Highlights

- Continuing shelling hampers access to effectively assess the humanitarian situation in some parts of Eastern Ukraine.

- UNHCR reports 155,800 internally displaced people, one third of whom are children.

- The Ministry of Education reports 290 schools are partially or completely destroyed in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

- According to National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine a refugee convoy of civilians, who attempted to leave areas of active military operations was attacked in Luhansk oblast leaving 15 killed.

- To date UNICEF distributed almost 1900 hygiene kits benefiting over 4,000 IDP families and children, as well as 85 ECD kits to help 850 children in accommodation centres.

- A UN-led Response Plan was launched in Kyiv on 14 August with the Government of Ukraine, donors and humanitarian community. UNICEF is seeking US$2.98 million to enhance its education and WASH response.

- UNICEF Representative Giovanna Barberis visited Eastern Ukraine on 20 August underscoring the need for comprehensive crisis planning addressing issues such as schooling, housing during winter season and enhancing access to potable water.

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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

According to UNHCR, 155,800 people are internally displaced in Ukraine, of which at least one third are children (as of 15 August).

Continuing shelling in Eastern Ukraine hampers access to effectively assess the situation in some parts of Donetsk oblast and most parts of Luhansk oblast. Heavy gunfire and strong explosions are reported in various parts of Donetsk city. For several days the city was deprived of water because of the damage to the electrical pump system. The local authorities provide water to the population from trucks. According to the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission, Donetsk city hospital is functioning, although shortage of water supply significantly impedes the work of medical staff. At the same time, no serious shortage of food supply or electricity is observed.

Luhansk city is reported to lack electricity, drinking water, food, medicines and communications for over 20 days. Due to heavy fighting and shelling the situation in Luhansk city is of great concern to the humanitarian community.

On 8 August eight children with disabilities (aged 8 months – 2 years) were taken from the hospitals in Luhansk. They were illegally transferred to the Russian Federation without proper medical care and support. Following the intervention of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights and the Ukrainian Government, children were returned on 13 August 2014. Some are currently located in Baby Home #1 in Kharkiv and UNICEF is monitoring the situation in order to clarify the legal status of the children.

On 18 August near Novosvitlivka, Luhansk oblast, 15 civilians including women and children were killed when rockets and mortar hit the vehicle convoy of refugees attempting to leave Luhansk region of eastern Ukraine. UNSG Ban Ki-moon was deeply concerned and again urged all sides to respect the rules governing the status of IDPs and refugees and to allow safe passage to anyone attempting to leave areas of active military operations.

On 20-22 August 2014, UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman paid a working visit to Ukraine. The same week UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos came to Ukraine. On 23 August 2014 Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel visited Ukraine.

Humanitarian needs

On 20 August 2014 Mrs Giovanna Barberis, Representative of UNICEF Ukraine, visited Eastern Ukraine to monitor the situation with access to education, WASH, protection and health in Kharkiv, Slavyansk and Svyatogorsk. Some of the main concerns as a result of this quick assessment are related to the living conditions of the IDPs, preparations for the coming winter season, access to drinking water and the possibility of IDP children to be integrated into the education system once the new school year starts.

As of 20 August, 290 schools are partially or completely destroyed in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. According to the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) of Ukraine the new school year will start on time on 1 September throughout the country, whenever possible. The MoES has simplified the procedure for IDPs children acceptance to schools based on their status. The lack of safe learning spaces, shortage of textbooks and school furniture are seriously challenging children’s access to education and proper start of the academic year, especially in Eastern Ukraine. Return to schools in conflict areas is endangered by lack of security and infrastructure damage. Psychological trauma is considered to be another element that could hamper the healthy environment in the classes. Capacity of school staff to deal with the emotional stress of pupils is limited and needs to be developed and enhanced through the specialized training programmes.

At the same time, IDPs remaining in the areas of displacement will put extra pressure on local education budgets throughout Ukraine.

Mine risk education for children and families in the territories affected by the conflict is urgently needed. The State Emergency Service reports, there are 11,680 ammunition items found and withdrawn on the territory of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts since 6 July 2014. These include shells, mines, grenades, rocket missiles, and other explosive objects. As families are returning to cities in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, the life and health of children will be at risk due to poor knowledge on the risks of explosive objects and related safe behaviours.

Water supply and access to drinking water continue to be a huge challenge in Eastern Ukraine, as people in Luhansk city are without access to drinking water for more than 20 days.

According to the MoH, as of 13 August countrywide health care was provided to 19,334 IDPs (including 8,664 children), among them 3,807 IDPs received in-patient care (1,578 children), 178 new-borns were delivered by IDPs. Low
imunisation coverage remains an acute public health issue as the majority of children in Ukraine are not adequately vaccinated, especially against polio.

**Humanitarian leadership and coordination**

On 14 August the Government together with donor and humanitarian community launched a Preliminary Response Plan and the UN Basic Funding Requirements amounting to 33.3 million USD. UNICEF is seeking US$2.98 million to support its education sector, which includes ensuring safe reopening of schools, safe learning spaces, mine risk education, psychosocial support for children and families, as well as capacity building for teachers and psychologists. For its WASH response UNICEF aims at ensuring access and the appropriate quality of drinking water and personal hygiene. As part of protection sector UNICEF is working to uphold the rights of IDP children and families and preserving and facilitating family unity.

The planning process for CERF funding has been initiated by UN OCHA in coordination with the UN agencies.

UNICEF continues to lead the coordination of the WASH and education sectors and support of the mental health and psychosocial sub-sector under Health. UNICEF has strengthened its capacity to address and respond to the needs in the WASH sector with newly arrived WASH Specialist from the UNICEF Kyrgyzstan CO.

Health assessment is planned to be carried out by WHO in coordination with UNICEF and UNFPA during a joint UN mission to Donetsk, Zaporizhya and Kharkiv oblasts on the week of 25-31 August.

**Summary Analysis of Programme Response**

MoES and the Ukrainian Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights with support from UNICEF developed a plan of action to ensure a timely enrolment of IDP children into education programmes in the areas of their relocation and to prevent the disruption of education services for returnees. The intervention aims to reconstruct learning spaces and provide school supplies and to ensure psychosocial well-being of children, caregivers and teachers through provision of psychosocial support.

On 28 August in Kyiv UNICEF will launch a mine risk education campaign (MRE) in cooperation with the State Emergency Service and the Ministry of Education and Science. The educational and communication materials package for schools will include a poster, leaflet for children, brochure for parents and caregivers, an animated cartoon for children. Additionally, the Ministry of Education and Science issued methodological guidelines for teachers to conduct learning sessions on mine and ammunition objects risk awareness. As a result of the intervention, 600,000 children and 200,000 parents in Donetsk and Luhansk regions will be reached through 2,000 schools and other education facilities, as well as the offices of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine operating locally. As children’s safety and security remain the main focus of the extracurricular school activities in the affected territories, the MRE campaign will become an integral part of the school learning process particularly in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts but also in all secondary schools throughout the country.

In addition to systematic supply and delivery of hygiene kits for adults, children and babies, UNICEF developed WASH distribution plan for the IDPs temporary located in Mariupol, Donetsk oblast. There are at the moment several target locations in Mariupol – Yalta, IDPs in Sanatorium “Avtomobilist” with 270 IDPs, camp in Yuriivka village with 300 – 400 IDPs, “Alyi Parus” camp with over 400 IDPs and IDPs in school center in Mariupol with around 200 IDPs. Through the reference by UNICEF after the assessment trip to this area, ADRA visited those locations and provided humanitarian aid for the IDPs.

UNICEF Ukraine is actively seeking substantial additional funding to meet the increasing humanitarian needs of IDPs families and children, as well returnees. Great concern is with the living conditions of those families who were not able to leave the current conflict areas.

**Supply and Logistics**

On 21 August UNICEF delivered 60 hygiene kits to Svyatogorsk, Donetsk oblast.

UNICEF has enlarged its warehouse capacity by the additional space provided by the SES in Kyiv city.

Since March until till August 18, UNICEF distributed almost 1900 hygiene kits benefiting over 4,000 IDP families and children. Also, 85 ECD kits were delivered to help 850 children overcome stress and pressure while living in accommodation centres.
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