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UNICEF Flash Report

COVID-19 Impact on Children in Ukraine

Key Highlights and Advocacy Points

- Due to the growing number of COVID-19 cases, the Cabinet of Ministers [extended the quarantine restrictions until July 31, 2020](#) and will also impose a new approach to the adaptive quarantine introduced earlier in May. UNICEF calls to use **evidence-based data for decision on lifting and re-establishing quarantine measures.**
- UNICEF Ukraine continues its successful [advocacy campaign](#) to raise awareness about **secondary impacts of COVID-19 on families with children.** UNICEF [report](#) on initial impact of the pandemic on poverty received an extensive coverage with a total reach of over 77 million views in local media and over 6 million in social media. UNICEF statement about rapidly increasing child poverty was also highlighted during the Presidential press conference, with a local journalist asking President Zelenskyy about Government's plans to respond to the UNICEF data and recommendations.
- On June 1, UNICEF Representative Lotta Sylwander [had a meeting](#) with President Volodymyr Zelensky on child wellbeing issues including **child poverty, social protection and de-institutionalization.** Following the agreement reached UNICEF to prepare a road map of the de-institutionalization reform and provide further technical assistance.
- UNICEF [have signed](#) the Memorandum of Understanding with the First Lady of Ukraine which among others will focus on **school feeding, gender equality, inclusivity and sports for development.**

Overview of Child Rights



Health and Nutrition

- Interruption of immunization programmes in many regions remains a major challenge. UNICEF is holding technical discussion with MoH on continuing the routine immunization programme.
- UNICEF is supporting the development of standard operation procedures for safe conditions at the points of a vaccination.
- UNICEF experts keep advocating for an evidence-based approach to care for COVID-19 patients with COVID-19, including change of the controversial protocol.



Education

- Schools across the country are closed for the summer break. As the school year ends, final examination session for school graduates is scheduled for 25 June — 17 July. It will be conducted applying specific infectious control prevention measures to sit for exams.
- UNICEF negotiated an in-kind donation and distribution of 28 tons of disinfectant as well as hygiene product and washing

Epidemics Trends

As reported by Public Health Centre of Ukraine on July 2, 2020



45,887

COVID-19 cases [are confirmed](#), 20,053 patients have recovered, and 1,185 have died as of 2 July.



The number of hospitalizations of patients with COVID-19 has **increased twice** since the end of May reaching 1,400 patients per week, according to the Ministry of Health [statement](#).



Health care workers account for 15 per cent of cases. At least 51 of them died.



3,308

children have been diagnosed with COVID-19, 1,554 have recovered. Children account for 7 per cent of cases.



The regions with the highest numbers of confirmed COVID-19 cases are Lviv (13 per cent), Kyiv city (11 per cent), Chernivtsi (11 per cent), Rivne (8 per cent), and Zakarpattya (7 per cent).

detergent to support request from the Ministry of Education and Science to cover the needs of graduate students.

- UNICEF supported MoES in developing and producing materials on COVID-19 preventive behavior during annual final exam school sessions reaching 350,000 children and 70,000 of involved staff.
- President Zelenskyy initiated changes to current legislation allowing more options for school graduates from non-government-controlled areas to continue higher education outside of these areas. It is expected if adopted that thousands of graduates will get a chance to be still admitted to higher education facilities in Ukraine.
- Since May 25, most kindergartens across the country partially resumed their operations and UNICEF provided technical support to MoES and MoH for the development of recommendations for their re-opening. According to media, some kindergartens were forced to close again, as teachers were tested positive with COVID-19. In Donetsk and Lugansk non-government-controlled areas, kindergartens are opened.

- According to UNICEF report, homeschooling presents challenges for vulnerable families deepening inequalities. Every fourth child and every third teen in households living in a rural area cant afford to buy a laptop. Families with children, especially with three and more, found themselves in especially difficult conditions during the quarantine. Every tenth child in the cities suffers from extremely insufficient living space. Urban families with children under the age of six are particularly vulnerable.



Child Protection

- Data provided by partners indicates that one fifth of calls reported to national hotline for children, supported by UNICEF, relate to mental health and the psychosocial well-being of children. 23 per cent of calls relate to violence against children and 16 to relationships in the family.
- UNICEF supported 12 mobile teams working on gender-based violence provided over 1,000 online consultations to the population living along the contact line in eastern Ukraine. More than half of all reported cases were related to violence and 18 per cent to COVID-19. Out of all, 17 were from families with children who returned from boarding institutions due to government measures.



Social Protection and Well-being

- UNICEF is issuing a new call for universal child benefits to ensure that every child has a chance of a healthy, productive future. The joint ODI and UNICEF [global report](#) highlights that universal child benefits provide direct financial relief for families and have been proven to drive down poverty rates and help children flourish.
- 69 per cent of Ukrainians have experienced the economic impact of COVID-19, according to [survey](#). Almost a third of respondents reported losing their jobs, while over half spent their savings and cut their expenses on food. According to respondents, the state should first of all help people with disabilities, pensioners and families with children under six.
- Recent global opinion poll revealed economic difficulties being the biggest challenge for one fifth of young people in Ukraine during the COVID-19 time.

1 out of 5 young people in Ukraine experienced economic difficulties during the COVID-19 time.

- Public transport shut down during national quarantine was an extra challenge for families with children, according to the UNICEF [report](#). Most susceptible are single parents. If about 30 per cent of all households with children have a car, for single-parent families it is only 11 per cent. Such families found themselves in a particularly difficult situation.



Water, Hygiene and Sanitation

- According to the UNICEF [report](#), significant inequality between urban and rural areas stands out in terms of access to basic services. 33.4 per cent of families with children in rural areas have no access to running water due to the lack of money. 35.1 per cent do not have inside bathtubs and showers and 43.8 per cent live without a flushed toilet inside their housing units.
- The water infrastructure in eastern Ukraine has seen eight security related incidents over the month of May directly impacting the provision of water to communities.
- Infectious prevention and control related interventions targeting hospitals and social services with hand sanitizers and drinking water supplies are further supported by UNICEF in eastern and western regions of Ukraine.

Situation in Eastern Ukraine

- The overall humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine remains disturbing with a tense security situation to be reported. Civilians and social infrastructure continued to be impacted by the constant violation of the ceasefire.
- The crossing points between the government and non-government-controlled areas have gradually reopened from 19 June, with the Ukrainian government announcing the opening from 15 June. However, the freedom of movement remains restricted with specific criteria to be fulfilled for people to cross in addition to observe two-weeks long isolation.
- According to [UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Ukraine](#), hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians who had regularly crossed each month before the pandemic are eager to once again visit family, support relatives in need of care, visit graves of their loved ones, or access education, healthcare and other basic services.

Promising Practices and Solutions:

- The nationwide project Ukrainian School Online reached 1.7 million primary school children who watched the lessons on TV and 205,000 on YouTube. Out of the 532 produced lessons, 283 were translated to sign language. UNICEF is currently negotiating with partners adding additional functionality (voice-over) to make lessons accessible for children with visual impairments.
- To address stigma and discrimination, UNICEF and its partners [launched](#) a national solidarity campaign showing Ukrainians the human face of the pandemic and encouraging them to thank or provide support. The campaign has already reached at over 13.2 million people.
- UNICEF supported the Ministry of Social Policy in [generating public support](#) for vulnerable families facing hardships due to the socio-economic crisis caused by COVID-19. In addition, UNICEF with a partner [have launched](#) My Phone Friend, a phone volunteering project to support people in isolation.
- UNICEF continues to support National toll-free Child Helpline, which is now linked to the Free Legal Aid Office Hotline for further referral of cases that require legal protection of children subjected to violence.
- The e-vouchers programme targeting health care institutions in eastern Ukraine was completed with 99.9 per cent of the vouchers amount redeemed. This support is covering approximately three months need in hygiene and cleaning supplies for 66 health care institutions with 3,477 medical staff that serve 101,749 patients on a monthly basis.
- UNICEF [purchased](#) laboratory equipment for infectious diseases hospitals in Ukraine with financial support from the Citi Foundation. The assistance, worth US\$40,000 is intended for the COVID-19 response.
- UNICEF supported juveniles, mothers with young children, personnel, and police officers in penitentiary institutions with personal protective equipment, desinfectants, thermometers, and webinars on COVID-19 prevention.
- UNICEF signed a new partnership with a civil society organization supporting Roma communities and focusing on hygiene promotion in response to COVID-19 outbreak in western Ukraine.

Funds

UNICEF is currently appealing for US\$23,000,000 for the COVID-19 response in Ukraine, in addition to an existing humanitarian appeal of US\$9,800,000 to support families with children in the conflict-affected east. As of yet, only 12 per cent of the funds needed for the COVID-19 response in Ukraine is available.

For more information, please contact:

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