Highlights

- As of 29 August, the number of internally displaced people increased to 230,389, while more than 283,065 people have fled eastern Ukraine to seek refuge in neighbouring countries. At least one third of them are children.

- On 1 September around 900 schools in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts did not open due to ongoing fighting hampering the access to education for approximately 270,000 children.

- UNICEF is distributing 13,600 items of school supplies and equipment to IDP children located in collective centres in Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Donetsk oblasts for the new academic year.

- Access to drinking water continues to deteriorate in Luhansk oblast, UNICEF is delivering 41,693 six-litre bottles of drinking water covering approximately 80,000 persons for a period of up to 22 September.

- On 1 September UNICEF launched an anti-landmine awareness campaign covering 2,000 schools in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

- On 26 August Ukrainian President Poroshenko dissolved parliament and called for early elections to be held on 26 October.

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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**

As of 29 August, the number of internally displaced increased to 230,389, while more than 283,065 people have fled eastern Ukraine to seek refuge in neighbouring countries. Ongoing shelling presents a challenge to accessing some parts of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. According to UNOCHA reports, there is an increasing need for water, electricity and health care in these areas.

The fighting in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts severely disrupted water supply systems, causing problems for up to 250,000 people in Luhansk oblast and up to one million in Donetsk oblast. Donetsk city water supply is relatively stable though supplied at a minimum level. All key water supply and sewerage facilities are functional, though some of them do not have chlorine for disinfection. State Emergency Service (SES) is asking people in the affected areas to boil water before consumption. Luhansk city has been disconnected from water supply for more than a month.

According to SES, there is a potential risk of an outbreak of Hepatitis A in the Roma community due to a number of previous cases registered. This settlement is situated near Kriviy Rih city. While SES keeps the situation under control, UNICEF will continue to monitor the situation and support SES in health promotion activities.

On 1 September the new school year in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts started in the territories controlled by the Government of Ukraine. Around 900 schools in the affected areas did not open hampering the access to education for approximately 270,000 children. According to the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES), the school year in the affected areas will tentatively start on 1 October. Distance/online learning courses are being offered for children of 5-9 and 10-11 grades who have no access to schools in the affected territories.

MoES also plans to deliver 1,073 sets of textbooks and manuals to some schools in Donetsk oblast. This year textbooks for elementary school and up to 6th grade are available free-of-charge on the dedicated digital platform ([http://ua.lokando.com](http://ua.lokando.com)).

Non-government forces have reportedly captured the town of Novoazovsk and are advancing on the port of Mariupol, after opening a new front in the south-east. This is likely to create another wave of displacement amongst the local population (half a million approx).

Ukrainian President Poroshenko dissolved parliament on 26 August and called for early elections to be held on 26 October. Lawmakers will continue to work until a new parliament is elected. As a result, laws required to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance might be postponed until after the elections have taken place.

**Humanitarian needs**

On 29 August 2013, UNICEF visited Kharkiv, Starobilsk and Severodnetsk on the WASH and education assessment mission. Some of the main findings reveal that the WASH situation in Severodonetsk and Starobilsk is adequate, as the local Government has the capacity to monitor health and sanitary situation in the areas controlled by the authorities. The local schools have enough capacity to accommodate additional IDP children although the issue of transportation to schools, remains unsolved.

MoES reports that 156 pre-school and secondary school facilities have been damaged in Donetsk oblast and 114 educational facilities have been damaged in Luhansk oblast. As of 29 August, 29 facilities have been restored in Slovyansk, KrasnyiLiman and Artemivsk region. Facilities in Severodonetsk, Lysychansk, Rubizhne and other towns have been restored. 241 educational facilities in these oblasts remain damaged.

The SES continues to clear the previously conflict-affected territories of mines and unexploded ordnance (UXOs) in the government controlled Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. During the last two months, 16,562 items of ordnance were found and removed. The lack of information about the danger of mines and UXOs puts the life of children and adults at risk.

Horlivka and Debaltseve hospitals are not functioning and the people living with HIV in Donetsk oblast are lacking ARV treatment. HIV laboratories in Donetsk, Slovyansk and Horlivka are not operational. The delivery of medicines in areas of active fighting has stopped. The need for treatment for tuberculosis and HIV is increasing in the conflict affected areas.

According to UNAIDS, IDPs are facing difficulties in getting ART treatment. Considering the high HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in Eastern Ukraine and a large IPD movement from those areas, there is a potential risk that the situation will deteriorate with HIV/AIDS.
Water supply and access to drinking water continue to be a huge challenge in Eastern Ukraine. People in Luhansk city are without access to drinking water for more than a month. An urgent supply of drinking water is needed for at least 80,000 persons who are currently located in the area of active fighting.

Widespread displacement has led to separation of families and children. Their tracing and reunification remains a priority. Anecdotal evidence suggests many children from the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts are unaccompanied and separated from their families in other regions. UNICEF partners on the ground also report tensions between host communities and IDPs, including those belonging to ethnic minorities – such as Muslim Crimean Tatars and Roma. These factors call for psychosocial support, care and counselling aimed at fostering peaceful coexistence with a focus to diffuse and address anger before it leads to conflicting situations.

**Humanitarian leadership and coordination**

UNICEF continues to lead the coordination of the WASH and education sectors and support the mental health and psychosocial sub-sectors. A WASH assessment revealed the situation in the areas under Government control is adequate. The difficulty assessing areas within active fighting continue to be a huge concern for the international humanitarian community.

UNICEF has taken part in the seminar on “Standards of Humanitarian Assistance”, which was conducted for local NGOs. UNICEF experts shared their expertise on WASH, as well as child nutrition and breastfeeding in emergencies.

A joint health assessment of IDPs is planned to be carried out by WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA in Zaporizhzhia region within the next two weeks. The purpose of the assessment is to map the needs of IDP children and families; access to health services; drug availability and health concerns.

**Summary Analysis of Programme Response**

As an outcome of the Education Forum conducted earlier in August, UNICEF together with MoES and the Ukrainian Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights will submit the resolution to the Prime Minister of Ukraine with a joint request to issue a special order to protect children’s rights to education.

On 1 September, UNICEF Ukraine in partnership with MoES and SES launched a landmine and unexploded ordnance education campaign, aimed at protecting children and families from the consequences of the armed conflict in Eastern Ukraine. In September 2,000 schools in Donetsk and Luhansk oblast will receive sets of information materials, including posters, leaflets both for children and for parents, as well as an animated video. The campaign will reach around 600,000 children and 200,000 parents.

UNICEF is delivering 41,693 six-litre bottles of drinking water covering approximately 80,000 persons to Luhansk oblast through its local partner.

370 children and parents have benefited from ongoing psychosocial responses in the form of individual and group therapy.

**Supply and Logistics**

UNICEF is currently distributing 13,600 items of school supplies and equipment to IDP children located in collective centres in Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Donetsk oblasts for the new academic year.

From March until September 2014, UNICEF distributed 2,080 hygiene kits benefiting over 4,980 children and their families. A total of 2,750 children have benefited from UNICEF ECD kits aimed at helping them overcome stress and pressure while living in accommodation centres.

**Next SitRep: 19 September 2014**

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