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

The month of March was marked by an overall tense security situation in eastern Ukraine in the framework of the first round of the presidential elections scheduled on March 31. While the recommittment to the ceasefire made by the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG) came into effect on March 8th, the OSCE special monitoring mission continued to record daily ceasefire violations. During the reporting period, five verified cases were reported by the education cluster on incidents affecting schools directly or indirectly in Government and non-government-controlled areas; Donetsk, Horlivka, Talakivka, Novoluhanske, Zolote-5 and Kominternovowere. No injuries were reported.

Eight different incidents of military activity in the immediate vicinity of water and sanitation facilities were reported by the WASH cluster for the month of March 2019. In one incident, Voda Donbasa employees and JCCC [representatives forced to take cover in bomb shelters during shell fire. This situation posed recurrent

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1 Sectors/cluster results are produced on quarterly basis. First quarter results will be included in 2019 April Sitrep report.
2 UNICEF target additionally covers the estimated 95% of pregnant women tested for HIV.
3 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.
4 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.
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), the Novoluhanskyi Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) (beneficiaries 3,830) and Donetsk Filter Station (beneficiaries 378,983). These resulted in some structural damage but no injuries were reported.

Working with local authorities and civil society partners, UNICEF continued to reach people in need, in particular, 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 targeted vulnerable women and children under five through an e-voucher project. In March, 64 beneficiaries in NGCA Donetsk received e-vouchers for free-of-charge essential medicines in primary health care facilities. This includes, 32 children under five years, 20 pregnant and lactating women and 12 adult trauma cases. In addition, four vaccine fridges, previously delivered by UNICEF, were installed in four children’s hospitals in Donetsk NGCA. UNICEF is currently ordering IPV vaccines for 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 March, distribution of e-vouchers continued in Mariinskyi, Yasynuvatskyi, Popasnyanskyi rayons and settlements under Toretsk city council, covering the needs of 1,698 children under five in baby products and 4,428 women in menstrual hygiene supplies. Provision of hygiene kits was done to the vulnerable households who did not benefit from the e-vouchers distribution. In March, 132 individuals in Popasnyanskyi rayon and Bakhmut, out of which 56 children benefitted from family kits with personal and household hygiene items. During March 2019, 966 children in kindergartens of Mariinskyi rayon and schools of Popasna and Zolote were reached by hygiene promotion messages during the edutainment sessions. In addition, trainings on hygiene promotion were held for teachers of Yasynuvatskyi, Konstantynivskyi, Bakhmutskyi rayons, cities of Bakhmut, Chasiv Yar, Toretsk in Donetsk Oblast, and Popasnyanskyi rayon of Luhansk Oblast. The trainings were attended by 105 participants, including 52 kindergarten educators and 53 school teachers who increased their knowledge on ways to communicate the hygiene promotion messages to children.
In non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk oblast, water and sanitation facilities were rehabilitated in a school and a kindergarten in Mykolaivka, improving access to water and sanitation for 263 children and 40 teachers and kindergarten educators.

CHILD PROTECTION
Through international and local partnerships, UNICEF continued rendering the protective services and psycho-social 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 March 2019, child protection interventions were provided through Community Protection Centers and mobile outreach. Around 4457 children (2099F/2216M) and caregivers received knowledge on healthy lifestyles, rights of children, tolerance, leadership and child protection issues, child protection risks and vulnerabilities in
addition to case management and psycho-social support aimed to address stress and other mental health issues, such as anxiety, aggressiveness, fear.

Through mobile outreach, UNICEF continued raising awareness and aiding survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and children affected by violence in Donetsk and Luhansk areas (GCA). UNICEF-supported mobile teams provided PSS first aid and ensured the referral to services to 339 survivors of GBV and to 62 children affected by violence (39F/23M, 2 with disabilities), about 95 individuals (70 children, 25 adults) benefitted from tailored mitigation activities aimed to reduce violence and about 827 people (421 children, 406 adults) participated in awareness raising activities and prevention events facilitated by the mobile teams.

In addition, 40 community professionals were trained on provision of psycho-social first aid and social support to families in difficult circumstances and 62 parents received knowledge on positive parenting. Moreover, during March, 134 educational professionals from schools close to the contact line and 75 community professionals were trained on how to identify cases of violence against children, gender-based violence and provision of psycho-social support to families in difficult circumstances.

UNICEF, in partnership with the Danish Refugee Council-Danish Demining Group (DRC-DDG), progressed implementing the project to support mine victims including children and parents with children. During the reporting period, 8 families (1 new family with 1 male child) were assisted through case management and referred to relevant services. In total, 5 children mine survivors (1F/4M) continued to receive comprehensive case management.

Moreover, 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), 100 teachers and 3,385 boys and girls were educated on mine safety rules in Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts (GCA). Also, together with the Kreosan youth video channel, UNICEF developed an innovative edutaining video for children on mine safety rules.

**EDUCATION**

In March, in partnership with “health through Education” NGO, about 88 teachers from 65 education facilities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts were trained on life skills through an on-line course. The trained teachers reached then over 1,320 children with their new skills.

**COMMUNICATION**

On March 22nd, UNICEF with support of the Government of Germany opened a photo exhibition entitled 'Water Under Fire’ in the Kyiv downtown. The project showcased hidden threats from the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine including damage to critical water infrastructure, which endangers the lives of millions of people every day. The exhibition featured pictures by international photographers Ashley Gilbertson and Christopher Morris, who travelled at the invitation of UNICEF to eastern Ukraine. They photo-documented children’s life near the “contact line” and challenges faced by water workers to keep water running for civilians on both sides of the “contact line.” The exhibition was opened to public for two weeks. It will be further displayed at the Boryspil International Airport (Kyiv) during the World Water Week in August 2019.

Ukraine was also featured in the UNICEF global advocacy report ‘Water Under Fire’, launched by UNICEF on World Water Day. UNICEF Ukraine prepared two web stories ‘Where getting water means putting your
life on the line’ and ‘Heroes keeping the water flowing for families in eastern Ukraine’ published at the UNICEF global and regional platforms.

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

Security
The situation in the ECA and along the line of contact remained unchanged despite an announcement on March 8th by the Minsk Working Group to re-commit to the ceasefire. As seen during similar previous announcements, it was observed that the declaration was preceded by a spike in hostilities which resulted in several civilian and military casualties affected some important civilian infrastructure facilities. In the lead up to the 31 March first round of presidential elections, the overall security situation in east Ukraine was tense though tensions slightly decreased on the election day. No incidents with UNICEF staff in GCA and NGCA were reported.

Funding
UNICEF’s 2019 humanitarian appeal requirement for Ukraine is US$21,067,799 of which, as of 31 March, $4,665,768M is available, for now including the funds carried forward from the previous year and funds received in 2019. This addresses only 22% of the required resources. During the reporting period, a contribution from CERF was in the final stages for a total of $1.4 million to support 20,000 children and families through a multi-sector response.

<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>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>1,830,000</td>
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<td>1,141,258</td>
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<td>62%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water, sanitation and hygiene</td>
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<td>Child protection</td>
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<td>1,045,533</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>2,360,000</td>
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<td>1,608,288</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIV and AIDS</td>
<td>440,000</td>
<td>440,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cluster/sector coordination</td>
<td>600,000</td>
<td>495,805</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>21,067,799</td>
<td>3,321,242</td>
<td>16,402,031</td>
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<td>78%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

UNICEF Ukraine Crisis: www.unicef.org.ua
UNICEF Ukraine Crisis on Facebook: www.facebook.com/unicef.ukraine

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