Highlights

- Since the beginning of the conflict in March 2014, over 630,000 people have been internally displaced. Thousands of children remain in the areas of ongoing fighting, while approximately 135,000 children are displaced to other regions of Ukraine.

- The Cluster Approach for Ukraine has been activated by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, allowing for more accountability, predictability and effective coordination. UNICEF is leading the Education and WASH clusters and the Child Protection sub-cluster.

- 887 adult kits were distributed benefitting 1,774 people, as well as 500 baby kits benefiting 1,500 children over the last month. UNICEF also provided hygiene supplies for 500 individuals to a mental health facility in Slavyanoserbsk inside the Luhansk part of the non-government controlled areas.

- In collaboration with Voda Donbas and Krasnogorvka administrations UNICEF plans to install three water purification units in the affected areas, which provide safe water to 20,500 children and adults.

9 January 2014

134,977
# of registered internally displaced children
(State Emergency Service, 5 January 2015)

630,094
# of registered internally displaced people
(State Emergency Service, 5 January 2015)

5.2 million
# of affected people
(OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview, December 2014)

1.7 million
approx. # of affected children

1.4 million
# of people in need of humanitarian aid
(OCHA, Strategic Response Plan, December 2014)
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Since the beginning of the conflict in March 2014, more than 630,000 people have been internally displaced. Thousands of children remain in the areas of ongoing fighting, while approximately 135,000 children are displaced to other regions of Ukraine.

Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ivan Simonovic visited Ukraine on 13 and 14 December to launch the eighth monthly report of the special human rights monitoring mission. He also called all parties to the conflict to comply with their obligations to respect the human rights of the civilian population in conflict-affected areas.

The United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman also visited Ukraine on 16 and 17 December. He called for accelerated scaling up of humanitarian interventions in conflict-affected areas. He also called upon the Government to resolve taxation issues related to humanitarian relief items.

The UNICEF WASH Specialist participated in a monitoring mission in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts from 14 to 19 December to assess the WASH situation and the response to existing needs. Meetings were held with authorities including the Governor, Deputy Governor, Mayors and water supply companies, including Gorvodokanal and Voda Donbasa.

As a result of the monitoring mission, a thorough WASH needs assessment was conducted in both oblasts. Gorvodokanal (responsible for the provision of safe water in Slavyansk) requested UNICEF to support the repair of water filters, which serve 50,000 people including IDPs in Slavyansk. The director of Voda Donbasa (water provision company for the whole Donetsk Oblast) highlighted that there is a need for water purification plants as the water system was disrupted in six major cities for 86 days. There are indications that 1,000 households (approximately 3,000 people) in the town of Triokhizbenka (Luhansk oblast), located on the frontline of the active fighting, are cut off from electricity, heating and gas, and there is a dire need for water and hygiene supplies.

According to the information received from the Deputy Mayor of Mariupol during the monitoring visit, there has been an increase in the number of children separated from their families and placed into institutional care in Mariupol. Compared to 2013, there has been more than a twofold increase in the number of children placed in childcare institutions (12 children in 2013; 28 children in 2014).

Also, it was observed that the health system in Mariupol is operating without any consideration of the growing number of IDPs. There is the same number of staff in hospitals and the same volume of medicines and vaccines supply. The city lacks HIV tests as more than 100 are needed at the moment. The local HIV / AIDS Center also lacks antiretroviral therapy supplies which is creating a major risk to the overall effectiveness of patients’ treatment.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

The humanitarian community in Ukraine has witnessed two key developments over the past few weeks. The Cluster Approach for Ukraine has been activated by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, allowing for more accountability, predictability and effective coordination. UNICEF is leading the Education and WASH clusters and the Child Protection sub-cluster. The UN, including UNHCR, OCHA and UNICEF, has also established a humanitarian presence in Donetsk city to facilitate and monitor the delivery of humanitarian assistance in conflict-affected areas.

UNICEF Ukraine has contracted an Emergency Information Management Officer to support UNICEF-led clusters.

The first WASH Cluster meeting took place on 5 January led by UNICEF. The cluster partners agreed to share the 4W matrix (Who, When, Where, What), which will help to identify gaps and priorities, and WASH needs through
the respective field staff. The WASH Cluster will also expand at the oblast level with oblast authorities participating in the coordination meetings.

Meanwhile, the WASH Cluster requested WHO to carry out a water quality assessment in conflict-affected areas, as some previous reports by NGOs indicated that there are problems with water quality in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

The Humanitarian Country Team has postponed the local Ukraine launch of the Strategic Response Plan (SRP) for Ukraine, launched in December 2014 as part of the Global Humanitarian Appeal, until January 2015. The exact date is still to be announced.

**Summary of Programme Response**

**Education**

UNICEF met with the Deputy Minister of Education to discuss the work of the education sector and the cluster approach. The Deputy Minister of Education appointed a focal point in the Ministry to support the work of the Cluster.

UNICEF Education Specialist visited 10 schools in government-controlled areas in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts to prepare a renovation plan as well as the distribution of education equipment and furniture. This project will be funded by the Government of Japan.

In December, 91 early childhood development kits for 910 IDP children were delivered to school psychologists who are participating in psychosocial work with school age children in Severodonetsk, Slavyansk and Mariupol.

**WASH**

UNICEF is distributing hygiene items to the children and families living in bomb shelters in Donetsk. During the reported period, 887 adult kits were distributed benefitting 1,774 people, as well as 500 baby kits benefitting 1,500 children. UNICEF also provided hygiene supplies for 500 individuals to a mental health facility in Slavyanoserbsk inside the Luhansk part of the non-government controlled areas.

As a result of the WASH mission to Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, UNICEF with the collaboration of Voda Donbas and Krasnogorvka administrations will install three water purification units in Krasnogorvka and Pisky in Donetsk Oblast, which provide safe water to 20,500 women, children and men.

Hygiene promotion sessions continue at schools with implementing partner, Mama 86. A set of educational materials, such as a mini-book, a poster and a calendar, have been developed for hygiene promotion activities.

**Child Protection**

Between January and December 2014, the Child Hotline run by La Strada with UNICEF support received 27,073 calls. The majority of the calls came from Lviv, Kyiv, Kharkiv, Lutsk, and Rivne Oblasts. 94 per cent of calls were from children, while the remainder were from adults. 90.3 per cent of the callers needed information, while 8 per cent needed psychosocial counselling and 1.7 per cent legal counselling.

In December, UNICEF and Kyiv Mohyla Academy, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, supported training sessions for 83 school psychologists, social pedagogues and education officers in Mariupol, Melitopol, Dnipropetrovsk, and Izyum.

As a result of four training programme rounds in Slovyansk and Mariupol, a group of 20 crisis psychologists has been appointed for Donetsk oblast. An additional group of 20 crisis psychologists for Luhansk oblast will be...
appointed by 10 January.

**Health**

As part of the health sector response, UNICEF provided the Ministry of Health with 86 emergency kits, which include basic and specific drugs, disposable supplies and primary health care equipment covering over 80,000 IDPs (families with children) for a three-month period in Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts.

**External Communication**

On 19 December, UNICEF briefed international journalists at the Palais des Nations on the impact of the Ukraine crisis on children, resulting in international coverage on CNN, New York Times, Reuter, AFP and other news outlets. A communication package the emergency was also released through the UNICEF website and social media channels.

**Funding and Planning**

The UNICEF crisis response in Ukraine is currently **69 per cent funded** (US$9.4 million funded out of the total $13.6 million initially required) while the overall funding requirements are now being revised to align with the UN Strategic Response Plan for Ukraine. UNICEF is grateful for the contributions received to date, and is appealing for additional funds which are urgently required to enable an effective, scaled-up humanitarian response to the needs of Ukrainian children and their families.

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<th>Funding Status</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Child Protection</th>
<th>Health &amp; Nutrition</th>
<th>WASH</th>
<th>Field support &amp; Coordination</th>
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**Next SitRep: 23/01/2015**


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1 According to HAC