Highlights

- UNICEF and the Ministry of Education and Sciences of Ukraine are jointly developing a school-based mine awareness education campaign to be launched from 1 September. The urgency for the campaign was underscored by 20 July mine explosion in Lysichansk town, Luhansk oblast, which severely wounded two children, of which one later died in hospital. Unexploded ordinances (UXOs) and unmapped mines continue to endanger children’s lives.

- In the last few days, UNICEF distributed a total of 251 Adult Hygiene Kits, 248 Baby Hygiene kits and 30 ECD Kits to IDPs from Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts via local and national counterparts.

- Damage to the water-supply infrastructure within the zone of active fighting have led to a severe reduction of available drinking water in Dimitrov, Krasnoarmiysk, Dobropillya rayons of Donetsk oblast.

- A recent Infrastructure Damage Assessment in Luhansk and Donetsk estimates up to 4.38 billion UAH is needed to repair public buildings and infrastructure. 28 per cent of damaged facilities are schools and kindergartens.

- The Ukrainian Government has started to repair infrastructure in territories reclaimed and has started to distribute humanitarian aid. Payment of social benefits is said to have recommenced.

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1 The Donetsk region number of children aged 0-17. Source: Department of the Social protection of the Population, Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine triangulated with UNHCR and Civic Sector data.
2 The Kharkiv region number of children aged 0-17. Source: Department of the Social protection of the Population, Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine triangulated with UNHCR and Civic Sector data.
3 The Luhansk region number of children aged 0-17. Source: Department of the Social protection of the Population, Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine triangulated with UNHCR and Civic Sector data.
4 These are the Eastern regions covered: Luhansk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, regions bordering with Russia. Children 0-17.
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Overview

Uncharted and unmarked landmines in Eastern Ukraine continue to be a significant threat to the population and particularly children. Two children were seriously injured by an explosion of a suspected mine on 20 July in Lysichansk, Luhansk oblast. As reported by local authorities, one of the children later died in hospital from injuries sustained by the explosion.

Payments of pensions and salaries in settlements and towns recently reclaimed by the Ukrainian Army such as Kramatorsk and Slavyansk in the Donetsk region are said to have resumed. Restoration of electricity and gas supplies is ongoing and public transport has partially resumed. Inter-City train services in these areas have resumed. Within the reporting period, water supply had not been fully restored, and parts of the city continue to be supplied with water by trucks. Despite the restoration of electricity, the repair of a number of pumping stations, which had been flooded, will take more time than originally expected.

Damage inflicted to the Donetsk oblast water supply system continues to cause serious water shortages. The situation deteriorated on 12 July, when the Karlovskoe pumping station seized to supply water to Krasnoarmiysk, Dimitrov, Dobropillya and Krasnoarmiysk districts. Approximately 120,000 people are affected. Authorities issued recommendations to the local population to use alternative sources of drinking water and provided information on the locations of wells and the schedule of water tanker trucks. UNICEF is closely monitoring the situation.

UNICEF’s field monitor based in Donetsk reports that 91 children from two orphanages in the Donetsk region were relocated by the authorities to other regions of Ukraine after threats of a pending forceful transfer of children by separatists to the Russian Federation had been received.

The Infrastructure Damage Assessment for Luhansk and Donetsk\(^6\) counted 596 public structures that have been damaged during the military confrontation. Repair costs amount to 4.38 billion UAH, including schools, kindergartens and other educational facilities.

UNHCR reported that the total number of internally displaced persons in Ukraine stands at 101,000 as of 23 July.

Humanitarian needs

Whilst there is a trickling influx of IDPs into practically all regions across the country due to the fluid and uninterrupted nature of the armed conflict in Eastern Ukraine, some families including children are returning to their homes on the territories recently regained by the Ukrainian Army.

Living conditions for children in these places vary: many schools have been damaged or destroyed in the conflict; availability of teachers and other personnel remains to be confirmed. UNICEF with the Ministry of Education and Sciences of Ukraine and other national counterparts is discussing how to prepare for the start of the school year on 1 September, paying specific attention to schools’ capacities to address psychological trauma of children, caused by having been witnessing violence.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

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\(^6\) Infrastructure Damage Assessment in Luhansk and Donetsk was conducted by the NGOs “Agency of Sustainable Development of Luhansk Region” in the period of 24 June-14 July by the contract of the UN Ukraine YKP/2014/21.
The first comprehensive report of the second phase of the joint inter-agency humanitarian assessment was released on 21 July. (http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Ukraine_HSM_phase2_20140721.pdf)

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the situation and the current needs as of 18 July in the two areas affected by fighting (Donetsk and Luhansk) and three neighbouring regions (Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Zaporizhia), which were significantly affected by displacement.

The assessment confirms that the three most affected basic services were the banking system, law and order, and transport. However, the situation continues to deteriorate with regards to access to public services, such as water supply, health, education, as well as justice and administrative services. The sector analysis sub-sections conclude with a list of immediate and mid-term priority activities within each sector to guide programmatic response.

Key highlights from HSM (Humanitarian Situation Monitoring) on education are:
- 23 per cent of respondents felt the education services got worse since the conflict.
- 25 per cent of respondents in Donetsk oblast felt education was suffering significantly, with much higher percentages in Dzerzhynsk and Kramatorsk as well as Slavyansk.
- 21 per cent in Luhansk, with Krasnodon, Krasnyi Lyman and Luhansk city reporting strongest in terms of perceived deterioration.

The first Education sector meeting led by UNICEF took place on 24 July. The participants discussed (1) access to education and enabling environments; (2) psychosocial, educational/recreational support for children affected by the crisis, especially those children who have and continue to witness violence and destruction causing elevated levels of stress and trauma.

In order to address the critical need for a coordinated response to the crisis and reach more children effectively with educational programmes at the beginning of educational year 2014-2015, UNICEF and the Parliamentary Commissioner on Human Rights will organise a Child-Focused Crisis Coordination Forum on 7 August. It will unite efforts of the government, local authorities, and civil society to ensure fulfilment of children’s rights for education and timely enrolment to schools.

The results of HSM on WASH indicate that in the areas of fighting in Donetsk oblast there are serious issues with access to potable drinking water, ranging from significant to severe. The major disruption to the city main supply may, if not fixed in the near future, cause critical problems for up to four million people in and around Donetsk city. UNICEF will respond to the current situation focusing on the life-saving approach by advocating that affected population have access to at least 7 litres of safe water per person per day, safe sanitary latrine and hygiene materials. The approach involves water trucking, distribution and use of family water treatment kit, distribution and use of hygiene kit, and access to hygiene messages. As the sector lead, UNICEF is advocating the expansion of expertise in the sector to address gaps through technical support, leveraging of resources, partnerships, and sustainable responses to the crisis.

Summary Analysis of Programme response

Monitoring

UNICEF continues to monitor the situation of children with a specific focus on the East of the country with the help of nine field monitors on the ground.

UNICEF also dispatched a mission to Svyatygorsk, in order to assess the condition of children in two orphanages there, many of them recently relocated from conflict zones within the Donetsk and Lugansk region. The mission also noted that the 15,000 internally displaced persons that had occupied temporary shelter facilities in Svyatygorsk had returned to their places of origin within the areas recently reclaimed by the Ukrainian Army.
Assessment

A UNICEF WASH Specialist has arrived to Ukraine to assist in further shaping UNICEF’s programmatic response in the WASH sector and to review the supply logistic arrangements for WASH supplies. A rapid review of the sector response plan has been carried out, resulting in the updating of the UNICEF WASH supply plan, to include water storage tanks and hygiene promotion materials. UNICEF is in discussion with a local environmental NGO to consider the provision of hygiene behaviour promotion to the affected populations and the schools.

Response

Psychosocial support

UNICEF continues to support a number of NGOs providing psycho-social services for IDP children and parents. The UNICEF Child Protection Specialist has undertaken a monitoring visit to Lviv. Psychologists highlighted the extreme need that exists, particularly for eastern Ukraine IDPs, but also noted the difficulties in outreach due to a perceived “stigma” regarding psychological counselling. A training programme for psychologists is continuing, with the development of a manual for working with IDPs, which will be coordinated with the other psycho-social training programmes.

Education

UNICEF has started a dialogue with the Ministry of Education and Sciences of Ukraine on developing ways to ensure IDP children’s timely enrolment into education programmes in the areas of their relocation and to prevent any disruption of education services for returnee IDP children. UNICEF also launched a new partnership with the Ministry on the development of a mine awareness education campaign in schools from 1 September. UNICEF is developing an action plan to address the needs of the Ministry in educational information materials for schools in the affected territories.

Supply and Logistics

UNICEF negotiated with the State Emergency Service allocation of the free of charge guarded warehouse space at the central level that will be dedicated to UNICEF humanitarian supplies.

UNICEF continued to dispatch humanitarian aid for children to Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts through our local and national partners, these include Lugansk Foundation HORS, CARITAS Kiev, Mariupol Red Cross, Kiev Ukrainian Red Cross, Office of the Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights.

UNICEF distributed a total of 251 Adult Hygiene Kits, 248 Baby Hygiene kits and 30 ECD Kits to vulnerable displaced families.

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