Highlights

- An early-June flare up in violence further aggravated the dire humanitarian conditions of children and communities in affected areas.

- As result of the recent hostilities and continued shelling, more than 500,000 people – including an estimated 75,000 children – across the contact line in conflict-affected areas have been experiencing a critical water crisis.

- UNICEF has responded by delivering safe drinking water by trucks to more than 65,300 people. In the past few months, UNICEF has provided safe drinking water to 234,300 people.

- The shortage of essential drugs and vaccine supply continues to be a serious concern across the entire country.

- In response to the vaccine shortage, UNICEF organized a National Workshop on the Vaccine Supply Chain for the Ministry of Health (MoH) and State Enterprise Ukrvacina to build the capacity of national teams on vaccine planning and forecasting, procurement, handling and distribution.

- During the reporting period, UNICEF provided psychosocial support to 5,682 children through a network of community protection centres and schools. Since January 2015, 26,226 children have received psychosocial support.

19 June 2015¹

168,019
# of registered internally displaced children
(Ministry of Social Policy, 8 June 2015)

1,331,778
# of registered internally displaced people
(Ministry of Social Policy, 8 June 2015)

5 million
# of affected people
(OCHA, Humanitarian Response Plan, February 2015)

1.7 million
Approx. # of affected children
(UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children 2015)

68 children
# of child casualties since March 2014
(WHO, 12 June 2015)

181 children
# of children wounded since March 2014
(WHO, 12 June 2015)

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1 UNICEF Ukraine Situation Report #35 is a monthly update covering the period of 16 May – 19 June. Next reports will be issued on a monthly basis.

2 A total of approximately US$ 8 million was raised in 2014 against the Humanitarian Action for Children 2014.
**Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs**

Following a period of relative calm – although overnight fighting and artillery shelling along the contact line in Donets and Luhansk regions continued regularly – increased violence flared up in early June. Heavy shelling broke out between Ukrainian troops and non-state armed groups around Maryinka in government-controlled-areas and near Donetsk city. Additional clashes took place in Luhansk city and Mariupol. OSCE reports indicate that fighting, which included the use of heavy weapons by all parties to the conflict, has been the worst observed since the Minsk agreements ceasefire in February 2015. While the situation has reportedly quietened following the 3 June spike, the violence was enough to trigger additional humanitarian suffering for local populations, especially children, resulting in an unconfirmed number of civilian casualties and further population displacements.

As of 8 June, 1,331,778 IDPs are registered by the Ministry of Social Policy (MoSP). According to WHO, as of 12 June, 68 children have been killed and 181 children have been wounded in the conflict zone of eastern Ukraine since March last year. Civilians including children continue to bear the brunt of the ongoing violence which has a devastating impact on their lives. Displaced children and children living in conflict-affected areas have been suffering enormous levels of stress and are increasingly facing disruption in the provision of basic services.

The deterioration of the security situation has led to the closure of government checkpoints in Kurakhove, Volnovakha, and Mariupol, among others, further limiting humanitarian access to non-government-controlled areas. Alternative routes have been explored along the contact line in order to allow more regular access of humanitarian cargo into these areas.

The humanitarian situation is of great concern in several hotspots, as there are reports of people lacking access to safe drinking water and others who must seek refuge in bomb shelters or underground cellars. A UNICEF mission to Luhansk and Donetsk non-government controlled areas from 13–18 May revealed the severity of the humanitarian situation. Interviews with partners and visits to local institutions, schools, kindergartens, and hospitals further indicate that conflict is aggravating the situation. Localised fighting and shelling continue to damage basic services and infrastructure, hampering civilians’ access to safe water, power and other essential services.

Access to centralized water supplies and drinking water in several areas along the front line is of concern. On 25 May, a main water supply pipe was damaged amid heavy fighting in Rodina village, near Zolotoe in the Luhansk non-government-controlled area. The damage left more than 500,000 people without water in Kirovsk, Bryanka, Stakhanov, Pervomaisk and Pervalsk. Artillery shelling in Krasnohorivka and Maryinka on 3 June resulted in heavy damage to the water supply system, creating a water crisis in Volnovakha, Donetsk government-controlled area. To date, the supply system has been partially restored. Additional water pipe damage from shelling has been reported in Avdiivka, Yasnovota and part of Donetsk city. The ongoing conflict has exacerbated a pre-existing, chronic problem for the affected population by limiting the ability of the two main water companies in the region, Voda Donbassa (Donetsk) and Voda Luhansk, to safely operate, maintain and repair the water supply system.

[Conflict-affected people in Stakhanov receive water trucked in by UNICEF right after the water supply was damage. Credit: People in Need]

[Destroyed house in Donets region Credit: UNICEF Ukraine/2015/Alexey Filippov]

Schools have closed for summer holidays, and the exam period is nearly finalised, so it is unclear how students affected by the ongoing crisis will be spending the month of August, particularly in the areas near the contact line, but also in the Dnipropetrovsk and Kharkiv. In July, they will be offered different summer school activities in a protected environment while increasing their psychosocial well-being.
Concerns have been expressed about the movement patterns of families, especially as the new school year begins in September. An unconfirmed number of families have anecdotally reported that they will move from government-controlled to non-government-controlled areas as the new school year begins. Better understanding of movement patterns and intention of return is needed.

An overview of requirements of temporary/emergency school repair data on damaged schools is needed from the departments of education, particularly Donetsk and Luhansk. Data is so far available for Donetsk non-government controlled areas.

The shortage of essential drugs and vaccine supply continues to be a serious concern in the whole country. It is also foreseen that non-government-controlled areas will be facing major shortages in access to life-saving antiretroviral (ARV) medications for people living with HIV; a situation that UNICEF and several other partners are currently working towards addressing. This includes applying to the emergency funding of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria (GFATM). Receiving emergency funding from the GFATM will enable UNICEF to cover the needs in antiretroviral therapy (ART) and diagnostics for about 7,000 patients, including children and women.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

Findings from the UNICEF mission to Donetsk and Luhansk non-government controlled areas from 13–18 May identified WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) and Child Protection needs in villages, schools, health facilities, and bomb shelters in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions. The response to children’s critical needs are still irregular and inadequate due to the lack of humanitarian access and limited presence of local and international NGOs.

UNICEF-supported WASH activities have been monitored through progress reviews/discussions with partners, interviewing local administrators, field visits, and via feedback from beneficiaries. A number of meetings and discussions have been held to assess the capacity of national NGOs for potential partnerships in near future.

Children in institutions, who were already victims of a failed system before the crisis, have been left out and are particularly affected by the conflict in non-government-controlled areas. UNICEF is advocating on behalf of these children at Donetsk and Kyiv levels and linking the efforts done in the past (reform of the policies regarding the institutions) with the current humanitarian response to the crisis. There is a need for mapping and assessing the situation of the children in institutions located in non-government-controlled areas: the child protection coordination team has already initiated the mapping exercise, and will soon finalize an action plan to carry out an assessment with the participation of cluster partners.

The strengthening of the Education Cluster at the regional level continues. During the reporting period, the Education Cluster has held a combined education/child protection meeting in Dnipropetrovsk, as well as an education coordination meeting in Severodonetsk. A Mine Action sub-cluster has been established with UNDP and Danish Refugee Council/Danish Demining Group as co-lead. It has been agreed that mine risk education in schools, as in the past, will continue to be reported through the Education Cluster. Once the revision of the Humanitarian Response Plan is finalized, the reporting mechanism will also be revised.

During the reporting period, based on partner inputs, Education, WASH, Child Protection, and Health Clusters, and the Nutrition Sub-cluster have developed a contingency plan as part of a larger OCHA-led inter-agency exercise.

UNICEF is working jointly with UNDP and WHO on strengthening national capacity for public procurement including drugs and vaccines. UNICEF participated in the Risk Assessment for Drugs and Essential Medicine Procurement in Ukraine, led by WHO during the last week of May. The findings of the Mission will further foster the dialogue on procurement and will be presented to the UNICEF Supply Division for consideration and possible follow up.
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 12 June 2015</th>
<th>Cluster Results as of 12 June 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NUTRITION</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of mothers in affected areas and IDP concentration areas who have improved knowledge on benefits of exclusive breastfeeding in emergencies</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>20,800</td>
<td>20,800</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HEALTH</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of deliveries supported by midwifery kits for 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>n/a</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>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WATER, SANITATION &amp; HYGIENE</strong></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>550,841</td>
<td>578,866</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>45,274</td>
<td>58,117</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>14,062</td>
<td>17,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHILD PROTECTION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children provided with psychosocial counselling &amp; support</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>2,465</td>
<td>26,226*</td>
<td>43,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of community professionals with enhanced knowledge for identifying children’s heightened stresses and providing initial interventions</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>4,564</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EDUCATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of emergency-affected children with access to reconciliation, life skills and mine risk education</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>232,400</td>
<td>279,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of affected children including adolescents accessing education and provided with education support</td>
<td>600,000*</td>
<td>225,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>26,000**</td>
<td>175,547</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The figure does not include the beneficiaries of the hotline.

**The figure is only for IDP children. It does not include children of host communities.

**Education**

On 18 and 19 June, UNICEF organized two workshops for local Heads of Departments of Education and Directors of School Rehabilitation projects – separately in Donetsk and Luhansk government-controlled areas. Some 75 people attended the workshops and discussed critical education issues, such as rehabilitation of damaged schools and delivery of education supplies in the most conflict-affected areas of the two regions.

Education Cluster partners are planning summer camps for more than 500 children – including IDP children – during the month of July. The activities within the camps span from recreational activities to catch-up classes.

To increase awareness of the dangers of mines to children, UNICEF has, to date, distributed life-saving mine risk education (MRE) materials to 232,400 people in both government- and non-government-controlled areas. This includes posters, leaflets, pamphlets and DVDs.

UNICEF-supported research on mines and UXO knowledge and practices among families and children living in the affected regions of Donetsk and Luhansk was finalized, and findings on the identified key gaps in knowledge and unsafe practices were presented by DDG at the inter-agency meeting of MRE partners. Reportedly, 26 per cent of all respondents and 13 per cent of all children have seen a mine and/or an explosive remnant. Among those who do not know how to act in the presence of mines or explosive remnants, the highest rates are among girls aged 6-11 (at least 25 per cent of all girls interviewed). According to the survey, almost 40 per cent of children in Donetsk and Luhansk regions claimed they learned key messages on MRE from UNICEF posters, representing the second highest source of knowledge after their parents.

**Water Sanitation and Hygiene**

UNICEF is scaling up its provision of safe drinking water through a water-trucking operations for populations affected by broken connections to the centralized water supply system. UNICEF procured water bladders for trucking and storage tanks to provide safe drinking water. In order to proceed with repair of the water pipeline in affected areas, UNICEF also completed an assessment and prioritization of the damaged water supply systems with the help of partners and local water companies.
UNICEF, through People in Need (PIN) implementing partner, responded to the water crises along the front line in Luhansk non-government-controlled area. The water trucking operation ensured safe drinking water to more than 65,300 people, including 9,800 children in Kirovsk, Bryanka, Stakhanov, Pervomaisk, and Pervalsk in non-government-controlled areas.

In the reported period, UNICEF provided safe drinking water to 234,300 persons, including approximately 35,150 through the chlorination of water in Donetsk region. Furthermore, UNICEF distributed hygiene kits to 2,840 people, including some 1,900 children in Donetsk and Luhansk.

UNICEF continues to deliver messages on hygiene promotion to children, and to date has reached over 14,000 children. The new wave of information outreach with hygiene promotion is planned to be continued in the most vulnerable communities in July 2015.

Child Protection

The children’s hotline, operated by La Strada and supported by UNICEF, received 3,273 calls during the past month. Of those, 57 per cent were from girls and 43 per cent from boys. All callers received support and referrals as needed. Since January 2015, La Strada has received 16,195 total calls.

During the reporting period, UNICEF provided psychosocial support to 4,439 children through a network of community protection centres and an additional 1,243 children through school settings, bringing the total to 5,682 children. Since January 2015, 26,226 children have been reached through both settings. Psychosocial outreach includes group counselling, sports and recreational activities. Of this total, 3,856 children are located in the non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk and Donetsk, with outreach in Donetsk non-government-controlled areas focused on Debaltseve.

Capacity building on psychosocial support was also expanded to over 537 teachers and psychologists in both government and non-government-controlled areas. About 3,100 students from different schools participated in sport and recreation activities offered within child-friendly spaces.

On 21 May, UNICEF sent over 100,000 Child Protection brochures, books, and pamphlets to 16 UNICEF-supported Community Protection Centres in Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhya, Kharkiv and Dnipropetrovsk regions. UNICEF plans to reach over 100,000 people with information about children’s reactions to the displacement, basic safety rules, and psychological trauma coping mechanisms by November 2015.

Health and Nutrition

In response to the vaccine shortage, UNICEF organized a National Workshop on the Vaccine Supply Chain for the Ministry of Health (MoH) and State Enterprise Ukrvacina to build the capacity of national teams on vaccine planning and forecasting, procurement, handling and distribution.

Following the delivery of the first batch of polio vaccines, UNICEF inspected vaccine storage conditions at Ukrvacina, and concluded that national storage facilities met basic requirements (temperature regime, monitoring, and storage conditions). UNICEF, jointly with MoH, developed a detailed distribution plan for vaccines to each region, and will consider providing some additional support to Ukrvacina for effective logistics and monitoring of vaccine supply use. UNICEF will step up work with Ukrvacina on identifying and covering major gaps in the cold-chain at regional level.

UNICEF and WHO are finalizing plans for accelerated immunization of children with polio vaccines procured with support from the Canadian Government. UNICEF developed a protocol for the use of vaccines and facilitated data collection on the immunization status of children and numbers of those un-immunized who require catch up with
polio and other antigens. The communication strategy supporting the accelerated polio immunization has been developed by UNICEF and presented to the national polio expert group in the MoH.

UNICEF, in coordination with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US), is conducting an assessment on Nutrition and Infant and Young Child Feeding practices among IDPs in Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, and Zaporizhzhia regions. Supported by UNICEF, a similar assessment was initiated in non-government-controlled areas. The first results are to be presented in July 2015.

External Communication

On 1 June, which is Children’s Day in Ukraine, UNICEF organized a public event in Svyatohirsk, Donetsk region, for internally displaced children, children separated from their families, and children with disabilities and their families. This celebration was a continuation of UNICEF’s ‘Words Help’ campaign enabling concerned adults to seek professional advice on how to interact with children who are in a stressful situation or have experienced a traumatic event. The “Words Help” campaign will reach a further 17,000 people in the country by the end of December 2015.

On 4 June, a human interest story on mobile psychologists bringing relief to children in eastern Ukraine was published on the global UNICEF web-site and shared through global social media channels.

On 12 June, the UNICEF Spokesperson in Geneva briefed international journalists at the Palais des Nations on children’s casualties due to renewed violence in eastern Ukraine, resulting in international coverage on Xinhua, Anadolu Agency (Turkey), Wiadomosci (Poland), New Kerala (India), Iran TV, UN News Centre, Algerie News, and other news outlets.

Funding and Planning

UNICEF is seeking US$55.8 million to provide emergency relief assistance to children affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine. In addition to US$1,984,325 carried forward from 2014, over US$7.9 million has been received against the Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) 2015, representing 14 per cent of the total appeal. A total of approximately US$8 million was raised in 2014 against the HAC 2014. UNICEF is grateful to the EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO), the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the Governments of Japan, Canada, Norway, Sweden, Estonia, and Poland, and corporate partners for their contributions. The table below provides a detailed overview for 2015 by sector:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Requirements (US$)</th>
<th>Funds received (US$) against HAC 2015</th>
<th>Funding gap (US$)</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C=A-B</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>23,000,000</td>
<td>1,506,453</td>
<td>21,493,547</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>14,400,000</td>
<td>5,481,231</td>
<td>8,918,769</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Nutrition*</td>
<td>12,300,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>12,300,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>2,600,000</td>
<td>324,398</td>
<td>2,275,602</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sector Coordination, Field Support</td>
<td>3,500,000</td>
<td>670,647</td>
<td>2,829,353</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>55,800,000</td>
<td>7,982,730</td>
<td>47,817,270</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* In 2014 UNICEF received US$2.5 million from the Government of Canada to procure 4.8 million doses of polio vaccines in Ukraine.
UNICEF Ukraine Crisis: http://www.unicef.org.ua Facebook: www.facebook.com/unicef.ukraine Twitter: @unicef_ua

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