Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

During April, continued ceasefire violations included the targeting of civilian infrastructure, particularly schools and water systems, that further aggravated the humanitarian situation. Throughout the month, workers operating the water system serving population needs on both sides of the contact line were regularly forced to take cover due to intense cross-fires. On 17 April, five workers of the Donetsk Filter Station suffered injuries following the targeting, by small arms fire, of a bus they used to access the facility. The incidents triggered urgent appeals to the parties to the conflict to desist actions impacting the safety and humanitarian needs of vulnerable populations. In the meantime, UNICEF continued to deliver critical supplies, including chemicals to six different filter stations to ensure uninterrupted access to water, for children and their families.

UNICEF strengthened access to education, including the installation of water tanks in 20 schools and hospitals in Donetsk non-government controlled areas (NGCA) and initiated the rehabilitation of 12 educational facilities, situated in the 0 to 5 km zone of the contact line in government controlled area (GCA).

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

1 Figure represents final results from a project which ended mid-January 2018. Limited funding has led to low numbers of beneficiaries reached in 2018 thus far.
2 Figure includes the estimated/projected number of beneficiaries (30,000) covered by the delivery of 86s midwifery kits that were distributed in January 2018, due to difficulty in estimating monthly beneficiaries.
3 The UNICEF target includes children and their families who received psychosocial support services, professionals trained in identifying and responding to key child protection issues and mine risk education (MRE), whereas the Cluster target does not include beneficiaries of MRE.
4 The UNICEF target includes boys and girls in conflict-affected areas accessing basic education and early childhood education and care, and boys, girls and educators received life-skills education and information on educational options.
HEALTH & NUTRITION
UNICEF provided e-vouchers for essential medicines and treatment to 65 beneficiaries residing along the contact line including 16 children under five, 16 pregnant and lactating women, 18 deliveries, and 15 adult trauma patients. Within the framework of this innovative pilot intervention e-vouchers for access to healthcare were provided to beneficiaries living on the contact line and, thus, most severely affected by the ongoing conflict. In addition to providing treatment and medicines free of charge to vulnerable women and children, this initiative built the capacity of public hospital staff and pharmacists on the use of innovative mobile technologies, which will prepare them for the eventual implementation of a national Health Information System and fully electronic record keeping and flow of information.

WASH
Within its ongoing support to ensuring access to safe drinking water, UNICEF continued to supply liquefied chlorine gas, sodium hypochlorite, activated carbon and aluminum sulfate and started to supply flocculants to 6 filter stations and 10 production departments of Voda Donbasa. 20 water tanks were installed in educational and health institutions in non-government controlled areas of Donetsk oblast (Donetsk NGCA) improving resilience to water breakdowns for 3,133 vulnerable individuals. 753 children and their teachers benefitted from access to hygiene supplies in school and kindergartens in Horlivka, Dokuchaevsk and Yasynuvate in Donetsk NGCA. A total of 2,955 children, women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups received hygiene kits in the towns and villages of Donetsk oblast located along the contact line in GCA. Such hygiene kits were tailored to the needs of the most vulnerable population and included diapers and hygiene products for babies (baby kits), diapers for adults and personal hygiene products (kits for people with special needs) and household and personal hygiene items, including sanitary pads (family kits). The high cost of hygiene products (especially diapers) and low income of the residents of the contact line make it difficult to satisfy basic hygiene needs without UNICEF support.

CHILD PROTECTION
Through 15 mobile teams, UNICEF continued to provide assistance to survivors of gender-based violence and to children affected by violence in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (GCA). Such mobile teams provide quality survivor-centered psycho-social first aid and referral services to survivors of gender-based violence and to children affected by violence in conflict-affected areas particularly remote rural communities located along the line of contact. Provided services take into account the needs and specifics of working with boys, girls, men and women who experienced violence. To ensure a comprehensive approach, such teams work in partnership with local departments of social services and in close coordination with other key public agencies, including healthcare and police.
In April, a total of 521 GBV survivors and 84 children (38 boys, 46 girls including 5 children with special needs) affected by violence benefited from psycho-social support (PSS), first aid and referral services.

EDUCATION
In April UNICEF initiated the rehabilitation of 12 educational facilities, situated in the zero to five km zone of the contact line in GCA, including 6 in Donetsk oblast and 6 in Luhansk oblast. Construction works are planned to be completed by 1 September 2018, to ensure children start the new school year in a safer learning environment. Better equipped classes and availability of materials will contribute to the reduction of anxiety and stress relief while improved infrastructure including heating, roofs and windows will lead to personal and physical wellbeing and safety for all children. In Donetsk NGCA, UNICEF distributed education supplies to children in 20 educational facilities.
In addition, 267 teachers from 153 schools in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts GCA received online Life Skills Education which in turn will benefit over 7,000 children. Over 30 teachers and education professionals from 10 schools in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts GCA were trained to provide mediation services and enhance conflict resolution practices in their respective schools and to support peer-to-peer youth mediators participating in the roll out of ‘Safe Schools’.

**HIV & AIDS**

To ensure uninterrupted access to Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) for HIV-positive people living in Donetsk and Luhansk NGCA, UNICEF continued to procure and distribute life-saving anti-retroviral medicines (ARVs) and commodities. Since January, over 21,000 people received HIV-related services including some 10,000 persons living with HIV who are on ARV treatment and 11,000 pregnant women who have received HIV counselling and testing.

**Security**

While the intensity of shelling remained relatively consistent throughout the month, of the 46 conflict-related civilian casualties reported by the United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine in April, four were children including 3 boys and 1 girl who were injured as a result of shelling. Mines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) continue to threaten the safety of children and their families living on both sides of the contact line in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts.

**Media and external communication**

On 4 April, 2018, UNICEF together with Government of Ukraine organized a series of events on the occasion of International Mine Action Awareness Day, organized in Kyiv and eastern Ukraine. In April, UNICEF also issued a press statement for local media on humanitarian convoys dispatched to non-government controlled Donetsk - [Essential humanitarian supplies reach children in conflict-affected eastern Ukraine with Government of Switzerland support](https://www.unicef.org/). UNICEF continued to raise the visibility of children living along the ‘contact line,’ through its social media platforms that have a combined following of over 95,000, with daily sharing of information.

**Funding**

UNICEF’s 2018 humanitarian appeal requirement for Ukraine is US$23.6M of which, as of 30 April, $3.7M is available, including funds carried forward from the previous year. This addresses only 14% of required resources. Under-funding is affecting the continuity of UNICEF emergency assistance for children residing in conflict affected areas on both sides of the contact line. In April, UNICEF focused on re-establishing critical activities with a view to re-establishing child protection centers along the line of contact, on both sides.

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<tr>
<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Funds available</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
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<td>Funds Received</td>
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UNICEF Ukraine Crisis: www.unicef.org.ua
UNICEF Ukraine Crisis on Facebook: www.facebook.com/unicef.ukraine

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