Highlights

- The resumption of access to Luhansk region for the UN agencies and some international partners enabled the scaling up of the delivery of much needed humanitarian supplies, just as the severe winter weather has set in.

- According to the Ukrainian Ministry of Health, 75.1 per cent of the target population of children up to the age of 6 years, were vaccinated against polio in the second round of the nationwide polio vaccination campaign from 30 November to 18 December. UNICEF has provided the vaccines for the second and third rounds and is supporting community outreach and social mobilization. An extensive training programme is also being conducted to improve knowledge and attitudes of health professionals about polio.

- In December, UNICEF completed the rehabilitation of 10 schools in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, providing a safe learning environment for 2,500 children. These are the first schools out of a planned total of 45 educational institutions due to be rehabilitated by UNICEF with funding from the Japanese Government.

- UNICEF has created a safe learning environment for 20,000 children by equipping 300 classrooms with furniture in towns and villages near the contact line.

- The expansion of Mine Risk Education (MRE) efforts continued with the printing and distribution of a large number of MRE-related materials that have been approved by the Ukrainian Ministry of Education, which will benefit approximately 306,600 children.
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

In the second half of December, the OSCE Monitoring Mission reported an increase in the number of ceasefire violations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions compared to earlier in the month. Tensions in Donetsk region were primarily caused by the presence and movement of military on both sides close to the contact line, in particular in the areas where reportedly the military forces are strengthening their positions in so called “grey areas”, such as those around Pavlopil and Pyshchevyk (south of Donetsk) and Zaitseve (north of Horlivka).

During December, the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU), working under the auspices of the OHCHR, recorded 15 civilian casualties in eastern Ukraine: seven killed and eight injured1. All those killed were adults - four women and three men. Of the eight people injured, seven were adults (a woman and six men), and one was a boy of 15. Except for one man injured from small arms, all the others were injured by explosive remnants of war (ERWs), including a boy who tripped over an antipersonnel landmine near Luhansk in the non-government controlled areas (NGCAs). The presence of landmines, unexploded ordnance (UXO) and explosive remnants of war (ERWs) remains the primary cause of death and injury along the contact line.

Harsh winter weather has now set in and following the resumption of humanitarian access, UN agencies have been scaling up their delivery of humanitarian aid to NGCAs in eastern Ukraine, especially Luhansk. According to the latest figures available, in November UN agencies and partners delivered more than 1,700 tonnes of food, shelter, NFIs and other assistance to NGCAs, including 1,400 tonnes to the Luhansk area and 300 tonnes to the Donetsk region. Assistance to Luhansk is now being distributed to an estimated 69,000 people. On 14 December, 634 metric tons of humanitarian aid were delivered to Luhansk. Led by the Logistics Cluster, the convoy included food, medicines and trauma kits, antiretroviral treatment and test systems procured by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The resumption of humanitarian aid was made possible after the UN obtained registration to operate in the Luhansk area in October. Currently in the Luhansk NGCA, the UN, ICRC, and Mercy Corps are permitted to operate. In Donetsk NGCA, ICRC is operating but UN registration is still pending. UN support is being channelled through the Czech NGO People in Need (PIN).

Restrictions on freedom of movement and the lack of public transport for the local population in conflict-affected areas, including the NGCAs, continue to isolate people and limit access to social entitlements, medication and humanitarian assistance. Many people, including children are forced to wait in cold and unsanitary conditions at checkpoints for many hours before crossing. Tents have now been set up by the State Emergency Service of Ukraine at Zaitseve, Novotroitske and Gnutove checkpoints, and they are available 24 hours a day. People come into these tents to keep warm, and UNICEF is working on the provision of sanitation, drinking water, snacks, and improvement of hygiene facilities.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

OCHA Director of Operations, John Ging, visited eastern Ukraine at the beginning of December and met with the de-facto authorities and others to assess the humanitarian situation. Reporting to the UN Security Council on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O’Brien, he described a desperate humanitarian situation, especially for the most vulnerable, which had been made worse by the restriction on access for humanitarian organizations imposed by the de-facto authorities in Donetsk and Luhansk NGCAs. He called on humanitarians to have the freedom to deliver aid to those in need throughout eastern Ukraine. In particular he highlighted that access to water is a human right and that all authorities are duty-bound to provide it to the population, regardless of whether there is conflict or not.

1 The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) investigates reports of civilian casualties by consulting a broad range of sources and types of information that are evaluated for their credibility and reliability. In undertaking documentation and analysis of each incident, HRMMU exercises due diligence to corroborate information on casualties from as wide range of sources as possible including OSCE SMM public reports, accounts of witnesses, victims and directly affected persons, military actors, community leaders, medical professionals and other interlocutors. Some conclusions on civilian casualties may be revised as more information becomes available. HRMMU does not claim that this statistics is complete and may be under-reporting civilian casualties given limitations inherent in the operating environment including gaps in coverage of certain geographic areas and time periods.
Clusters continued working on the soon-to-be finalised the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) including the development of indicators for a monitoring framework, and held regular coordination meetings. The HRP is still pending approval from the Government of Ukraine.

### Summary of Programme Response

#### 2015 PROGRAMME TARGETS AND RESULTS  Results as of 30 December 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Cluster 2015 Target</th>
<th>Cluster Total Results</th>
<th>UNICEF 2015 Target</th>
<th>UNICEF Total Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NUTRITION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<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>73,400</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>73,400</td>
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<td><strong>HEALTH</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children immunised against polio under five</td>
<td>900,000</td>
<td>1,681,384</td>
<td>900,000</td>
<td>1,681,384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of deliveries supported by midwifery kits with medicines, medical equipment and consumables for maternity wards</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>13,500</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>13,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of beneficiaries supported by basic emergency health kits</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>130,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>130,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WATER, SANITATION &amp; HYGIENE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people with access to safe water</td>
<td>675,000</td>
<td>2,116,490</td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
<td>814,418</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of people with access to hygiene supplies</td>
<td>400,000</td>
<td>118,809</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>70,756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of affected people benefiting from hygiene and sanitation promotion messages</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>159,446</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>114,562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHILD PROTECTION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children provided with psychosocial counselling &amp; support, disaggregated by gender and age</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>76,622</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>57,474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of community professionals trained in identifying children’s heightened stresses and provided initial interventions</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>22,390</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>5,965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of affected children, women and caregivers who participate in safe spaces, where activities have been conducted to encourage family unity and well-being</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>38,349</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>35,019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EDUCATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of affected children (including adolescents) accessing education and provided with educational and psychosocial support</td>
<td>600,000</td>
<td>244,136</td>
<td>225,000</td>
<td>203,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children accessing rehabilitated and repaired schools</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children in targeted schools and temporary learning centres having access to appropriate WASH facilities as per the agreed minimum standards</td>
<td>115,000</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of emergency-affected children with access to mine risk education (MRE)</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>542,322</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>274,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HIV AND AIDS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of pregnant women tested for HIV living in NGCAs</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>12,700</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>12,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of women, who have tested HIV positive, receiving ARV course to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV in NGCAs</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people living in NGCA, who have received ARV treatment</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>7,773</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>7,773</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1. The Cluster and UNICEF results are the same due to the fact that UNICEF is a lead in Nutrition sub-Cluster and the only implementing agency.
2. Estimated number of 0-6 year old children received two doses of OPV based on the MoH reports for Round I and Round II of the Polio vaccination campaign.
3. UNICEF is the only implementing agency procuring and delivering midwifery kits, hence the Cluster and UNICEF targets and results are identical.
4. UNICEF is the only implementing agency procuring and delivering basic emergency health kits, hence the Cluster and UNICEF targets and results are identical.
5. UNICEF target is higher than the Cluster target, as UNICEF has revised it based on reality, while HRP target used by the Cluster, is currently under revision by OCHA.
6. UNICEF target is higher than the Cluster target, as UNICEF has revised it based on reality, while HRP target used by the Cluster, is currently under revision by OCHA.
7. Very small percentage of the target achieved by UNICEF is due to temporary suspension of the hygiene promotion campaign in NGCA and due to de-facto authorities' request for tax for print and all media being controlled by them. The campaign is now being planned for GCA.
Health and nutrition

The second round of three nationwide polio vaccination campaigns began on 30 November. It was originally scheduled to end on 11 December, but was extended by an additional week and concluded on 18 December. Ukraine’s Ministry of Health reported that 75.1 per cent of the target population (1,681,384 out of 2,238,805 children aged between 2 months and 6 years) were vaccinated with oral polio vaccine (OPV). A third round, targeting all children between the ages of 2 months and 10 years is scheduled to begin on 25 January.

During the second round, UNICEF deployed supportive supervisory missions to visit medical facilities in Cherkasy, Kherson, Mykolaiv, Odessa, Rivne and Kyiv regions and the city of Kyiv. UNICEF’s independent monitoring of the campaign realized in partnership with European Research Association was carried out among parents exiting health facilities and out of home. Monitoring amongst health workers took place through telephone interviews. The awareness of polio increased to 91 per cent and awareness about the campaign and outbreak increased to 63 per cent among parents.

To back up the vaccination campaign, UNICEF has also conducted a number of conferences and trainings with medical professionals and schools, as well as outreach to the population at large, including parents. For example, a UNICEF-sponsored National Conference on “Effective Counselling on Mother and Child Health and Polio” was attended by more than 300 participants from almost all regions of Ukraine. A series of trainings on “Effective counselling on polio and immunisation issues” was held in Ivano-Frankivsk, Odesa, Liviv and – for the first time – Chernivtsi, gathering school directors and parental committees in a workshop. To date, UNICEF has trained over 3,000 medical workers and health managers in effective counselling and communication on polio vaccination from the majority of Ukraine’s regions.

UNICEF continued its partnership with First National TV channel and reached over one million people with a video promotion about the polio vaccination campaign, as well as an interview with a famous children’s doctor, Dr. Komarovsky. In addition, about two million people aged 25 to 40 years were informed through digital advertising about the next round of polio vaccination.

UNICEF also organized a second training for staff at Ukravakcina, the national vaccines storage warehouse, on vaccine arrival procedures, vaccine handling and temperature monitoring. This is part of a broader effort to establish standard operating procedures ensuring vaccine security and safety throughout the cold chain. Besides distribution of vaccines for the polio outbreak response, Ukravakcina will handle storage and distribution of vaccines for routine immunization that UNICEF will be procuring on behalf of the Government of Ukraine.

In Luhansk NGCA, the second round of polio vaccination started on 24 December and concluded on 4 January. Coverage for the first round was reported at 96.7 per cent with some medical institutions reporting more than 100 per cent because of the addition of IDP children to the target population. Vaccines for all rounds were reportedly procured from the Russian Federation. The third round in Luhansk is scheduled to start on 4 February.

The Ministry of Health, UNICEF and WHO are now focusing their efforts on tackling the negative media coverage about a child death wrongly associated with the polio vaccine. Enhanced and proactive media outreach is taking place to ensure the broadcasting of accurate information. This includes interviews with UNICEF experts and articles in traditional and digital media. UNICEF participated in an ‘off the record’ round table organized by the Ministry of Health, together with chief editors of prominent TV channels to address questions relating to claims of adverse events following immunisation. As a result of those efforts, the level of national negative media coverage is now decreasing and has reverted to being neutral and even positive.

A three-month External Assessment took place during the month of December. Following the assessment, WHO and UNICEF Country Offices held a joint review of the polio response plan and made recommendations to the Ministry of Health for the third round that also included key recommendations from the assessment. The joint review determined that school vaccination will be a critical issue to ensure high coverage in the third round. WHO and UNICEF subsequently met with the Deputy Minister of Education, who agreed to assist in the school vaccination effort. Based on the recommendation of the GPEI external assessment, UNICEF adjusted its communication and
social mobilisation strategy for the third round to ensure extensive media outreach and enhanced communication for the low-performing regions.

All vaccines for the third round have been purchased by UNICEF in advance, with funding support from ECHO and are now in the country.

Regarding the provision of supplies and commodities for diagnosis, monitoring and treatment of HV/AIDS, UNICEF provided another delivery of antiretroviral medicines and diagnostic kits to NGCAs within the emergency project funded by the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria. A total of 11.95 tonnes of these goods reached Donetsk and Luhansk AIDS Centres. According to the reports provided by Donetsk AIDS Centre, 6,723 patients, including 186 children are now receiving antiretroviral treatment. Luhansk has not yet provided the reports, but an estimated 1,050 patients are receiving antiretroviral therapy, including 19 children.

Following continuous advocacy by UNICEF, the Rinat Akhmetov Foundation has joined the breastfeeding support programme. Workers for the hotline were trained by UNICEF partners. Up until 9 December, there were 975 calls with questions concerning the content of food kits and breastfeeding practices. Printed materials advocating breastfeeding have been delivered to the Foundation.

UNICEF is working in close cooperation with WHO and WFP to ensure the distribution of 30,000 notepads and 1,000 posters, which contain key messages about breastfeeding in emergencies, targeting young women and mothers. These were delivered to medical mobile teams (MEPUs) and food distribution points. Similarly, 20,000 notepads with key messages about breastfeeding in emergencies were printed and distributed through WFP food parcels.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**

UNICEF continued its advocacy for improving the water supply in eastern Ukraine. On 13 December, there was a meeting between UNICEF and Ambassador Toni Frisch, the Humanitarian Coordinator for the Minsk Trilateral Contact Group, concerning water issues in the east of Ukraine. Both the Ambassador and UNICEF shared many concerns about what is seen as an unsustainable situation in Luhansk in particular, where the one water supply system is being managed by two parastatals - companies owned wholly by the regional government. Due to a variety of issues payments for water have stopped. Building on some progress made within the Minsk process, such as access of pedestrians to Luhansk and the exchange of prisoners, the counterparts agreed to continue working together to try to solve the water issues through the process in order to ensure the realisation of the basic human right to water.

In terms of service delivery, the supply of chlorine to treatment plants serving both sides of the contact line continued with 100 tons of liquefied chlorine gas being delivered to the Mariupol Water Treatment Plant in Donetsk region serving more than a half million people.

Water trucking continued to 15,000 people, including approximately 2,700 children, in the non-government controlled area of Luhansk as the water shortages in Avdiivka, Pervomaisk, Natayliyo, Krasnohorivka, Volnovakha and Popasna areas have continued, since major pipe repairs from the Western Filter Station planned by ICRC could not be realized due to the presence of landmines.

UNICEF, through its partner ADRA, has positioned 50 water storage tanks along the contact line in Mariinka rayon, increasing water security for 10,000 people, including 1,800 children. This has been done in collaboration with the town officials, who identified the locations for the tanks and will ensure their maintenance.

The NGO Ukrainian Frontiers continues to maintain toilets and hand washing facilities on the government-controlled side of the Volnovakha check point. These have served 7,000 people, including 1,260 children, so far and kept them safe from exposure to landmines. Finally, through UNICEF’s partners SOS-Kramatorsk, Ukrainian Frontiers, PIN and the Luhansk Regional Agency for Sustainable Development (LRASD), the distribution of hygiene kits continued in Mariupol city in Donetsk region, as well as Svatoove, Kremennaya, Novopskov and Bilovodsk in Luhansk region. A total of 11,500 hygiene kits were distributed in December, reaching 54,500 people, including almost 30,000 children. In addition, hygiene items donated by Proctor and Gamble reached an additional 5,000 women through these same partners.
13,000 lined copybooks and 13,000 colouring books, both with ‘To be healthy’ hygiene messages were printed and will be delivered to ADRA Kramatorsk for distribution to the most vulnerable children of Donetsk region in January 2016. 13,000 bars of soap with hygiene promotion stickers were delivered as well.

Similarly, in Mariupol a large number of items with messages promoting hygiene were delivered in December. These included: 15,000 soap bars with hygiene promotion stickers and the same number of colouring books. In cooperation with the Mariupol Youth Union, UNICEF organized a ‘Toilet day’ event in two Mariupol kindergartens. Soap, stickers and colouring books were distributed to kindergartens in Hranitne. In the coming months, thousands more posters, colouring books with hygiene promotion messages will be distributed to schools and community protection centres throughout Donetsk and Luhansk, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia and Dnipropetrovsk regions.

Child Protection

Between 8-11 December, the Child Protection sub-cluster organised a Training of Trainers (ToT) on the global Child Protection Minimum Standards in Kyiv. The ToT was funded by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and attended by 22 trainers from a variety of local organisations. A plan for future trainings aimed at child protection front-line responders was developed which envisages training approximately 400 persons in 20 different places throughout Ukraine. This aims to improve the quality of child protection services provided.

The sub-cluster facilitated trainings on ‘Child Protection in Emergency’ in Severodonetsk and Kramatorsk. Each training had around 40 participants from local authorities and NGOs. Meetings with the local Child Protection sub-clusters were also held in each place.

The sub-cluster visited Konstantinovka in Donetsk region, close to the contact line. Due to its proximity to the NGCA there is a steady stream of people from that area who come to arrange their Ukrainian documents. However, there are very few services available for these people whilst they are there. The children protection sub-cluster therefore discussed with local counterparts the possibility of establishing some kind of drop-in centre, where children from the NGCA could receive support whilst their parents take care of documentation issues.

The children’s hotline operated by the UNICEF-supported NGO La Strada received 2,367 calls in December from children and 444 from caregivers. The hotline provides information as well as psychological and legal assistance to children, their parents and guardians. Of the calls, 53.1 per cent were from girls and women and 46.9 per cent from boys and men. All callers received support and referrals when needed. Since January 2015, a total of 35,019 children have called the hotline.

During December, UNICEF provided psychosocial support to 4,292 children through a network of 13 community protection centres (CPCs) in Luhans, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kharkiv regions. Since January 2015, a total of 57,176 children have been reached through the CPCs and schools.

UNICEF’s partner “Terre des hommes” provided Movement, Games and Sports (MGS) equipment to 75 schools in government-controlled areas of Luhansk oblast, allowing 3,211 students participate in these activities. The games libraries (ludoteca) established this autumn in 15 schools in government-controlled areas of Luhansk region continue to offer sports and recreational activities to 5,795 students aged 6 to 17 years.

UNICEF supported printing and delivery of 4,200 books entitled “Psychosocial support in crisis” for teachers and social workers to the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. Through cooperation between UNICEF and its partners they will be distributed throughout the conflict-affected areas in order to build the capacity of teachers to deal with children affected by psychosocial trauma. A further 10,200 copies of the same book were also distributed to nine child protection centres, supported by UNICEF and the Red Cross, in Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, and Dnipropetrovsk regions.

Education

In December UNICEF completed the rehabilitation of 10 schools in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions. This will provide a safe learning environment for 2,500 children. These are the first schools out of a planned total of 45 educational institutions due to be rehabilitated by UNICEF with funding from the Japanese Government.

New furniture has been delivered to 300 classrooms, as well as sports equipment for sport halls and WASH supplies to 12 schools and other educational facilities near the contact line in Dzerzhynskyi, Myronivske and Svitlodarsk in

Training of teachers - Lego project. ©UNICEF Ukraine 2015
Donetsk region. This makes a total of 57 educational facilities which have received supplies, creating access for 20,000 children to a safe learning environment, as some of these institutions have as many as 1,000 pupils each.

UNICEF continued its programme of trainings together with the LEGO Foundation Ukraine, on the LEGO methodology of stress and trauma treatment for affected children. Throughout December, six trainings were organised for teachers and school psychologists from Donetsk region. A total of 150 teachers from 80 schools and kindergartens in Donetsk region took part. A similar training for community protection centre (CPC) representatives was conducted in Dnipropetrovsk on 7-8 December, attended by 24 staff from 10 child protection centres (CPCs).

In collaboration with the Ukrainian branch of the GfK (Gesellschaft fuer Konsumforschung - Society for Consumer Research), a market research company, UNICEF has started a survey of out-of-school children to examine the reasons why IDP children are not attending school, and to look at ways how they might be included in education. The results of the survey will be presented in February 2016.

Together with the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) and a charity called ‘Health through Education’, UNICEF has started work on developing a programme called Life Skills Education, funded by ECHO. This programme aims to provide opportunities for children and adolescents to develop a range of values, attitudes and behaviours such as critical thinking, tolerance, respect for others, mutual understanding and listening. It targets internally displaced children and adolescents and members of host communities, as well as children and adolescents who live in conflict-affected areas, but who have not been displaced. The programme was launched at a workshop in Kyiv on 2-3 December, with the presence of an international consultant on Education in Emergencies from UNICEF RO for CEE/CIS. It is planned to implement this kind of education within the curriculum of schools in Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia regions.

The expansion of Mine Risk Education (MRE) efforts continues, and received a significant boost with the publication in December of 18,000 books on MRE-related issues, and approval from the Ukrainian Ministry of Education for their distribution throughout Ukraine. The books include 6,000 about mine risks, 6,000 about first aid and 6,000 on psychosocial support for teachers. The books have been printed and delivered to Mariupol from where they will be distributed to schools in the area. 100 copies of a board game designed for use during MRE lessons have been produced and distributed to non-governmental areas of Luhansk region, including Antratsit and Krasniy Luch.

**External Communication**

On 8 December, UNICEF and WHO conducted a joint press conference on the interim results of the second round of the polio vaccination campaign in Ukraine. A series of interviews on national TV channels and print media was also organized to counteract speculations and false allegations spread by anti-vaccination groups.

On 14 December, a joint press release by UNICEF, WFP and WHO was issued on the delivery of humanitarian aid to Luhansk non-government-controlled areas. In this joint UN convoy, UNICEF managed to deliver the second batch of antiretroviral treatment for more than 8,000 adults and children living with HIV. In addition, UNICEF delivered HIV testing for over 31,000 pregnant women and their children. This press release was widely picked up by the national and local media.

On 21 December, UNICEF and EU released the results of the joint project on improving access to water, sanitation and hygiene in eastern Ukraine. As a result, almost 40 stories were published in the Ukrainian media. In addition, media posts with factographs were widely shared through the ECHO, the EU Delegation to Ukraine, UNICEF Geneva, UNICEF Brussels and UNICEF Kyiv social media accounts.

Yuriy Zubenko, an internally displaced child from the conflict area of Donetsk region, participated in the UNICEF ‘OneMinutes Jr’ video initiative, was awarded first place in the 9-13 years age category at the Peacemaker Corps 2015 Peace in the Streets Global Film Festival with his short video “War Takes it All”. The OneMinutes Jr videos from Ukraine feature stories by IDP children between the ages of 6 and 17 years old from Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
UNICEF sponsored Yuriy’s participation in the award ceremony in New York, where he also had the opportunity to visit the United Nations Headquarters and meet young people from other countries. Yuriy’s video can be seen at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJ2-31j4oXT6J3UaC9E7M8M552jVOOnMXu.

Funding and Planning

In 2015, UNICEF sought US$55.8 million to provide emergency relief assistance to children affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine. In addition to the US$1,984,325 carried forward from 2014, over US$31 million was received through the Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) 2015 appeal, representing 56 per cent of the total appeal. 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, Poland, Lithuania, Republic of Korea and Germany; the Danish, UK and Slovak National Committees for UNICEF; US Fund for UNICEF; The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; and corporate partners for their contributions. The table below provides a detailed overview for 2015 funding by sector.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Funds received</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
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<td>WASH</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>55,800,000</td>
<td>35,724,422</td>
<td>20,075,578.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In line with the country’s inter-agency 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan, UNICEF is requesting US$54.3 million to meet the humanitarian needs of children in Ukraine in 2016.

For further information please contact:
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