Results as of April 15, 2015</th>
<th>Cluster Results as of April</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NUTRITION</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of mothers in affected areas and IDP concentration areas have improved knowledge on benefits of exclusive breastfeeding in emergencies</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>HEALTH</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of deliveries supported by midwifery kits with medicines, medical equipment and consumables' for maternity wards</td>
<td>6,500</td>
<td>6,500</td>
<td>4,500</td>
<td>13,500</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of beneficiaries supported by basic emergency health kits</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>130,000</td>
<td>130,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATER, SANITATION &amp; HYGIENE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of affected people having access to safe water</td>
<td>675,000</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>46,600</td>
<td>74,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people having access to hygiene supplies</td>
<td>400,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>19,944</td>
<td>33,558</td>
<td>48,558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of affected people benefiting from hygiene and sanitation promotion messages</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UNICEF has to date distributed education kits to 7,200 children and 1,278 early childhood development (ECD) kits to 12,780 children in Zaporizhia, Dnipropetrovsk, and Kharkiv regions. In terms of future distribution, UNICEF has the following supplies in pipeline for both Donetsk and Luhansk government-controlled areas: 8,150 ECD kits to be distributed to 81,500 children and 12,245 education kits reaching 122,450 children.

During the reporting period, the Kharkiv Education Department provided access to education for 6,567 IDP children in schools and 1,860 IDP children in kindergartens. La Strada NGO reports increased hotline calls from non-government-controlled areas on legal advice and issues related to kindergarten and school enrolment in government-controlled areas.

UNICEF and Cluster partner, Maximal NGO, is currently providing psychosocial support to students living in boarding schools in Donetsk non-government-controlled areas. An inter-cluster task force comprising partners from Education, Child Protection, and Protection Clusters produced a protection guidance note on examinations for students from non-government-controlled areas, which has been shared with education partners. The note advises organizations on the protection concerns related to moving children across the line of contact for their examinations. Open Policy Foundation NGO will distribute 5,000 leaflets on external independent testing for school leavers from nongovernment-controlled areas.

**Water Sanitation and Hygiene**

UNICEF has procured 72.8 tons of chlorine for five filter stations in Slovyansk, Krasnoarmiysk, Velykoanadolsk, Artemivsk, Chasov Yar (Donetsk region) to cover the needs of 400,000 people.

In the reporting period, baby, adult, and family hygiene kits were distributed to the most vulnerable people in Alchevsk, Brianka, Luhansk (Luhask region) and Sviatohorsk (Donetsk region), benefiting 1,500 people, including 700 children.

UNICEF implementing partner, Luhansk Regional Agency for Sustainable Development, has distributed 7,000 litres of drinking water to 1,250 people in the most affected areas of Luhansk region, and another implementing partner, PIN, has distributed family hygiene kits in several locations of Donetsk non-government-controlled areas reaching 250 people. In the past month, hygiene kits distributions covered the needs of 20,500 people in non-government-controlled areas.

Furthermore, a hygiene awareness campaign adapted to IDP needs has been carried out for 300 people in IDP centres and collective shelters in Kyiv.

**Child Protection**

In the reporting period, UNICEF provided psychosocial support to 6,373 children through a network of community support. Since January 2015, approximately 19,000 children have received psychosocial support.
UNICEF in partnership with PIN is working in non-government-controlled areas to monitor the needs of children. Fifty children, including those still living in bomb shelters, received psychosocial support and outreach training was provided to local professionals through child-friendly space in Debaltseve.

During the reporting period, the child hotline run by La Strada and supported by UNICEF, received 1,597 calls. Of those, 46 per cent were from girls and 54 per cent from boys. All callers received support and referrals when needed. Since January 2015, La Strada has received 9,522 total calls and provided 818 psychosocial consultations.

Between 30 March and 14 April, through its nine Community Protection Centres (CPC), the Ukrainian Red Cross has provided psychosocial support, organized recreational sport activities, and provided legal and educational services to 3,309 visitors to the centres. Of those, 1,641 children received psychosocial support. CPCs operated by Ukrainian Frontiers NGO provided 5,784 visitors with legal, accommodation, medical, psychosocial support and humanitarian aid; over 1,200 vulnerable IDPs including 700 children received psychosocial support. In northern Luhansk region, SOS Kinderdorf NGO set up four new Community Protection Centres where 28 community professionals have been trained to work with vulnerable children and families and psychosocial support has been provided to 308 children.

UNICEF in cooperation with YMCA continues to expand its activities to meet the needs in areas where IDP and host communities are bearing the brunt of the conflict by setting up programs in 20 schools near the non-government-controlled areas. These centres will reach 9,000 additional children and caregivers with psychosocial support and other services.

UNICEF partner, Kyiv Mohyla Academy, has trained 980 teachers and psychologists to recognize and respond to the psychosocial needs of conflict-affected children.

**Health and Nutrition**

UNICEF has received 1.1 million syringes and needles to support polio coverage for polio vaccines, which will shortly arrive in Ukraine. The arrival of the first shipment of vaccine is scheduled on 30 April. UNICEF in coordination with WHO and the Ministry of Health (MoH) is finalizing the strategy to enhance vaccination coverage against polio using the 4.8 million of doses of vaccines procured by UNICEF with support of the Government of Canada.

UNICEF provides technical support to MoH to enhance the national vaccine procurement system. The bill on procurement enabling the government to procure through international organizations (UN agencies and other international procurement agencies) was approved by the Parliament in March, and further legislative instruments shall be developed to enable the functioning of the procurement mechanism.

UNICEF is rolling out training programme to provide interpersonal communication on breastfeeding to IDP mothers with infants in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Luhansk, and Zaporizhia regions. Brochures on breastfeeding and infant feeding were produced and will be disseminated between April and June among mothers in Donetsk non-government-controlled areas and among IDPs in the abovementioned regions.

According to the findings of a nutrition assessment by Save the Children, the largest distributor of food aid in Donetsk non-government-controlled areas, revised its baby food basket and stopped providing infant formula to children 0-6 month following the recommendations provided by UNICEF.

There are ongoing discussions with the Government of Ukraine and partners (the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, WHO, civil society, etc.) regarding a needs assessment in Donetsk and Luhansk and submitting an application for funding to potential donors to ensure the continuity of services for HIV positive pregnant women and children.
External Communication

During the reported period, several interviews with UNICEF Ukraine staff were broadcast by TV Ukraine Today, by TV Espresso and published in the daily Uryadoviy Courier, the weekly Ukrainian Week, the weekly Kyiv Post on the mines/UXOs risks for children in Ukraine. In addition, commentaries on the situation of children in eastern Ukraine were provided to the Associated Press, to the Swedish newspaper Expressen, and to the German media Die Zeit.

On 7 April, the UNICEF Connect global blog published the post, “Ukraine: skirting mines to deliver for children in need”.

Funding and Planning

UNICEF has revised its appeal to US$55.8 million to provide emergency relief assistance to children affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine. To date, just over US$4.6 million has been received, representing only 8 per cent against the total appeal. The committed funds have already been spent, illustrating the urgent need for additional funds to enable continued support to affected children. The funding recording system has been revised by the Country Office in accordance with HQ requirements to reflect actual funding against Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) 2015. The table below provides a detailed overview by sector:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Requirements (US$)</th>
<th>Funds received (US$) against HAC 2015</th>
<th>Funds carried forward from 2014</th>
<th>Funding gap (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C=A-B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Nutrition</td>
<td>12,300,000</td>
<td>464,421</td>
<td>11,835,579</td>
<td>96</td>
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<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>23,000,000</td>
<td>235,171</td>
<td>22,764,829</td>
<td>99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>2,600,000</td>
<td>61,958</td>
<td>2,538,042</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>14,400,000</td>
<td>3,278,024</td>
<td>11,121,976</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sector Coordination,</td>
<td>3,500,000</td>
<td>570,143</td>
<td>2,929,857</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Support</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>55,800,000</td>
<td>4,609,717</td>
<td>1,984,325</td>
<td>51,190,283</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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