Number of people in need: 3,000,000 (2019 UNICEF HAC).
Number of children in need of humanitarian assistance: 500,000 (2019 UNICEF HAC).

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

During this reporting period, a major milestone in the continuing advocacy for the Safe School Declaration in Ukraine was reached at the Third International Conference on Safe Schools, hosted by the government of Spain, in Palma, on 27-29 May 2019. During the event, the Ukrainian Education Deputy Minister confirmed that the Government had approved the recommendation to join the Declaration and that the respective request had been sent to the President for endorsement.

However, the number of incidents in the areas along the contact line targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure, including educational facilities continued. The education cluster reported two incidents, one in school #4 in Zolote-5/Mykhailivka, Luhanska non-government controlled.

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1 The cluster target refers to # of people benefitting from direct health services provision, while UNICEF looks at the # of women and children.
2 While the 2019 HRP estimates that 3.5 million people living in conflict-affected areas are in need, only 3 million people in need live in the 20-kilometre zone on both sides of the contact line and in non-government-controlled areas.
3 While the 2019 HRP estimates that 700,000 children living in conflict-affected areas are in need, only 500,000 children in need live in the 20-kilometre zone on both sides of the contact line and in non-government-controlled areas.
area (NGCA), the other at a school in Troitske, Luhansk, government controlled area (GCA). This is 8th time the first school sustains damages since the beginning of 2019, while the Troitske school sustained minor damages due to shelling and shooting in its vicinity. Around 30 children were evacuated and taken to a safe space, and the school remained closed for at least 2 days following the incident.

The WASH Cluster reported 17 WASH incidents bringing the total number of WASH infrastructure related incidents to 45 for 2019. The first lift pumping station of the South Donbass Water Way was shelled no less than nine times, bringing the total number to 27 for this facility alone, without which 1.1 million people would be left without water. Water supply to Luhansk city was also negatively affected twice in May.

Equally worrying are ongoing electricity cuts to water infrastructure in the conflict area, as conflict-affected main water companies cannot pay energy bills, but also as a result of the implementation of a national level, European Union related, energy market reforms. Over 18,000 people experienced water cuts on 23rd May when operations at pumping station boreholes were cut near Konstantinovka, while another 90,000 were cut at the end of May in Bakhmut city and surroundings.

**Summary Analysis of Programme Response**

**HEALTH**

At the beginning of May, UNICEF started a new six-months’ program for children and families affected by HIV/AIDS in NGCA. This includes targeted HIV prevention, care & support and psycho-social services at household levels and for children living in institutions. During May 2019, 46 children from HIV positive mothers and 15 HIV positive children were visited by multidisciplinary clinical teams, provided with treatment and/or monitoring medical services and psychosocial support. Specially trained peer-to-peer adolescents-mentors started psycho-social support for HIV positive children in institutions, as well as raised awareness on HIV/AIDS related issues to school children.

Total amount of people that UNICEF provided with direct HIV-related services in May 2019 in NGCA is 1082 (1002 children and 80 adults, including parents and health workers).

**WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)**

Within its ongoing support to ensuring access to safe drinking water, UNICEF continued to supply water treatment chemicals for 6 filter stations and 10 production departments of Voda Donbasu and to Popasna vodokanal that serves populations on both sides of the contact line.

In May, a follow up round of e-voucher distributions was conducted focusing on households residing in the settlements located within 0-5 km from the contact line. Overall, 2,867 households and 107 institutions in the mentioned rayons received e-vouchers through which 21,132 vulnerable individuals will benefit through improved access to hygiene supplies.
Otherwise, hygiene kits were distributed to the vulnerable households and institutions that did not benefit from the e-vouchers distribution. As a specific emergency intervention, residents of Volnovashkyi and Mariinskyi rayons who experience regular cuts of water supply received bottled water. Bottled water was also distributed in educational and health institutions in Lysychansk during the disruption of water services.

UNICEF continued C4D intervention to promote safe hygiene behavior. Educational sessions on hygiene practices were conducted for 5,925 children in kindergartens and schools and for 83 teachers of schools and kindergartens in the most conflict-affected areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. Also, in May UNICEF launched a campaign on menstrual hygiene featuring famous Ukrainian pop-singer and digital influencer, Michelle Andrade, as an Honored Friend of the program.

**CHILD PROTECTION**

During May, UNICEF in partnership with local organizations continued to provide protective services and psycho-social support to children and their caregivers residing in the conflict-affected communities close to the ‘contact line’ (NGCA) of Luhansk oblast. Services addressing psycho social distress and needs of children and caregivers were delivered through Community Protection Centers, while mobile technology was used to increase knowledge on child protection issues, risks and vulnerabilities and good parenting.

During the reporting period, mobile outreach strategies were also applied to raise awareness and provide assistance to survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and to children affected by violence in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (GCA). This included PSS first aid and the referral services to survivors of GBV and children affected by violence.

UNICEF continued to implement a project to support mine victims benefitting a total of nine families with nine child mine/ERW survivors enrolled in case management activities, while educational professionals participated in training sessions on inclusion during the reporting period.

In May UNICEF continued C4D intervention on mine safety rules applying the ‘edutaining’ approach. UNICEF continues to partner with the ‘Children KinoFest Film Festival’, an annual international festival of movies for children and teenagers, in the screening of UNICEF-supported comic cartoons on MRE and hygiene. This year, the festival will be held from May-June in 24 cities of Ukraine with an expected 45,000 visitors. The target audience of the festival is school-aged children based in small towns, in particular in conflict-affected Eastern Ukraine.

**EDUCATION**

In the conflict affected regions, UNICEF continued to enhance life-saving and life-sustaining knowledge and skills among children and adolescents through the implementation of the Life Skills course. The course provides children with skills, values and behaviors needed to prepare
for the personal, interpersonal and active citizenship aspects of their individual and social lives. During a month of May, 47 teachers from 30 education facilities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts were trained on life skills through an on-line course, reaching over 700 children.

COMMUNICATION
In May 2019, Ukraine joined the UNICEF global advocacy efforts to ‘Get 100 states’ to endorse the Safe Schools Declaration. Ahead of the Third Safe School Declaration Conference in Spain, UNICEF highlighted the increasing numbers of attacks on education in eastern Ukraine, including launching new multi-media content in the build up to and around the conference. This includes a new video about damaged school in Novotoshkivske, Lugansk region, placed on UNICEF global and regional platforms, as well the mini webportal, ‘Schoolchildren Caught in the Crossfire’ outlining stories of the conflict affected community and response provided by UNICEF with the ECHO funding. Novotoshkivske school in Luhansk region was also featured in the UNICEF global multimedia project 'The class of no tomorrow' installed at the Mallorca international airport during the Third International Safe School Declaration Conference.

UNICEF continued to raise the visibility of children living in the conflict zone, through its social media platforms reaching nearly 120,000 people with daily updates.

Security
The security situation in the eastern conflict area remained unchanged and remained unstable and unpredictable. During the month, the sides continued not to comply with agreed ceasefire recommendations. Intensive armed skirmishes were reported in the well-known hot spots along the whole LOC, including application of artillery. Large number of civilian casualties, including two children, residential and infrastructure registered.

Funding
UNICEF’s 2019 humanitarian appeal requirement for Ukraine is US$21,067,799 of which, as of 30 May, $6,303,902 is available including the funds carried forward from the previous year and funds received in 2019. This addresses only 30% of the required resources. The underfunding situation of the HAC is putting at risk UNICEF interventions to address major humanitarian needs across all sectors, in particular in areas along the contact line and in NGCA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Funds received in current year</th>
<th>Carry-forward</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
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<td>Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cluster/sector</td>
<td>Total Funding Available</td>
<td>Total Amount Received</td>
<td>Total Expenditure</td>
<td>Total Funding Allocated</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water, sanitation and hygiene</td>
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<td>Education</td>
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<td>Cluster/sector coordination</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>3,321,242</td>
<td>14,812,026</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Total funding available includes total funds received against current appeal plus carry-forward.

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