Highlights
Following a relative calm second half of 2020, ceasefire violations significantly intensified in the first quarter of 2021. The overall security situation has also deteriorated, resulting in the death of seven civilians (10 civilians injured) and damages to private houses. There are reports that Russia has mobilized large military presence in the Ukrainian border, creating fear among civilians. As a result, the humanitarian community, including UNICEF, launched a contingency planning process to prepare for any possible escalation.

The COVID-19 pandemic outbreak continued to generate an additional burden on the economy and healthcare services. From March, Ukraine experienced a third wave of the pandemic outbreak, resulting in strict lockdowns in some parts of eastern Ukraine. Ukraine started a slow vaccination programme in late February, prioritizing elderly population and health professionals. The access to the non-government-controlled areas remained a major challenge for the humanitarian community one year on from the start of the pandemic.

In the first three months of 2021, UNICEF received USD 3.9 million, out of a USD 14.7 million appeal. The health, education and HIV/AIDS programmes are significantly under-funded.

UNICEF’s Response and Funding Status
Funding Overview and Partnerships
UNICEF has appealed for USD 14.7 million to sustain the provision of life-saving services for children and women in conflict-affected eastern Ukraine, to respond to both the impact of the seven-years armed conflict and COVID-19 pandemic.¹ Until March 2021, UNICEF received USD 3.9 million, out of a USD 14.7 million appeal, with a funding gap of 46 per cent (including carry-over; the carry-over funds have been received in late 2020 and have been either committed or being used as per the response plan). Funding available for education and health programmes remains significantly low, with over 84 and 74 per cent gap respectively. If this funding gap remains, more than 50,000 children and their mothers will not be able to receive critical early childhood development services, including routine immunization; and over 22,000 girls and boys will lack vital humanitarian assistance enabling education in safe environment and 12,000 girls and boys will lack opportunities to gain life skills for resilience building.

In 2021, the governments of the United States, Germany as well as UNICEF’s German NatCom have generously contributed new funding to UNICEF Ukraine’s Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal. Additionally, UNICEF received funding from the Global Humanitarian Thematic fund. UNICEF also expresses its gratitude to all public and private donors for the contributions received to date.

Humanitarian Strategy
In 2021, UNICEF’s strategy in eastern Ukraine continues to focus on protecting children and realizing child rights on both sides of the Line of Contact (LoC), in government-controlled (GCA) and non-government-controlled areas (NGCA) of Donetsk and Luhansk, while responding to the vulnerabilities caused by the dual crises of conflict and COVID-19. To respond to the urgent needs of 820,000 people including 510,000 children, UNICEF is investing in strengthening social services, explosive ordinance risk education (EORE) and psychosocial support, as well as health, education and WASH services. The capacities of local professionals, authorities and civil society actors continue to be enhanced to strengthen preparedness and accountability to affected children. In line with the commitments to bring more linkages between the humanitarian and development interventions - UNICEF launched new initiatives of building the capacity of local authorities to improve access to quality, inclusive, age- and gender-sensitive social services to increase families’ resilience to protection-related risks.

UNICEF is working with humanitarian partners to target the most vulnerable. As the lead agency for the WASH cluster and the child protection sub-cluster, UNICEF continues to advocate with parties to the conflict to comply with international humanitarian law and child rights standards. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted safe access to all health services, including immunization and primary health care, as well as schools and social care institutions, necessitating specific protective measures for both institutions and professionals. To address this, UNICEF distributed critical infection prevention and control supplies and personal protective equipment to ensure a safe environment at the facility level and for their personnel and conducted training sessions for service providers. To reduce the transmission of COVID-19, UNICEF continued its robust risk communication activities to raise awareness and increase knowledge through multimedia channels, targeting care providers, parents/caregivers and the general public. This is particularly critical as handwashing and good hygiene practices are essential to COVID-19 prevention.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response
Health
Currently, at least 15,000 conflict-affected boys and girls under five (around 6,000 in Luhansk Oblast NGCA and 9,000 in Donetsk Oblast NGCA) are expected to receive routine immunization, including Inactive Polio Vaccines (IPV). In the reporting period, UNICEF procured IPV vaccines have been administered to 22,843 children (11,941 girls and 10,902 boys) in Luhansk NGCA, with no registered side effects or complications. Furthermore, 22 health facilities in Donetsk NGCA received cold chain equipment to strengthen the immunization system. For NGCA, continued constraints being faced include closed borders due to COVID-19, and the deterioration of the security situation.

¹ This funding appeal is for the humanitarian response programme targeting the conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic in eastern Ukraine only. UNICEF’s COVID-19 funding appeal for the rest of Ukraine is included in its regional COVID-19 appeal for Europe and Central Asia.
UNICEF delivered the first batch of newly purchased oxygen concentrators for the eastern conflict zone for the year 2021. These included four oxygen concentrators with necessary accessories that were delivered to the Donetsk Oblast perinatal Center in Kramatorsk in March. UNICEF aims to deliver the rest of the equipment during the next quarter.

**WASH**

UNICEF continued to lead the WASH Cluster to ensure coordination of the humanitarian WASH response, as well as support advocacy, gap identification, duplication prevention, knowledge sharing and assessments, response strategies and technical advice. The cluster team provided four incident reports during the reporting period on attacks against water infrastructure and related damages, and any other incidents requiring immediate action. The cluster has recorded an increasing number of incidents affecting critical water infrastructure, amid increasing escalation of the security situation along the LoC. Unfortunately, water infrastructure remains highly politicized topic (the main drinking water pipelines cross the LoC several times, which create inter-dependencies between the GCA and NGCA), which increases the risks for hundreds of thousands of people in accessing quality drinking water.

In January-March 2021, UNICEF, in partnership with ADRA, continued to support water trucking to the exit-entry checkpoint in Novotroitske and to a range of educational, health and social institutions in settlements located along the LoC with limited access to safe drinking water. Overall, nearly 3,600 residents of the assisted towns and villages and approximately 2,000 people passing through the checkpoint each month benefitted from water trucking. 17,000 liters of water per week was delivered to 11 locations for distribution. Additionally, contactless disinfectant dispensers were installed and a three-month supply of disinfectant to refill the dispensers were provided in education, social and health facilities. A total of 35,558 children, teachers and caregivers, medical staff and patients were reached in 96 schools, kindergartens and hospitals in Donetsk GCA.

In January, together with the NGO Friends Hands, UNICEF delivered bottled water and hygiene supplies to a kindergarten in Zelenopillya which was affected by a three-week water cut due to a damaged pipe. A total of 36 children benefitted from this assistance. Furthermore, diapers for 123 vulnerable babies in Kramatorsk, Yarova and Selydove were distributed. In addition, 5,000 informational materials on menstrual hygiene together with samples of sanitary pads were provided to the Youth Friendly Clinics in Avdiivka, Bakhmut and Svitlodarsk for distribution to female patients who come to these centres. In partnership with Friends Hands and a network of social service centres, UNICEF provided family hygiene kits to the most vulnerable households in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (GCA) benefitting 3,565 people.

UNICEF continued its cooperation with Triangle Generation Humanitaire (TGH) to provide e-vouchers for hygiene products for institutions and households. In March 2021, a distribution to 218 health institutions, 69 kindergartens and 114 social institutions, foster families and small group homes was launched. The e-voucher approach is particularly relevant during a pandemic because it limits contact between individuals, allows for remote monitoring, and reaches the most vulnerable people.

In Donetsk NGCA, the provision of family hygiene kits to vulnerable households was carried out in partnership with Donbass Development Centre (DDC), a UNICEF implementing partner. UNICEF also provided personal protective equipment (PPE) and disinfectants to 393 frontline social workers, as well as hygiene kits containing cleaning and disinfection products to social institutions. UNICEF and Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) supported health institutions with hygiene and disinfection products, disinfectants and cleaning trolleys. A total of 80,059 medical staff and patients benefited from this assistance improving access to essential hygiene products during the pandemic.

**Education**

During January-March, UNICEF built capacity of 70 teachers on Life Skills Education (LSE), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Conflict Sensitive Education (CSE) equipping them with knowledge and tools for building resilience among children and youth affected by the crisis, responding to disasters and delivering education that is conflict sensitive. Acquired knowledge and skills will help trained teachers to respond to the immediate and cumulative impact of the conflict on their students. During the reporting period, UNICEF has trained 52 out of 70 teachers in NGCA. A total of 2,745 school children (1,413 girls and 1,332 boys) were reached through this intervention by trained teachers.
To support home-based/distance learning for children who stay homebound due to COVID-19 (either because schools are temporarily closed or because children are self-isolating) UNICEF delivered IT equipment (tablets, laptops and printers) to 10 schools in areas along the LoC in GCA. An estimated 400 children benefitted from this intervention.

**Child Protection**

In the reporting period, UNICEF in partnership with national non-government organizations continued providing community-based psychosocial support (PSS) to children, youth and their caregivers residing in conflict-affected settlements alongside the LoC and in the NGCA of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts. In total, 895 beneficiaries, including 722 children (391 boys, 331 girls) and 173 adults (140F/33M) benefitted from psychosocial support activities. In addition to this, 82 community professionals were reached with capacity building activities aiming to improve their knowledge on child protection issues, including positive parenting. Also, UNICEF ensured protection and specialized services for 16 children (8 boys and 8 girls) with disabilities.

In the GCA, UNICEF partnered with Terre des Hommes (TdH) to ensure access to psycho-social support (PSS) services for adolescents and youth, including children mine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) victims and children with disabilities living in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The partner conducted PSS group and individual sessions via online and offline modalities in schools located 0-20km from the LoC. As a result, 116 (85F/31M) beneficiaries received psycho-social services through online and offline modalities and group and individual sessions. In addition, 196 (181F/15M) parents and caregivers received skills and knowledge on positive parenting through online and offline training sessions. Moreover, the partner continued to provide case management services to child landmine/ERW victims and their caregivers affected by the conflict. Around ten child mine/ERW victims and adult mine survivors were provided with individual case management.

Also, in January-March 2021, UNICEF continued supporting 12 PSS /gender-based violence (GBV) mobile teams in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, providing PSS and online consultations by telephone and Skype to 6,121 survivors of GBV/domestic violence (out of which 846 calls were from children) and 253 emergency outreach to the population living along the LoC. Out of all calls, 107 were from families with children who returned from boarding institutions and 188 calls were from people with disabilities. Around 50 per cent of all reported cases (adults and children) were related to violence, 13 per cent to COVID-19. More than 2,035 beneficiaries were referred to the local social service departments, police and/or free legal aid. UNICEF continued to support the National toll-free Child Helpline providing online consultations to children, caregivers, and youth.

UNICEF continued Communication for Development (C4D) interventions with the NGO HALO Trust on explosive ordnance risk education (EORE). In the reporting period, 275 direct and 38 online sessions were conducted covering 8,279 (3,853 girls and 3,892 boys) children and 534 education professionals from 52 schools of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. Out of all children, 31 (13 girls and 18 boys) were with disabilities. Additionally, starting from January 2021, the comprehensive digital campaign was launched to reach children with safe behaviour messages in both NGCA and GCA. The intervention was expanded to Dniprovska, Kharkivska and Zaporizka oblasts, where the biggest ammunition depots are based and IDPs are concentrated. In January-March 2021, the digital communication reached: 453,783 beneficiaries in NGCA; 585,730 beneficiaries in Donetsk and Luhansk GCA; 1,745,615 beneficiaries in Kharkiv, Dnipro and Zaporizhzhya oblasts.

**Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy**

UNICEF continued to lead the WASH Cluster and Child Protection Sub-Cluster and co-lead the Education Cluster. UNICEF also actively participated in the Health Cluster and Mine Action working groups. In 2021, regular coordination activities continued, including organization of several coordination meetings to discuss and agree upon a several issues related to the humanitarian response in eastern Ukraine and how to improve coordination mechanism to better respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In view of the recent escalation of the rhetoric around the conflict and heightened security situation, UNICEF initiated a contingency planning exercise, both for its programmes as well as within the clusters. UNICEF’s preparedness and contingency planning tools have been activated to identify possible scenarios and develop a response plan based on the most likely scenario.
Communication

During the reporting period, UNICEF continued to highlight the needs of children in eastern Ukraine, focusing on a dire situation of families affected by a ‘double burden’ and the impact of the pandemics on the fragile healthcare, education and WASH sectors. UNICEF Ukraine continued to distribute information about the situation of children living in conflict-affected areas on its social media channels reaching over 450,000 followers.

Ahead of the World Day of Poetry, UNICEF Ukraine has joined the global campaign ‘Poems of Peace’. UNICEF organized a local contest to amplify the voices of Ukrainian children and highlighted the courage of thousands of young people from eastern Ukraine. Children and youth demonstrated longing for a more stable future amid the pandemic and protracted conflict.

In March, UNICEF has published a series of multimedia materials dedicated to World Water Day and UNICEF response in the WASH sector. The stories - Families suffer seven years without water supply in eastern Ukraine and Water under Fire. Utility workers risk their lives to restore water supply to eastern Ukraine - performed rather well on the UNICEF global channels engaging over 1.9 million people online and receiving over 300,000 website views. Another photo story on e-vouchers was prepared to promote the UNICEF programme, helping medical facilities and families in accessing critical supplies and hygiene products.

To highlight the need for psychological support during the pandemics in the conflict-affected areas, UNICEF has developed the multimedia story Teens feeling trapped in lockdown turn to a helpline for support. The story about GBV victim in eastern Ukraine and social media pack about psychological support to vulnerable teenagers during COVID-19 managed to pinpoint and communicate the problem to more than 4.5 million people online across the country.

In support of the International Day of Social Work, UNICEF has prepared a series of videos highlighting the importance of social services and community support for children during the pandemics in conflict-affected areas, which the first video from the series reaching over 200,000 people online.

Next SitRep: 20 July 2021

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### Annex A

#### Summary of Programme Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Cluster/Sector Response</th>
<th>UNICEF &amp; IPs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2021 target</td>
<td>Total results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of mothers and children U5 benefit from direct health service provision</td>
<td>178,050&lt;sup&gt;5&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of health care facility staff and community health workers trained on infection prevention and control</td>
<td>27,533&lt;sup&gt;6&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of health care providers trained on detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases</td>
<td>27,533&lt;sup&gt;7&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people accessing a sufficient quantity of water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene</td>
<td>947,000</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people provided with critical WASH-related supplies and services</td>
<td>1,270,000</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people provided with improved access to adequate sanitation</td>
<td>252,000</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children accessing explosive weapons-related risk education and survivor assistance interventions</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support</td>
<td>400,000&lt;sup&gt;8&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of girls and boys benefitting from education and early learning supplies and rehabilitated inclusive schools and kindergartens</td>
<td>41,600</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of girls and boys benefitting from conflict-sensitive, risk-informed and life-skills education delivered by trained teachers</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>8,361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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3 For all indicators the cluster data was not available at the time of the reporting or no cluster target is available. The cluster data will be reported in the next SiIREp.
4 Some UNICEF results will be reported in the Q2 Situation Report as data were not available or the project activities did not yet start.
5 The Health Cluster indicator for direct health service provision includes both children and adults, whereas the UNICEF HAC indicator is specifically for mothers and children under 5.
6 The Health Cluster indicator for number of people trained on IPC and management of COVID-19 is combined in one indicator, whereas the UNICEF HAC indicator splits them into two.
7 The HC indicator for number of people trained on IPC and management of COVID-19 is combined in one indicator, whereas the UNICEF HAC indicator splits them into two.
8 Target is for the whole Protection cluster and all sub-clusters. ChP sub-cluster has targets for the whole Protection cluster, but also for the broader activity and indicator. Activity: Provision of essential services (including PSS, Legal assistance, GBV, Mine assistance, etc.) and individual protection assistance (incl. cash) Indicator: # of women, men, boys and girls with access to essential services (including PSS, Legal assistance, GBV, mine victim assistance, etc.) and individual protection assistance (incl. cash) Target is 400,000.
### Annex B

#### Funding Status*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Requirements $</th>
<th>Funds available</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Received Current Year, $</td>
<td>Carry-Over, $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
<td>508,971</td>
<td>273,060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>6,300,000</td>
<td>2,542,000</td>
<td>2,274,698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>2,300,000</td>
<td>734,485</td>
<td>1,123,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>2,700,000</td>
<td>137,892</td>
<td>307,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>400,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>79,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,700,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,923,349</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,057,815</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* As defined in 2021 Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal for a period of 12 months