Highlights

- A fire at an ammunition depot near Balakliya, Kharkiv oblast, led to explosions that lasted several days, resulting in the death of one woman and two people injured as well as the temporary displacement of nearly 30,000 people, including 3,500 children. Almost 8,000 children missed school for several days as they had to be relocated.

- In response to the incident in Balakliya, UNICEF delivered hygiene supplies to 858 affected people and provided psychosocial support to reduce elevated levels of stress among children and their caregivers as well as teachers in schools that briefly provided accommodation to the displaced.

- UNICEF provided 100 computers to 10 schools along the ‘contact line’ to ensure continued access to learning to more than 2,000 boys and girls through a distance learning programme.

1 March – 31 March 2017

1,000,000
# of children in need, out of
3,800,000
# of people in need
(HAC January 2017)

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)
222,487
# of children, out of
1,601,806
# of people registered as IDPs
(Ministry of Social Policy, 27 March 2017)

UNICEF Appeal 2017
US$ 31.2 million

UNICEF’s Response with Partners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNICEF</th>
<th>Sector/Cluster</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNICEF Target</strong></td>
<td><strong>Cumulative results (#)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH(^a)</td>
<td>2,700,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection(^b)</td>
<td>602,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>120,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV &amp; AIDS</td>
<td>46,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^a\) See further details on WASH in the full summary of programme results on page 8.

\(^b\) The UNICEF target includes children and their families who received psychosocial support services and mine risk education (MRE), whereas the Cluster target does not include beneficiaries of MRE.
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

In March, the de facto authorities imposed ‘external control’ over all Ukrainian business entities located in non-government-controlled areas (NGCAs) of eastern Ukraine, including the electricity company, DTEK. The exceptions were the public utility company, Voda Donbassa, the largest water company in eastern Ukraine and the telecommunication company, MTS. In response to this, the Government of Ukraine enacted a ‘state of emergency’ in the energy sector through an executive order and, soon after, a ban on all trade has come to an effect across the so-called ‘contact line’ that separates government-controlled areas (GCAs) from NGCAs. Although the measures did not have an immediate impact on UN operations on both sides of the ‘contact line’ (as humanitarian convoys are normally exempt from the measures), such developments were widely considered to have amounted to a ‘freezing of the conflict’. Notwithstanding the flare-ups of hostilities, including shelling of critical civilian infrastructure that resulted in the recurring interruption of water services, the intensity of hostilities was on a lower scale compared to the previous two months.

On 23 March, a fire at an ammunition depot in Ukraine, located on the outskirts of Balakliya, Kharkiv oblast, resulted in explosions that continued for several days, killing one woman and injuring two others (see Map 1). The explosions also led to the temporary evacuation of nearly 30,000 people, including 3,500 children, from a 10km radius of the incident. Approximately 8,000 children missed school for several days as classrooms and kindergartens were used as temporary accommodation for the evacuees. As of 29 March, most residents of Balakliya and neighbouring villages had returned to the city. The city’s infrastructure, including schools and kindergartens, is functioning again; and operations on clearing unexploded ordnance are ongoing in multiple locations.

Map 1. Affected areas of the fire incident at the ammo depot in Balakliya, Kharkiv oblast.
Humanitarian Leadership & Coordination
In support of the humanitarian response, UNICEF facilitates coordination of the Education and WASH Clusters, the Child Protection Sub-cluster and the Nutrition Working Group. Additionally, UNICEF participates in the Health Cluster as well as the HIV/Tuberculosis/Opioid Substitution Treatment and Mine Action Sub-clusters. Collaboration continues with the Government and \textit{de facto} authorities as well as with UN agencies, international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and local partners advocating for de-escalation of the armed conflict.

The Regional Military Civil Administration (RMCA) of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts has asked humanitarian partners to ensure a coordinated approach under the government’s leadership. In Donetsk oblast, the RMCA’s Department of Civil Protection, Mobilization and Defense Work is appointed as a focal point for coordination of humanitarian response inside the GCAs of Donetsk Oblast, while the Department of Information and Internal Affairs created a hotline for people displaced due to the escalation of violence. Following the incident in Balakliya, the Regional Administration of Kharkiv oblast established an emergency response point near Balakliya to coordinate security and humanitarian activities in the affected area.

The WASH Cluster, led by UNICEF, continued to produce and disseminate incident reports and updates keeping stakeholders informed about the conflict-related damages to critical parts of civilian infrastructure. The Education Cluster provided information updates and coordinated response between the co-leads (UNICEF and Save the Children), the local Departments of Education, and other partners. During the most recent escalation of the conflict late January, the Education Cluster, along with the Child Protection Sub-cluster, produced situation updates documenting damages to educational facilities, closures of schools and kindergartens, relocation of children, and immediate educational and child protection needs.

Humanitarian Strategy
UNICEF, in close coordination with other UN agencies as well as the government and \textit{de facto} representatives on the ground, manages its emergency response programme on both sides of the ‘contact line’ through its zonal offices in Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Kramatorsk, Donetsk and Mariupol. UNICEF continues to address the needs of the most vulnerable children by ensuring their access to water and sanitation, education, safe learning spaces, child protection community-based services and immediate psychosocial support services (PSS). UNICEF also continues to enhance access to immunization and life-saving maternal and child health services, including promotion of adequate infant and young child feeding practices.

UNICEF continues to advocate for the respect and protection of educational facilities and, together with partner organisations, promotes the adoption of the Safe School Declaration by the Government of Ukraine. UNICEF also continues to monitor and report about children in conflict-affected areas focusing on preventing the separation of children from their families during evacuations. The provision of PSS will be continued to strengthen the resilience of conflict-affected children and adolescents living near the ‘contact line’.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

WASH
In March, UNICEF partners provided over 15,000 children with hygiene promotion materials and over 2,700 people with hygiene supplies. This included rapid response to the emergency in Balakliya, Kharkiv oblast, where the partners, and the Social Protection Department of Balakliya distributed 429 hygiene kits to 858 people evacuated from the danger zone. UNICEF also provided technical support to water treatment and distribution facilities in GCA of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. Two excavators were handed over to the
largest public utility company in Luhansk oblast GCA, Popasnyanskyi Rayonnyi Vodokanal, and one excavator to Lysychanskyvodokanal in Lysychansk. Six excavators will be used by different water utility companies in Donetsk Oblast, GCA, including the water utility company of Mariupol, which received three excavators. The new machinery will allow for a quick and efficient response during emergency repair works to ensure uninterrupted supply of drinking water to more than 1 million people in Luhansk oblast. In Donetsk oblast, UNICEF provided water treatment chemicals to ensure that over 2.3 million people have uninterrupted access to safe for drinking water in the centralized water supply systems.

In NGCAs, within the framework of its cross-sectoral emergency response, UNICEF distributed 15 water tanks, 283 heaters, and 150 sets of warm clothes for children in Horlivka, Telmanove, Oleksandrivka, Staromikhaylivka, Luhanske, and Yasynovata as well as the Kyiv and Petrovsky districts of Donetsk city.

**Child Protection**

Responding to the needs of the population affected by the crisis in Balakliya, UNICEF with partner organizations provided PSS to the affected communities using two mobile teams comprising trained psychologists, teachers and community professionals. As of 29 March, 20 families and their children, who visited the emergency response centre organised by the Regional Administration of Kharkiv oblast, had been provided with PSS through individual counselling. UNICEF will keep monitoring the needs of the crisis-affected people and respond as necessary.

Nearly 5,000 children, over 51 per cent of whom are girls, received PSS intervention through UNICEF’s 16 community protection centres (CPCs) and eight mobile teams, working within the GCAs in eastern Ukraine. Focusing on enhancing social cohesion among vulnerable communities situated close to the contact line, the CPCs conducted 1,644 group counselling sessions and 1,736 group classes on life skills education (LSE) and play/art therapy. The mobile teams conducted 295 visits, providing PSS in remote areas to those needing the services. Specialized support in the form of individual psychological consultations were provided to 541 children and their caregivers.

In the NGCAs, UNICEF provided a total of 1,583 children with PSS in the form of LSE, social and professional orientation - including sport activities, through three youth centres and one CPC in Donetsk and Luhansk NGCA. Outreach work and services were provided to the most at risk adolescents in HIV prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration. To prevent child separation and further vulnerabilities, 103 of the most vulnerable families received tailored social services, gaining skills to better care and support their children’s development within an ongoing case management programme. Furthermore, 18 community professionals working in the youth centres and mobile teams were trained in prevention, identifying and responding to violence against children in the NGCA.

**Education**

During March, ten schools situated on the ‘contact line’ (five in Donetsk and five in Luhansk oblast, GCAs) were supplied with computers to ensure continued access to learning to over 2,000 boys and girls living inside the most affected areas along the ‘contact line’. With the ‘100 Computers Project’, UNICEF will replace outdated and obsolete computers to as improve day to day access to learning through distance learning. Also in March, a total of 37,000 children in Donetsk oblast GCA benefitted from 3,850 early child development (ECD) kits distributed to 441 pre-school educational facilities. Each ECD kit is designed for 10 children and includes basic playing and development materials which can be incorporated in daily activities of children attending kindergartens.

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3 The project agreement clearly stipulates that the transferred equipment is to be used for humanitarian purposes only.
Health and Nutrition
As part of the series of capacity building activities, UNICEF organized a two-day training of trainers on immunization to support addressing the poor levels of vaccine coverage. Representatives from the primary health care of the Donetsk and Luhansk GCAs attended the training and enhanced their skills in effective counselling that is aimed at contributing to trust building between health workers and the public. To tackle the supply gaps of vaccines for routine immunization, UNICEF is currently procuring all vaccines in the country on behalf of the Ministry of Health.

HIV/AIDS
On 2 March, UNICEF successfully delivered another batch of antiretroviral (ARV) drugs and diagnostic reagents to NGCAs in the city of Donetsk. Nearly 2.5 tons of medicines and supplies were transferred to the Donetsk AIDS Centre and about 350 kg of ARV medicines to the Luhansk Centre for Prevention and Control of AIDS. With this delivery, UNICEF ensures uninterrupted therapy reaching more than 9,600 HIV-positive people in NGCAs of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

Communication for Development (C4D)
The “Let’s get together” campaign that sought to promote social inclusion and raise awareness about available support provided by the humanitarian community to internally displaced persons (IDPs) reached over 82 per cent of adults in Ukraine via social advertising on six national TV channels, a website and several public events.

According to a post-campaign survey conducted over the phone among people living in the eastern regions and nationally, IDPs are better informed about the existence of Community Protection Centres (from 24.5 per cent in October 2016 to 31 per cent in March 2017) and about access to clean drinking water (from 47 per cent to 56 per cent during the same period). Moreover, the post-campaign survey also identified that nearly 44 per cent of IDPs believe that the attitude of host communities towards them is very good compared with 30 per cent before the campaign.

Media & External Communication
On World Water Day on 22 March, UNICEF held a public handover ceremony to donate nine excavators to utility companies in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The contribution will help to ensure an uninterrupted supply of drinking water to more than one million people in Luhansk oblast through essential repairs of vital water infrastructure. Ten Ukrainian media agencies were present at the ceremony attended by the Deputy Head of Mission of the German Embassy, representatives of the Ministry of Regional Development and Municipal Economies of Ukraine, the Donetsk Regional State Administration, PUC Voda Donbassa.

© UNICEF/Ukraine 2017/Het'man
A new excavator procured by UNICEF and funded by OFDA parked next to a damaged excavator at Lysychanskvodokanal, Lysychansk, Luhansk oblast.

According to media monitoring by Starlight Media.
Security

In March, the security situation inside eastern Ukraine continued to be volatile and tense. Although the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) recorded a relative decrease in the number of ceasefire violations, the level of violence on civilians remained high in vicinity of Donetsk NGCA, Mariupol and Svitlodarsk GCA, taking the lives of five adults and one child and injuring 36, including one boy. During the reporting period, the main causes of death and injury among the civilian population were the inappropriate handling of hand grenades, the prevalence of explosive remnants of war and booby traps, shelling, and fire from small arms and light weapons. Outside the area, the security situation was marked by numerous bomb alerts, the 23 March assassination of a Russian ex-lawmaker in Kyiv, the destruction of the ammunition depot in Kharkiv oblast, the temporary closure of border between the Russian Federation and Ukraine in Chernihiv oblast and the 29 March armed attack on the Polish consulate in Volyn oblast in western Ukraine, attributed to a continuing row attributed to events during and following the Second World War.

Conflict-related civilian casualties in Ukraine
1 January 2016 - 22 March 2017 (Source: OHCHR)

6 Conflict-related civilian casualties in Ukraine as of 22 March 2017. OHCHR.
## Funding Requirements (as defined in Humanitarian Appeal 2017 for a period of 12 months)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Funds received</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>4,500,000</td>
<td>4,500,000</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water, sanitation and hygiene</td>
<td>10,000,000</td>
<td>53,362</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child protection</td>
<td>5,500,000</td>
<td>183,600</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>5,200,000</td>
<td>619,380</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV and AIDS</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
<td>4,302,720</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluster/sector coordination</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>64,370</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-total</td>
<td>31,200,000</td>
<td>5,223,432</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carry-forward to 2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>31,200,000</td>
<td>8,969,387</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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**Next SitRep: 05/05/2017**

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

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**Page 7 of 8**
### Annex A
#### SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cluster Response</th>
<th>UNICEF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cluster Target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WATER, SANITATION &amp; HYGIENE</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people with access to safe water (for drinking, cooking and hygiene) through effective treatment mechanisms and emergency repair of WASH infrastructure</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people benefitting from the provision of hygiene items and knowledge of basic hygiene practices</td>
<td>520,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EDUCATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children aged 3-16 in conflict-affected areas have access to ECD and basic education</td>
<td>136,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of youths, parents and teachers trained in life-skills education including EiE, coordination and psychosocial support activities</td>
<td>11,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HEALTH AND NUTRITION</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnant or lactating women reached with Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) and immunization messages</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of pregnant women have access to emergency reproductive health services</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per cent of children under 12 months received all required vaccines through routine immunization in conflict-affected areas</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHILD PROTECTION</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children and their families/caregivers who received Mine Risk Education (MRE)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children and their caregivers benefiting from PSS activities</td>
<td>121,075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of service providers/community professionals trained in identifying and responding to key child protection issues</td>
<td>2,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HIV and AIDS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of HIV-positive patients with access to the uninterrupted ARV treatment</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of pregnant women tested for HIV</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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\(^7\) UNICEF provides water treatment chemicals to water supply companies in the most critical areas. Once water is treated, this has an impact on the indicated figure of beneficiaries.

\(^8\) The final figures of indicators mentioned above were identified within the process of preparation of the UNICEF application to the Global Fund and confirmed by both Lugansk and Donetsk AIDS Centres (NGCA), so that previous indicators were revised and correspondingly updated (i.e. from 12,000 to 16,000 patients on ARV and from 38,000 to 30,000 pregnant women to be tested for HIV during pregnancy respectively).

\(^9\) There were 2,791 women tested for HIV in March. The remaining number of women tested in January (3,045) and February (1,803); however, the data was only made available in March.