Highlights

- Displacement figures continue to grow with 921,640 people now internally displaced in Ukraine (Source: Ministry of Social Policy), of whom 136,216 are children (Source: State Emergency Service).

- UNICEF has set up a field office in Kharkiv city to strengthen its response to the situation in the conflict-affected region in the East of Ukraine.

- UNICEF is starting mine risk education (MRE) programme in cooperation with Danish Demining Group (DDG). The intervention will reach 500,000 children in Donbass region.

- UNICEF has reached an agreement with Luhansk Regional Agency for Sustainable Development, to provide hygiene supplies and water to children and families in the areas of ongoing fighting.

- Training of 400 school psychologists has been completed and the psychosocial outreach to children and families in conflict-affected areas started, initially reaching 614 children and 50 caregivers. By April 2015, 4,000 children will be reached with this intervention.

23 January 2015

136,216
# of registered internally displaced children
(State Emergency Service, 23 January 2015. The data collection method for registered internally displaced children is currently being reviewed)

921,640
# of registered internally displaced people
(Ministry of Social Policy, 23 January 2015)

5.2 million
# of affected people
(OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview, December 2014)

1.7 million
approx. # of affected children
(UNICEF HAC 2015)

1.4 million
# of people in need of humanitarian aid
(OCHA, Strategic Response Plan, December 2014)
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Fighting has intensified in and around Donetsk, resulting in civilian casualties and preventing the humanitarian community from carrying out their work. The humanitarian community is deeply concerned about the escalation of violence in eastern Ukraine over the past two weeks and has called on all parties to refrain from harming civilians and to comply with international humanitarian law. The tragic death of civilians in a bus near Volnovakha, Donetsk region on 13 January is one of many incidents that highlight the unacceptable situation in which ordinary people find themselves. Child casualties have also increased in the past two weeks: according to WHO 123 children have been wounded and 52 killed as of 20 January 2015.

Harsh winter conditions and the suspension of benefit payments in some parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions are making the situation even more difficult. There are reports from non-government-controlled areas that thousands of people are highly vulnerable and in need of assistance. Along with financial problems, many face security concerns preventing them from buying essential food and medicines and are living in frigid winter conditions.

Local authorities in Luhansk oblast have requested return to their institutions of 300 children deprived of parental care, who were temporarily accommodated in Odessa. Due to escalation of violence and lack of safety, the Presidential Commissioner for Child Rights intervened and having interviewed all children on their desire for returning to Luhansk oblast. 80 have been returned, as they expressed their will to come back. The remaining 220 children stayed in Odessa and the Office of President Commissioner for Child Rights continues to monitor this situation.

Since the beginning of fighting in eastern Ukraine, the Ministry of Social Policy (MOSP) has evacuated 1,500 children under state care. MOSP also reports that 218 children remain in 40 state institutions in the areas of on-going fighting.

UNICEF is hosting a high-level mission from 26-30 January to visit the conflict-affected region. The mission includes child protection, health, education, emergency experts and aims at providing support to the UNICEF CO response plan.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

In the next few days, UNICEF will sign a cooperation agreement with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) incorporating the Danish Demining Group (DDG) to implement a Mine Risk Education (MRE) intervention in Donbas region. The estimated coverage is 200 adolescents as peer trainers, information outreach to 500,000 children, 100 teachers and school psychologists trained. The project will cover areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts under control of the Government of Ukraine, and other IDP concentration areas as identified by DDG. The initiative will increase safety and security of school-aged children and their parents in Donbas. It will focus on establishing learning spaces and schools for children and parents to increase their awareness and knowledge on risks from Explosive Remnants of War (ERW), namely unexploded ordnance (UXO) and mines.

The DDG conducted two missions on MRE and Mine Action assessment during the summer-autumn 2014, which included multiple stakeholder involvement and background briefings. The MRE intervention is outlined within the UNICEF Emergency Response plan, and two donors – Governments of Sweden and Norway - provided funding to UNICEF for the MRE activities in Donbas.

The first 2015 meeting of the Child Protection sub-cluster will take place on 26 January 2015.
Summary of Programme Response

**Education**

From January 5-20, UNICEF delivered education kits to provide appropriate basic education, early learning and recreational materials to 9,525 displaced children in Kharkiv.

The UNICEF Emergency Education Specialist is visiting Severodonetsk and Slavyansk this week to assess the damaged schools and finalize an agreement for the renovation of school infrastructure. UNICEF is also in dialogue with the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) regarding the exams in non-government-controlled areas where the armed groups are changing the curriculum. The MoES is going to issue a new simplified guidance that will allow the residents of the conflict area to register for exams online (the former instruction required the pupil to leave the conflict zone and physically register at the nearest secondary school in the government-controlled territory).

UNICEF and DDG joint mine-risk education (MRE) project in Donbas is aimed to strengthen government capacity in the injury surveillance system for mine/Explosive Remnants of War (ERW)-related incidents. It will also increase children’s safety by enhancing the knowledge on risks and motivating safe behaviour among children of preschool and school age and their parents in Donbas.

**WASH**

A new agreement with Luhansk Regional Agency for Sustainable Development is being finalised with the aim to provide emergency assistance within the conflict zone to ensure the access to safe drinking water for the population there, especially in the territories experiencing most difficulties with water supply, such as villages and settlements of Krimske, Trehizbenka, Schast’e, Stanitsa Luganskaya and Chernuhino.

Power lines in these areas were damaged during active fighting, resulting in the lack of a reliable water supply to the local population. Specifically, the agreement covers delivery of drinking water and water distribution to the affected population; hygiene promotion among children; and the creation of a database for UNICEF of people receiving humanitarian aid.

During the week of 14-23 January UNICEF has delivered 239 adult hygiene kits, 250 baby hygiene kits and 150 WASH family kits to Svyatogorsk with total number of beneficiaries rising to 2,128 people. The kits were distributed to the vulnerable population by UNICEF partner NGO, Ukrainian Frontiers. UNICEF has also delivered hygiene supplies donated by Unilever to the 192 people with disabilities and elderly in Antrazyt.

From 15 December 2014 to 5 January 2015, UNICEF conducted a survey on the situation in water supply, sanitation and hygiene in conflict-affected areas in eastern Ukraine, within the framework of its cooperation with KHORS, an NGO based in Luhansk oblast. Having interviewed 296 key informants in 33 locations, the survey studied the WASH situation in Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts, as well as outside and inside the conflict zone. In the areas controlled by Ukrainian government, the survey was conducted mainly through focus groups, in the areas controlled by armed groups the survey was conducted through personal interviews to ensure the safety of the participants.

The survey focused on the issues of water supply sources and quality of drinking water; reasons for lack of safe drinking water; volume of water consumption by families; water treatment habits in households; as well as sanitation issues. According to the estimated results, the number of the population affected in the area of water and sanitation by the conflict is 208,216 people (161,262 in Donetsk and 46,954 in Luhansk oblasts), of these 30,899 are women (20,152 and 10,747 respectively); 7,928 are children under 5 years old (3,004 and 4,924 respectively); and 14,931 are children aged 6 to 18 (7,049 and 7,882 respectively).
**Child Protection**

The UNICEF child hotline received a total of 1,353 calls during the period of 1-17 January 2015. Of those, 50.7 per cent were from girls and 49.3 per cent from boys. Most of the calls were concerning legal advice and requests for psychosocial support. All callers received counselling and support.

During December – January, within the framework of the Kyiv-Mohyla academy project, 400 school psychologists have been trained, who already started the outreach with psychosocial support to 600 children (56 in Donetsk, 362 in Zaporizhzhia and 196 in Luhansk region). Individual counselling sessions were also been provided to 50 parents in Zaporizhzhia oblast. Through the further dissemination of the training materials, 40 school directors and their deputies have improved their capacity to ensure the psychological wellbeing of children in their schools. By April 2015, 4,000 children will be reached.

UNICEF is starting a mine risk education (MRE) intervention in cooperation with Danish Demining Group (DDG) next week. The estimated coverage is 200 adolescents as peer trainers, information outreach to 500,000 children, 100 teachers and school psychologists trained. The project will cover areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts under the control of the Government of Ukraine, and other IDP concentration areas as identified by DDG.

**Funding and Planning**

As part of the Strategic Response Plan, UNICEF has appealed for US$32.45 million to provide emergency relief assistance to children affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine. To date, just over US$10 million has been received or pledged, representing 31 per cent against the appealed amount. The table below provides a detailed overview by sector.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Status</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Child Protection</th>
<th>Health &amp; Nutrition</th>
<th>WASH</th>
<th>Field support &amp; Coordination</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>In US Dollars</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ukraine</strong></td>
<td><strong>Required</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,465,862</strong></td>
<td><strong>1050,120</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,550,387</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Ukraine</strong></td>
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<td><strong>1,300,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,650,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,600,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,500,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>32,450,000</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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Next Sit Rep: 06/02/2015


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