



Ukraine Country Office Humanitarian Situation Report

No. 3/2020



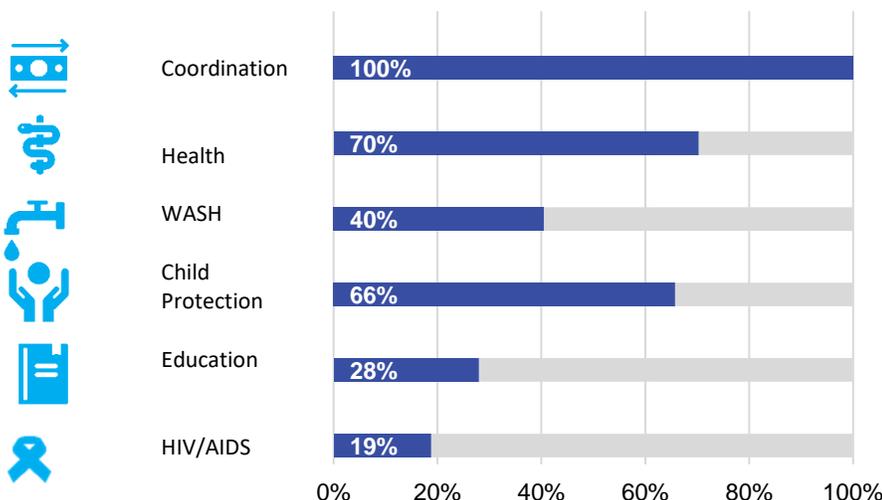
Reporting Period: 1 July to 30 September 2020

Highlights

The conflict in eastern Ukraine continues affecting over three million people, especially children, young people and the elderly in both government (GCA) and non-government (NGCA) controlled areas. The protracted conflict continues to take a heavy toll on civilians. In the last three months, four civilian casualties were reported (one child killed, two boys and one woman injured as a result of shelling and small arms and light weapons (SALW) fire). Despite the ceasefire, attacks on critical water infrastructure, along the Line of Contact (LoC), continued to limit access to basic services and impact the lives of hundreds of thousands of residents. During the reporting period, 10 incidents affecting water/sanitation/hygiene (WASH) facilities were recorded. On a positive note, no incident related to education facilities was registered by the Education Cluster during the last three months.

The COVID-19 pandemic outbreak continued to generate an additional burden on already weak healthcare services, and as a result the health system was unable to fully render appropriate medical services to the population in need. Quarantine measures introduced by authorities on both sides of the LoC have severely restricted humanitarian access for the UN and partners to deliver critically needed aid. This situation has also significantly restricted the freedom of movement for civilians across the LoC.

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



Situation in Numbers



430,000 children in need of humanitarian assistance

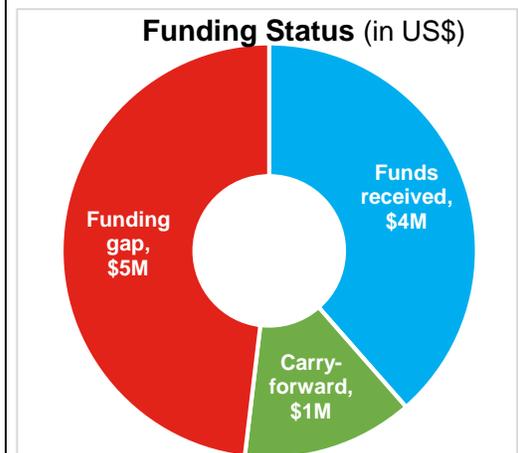


3,400,000 people in need (HRP, Dec 2019)



220,000 Internally displaced people (IDPs, HRP, Dec 2019)

UNICEF Appeal 2020 US\$ 9.8 million



Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF has appealed for USD 9.8 million to sustain the provision of life-saving services for children and women in conflict-affected eastern Ukraine. Since the beginning of 2020, the governments of the USA, Italy, Estonia and Germany, as well as ECHO, have generously contributed to UNICEF Ukraine's Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal. UNICEF also expresses its gratitude to all public and private donors for the contributions received to date. Despite this, at the end of Quarter Three, the UNICEF 2020 HAC remains underfunded by 53%, with major gaps still faced in the WASH, Education and Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV/AIDS) sectors.

Humanitarian Strategy

UNICEF remains committed to expanding its services to people affected by the crisis. UNICEF in coordination with other humanitarian organizations continued strengthening social and psychosocial support, as well as health, education and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services. Using its leadership role within the WASH cluster, UNICEF continued building and expanding humanitarian coordination to better respond to the needs of the most vulnerable groups affected by the armed conflict, and as well COVID-19 pandemic. UNICEF with support of its WASH cluster partners ensured the provision of safe drinking water to over a hundred thousand people during the reporting period.

To ensure the sustainability of its interventions, UNICEF prioritizes capacity building of the service providers and facilitating coordination among humanitarian actors to ensure effective results for children. With UNICEF support, nearly 150 doctors, nurses and health workers were trained on infection diseases control. Over 300 service providers were provided with knowledge on life skills education (LSE) and child-friendly school models. In partnership with local Non-Governmental Associations (NGOs), UNICEF continued to provide services to the affected population by combining online and off-line modus operandi to reach the targeted population with important messages on Psychosocial Support (PSS), mine risk prevention and Gender Based Violence (GBV). UNICEF continued using social media and digital platforms to engage and empower the targeted population.

Continuous dialogue with local authorities in both sides of the LoC, NGCA and GAC proved to be critical to facilitate and advance UNICEF's work and reach the most vulnerable people.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health

Medical e-vouchers project continued to benefit children and families affected by HIV and TB in NGCAs. For the last three months of 2020, the project covered 333 beneficiaries, enabling them to access critical medicines for needed treatment. During the reporting period, 546 HIV/TB- affected children benefitted from free of charge medical consultations and medicines. In the same period, 554 parents of children with HIV/TB were provided with free of charge medical assistance. **HIV/AIDS:** Within the program for children and families affected by HIV/AIDS, 427 beneficiaries received needed medical assistance and were provided with PSS.

Infection Control and Prevention (IPC): Improvement of IPC/WASH programmes in the health care facilities of Donetsk and Luhansk GCA continued as a part of UNICEF strategy in response to COVID-19. With UNICEF support, online training on infection control for 147 doctors, nurses and health managers from nine health care facilities (4 hospitals, 3 primary health care facilities and 2 perinatal centers) was organized in both Donetsk and Luhansk GCA.

WASH

Within the reporting period, UNICEF continued to support Voda Donbasu (VD) – a water utility company serving population on both sides of the LoC. In July-August, 104 tons of liquified chlorine gas were provided to eight filter stations, improving access to safe drinking water for 173,051 people.¹ Provision of the water treatment chemicals to filter stations had generated increased number of beneficiaries during the reporting period.

In July-September, UNICEF continued to support water trucking to exit-entry checkpoints and a series of educational, health care and social facilities in settlements located along the LoC with limited access to safe drinking water. Overall,

¹ Calculation of beneficiaries from the water treatment chemicals provision is done in accordance with WASH Cluster methodology (each month 1/12 of the total coverage is added).

nearly 4,000 residents in the villages and towns were assisted, and about 2,000 people crossing the checkpoints every month, benefitted from water trucking. Due to limitations on crossing, or closure of the checkpoints, the number of people crossing exist-entry checkpoints (EECP) on a monthly basis decreased significantly. In isolated settlements such as Staromariivka and Vodiane, bottled water was provided to residents on a regular basis, ensuring access to safe drinking water for 229 conflict-affected people. UNICEF also provided diapers to the most vulnerable families in Donetsk NGCA to cover the needs for these expensive and necessary baby products. Overall, 338 children benefitted from this support.

The WASH Cluster team in Ukraine facilitated the coordination of response and shared information about the needs. The Cluster team supplied incident reports and alert bulletins to inform all actors on the damage to the water infrastructure and any other incidents that require immediate action. WASH Cluster also developed recommendations on WASH in healthcare facilities and streamlined hygiene kits composition among all humanitarian actors.

Education

The school year in areas along the LoC and in NGCA started on 1st of September as initially scheduled, despite the COVID-19 pandemic. While only a few major activities can be completed in the latter part of this year, some remarkable progress was achieved in ensuring continued access to safe and quality education for the most vulnerable girls and boys residing in these areas.

In support of International Day of Protection of schools from Attacks, UNICEF Ukraine produced a [web story “Road to School”](#) unrolled in a series of [child profiles](#) on Facebook, reaching more than 126,000 people online. The campaign was supported by a [video “Poems for Peace”](#) with a total reach of 302,000 people.

The continued advocacy resulted in a Ministry of Education and Science’s press release with a commitment to work towards implementation of the Safe School Declaration (SSD) that was endorsed by the Government of Ukraine in November 2019. UNICEF also agreed with MoES the scope of technical assistance to be provided in support to the SSD implementation. It is expected that a national consultant will be onboard in the next quarter to support MoES in development of a monitoring mechanism for attacks on schools and keeping the SSD implementation Action Plan up to date.

Education facilities in Donetska and Luhanska GCA which participated in the Safe and Child Friendly School (SCFS) programme started implementation in their respective education facilities. A total of 50 education facilities (40 schools, 10 kindergartens) conducted self-assessments and designed action plans on how to improve the learning environment, based on the analysis of weaknesses and strengths identified in consultation with children, teachers, parents and local authorities as per four core standards (child-friendliness, physical school safety and protective learning environment, and participatory governance). UNICEF together with partners provided technical support and available resources to schools and kindergartens during implementation, as well as to relevant Departments of Education and In-Service Teacher Training Institutes.

At the national level, within the scope of SCFS programme, UNICEF together with the State Service of Education Quality conducted two advocacy webinars on Child-friendly and safe school model for over 300 representatives of regional divisions and educators to support the inclusion of the model into the institutional audit process.

In the conflict affected regions (GCA), UNICEF continued to build the capacity of educators in life skills education (LSE) through the implementation of LSE curriculum, focused on resilience and positive coping mechanisms for children affected by the conflict. During the reporting period, an additional 33 teachers were trained on life skills through an on-line course. An estimated 1,600 children are now benefitting from life skills-based education delivered by teachers trained since the start of the year.

In mid-August, UNICEF together with the MoES launched a communication campaign on quality preschool education for parents and preschool teachers to increase their awareness of quality and facilitate developing children’s competencies at home, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. The campaign will roll out on TV, social media, online platform and outside boards, targeting areas where the access to preschool education is the most challenging, including conflict affected areas.

Child Protection

Over July-September, UNICEF in partnership with national NGOs continued providing community-based psychosocial support (PSS) to children, youth and their caregivers residing in conflict-affected settlements alongside the LoC in

NGCAs of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts. In total, 1381 beneficiaries, including 1,106 children (564 boys, 542 girls), 275 adults (249F/26M), 83 children (36 boys, 47 girls) in alternative care arrangements benefitted from psychosocial support. In addition to this, 30 community professionals were reached with capacity building activities aiming to improve their knowledge on child protection issues, including on positive parenting.

In July-August, UNICEF in partnership with international NGOs conducted a comprehensive needs assessment in Donetsk and Luhansk regions (GCA) to identify households with child mine/ explosive remnants of war (ERW) victims for further individual case management, PSS and targeted assistance. The assessment was done in cooperation with the regional and local social service departments and other relevant stakeholders. 61 cases have been identified based on the selection criteria, including 19 households with more than one mine/ERW victim. Around 50 child mine/ERW victims and 23 adults mine survivors were selected for further assistance and individual case management. For each case an individual plan is developed. To ensure access to PSS service for adolescents and youth, including children mine/ERW victims and children with disabilities living in the most conflict-affected areas in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, implementing partners conducted a range of PSS group and individual sessions in schools located in 0-20km from the contact line. PSS activities benefit children and youth in selected schools, parents and caregivers, as well as child mine survivors and families with children where at least one caregiver was affected by mine/ERW accident. As a result, 421 (219F/202M) beneficiaries including three with disability received PSS through online and offline group and individual sessions. Moreover, 252 community professionals (220F/32M) and caregivers gained knowledge on PSS, positive parenting and inclusion.

UNICEF continued supporting 12 PSS /gender-based violence (GBV) mobile teams in Donetsk and Luhansk regions (GCA) providing PSS and consultations to 9,242 survivors of GBV/domestic violence (1410M/6951F)) and 875 children affected by violence (323M/552F), including 155 with disabilities. During the COVID-19 lockdown, partners continued to provide psychosocial consultations via phone and/or Skype and ensured emergency outreach to the 1,527 most at risk women/men and children in conflict affected GCAs of Eastern Ukraine. As a result, most vulnerable men and women, boys and girls gained access and were referred to child-friendly and survivor-friendly protection and other social services, as well as enhanced their coping mechanisms. More than 6,000 beneficiaries were referred to other services upon need.

UNICEF also continued to respond to the increasing level of violence against children during the COVID-19 lockdown, supporting the National toll-free Child Helpline in providing online consultations to children, caregivers and youth affected by violence and neglect. Within the reporting period, 9,686 beneficiaries (7,231F/2,455M) received consultations out of which 1,187 are adults, including 288 with disabilities. Out of all calls, 25 per cent were related to violence against children; 22% were consultations on mental health and psycho-social wellbeing of children, including a few cases of self-harm and suicidal attempts; 10% were related to family relationships. Moreover, the Helpline has been linked to the Hotline for Online Legal Aid provided by the Free Legal Aid Office for further referral of cases requiring legal protection of children subjected to violence. Both helplines are available nationwide.

UNICEF in cooperation with NGO "Volunteer" and Kyiv Mohyla Academy elaborated online courses for parents, pedagogues, and psychologists of educational facilities for psychosocial support to children during COVID-19. The courses aim to improve the knowledge of professionals and caregivers on positive parenting, PSS and contains modules on how to talk with children about health and prevention of viruses without fear and anxiety. Courses are available in Russian and Ukrainian. More than 470 education specialists and 600 parents and caregivers passed the online courses and received knowledge on PSS and positive parenting.

Since the onset of the global COVID-19 pandemic, starting from 16 March 2020, the majority of implementing partners switched to teleworking/online mode as part of risk mitigation imposed to prevent further spread of this deadly disease. To address the emerging needs of partners, UNICEF Global Guidance and Technical Notes on community-based child protection, coping with stress, positive parenting, mental health and psychosocial support and inclusion of children, adolescents and adults with disabilities, alternative care in COVID-19 response and a few others were translated and disseminated among partner organizations and relevant stakeholders.

Moreover, to support frontline workers and vulnerable families, UNICEF distributed hygiene kits and protective equipment to social workers and child protection professionals in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, GCA.

Due to increased needs for coordination and guidance during COVID -19 quarantine, UNICEF continued facilitation of the child protection sub-cluster online meetings on a regular basis.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF leads the WASH Cluster and Child Protection Sub-Cluster and co-leads the Education Cluster. UNICEF also actively participates in the Health Cluster and Mine Action working group. Over the reporting period, regular coordination activities continued, including organization of several coordination to discuss and agree upon a number of issues related to the humanitarian response in eastern Ukraine and how to improve coordination mechanism to better respond to the COVID19 pandemic.

Communication

UNICEF continued to shed light on the situation children living along eastern Ukraine LoC. From July to September, UNICEF featured seven human interest stories addressing the most pressing issues for children as well as showcasing UNICEF's response and donors support through its digital channels, which account for over 275,000 followers.

In July, to raise awareness on a 'triple' humanitarian burden imposed in Luhansk region by the ongoing conflict, COVID-19 and wildfires as well as to cover UNICEF's immediate assistance provided for nearly 1,000 families in the affected communities, UNICEF released a photo story '[Trapped: Families affected by wildfire and fighting need help](#)' at the CO's website and social media channels.

The multimedia assets on UNICEF's contribution to the [arrangement of the safe external independent examination](#) for graduates in the conflict-affected areas were produced, gaining nearly [1.2M Facebook reach](#). UNICEF continues promoting an access to education for the most vulnerable amidst the pandemic. Thus, the story '[A little blue backpack helped with the wait for school](#)' became the second top performer at the Country website, gaining over 10,000 views. The story was also featured on local social media reaching over [1M people on Facebook](#). It was also picked up by global digital channels, as a part of the UNICEF Back to School global activation. The first-graders living along the 'contact line' were also invited to participate in '[What do you miss about school?](#)' video featuring children from 14 countries around the world. In addition, [multimedia content on teachers](#) working despite pandemics and shelling in the conflict-affected eastern Ukraine was contributed to UNICEF Champions for Children global campaign, reaching over 50,000 nationwide and 177,000 worldwide.

On the first International Day to Protect Education From Attack, UNICEF Ukraine [launched a press release](#) calling for implementation of the Safe School Declaration in Ukraine. This message was [echoed by the Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine](#) on the official website as well as included into the Ministry's weekly newsletter for schools nationwide. The national media coverage has reached over 30 media outlets, including top tiers [TSN](#), [Fakty ICTV](#), [112.ua](#) web portals as well as [Radio Liberty](#), [UNN](#). The social media outreach has made 2.4M with over 300 publications.

The press statement to strengthen protection of schools in eastern Ukraine was also picked by [UNICEF global social media](#). The story '[The long road to education for children in eastern Ukraine](#)' was featured at [UNICEF global](#), being the top performer at CO's website with over 16k views. Both, [press release](#) and [story](#) were also promoted by the UN in Ukraine digital platforms.

To promote UNICEF and its donors' support for the most vulnerable families with hygiene and cleaning products, UNICEF produced [a story on e-vouchers](#) distributed along the 'contact line'. The post reached nearly [900k Facebook users](#) nationwide.

On World Water Week, UNICEF released a story '[Children in isolation: 3 kilometres from drinking water](#)' to bring attention to problems with water supply caused by the protracted conflict in eastern Ukraine.

Together with partners, UNICEF is working to reach and make every child visible during the crisis.

Next SitRep: 15 January 2021

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Annex A
Summary of Programme Results

Sector	Cluster/Sector Response ²			UNICEF and IPs		
	2020 target	Total results	Change since last report ▲▼	2020 target	Total results	Change since last report ▲▼
Health						
Number of mothers and children U5 benefit from direct health service provision	N/A	N/A		20,000	300 ³	
Number of Health Facilities supported with equipment (different type of equipment)	N/A	N/A		50	22	
WASH						
Number of people accessing sufficient quantity of water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	1,000,000	373,349	▲	800,000	591,545	▲
Number of people provided with critical WASH related supplies and/or awareness	100,000	16,902	▲	70,000	230,544 ⁴	▲
Number of people provided with improved access to adequate sanitation	175,000	19,008	▲	15,000	16,496 ⁵	
Child Protection						
Number of children and their families receiving mine risk education	N/A	N/A		150,000	1,391 ⁶	
Number of boys, girls, and caregivers reached with psychosocial support	N/A	26,641	▲	30,000	34,159	▲
Number of community professionals gained enhanced capacity on child protection	N/A	2,672	▲	5,000	2,199	▲
Number of children and women accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions	N/A	N/A		5,000	13,985	▲
Education						
Number of girls and boys benefitting from education and early learning supplies and inclusive schools and kindergartens	120,000	12,309	▲	36,500	5,577	▲
Number of girls and boys benefitting from conflict-sensitive, risk informed and life-skills education	44,350	8,361	▲	13,000	9,976	
HIV/AIDS						
Number of people living with HIV and AIDS and tuberculosis provided with financial support through cash or vouchers for health care expenses	N/A	N/A		1,000	1,027	▲
Number of HIV-affected children provided with continuous care and support services	N/A	N/A		600	526	

² For some indicators the cluster data was not available at the time of the reporting or no cluster target is available.

³ As of this reporting period, funding for MCH was still expected. Hence the low result reported.

⁴ The overachievement of target is the result of COVID-19 response with a focus made on provision of hygiene supplies, representing 89% of the reported beneficiaries.

⁵ In comparison to water, the sanitation target is low as Ukraine counts with 96% of improved sanitation. Nevertheless, efforts are made to improve the sanitation at institutional level (schools and KG, Health centers), but not at household level.

⁶ As of this reporting period, funding for MRE was still expected. Hence the low result reported.

Annex B
Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements \$	Funds available \$		Funding gap	
		Received Current Year	Carry-Over	\$	%
Health	610,000	428,319	78	181,602	30%
WASH	3,700,000	1,173,804	322,809	2,203,387	60%
Child Protection	2,000,000	1,069,947	244,893	685,159	34%
Education	2,424,000	321,045	356,700	1,746,255	72%
HIV/AIDS	500,000	93,436	271	406,293	81%
Cluster Coordination	600,000	704,353	387,060	0	0%
Total	9,834,000	3,790,905	1,311,812	5,222,697	53%

* As defined in Humanitarian Appeal of December 2019 for a period of 12 months