Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The overall security situation in the Eastern Conflict Area (ECA) remains tense and unpredictable. The OSCE special monitoring mission continued to record daily ceasefire violations including artillery fire along the Line of Contact with damaging private households/infrastructure and wounding civilians. Moreover, the expected “Easter truce” to be agreed on 18th April 2019 was not reached.

During the reporting period, two verified cases were reported by the education cluster on incidents affecting a school in non-government-controlled area. No injuries were reported.

Seven different incidents were reported by the WASH cluster in the immediate vicinity of water facilities during the month of April 2019. On 15th April 2019, shelling in Dokuchaievsk damaged Voda Donbassa office and employees were forced to take cover in bomb shelters. This situation posed recurrent and direct threats to the safe operation of WASH facilities including the 1st Lift Pumping Station of the South Donbas.
Water Way (beneficiaries 1.1 million), and Donetsk Filter Station (beneficiaries 378,983). These resulted in some structural damage, but no injuries were reported.

In first week of April, electricity supply was stopped, for around one month, at different water facilities including the 1st lift pumping station on Siverskyi Donets Donbass Channel (SDD), Belokuzminovskiyi borehole, 4th lift pumping stations the Second Donbass Water Way and Lysychansk affecting the whole population. More specifically during these electricity interruptions, 5 schools and 3 kindergarten in the vicinity of Konstantinovka and Torstsk were closed and children were forced to stay home for around one month.

Working with local authorities and civil society partners, UNICEF continued to reach people in need, particularly the most vulnerable families and children living on both sides of the line of contact and in non-government-controlled areas, with a package of interventions focusing on Education, Health & Nutrition, Child Protection, including Mine Risk Education, and WASH.

**Summary Analysis of Programme Response**

**HEALTH**
In partnership with an international NGO, UNICEF continued to assist vulnerable women and children under-five through an e-voucher project. In April, 282 people in NGCA Donetsk received e-vouchers for free-of-charge essential medicines in primary health care facilities. This includes 198 children under-five, 4 pregnant and lactating women, 31 women who received medical kits for normal delivery and 49 beneficiaries who received surgical kits for emergency cases, including Caesarean section. In addition, UNICEF continued working on the preparations needed to implement immunization activities in both Donetsk and Luhansk NGCA.

**WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)**
Within its ongoing support to ensuring access to safe drinking water, UNICEF continued to supply water treatment chemicals to 6 filter stations and 10 production departments of Voda Donbasu and to Popasna vodokanal that serves the population on both sides of the contact line.

In April, the additional wave of e-vouchers distribution started in Bakhmutskyi, Mariinskyi, Nikolskyi, Volnovashskyi, Novoaidarskyi, Stanychno-Luhanskyi rayons. This time the focus is on the households residing in the settlements located within 0-5 kms from the contact line. Overall, 4,145 households and 123 institutions in the mentioned rayons received e-vouchers from which 41,656 vulnerable individuals will benefit through improved access to hygiene supplies. The financial amount of the hygiene e-voucher is tailored to the size of the household, the presence of children under-five, persons with special needs and women in need of menstrual hygiene supplies. Provision of hygiene kits was done to the vulnerable households who did not benefit from the e-vouchers distribution. In April, 537 individuals in Donetsk and Luhansk oblast benefitted from hygiene kits distribution. In addition, 222 residents of Novhorodske in Toretsk city council who experience regular cuts of water supply received bottled water. During the reporting period, about 848 children in kindergartens of Volnovakha, Nikolske, Toretsk and Novhorodske in Donetsk oblast were reached by hygiene promotion messages during the edutainment sessions.

UNICEF also supported Voda Donbasa and Luhanskvoda with WASH items including pumps, pipes, portable electric power plant, welding which will assist in controlling the water quality and enhance the access to water for affected population in NGCA.
In addition, 124 teachers (31 kindergarten educators and 93 school teachers) from Pokrovskyi rayon of Donetsk oblast, Novoaidarskyi and Stanychno-Luhanskyi rayons of Luhansk oblast attended UNICEF-supported trainings on hygiene promotion focusing on enhancing the knowledge on the methods of communicating hygiene promotion messages to children.

In non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk oblast, the installation of sodium hypochlorite production plant [not clear...] contributed to the improvement of access to safe drinking water for 100,000 residents of Alchevsk, Krasnyi Luch, Antratsyt and other settlements.

**CHILD PROTECTION**

Through international and local partnerships, UNICEF continued to render protective services and psychosocial support (PSS) to children and their caregivers residing in the conflict-affected communities close to the line of contact in GCA and NGCA of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. During April 2019, child protection interventions were provided through Community Protection Centers and mobile outreach. In total 5,732 children and caregivers (4,828 children and 904 adults) received knowledge on healthy lifestyles, child rights, tolerance, leadership and child protection issues, risks and vulnerabilities in addition to case management and PSS which aimed to address stress and other mental health issues, such as anxiety, aggressiveness, and fear. On 20 April, UNICEF in cooperation with local partners held a youth conference “I know! I act! I change!” in Luhansk oblast (GCA). The event brought together 165 young leaders from eastern Ukraine who participated in peer-to-peer awareness-raising activities on child rights, counteracting bullying, creating a safe environment at school, supporting leadership qualities in adolescents.

Through mobile outreach, UNICEF continued raising awareness and supporting survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and children affected by violence in Donetsk and Luhansk areas (GCA). In April, UNICEF-supported mobile teams provided PSS first aid and ensured the referral to services to 313 survivors of GBV and to 36 children affected by violence (26F/10M), 137 individuals (54 children, 83 adults) benefitted from tailored mitigation activities aimed to reduce violence and 1191 people (587 children, 604 adults) participated in awareness raising activities and prevention events facilitated by the mobile teams.

In addition, 305 community professionals were trained on provision of PSS first aid and social support to families in difficult circumstances and 73 parents received knowledge on positive parenting.

UNICEF, in partnership with the Danish Refugee Council-Danish Demining Group (DRC-DDG), continued to implement a project to support mine victims including children and parents with children. During the reporting period, 6 children (1F/5M; 1 new child was included) were assisted through case management activities. Additionally, a decision was made to include adult caregivers with children who survived mine/ERW accidents into the project and one male was registered for case management. In mid-April, two round table discussions were conducted in eastern Ukraine to discuss preliminary findings of the mine victims needs assessment report with participants from oblast administration, CIMIC, national police, child affairs services, health officials, representatives from social services and other relevant stakeholders.

UNICEF continued C4D intervention on safe behavior with mines and UXOs applying the ‘edutainment’ approach. Within the joint projects with Swiss Foundation for Demining (FSD), 438 teachers and 783 boys and girls were educated on mine safety rules in Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts (GCA). UNICEF produced an educational video on mine safety rules targeting children and adults in Ukraine especially in Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts, both in GCA and NGCA.
EDUCATION
UNICEF continued to enhance life-saving and life-sustaining knowledge and skills among children and adolescents living in conflict-affected areas through implementation of Life Skills Course in cooperation with a long-standing partner - NGO “Health though Education.” The course provided children with skills, values and behaviors needed to develop personal, interpersonal and active citizenship aspects of their individual and social lives. During the month of April, 41 teachers from 29 education facilities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts were trained in life skills through an on-line course, reaching over 615 children.

Inclusive learning environment in 35 kindergartens and 12 schools in eastern Ukraine was improved with UNICEF support through the capacity building of the staff, parents and staff members of the ‘Inclusive Resource Centers’ on identified priority topics. Some facilities were also supported with small scale rehabilitation works, e.g. setting up ramps. On 2-3 April UNICEF in cooperation with the MoES and NGO ‘Step by Step’ conducted a conference on creating inclusive and quality environment in education facilities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts for 40 participants from preschool education facilities, ‘Inclusive Resource Centers,’ in-service teacher training institutes and international community contributing to the national scale up of the programme.

Piloting of the Safe & Child Friendly School Concept continued in 14 education facilities with the trainings on preventing and reacting to cases of violence and bullying. The educators trained by the CSO “La Strada Ukraine” are working on strengthening protective and safe environment for children and rolling out 40 learning sessions in their respective schools for 263 head class teachers, school management and support staff. Trained head class teachers conducted information awareness sessions on preventing and responding to cases of violence and bullying in school reaching over 2,000 children and 700 parents. To accompany the trainings UNICEF developed and distributed posters, leaflets and notebooks for adults and children on how to identify cases of violence, accountability, and where to receive support.

Institutionalization of Safe & Child Friendly School Concept and life-skills education was supported with two advocacy workshops held in Sviatohirsk and Kreminna on 8-12 April for the staff of oblast and rayon departments of education and institutes of in-service teacher training in Donetsk and Luhansk oblast.

COMMUNICATION
In April, UNICEF supported a handover of protective equipment to the Voda Donbasa water company through the joint project of UNOPS and UNICEF “Sustaining Water Supply in Donbas Area,” funded by the Government of Japan. UNICEF also organized a local multimedia mission to collect content on situation of the schools and increasing attacks on education facilities in the conflict zone in eastern Ukraine. The photos and video stories will be launched in mid-May ahead of the Third Safe School Conference in May 2019.

UNICEF continued to raise the visibility of children living along the contact line, through its social media platforms reaching over 120,000 people with daily updates.

Security
As above-mentioned, the security situation remains tense and unpredictable with continuous reported ceasefire violations. The presidential election went as planned, and the opposition candidate Mr. Volodymyr Zelenskyi was elected during the second round with a large majority of the votes as the new Ukrainian president. No major security incidents were reported during this period throughout the country, including in the government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions and at entry-exit checkpoints.
Funding
UNICEF’s 2019 humanitarian appeal requirement for Ukraine is US$21,067,799 of which, as of 30 April, $6,080,937 is available including the funds carried forward from the previous year and funds received in 2019. This addresses only 28.8% of the required resources.

<table>
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<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Funds received in current year</th>
<th>Carry-forward</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
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<td>Cluster/sector coordination</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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*Total funding available includes total funds received against current appeal plus carry-forward

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