UNICEF has delivered over 16,000 six-litre bottles of drinking water to families and children in Luhansk oblast. 15 September 2014.

**Highlights**

- The number of internally displaced increased to 262,977, while more than 366,866 people have fled eastern Ukraine to seek refuge in neighboring countries. At least one third of them are children (as of 12 September).

- The number of IDP children who entered school and preschool education facilities in different regions of Ukraine is approximately 49,195 (as of 8 September, Ministry of Education and Science (MoES)).

- MoES reports that 118 education facilities remain damaged as of 10 September 2014 (74 schools and 44 preschool facilities).

- The overall number of IDPs seeking medical attention in the areas of their displacement is 30,355 adults and 25,628 children. 520 babies were born by IDP women in the areas of their displacement (as of 16 September, State Emergency Service (SES)).

- The recent inter-agency health assessment in Zaporizhzhia oblast has revealed that there are no extra budget resources allocated for IDPs health services thus overstretching the health system in the areas of displacement.

- **UNICEF with partners is developing a plan for a rapid WASH needs assessment in the affected areas.**

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1 The Donetsk region number of children aged 0-17. Source: Department of the Social protection of the Population, Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine triangulated with UNHCR and Civic Sector data.
2 The Kharkiv region number of children aged 0-17. Source: Department of the Social protection of the Population, Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine triangulated with UNHCR and Civic Sector data.
3 The Luhansk region number of children aged 0-17. Source: Department of the Social protection of the Population, Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine triangulated with UNHCR and Civic Sector data.
4 These are the Eastern regions covered: Luhansk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, regions bordering with Russia. Children 0-17.
**Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs**

**Overview**

As of 12 September, the number of internally displaced people (IDP) increased to 262,977, while more than 366,866 people have fled eastern Ukraine to seek refuge in neighbouring countries. Access to the conflict areas remains severely restricted to most of the humanitarian agencies. UNOCHA reports on the ongoing severe need for water, electricity and health care in the areas directly affected by the conflict.

According to the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES), the number of IDP children from Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts, and Crimea who entered school and preschool education facilities for the start of the new school year across Ukraine is approximately 49,195 (as of 8 September). UNICEF received reports that some groups of children have not attended educational facilities due to integration difficulties. MoES developed and issued instructions to teachers and psychologists on how to work with children in the context of the current conflict. The instructions are aimed at strengthening the capacity and role of the school psychologists during the period of the crisis.

Based on the latest information from MoES a total of 168 preschool and school facilities have been damaged during the conflict in the East of Ukraine. Among them are 107 secondary schools and 61 kindergartens.

To date, 50 facilities (33 schools and 12 kindergartens) have been repaired and already resumed schooling. These are 3 schools and 5 kindergartens in Kramatorks; 23 schools and 10 preschool facilities in Sloviansk; 2 schools in Krasniy Liman; 2 schools and 1 kindergarten in Dzerzhinsk; 3 schools and 1 kindergarten in Artemivsk.

Water supply in Donetsk remains stable although not sufficient with some areas still not having access to water. Luhansk city water supply has been disconnected for over 40 days. Luhansk City Council reported that electricity has been restored in some districts and works are underway to power the water pumping stations and sewerage system.

State Emergency Service (SES) reports that throughout the conflict period, the total number of IDPs seeking medical assistance totalled 30,355 adults and 25,628 children. 520 babies were born by IDP women.

A joint inter-agency health assessment conducted on 9-11 September has revealed that there are no refusals or restrictions for admission of unregistered IDPs (parents with children) to health care facilities. Consultations are provided free of charge, however, patients need to pay for the drugs, which is critical given the depleting finances of the IDPs.

All parties to the conflict declared a ceasefire on 5 September. Largely, the ceasefire has held, though isolated violations have been reported daily. On 16 September the Ukrainian Parliament ratified the EU Association Agreement. On the same day, the Parliament voted in favour of the special status of some areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. Amnesty was also granted to all non-government forces who are currently taking part in the fighting, under the condition that they turn in their weapons. If this is implemented and the ceasefire holds, humanitarian access might greatly improve in eastern regions and increasing returns should be expected in the short term. People in areas previously inaccessible due to insecurity and those in locations of return will require humanitarian assistance and support.

**Humanitarian needs**

MoES reports that out of 168 damaged educational facilities, 118 (74 schools and 44 preschool facilities) still need repairs as of 10 September 2014. The situation with educational facilities in Luhansk oblast remains unknown in the areas where the access continues to be restricted.

Access to safe drinking water and personal hygiene items remain one of the key priorities for people in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. IDPs funds are depleting and more people are registering with local government, there is a steady increase in the number of requests for baby and adult hygiene kits.

Despite the recent ceasefire agreement, isolated violations have taken place, preventing the water utility company from repairing damaged water ducts. In some cases, restoring power supply to pumping and filtering stations is dangerous or not possible.

The recent health assessment, which was conducted by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and WFP in Zaporizhzhia oblast, has revealed that there are no extra budget resources allocated for health services of IDPs thus overstretiching the health system in the areas of displacement. The resilience capacity of local health facilities is at risk of failure if the number of IDPs increases. There is an overall lack of health care system coordination by the regional and local government with no
clear strategy on how to further manage the flow of IDP patients including ART treatment and the referral of IDPs to other regions.

Antenatal care and delivery services are performed at an adequate level. In Zaporizhzhya the pregnant IDP women (both with high risk and regular pregnancies) are referred to the regional perinatal care centre, where the services are provided to them free of charge (tests, ultrasound examination, delivery care). The assessment highlights that there is, however, an emerging deficit of essential drugs in maternity wards for baby resuscitation (e.g. surfactant) and bleeding management. While the ambulance service is provided for IDPs, the physical access to health care facilities especially in remote resort areas (e.g. summer camps) is challenging and no outreach prevention services are provided at the local level.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

UNICEF continues to lead the coordination of the WASH and Education sectors and co-chairs the Mental Health and Psychosocial sub-sectors, as well co-leads Food and Nutrition security. UNICEF also participates as an active member of other sectors such as Health and Protection. In addition to the joint needs assessment by WHO, UNICEF and WFP, UNICEF is developing a plan for a rapid WASH needs assessment in the affected areas.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Earlier this month, UNICEF and Ukraine Parliamentary Commissioner on Human Rights submitted a joint letter to the Prime Minister of Ukraine requesting to protect all children’s right to education. As a follow-up the MoES has already received an assignment from the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine to draft the Action Plan to ensure the right of all children, including those displaced, to quality education throughout Ukraine including in the conflict areas. The development of the Action Plan will require assistance from all concerned agencies and organizations.

As part of Mine Risk Education, UNICEF has delivered 220,000 mine risk awareness posters and 600,000 leaflets through its partners MoES and State Emergency Service (SES) to the schools in Luhansk and Donetsk oblast.

Since August UNICEF has distributed 16,320 six-litre bottles of drinking water to Luhansk oblast through its local partner NGO ADRA. UNICEF will deliver a total of 41,693 bottles of drinking water covering approximately 80,000 persons by the end of September.

As a part of the child protection response, UNICEF is finalising the agreements with local partners to enhance its psychosocial services reaching to around 9,000 children through individual and group therapy. Meanwhile, UNICEF field monitors continue assessing the situation on the ground and reporting on emerging needs.

Supply and Logistics

UNICEF established a functional supply and logistics chain and cooperation with a number of cargo companies and NGOs on the ground to deliver and distribute the aid. In addition to the State Emergency Services operations, 3 contractors, and 4 local and 2 international NGOs are helping UNICEF to reach the most vulnerable children and their families. UNICEF uses the State Emergency Services warehouse facility for it contingency stocks on the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Overall, UNICEF distributed 2,219 hygiene kits benefiting over 5,000 children and their families during the March-September 2014 period.

A total of 2,830 children in Donetsk and Luhansk affected area have benefited from UNICEF ECD kits aimed at helping them overcome stress and pressure while living in accommodation centres.

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