Highlights

- Number of internal displacement continues to increase in Ukraine, with 1,177,748 people who left the eastern part of the country, of whom 148,313 are children (Source: Ministry of Social Policy).

- The humanitarian situation continues to be dire in the east of the country. Travel restrictions have limited the freedom of movement for civilians. They have also seriously delayed the delivery of humanitarian aid to civilians in non-government-controlled areas.

- At least 109 children were reported to have been injured and 42 killed by landmines and unexploded ordnance in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of eastern Ukraine since March last year.

- UNICEF and its partners continue to implement a mine-risk education campaign in the crisis-affected areas of Ukraine - providing 500,000 children and their families with lifesaving information about the risks posed by landmines and explosives.

- UNICEF is working with the local Department of Education to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to support the rehabilitation of 40 schools in the government-controlled Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

- Between 17 and 29 March, more than 3,000 internally displaced people (IDPs), including over 1,700 children, received legal and psycho-social support and visited child-friendly spaces at the Community Protection Centres in Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhia regions.

3 April 2015

148,313
# of registered internally displaced children
(Ministry of Social Policy, 23 March 2015)

1,177,748
# of registered internally displaced people
(Ministry of Social Policy, 23 March 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)

65 children
# of child casualties since March 2014
(WHO, 2 April 2015)

171 children
# of children wounded since March 2014
(WHO, 2 April 2015)
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

After a year of conflict, local communities in eastern Ukraine have been exposed to extreme levels of violence and weapons including explosive remnants in devastated areas. Conflict-affected areas are contaminated by mines, remnants of armed fighting, and unexploded ordnance (UXO). To date over 33,000 items of ordnance have been located and removed by local authorities in the government-controlled areas. Displaced families returning to communities formerly under conflict are still at great risk from these highly hazardous materials that have yet to be cleared. Children in particular are at risk from unexploded ordnance and landmines which may be brightly coloured and small enough to be picked up or kicked around. Children could be drawn to such items, mistaking them for toys or objects of value, which can result in tragedy. Cases of UXO/mine-related incidents occur almost on a daily basis. On 25 March, a passenger bus in the government-controlled town of Avdiivka struck a mine killing four passengers and wounding 19. At least 109 children were reported to have been injured and 42 killed by landmines and unexploded ordnance in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of eastern Ukraine since March last year.

The overall number of people killed in the country since the onset of violence has reached 6,083, including 65 children as of 2 April. As of 23 March, the Ministry of Social Policy reported that there are 1,177,748 registered IDPs across the country, including 148,313 children.

The humanitarian situation in the east of the country remains of grave concern. Since January, travel restrictions have not only limited the freedom of movement for civilians, but have also seriously delayed the delivery of humanitarian aid and construction materials. Residents in non-government areas get little or no food, medicine and medical equipment. Following his mission, the UNICEF Emergency Coordinator highlighted heavy destruction in these areas after months of almost non-stop shelling. The mission aimed to assess and agree on UNICEF programming in these less accessible parts.

In Donetsk, despite reported skirmishes nearby the airport, security appeared to have improved. Several IDPs said they may be willing to return to their homes, but have been prevented from entering the areas around the airport. Healthcare facilities in the affected areas of the city suffered damages, but are operational including the emergency services. Nevertheless, there is a lack of all essential medicines and equipment, especially cancer medication and insulin. The number of injured people received by the hospital has significantly dropped since the latest February. In Mariupol, clashes have been recorded in the past two weeks resulting in heavy destruction and numerous hazardous objects remaining behind. Civilians gave accounts of the dire humanitarian situation, due to debris or fallen power lines blocking some roads and limiting the freedom of movement for local residents.

The plight of unregistered IDP children with no access to social benefits is emerging as a child protection concern in all areas of Ukraine. UNICEF continues to actively monitor the situation and provide assistance to improve the weaknesses in the system.

Armed groups have damaged 472 out of 3,000 schools in the past 12 months. In those areas, children have not been able to go to schools. UNICEF received information that the main education needs have risen, amongst them: education kits, disinfectants and school cleaning, support to orphans in boarding schools, materials for school repair...
(including window glass, timber and roof sheeting), and mine risk education. Pressure on schools and pre-schools to accommodate additional children is increasing. With a steady influx of IDPs, the lack of kindergartens represents a growing problem in the neighbouring areas, like Kharkiv and Dnipropetrovsk regions. Although UNICEF education partners are providing Early Childhood Development kits, there is a pressing need to support construction and rehabilitation of educational facilities for children aged 3-5.

Since the onset of the violence, both teachers and students have been experiencing post-traumatic stress and are in need of psychosocial training and support. This has been flagged as an urgent issue affecting 200,000 kindergarten and school-aged children.

As of 1 April, water, sanitation and hygiene support need is increasing in health institutions, schools, and other public facilities in the conflict-affected zones. Residents reported they have been unable to afford the rising prices of household and personal hygiene goods because they have little or no money. Environmental hygiene is worsening in the non-government-controlled areas because of intermittent waste collection and other municipal services. Over the past week, the Donbass water company carried out a significant amount of repair works to the water supply system. However, new damages and challenges have slowed the process and have continued to limit the access to water in some locations including Mariupol and surroundings of Donetsk region. On 24 March, an unexploded mine was found in the portable water tank at Donetsk filter station.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

UNICEF and its partners continue to implement a mine-risk education campaign in the crisis-affected areas of Ukraine, providing 500,000 children and their families with lifesaving information about the risks posed by landmines and explosives. The campaign includes risk educational messages in print, video and digital formats as well as the training of 100 teachers and school psychologists on mine-risk awareness. With the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action falling on 4 April, the situation in Ukraine is a grave reminder that despite global progress in de-mining, children and communities continue to fall victim to mines and explosive remnants of war. UNICEF in coordination with the Ministry of Health of Ukraine has established a monitoring system for victims of mines and UXOs. The injuries surveillance assessment has provided the first available data on child casualties since March 2014.

The Education Cluster partners have raised the need to establish a comprehensive review of the needs of children in and out of school in the government-controlled areas. One of the main challenges is that not all families register as IDPs.

Summary of Programme Response

Education

Teachers and school psychologists experiencing IDPs post conflict stress remain of concern. The Association of Child and Family Psychologists based in Kharkiv is organising trainings for school psychologists on how to deal with the growing number of distressed IDP children in schools. The first round of trainings designed for groups of 15-19 people, has started in Druzhkivka, Donetsk region. The same training has been offered to Slovyansk following a request for training of psychologists in schools and kindergartens. Furthermore, to prevent and address post-conflict stress of IDP teachers, the Centre of Practical Psychology and Social Work at the Kharkiv Academy of Lifelong Learning is organizing trainings and consultations for school psychologists and teachers in the area.

In Luhansk and Donetsk regions, UNICEF is working with the local Department of Education to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to support the rehabilitation of nearly 40 schools in the government-controlled areas of the two regions.
UNICEF and a Czech NGO, People in Need (PIN), are in the process of distributing plastic sheets to Maloorlivka school, Shakhtarsk district in Donetsk non-government-controlled areas, as temporary solution for the roof of the school damaged amid heavy shelling in February.

During the past week, local NGOs, ADRA Ukraine and Step in the Hope, organized a week-long recreational camp in Dnepropetrovsk region for 60 children from Donetsk and Lugansk regions.

During the reporting period, UNICEF has expanded its information outreach on mines/UXOs risk education. With the Ministry of Internal Affairs, young children in Donetsk and Luhansk regions will receive additional 5,000 copies of Mine Risk Education posters, and 1,500 DVDs with information material and cartoon. The Knowledge, Attitude, Practice, Behaviour survey on risks and practices on mines/UXOs has been launched in cooperation with the Danish Refugee Council/Danish Demining Group.

**Water Sanitation and Hygiene**

In the reporting period, UNICEF partner Ukrainian Frontiers provided 255 adult hygiene kits to 500 people in the city of Horlivka. On 25 March, hygiene kits were distributed in Perevalsk town of Luhansk region to 75 children in institutions for children with psychical disabilities and orphans. Additional 800 kits are to be distributed in Alchevsk, Brianka, Luhansk (Luhansk region), and Sviatohirsk (Donetsk region).

UNICEF implementing partner Luhansk Regional Agency for Sustainable Development distributed 11,500 6-liter bottles of drinking water to over 5,700 people in affected areas of Luhansk region, namely Stanytsia Luhanska, Popasna, Zolote, and Shchastya. To meet the critical need of diapers for elders and people with disabilities in institutions, UNICEF donated 6,000 diapers in Donetsk. UNICEF implementing partner PIN distributed baby hygiene kits to 150 children in Krasnodon and Rovenky orphanages.

UNICEF has developed a hygiene awareness campaign with approximately 1,000 UNICEF WASH posters-calendars distributed among children during the World Water Day celebration (on 22 March) at the Water Museum in Kyiv.

**Child Protection**

UNICEF in partnership with PIN is on the ground in the non-government-controlled areas monitoring the needs of children, including those still living in bomb shelters, and are providing psychosocial support and outreach training to local professionals through child-friendly space in Debaltseve.

During the reporting period, the child hotline run by LaStrada and supported by UNICEF, received 1,246 calls. Of those, 56 per cent were from girls and 44 per cent from boys. All callers received support and referrals when needed.

Through its nine Community Protection Centres (CPC), the Ukrainian Red Cross has provided psychosocial support, organized recreational sport activities, provided legal and educational services to 4,334 visitors of the centres. Of those, 2,000 people, including 1,260 children, received psychosocial support. Between 17 and 29 March, three centres operated by the Ukrainian Frontiers, responded to 1,296 initial inquiries for legal, accommodation, medical, psychosocial support and humanitarian aid. Over 400 children attended the child-friendly spaces, over 250 people received psychological consultations and attended different workshops; social workers provided case management
to over 100 vulnerable families. UNICEF in cooperation with YMCA and SOS Kinderdorf Ukraine continues to expand its activities to meet the need in areas where IDP and host communities are bearing the brunt of the conflict by setting up programs in 20 schools and in four developing Community Protection Centres (CPC) in the Luhansk region. These centres will reach 9,000 additional children and caregivers with psychosocial support and other services.

The Kyiv Mohyla Academy project emphasized the need to extend outreach sessions and training in Psychological First Aid and Psychosocial support to teachers and other school and kindergarten staff. In March, their trained psychologists have reached a total of 2,074 persons through individual and group counselling sessions and provided 11 outreach sessions reaching 202 teachers and psychologists in Luhansk and Zaporizhia regions.

**Health and Nutrition**

To ensure proper infant nutrition UNICEF supports breastfeeding in emergency, and assists IDP mothers with children from 0 to 1-year olds. UNICEF and the Ukrainian Breastfeeding Association Molochnye Reki, have developed a capacity-building programme to promote breastfeeding in emergency for volunteers and staff members from 16 CPCs. Several trainings are scheduled to be held in Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Luhansk, and Zaporizhia regions.

**External Communication**

UNICEF in Ukraine continues to advocate on needs of crisis-affected children through international and local media as well as social media. With support from the Regional Office and headquarters, the Country Office released a multimedia communication package on the mine risks for children in Ukraine, including a global press release, a set of photos, factographs, a human-interest story, and a blog post.

On 31 March, UNICEF in Geneva held a briefing on children killed and injured by landmines/UXOs in eastern Ukraine. The press release was issued in New York, Geneva and Kyiv resulting in about 80 stories in the local media and international outlets, including Voice of America, BBC, ITAR-TASS, Radio Vatican, MSN News. On the same day, a popular international online media Mashable released a story on conflict-affected orphans mentioning UNICEF in Ukraine which garnered 1,700 shares. The weekly Kyiv Post and the daily newspaper Den published interviews of UNICEF Regional Director for CEE/CIS Marie-Pierre Poirier on her recent country visit.

**Funding and Planning**

UNICEF has revised its appealed to US$55.8 million to provide emergency relief assistance to children affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine. To date, just over US$14.5 million has been received, representing only 26 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 the affected children. The table below provides a detailed overview by sector:

<table>
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<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Requirements (US$)</th>
<th>Funds received (US$)*</th>
<th>Funding gap (US$)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>14,400,000</td>
<td>4,838,525</td>
<td>9,561,475</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>2,600,000</td>
<td>1,440,375</td>
<td>1,159,625</td>
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<td>Health &amp; Nutrition</td>
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<td>4,559,730</td>
<td>7,740,270</td>
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<td>WASH</td>
<td>23,000,000</td>
<td>1,913,633</td>
<td>23,086,367</td>
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<td>Sector Coordination, Field Support</td>
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<td>1,832,640</td>
<td>1,667,360</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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**Who to contact for further information:**

- **Giovanna Barberis**
  - Representative
  - UNICEF Ukraine
  - Tel: +(380-44) 5210125, 254 2439
  - Email: gbarberis@unicef.org

- **Veronika Vashchenko**
  - Communication Officer
  - UNICEF Ukraine
  - Tel: +(380-44) 5210125, 254 2439
  - Email: vvashchenko@unicef.org

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