

A child and her caregiver inside a heated Invincibility Point tent set up by Ukraine's State Emergency Service in Kyiv, which was supported by UNICEF with supplies and child-friendly spaces and referral services.
©UNICEF/Filippov



Reporting period: 1 January to 31 March 2026

Ukraine Humanitarian Situation Report No. 60

unicef
for every child

Highlights

- In the first quarter of 2026, UN-verified civilian casualties were 20 per cent higher than in the first quarter of 2025. In March 2026, at least 211 civilians were killed and 1,206 injured including 9 children who were killed and 80 who were injured.
- So far in 2026, UNICEF has reached 1,825,057 people with safe water and sanitation services. This acceleration was driven by generator distributions provided as critical back-up power sources during the heating and power supplies crises mostly in January and February. In total, 226 generators along with one 1 MW gas co-generation unit were delivered to water and heating utilities, supporting the continued operation of water, sanitation and heating networks for 1,477,939 people to date.
- Catch-up classes continued, enabling children in frontline regions to access offline learning and safely interact with their teachers and peers. Together with implementing partners, and through direct implementation by departments of education, 25,049 children (13,340 girls) accessed classes through 137 Student Learning Support Centres and 30 Digital Learning Centres.
- Shock-responsive cash assistance has been provided to 13,459 households in Odesa, Kharkiv and Kyiv, covering 39,391 people including 23,693 children (11,475 girls). This intervention was first launched in January due to prolonged, emergency disruptions in access to essential services, such as electricity, heating and water, as a result of strikes on critical infrastructure.

Situation in Numbers

 **2.2 million**
Children in need inside Ukraine
(Humanitarian Response Plan 2026)

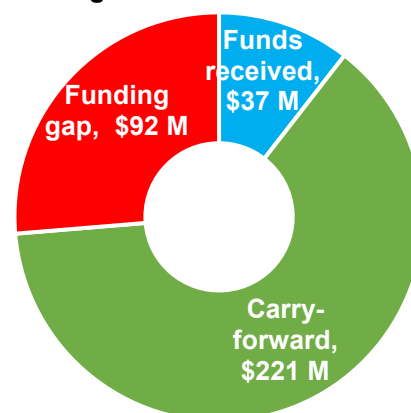
 **10.8 million**
People in need inside Ukraine
(Humanitarian Response Plan 2026)

 **3.4 million**
Internally displaced people
(IOM, Displacement Tracking Matrix, Feb 2026)

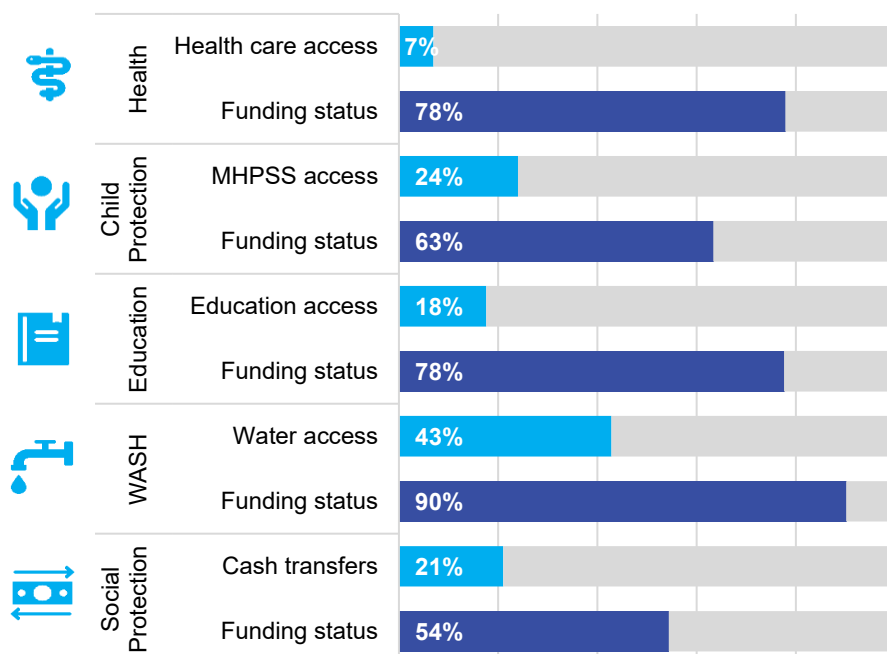
 **725,000**
Children targeted by UNICEF in Ukraine 2026
(UNICEF HAC 2026)

UNICEF Appeal 2026 US\$350 million

Funding status as of 31 March



UNICEF Response and Funding Status



The overall HAC funding gap status does not represent gaps by sector. For further details by sector, please refer to Annex B.

Figures reported to the FTS may differ for the same period due to in-process allocation of flexible funding. This reflects the requirements for Pillar 1 (inside Ukraine).

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

In the first quarter of 2026, [UN-verified](#) civilian casualties (556 people killed and 2,731 people injured) were 20 per cent higher than in the first quarter of 2025 (456 people killed and 2,284 people injured) and remained similarly high as the last quarter of 2025 (588 people killed and 2,930 people injured). In March 2026, at least 211 civilians were killed and 1,206 injured, representing a 49 per cent increase compared with February 2026 (191 people killed and 759 people injured) and a 29 per cent increase compared with March 2025 (178 people killed and 922 people injured). Nine children were killed and 80 injured in March alone.

By the end of 2025, attacks on energy infrastructure had taken half of Ukraine's [electricity generation](#) and [gas production](#) offline. These attacks continued in the first quarter of 2026: 448 [strikes on infrastructure were recorded](#) in the first quarter of 2026 compared to 196 strikes recorded in the first quarter of 2025. The combined effects disrupted district heating, water pumping, schools and health facilities, particularly in January and February when demand was at its peak and temperature reached -20° Celsius. UNICEF's Vulnerable Families Insights Overview showed that winter pressures were acute on families across the country: Financial constraints were reported 80 per cent of respondents, followed by power outages (65 per cent) and security risks (33 per cent). Energy disruptions had widespread effects on daily life, contributing to social isolation, stress within families and reduced ability to meet basic needs such as cooking, heating and hygiene. The same reporting also found that 58 per cent of parents said their children were facing learning difficulties often or very often, while an [Education Cluster analysis](#) estimated that power and heating outages had disrupted 66 per cent of learning time between mid-January and mid-February.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF is working closely with United Nations agencies, the government and humanitarian partners under the inter-agency framework including through the Humanitarian Country Team and Humanitarian Operations Coordination Groups at regional level. UNICEF leads/co-leads the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Education Clusters. In addition UNICEF leads the Education, WASH and the Social Protection Sectoral Working Groups (along with the Cash - Social Protection Linkages Task Force). UNICEF also provides technical support for the Education in Emergencies Working Group under the Education Sector Working Group and is ensuring strong Child Protection technical capacity under the Protection Cluster. Along the frontlines, where intense and sustained fighting and access constraints remain, UNICEF engages with municipal, regional and local administrations and local NGO partners to implement its urgent humanitarian response. In parallel, across the country, UNICEF uses existing national systems and engages local authorities and civil society to ensure a child-focused recovery. Flagship priorities include Better Start to Life (Early childhood development – ECD), Better Learning and Skills (Maximizing the potential of children and youth) and Better Care (A family for every child).

Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF has US\$257.9 million available for its response inside Ukraine (Pillar 1) under its [Humanitarian Action for Children](#) (HAC) appeal of US\$350 million. This includes US\$221.1 million carried over from 2025 and US\$36.8 million received in 2026. The HAC was developed in line with the Ukraine [Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan \(HNRP\) 2026](#), which targets 4.1 million people, with a funding requirement of US\$2.3 billion. Generous contributions have been received from the private sector, including individuals, corporations and foundations. Funding has also been received from the people and Governments of Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Japan, Germany, Sweden, Portugal, and the United Kingdom.

UNICEF works with the Government of Ukraine, United Nations agencies, civil society and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other humanitarian partners. Close cooperation is ensured with key stakeholders (Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Social Policy, Education and Science, Health, Youth and Sports, Ministry for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development, regional administration, city councils in several cities and the Ombudsperson's Office as well as the State Emergency Services of Ukraine (SESU). UNICEF has established partnerships with the concerned municipalities and will continue to expand them. UNICEF engages with 247 government, civil society and service provider partners to respond to the critical needs of children and families across Ukraine.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health: In the first quarter of 2026, **mobile medical teams** provided essential primary health care, nutrition and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services in hard-to-reach and frontline areas where access to services remains constrained. These teams reached 699 people in Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kharkiv regions, including 241 children (114 girls) and 458 caregivers (344 women). MHPSS consultations reached 467 people (27 girls, 21 boys, 348 women and 91 men), helping address growing psychosocial needs linked to prolonged exposure to conflict and displacement.

UNICEF is scaling up **energy solutions in health care facilities** affected by power disruptions. In Chernihiv, power backup systems were installed in four frontline health care facilities, ensuring uninterrupted provision of services for 9,500 people in a context of recurrent attacks on energy infrastructure.

At system level, UNICEF advanced the **Safe and Resilient Hospital Programme**, strengthening the emergency preparedness

of the health sector. In partnership with the Ministry of Health (MOH), Public Health Center (PHC) and State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU), standardized tools for hospital emergency preparedness were developed, including a Health Readiness Index to assess facility-level capacity. Based on a risk-informed prioritization, five mother and child hospitals from Odesa, Dnipro and Kyiv were enrolled in the initiative. The SOP was adapted to these facilities including an expert review and measures such as regular training, scenario-based drills, and pre-approved management decisions required to ensure timely, coordinated action under high risk and uncertainty.

To strengthen **paediatric rehabilitation** services, equipment such as step platforms, assessment tools, weighing scales and mobility devices was delivered to Kharkiv Regional Children's Hospital, improving inpatient rehabilitation capacity in a region heavily affected by hostilities. A training manual on caregiver inclusion in paediatric rehabilitation treatment was finalized and piloted at the Odesa Regional Children Clinical Hospital. Inpatient paediatric rehabilitation services continued across seven supported hospitals in Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Chernihiv, Sumy, Odesa and Mykolaiv, where 860 children (388 girls) received services this quarter.

Child Protection: UNICEF, local authorities and implementing partners delivered **targeted winterization** support to strengthen the protection and resilience of 8,872 vulnerable children and their families. This included essential winter supplies (blankets, winter clothing, bedding and power banks) for 979 children in alternative family-based care. Assistance was also extended to child protection facilities, pre-trial detention centres, correctional facilities and alternative family-based care settings, ensuring 4,958 children had access to basic necessities and MHPSS through case management teams and outreach.

Together with implementing partners, UNICEF supported 1,736 children (900 girls) with **emergency response to air strikes** in the first quarter of 2026, including psychological first aid (PFA), which was provided to 133 children (87 girls) and 270 adults (182 female) within hours of the strikes, as well as blankets and in-kind supplies with basic hygiene and recreational supplies. Fifty-five families with children were enrolled in case management and provided with emergency cash assistance to cover immediate needs.

Individual **case management** reached 7,828 children (3,777 girls), including 613 children with disabilities. These children were ensured comprehensive needs assessments, individualized care plans and timely referrals to specialized services. Fifty additional social workers, case managers and psychologists were hired across 16 frontline communities and Kyiv City to bridge critical service provision gaps and strengthen child protection services, in part due to the challenging winter conditions. These case managers worked alongside municipal social services to provide rapid case management and psychosocial support, assess families' humanitarian needs and facilitate referrals to specialized services. As a result, 4,528 of the most vulnerable received case management support and targeted material assistance.



Psychological first aid in post-air strike response in Izium ©UNICEF/2926

During the first quarter, 37,895 women and children accessed **GBV-related services** through static hubs and mobile teams. Support included survivor-centered GBV case management, alongside prevention and risk-mitigation activities, such as awareness-raising sessions, safety audits and implementation of protective measures. In Sumy, four Safe Spaces for women and girls, along with an outreach team provided confidential, supportive environments for peer-to-peer engagement, psychosocial support and information on specialized GBV response services. All facilities were equipped with backup power supplies to ensure uninterrupted service delivery during prolonged outages. Safe Space representatives actively participated in local municipal GBV coordination councils, reinforcing local referral pathways and community-level accountability. The Safe Spaces served 2,490 people, including 1,504 women, 668 girls and 318 boys, including 29 persons with disabilities.



UNICEF, SESU and students celebrate International Day of Mine Education ©UNICEF/2026

Despite recurrent power and heating disruptions, 47 **girls' clubs** continued across Kharkiv and Sumy regions. Facilitators integrated GBV awareness and risk-reduction messages into recreational and skills-building activities, creating safe, supportive environments. In total, the clubs reached 1,552 participants (1,491 girls and 61 young women), providing consistent informal support networks and strengthening early help-seeking behaviours.

Since the beginning of 2026, 312 children (153 girls) accessed **specialized victim assistance** including case management, MHPSS, medical and legal referrals and emergency aid. Of these, 62 per cent were assessed as high-risk, requiring coordinated, multi-sectoral follow-up through comprehensive referral pathways. In addition, 66,462 people received life-saving **explosive ordnance**

risk education, with learning assessments from 1,356 participating children showing a marked increase in mine-safety knowledge: the share scoring 80 per cent or higher rose from 49.8 per cent at baseline to 60.4 per cent following the sessions.

The UNICEF **winter safety campaign**, with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, SESU and the National Police reached over 240,000 people this year through outdoor and indoor advertising and print materials. UNICEF collaborated with 13 TikTok and Instagram bloggers promoting winter safety messages to 2,004,973 people, including 363,453 adolescents and youth. In addition, 92,000 reflectors were delivered to children together with the National Police for them to wear, allowing them to be more visible to drivers and increase their safety during long dark winter hours worsened by prolonged blackouts. A nationwide UNICEF survey showed the use of reflectors increased from 11 per cent in October 2024 to 23 per cent in November 2025, including 49 per cent of children. However, a quarter of parents admitted not ensuring their child had reflectors. Future communication efforts should focus on embedding them into daily routines and children's social norms and sense of style.



Children hold high-visibility badges, ©2026/SESU

During the first quarter of 2026, **Child Protection partners under the Protection Cluster** reached 192,960 people, including 133,487 children (72,218 girls), with a strong focus on frontline and high-severity areas (32 per cent of activities under Strategic Priority 1 focusing on the response with 50km of the frontline). Thirteen regional co-coordinators from national organizations led coordination across eight frontline regions, ensuring the response was informed by local context and needs.

The Protection Cluster published [Operational Considerations for Humanitarian Organizations](#) on Law No. 4779-IX on the mandatory evacuation of children from frontline areas including key concerns related to family separation, institutionalization and continuity of care. Relevant ministries are developing by-laws to guide implementation, which will be critical in determining how protection safeguards are operationalized. UNICEF and Child Protection partners are engaging in consultation processes to influence these by-laws, advocating for a rights-based and child-centered approach, including family unity, case management and appropriate care arrangements.



Children attend early childhood education in a space repaired by UNICEF after an air strike ©UNICEF/2026

Following endorsement by UNHCR, UNICEF and UNFPA of the plan to streamline the Protection Cluster in the context of the Humanitarian Reset, the integration of the Child Protection Area of Responsibility into the Protection Cluster is ongoing. Current efforts focus on operationalizing the integrated coordination model, developing updated Terms of Reference and transitioning governance structures, including the integration of the Child Protection Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) into the Protection Cluster SAG.

Education: Through the 2x2 **Early Childhood Education (ECE)** model with the Association of Education Workers, UNICEF provided access to safe, quality in-person early learning for 9,684 young children (4,789 girls) who otherwise lacked opportunities to attend preschool in frontline regions. Learning sessions were conducted twice a week in safe, child-friendly facilities. Alternative and remote learning modalities continue to play a critical role in ensuring the continuity of ECE in crisis-affected settings. For example, the [NUMO digital ecosystem](#) (web platform, mobile

application and chatbot) provides access to practical materials, guidance and tools for children's daily development. During the reporting period, the platform was used by 56,027 parents, caregivers, educators and children.

Catch-up classes continued across frontline areas, enabling children to access offline learning and safely interact with their teachers and peers. Together with implementing partners or through direct implementation by Departments of Education, 25,049 children (13,340 girls) accessed classes through 137 Student Learning Support Centres (SLSCs) and 30 Digital Learning Centres (DLCs). In some frontline regions, UNICEF-supported catch-up classes provided a safe opportunity for children to return to offline learning for the first time since 2020. In one of these locations in Kharkiv, third grade students shared how happy they were to return to school with their friends, noting that offline learning made it easier to engage with materials and communicate openly with their teachers.

During the reporting period, 3,234 teachers (2,907 women) received **training** on catch-up methodologies as well as MHPSS, safeguarding and gender-responsive pedagogy. Post-training self-assessments indicate improvements in competencies. For example, in Odesa, 94 per cent of trained teachers reported improved competencies, which were further reinforced through ongoing supervision and mentoring.

Mobile **inclusive education** teams reached 208 children (102 girls) in remote, frontline or underserved communities in Kharkiv,

Sumy, Odesa and Mykolaiv regions. Trainings were also conducted for 120 stakeholders from 41 communities in Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia on national inclusive education frameworks and financing mechanisms, as well as practical tools for monitoring compliance with inclusive learning environment standards.

The **rehabilitation of 23 school shelters** and the installation of shatter-resistant film on windows in 43 schools continued to enable the safe return to in-person learning in frontline regions. During the first quarter of 2026, UNICEF also **responded to strikes** affecting 12 schools and kindergartens, supporting rehabilitation in four education facilities. In total these interventions ensured safe, in-person learning for 3,392 children (1,662 girls).

UNICEF is strengthening the **heating and energy resilience** of the education system by providing grants to schools and preschools. In line with the Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and in close coordination with the Ministry of Education and Science (MOES), each participating school received US\$ 10,000 to enhance their heating and energy resilience, particularly in situations where infrastructure has been damaged due to hostilities. By the end of March, UNICEF had transferred funds to 100 schools across eight frontline regions hosting 42,633 students, out of the target of 1,500 schools and kindergartens. To strengthen local capacity and ensure effective implementation, UNICEF supported local education authorities and school leaders through webinars and online consultations.

Progress continued in the transition of the **Education Cluster** toward national leadership. The Education in Emergencies (EiE) Thematic Working Group, operating within the Education Sector Working Group, is now functioning as the primary education response coordination platform under the leadership of the MOES. This has strengthened national ownership, sustained engagement of over 100 partners and improved alignment between the emergency education response and government-led recovery and reform priorities. Through the operational EiE Technical Working Group, coordination functions are increasingly embedded within national systems, ensuring continuity of EiE response while enabling a structured shift from humanitarian coordination to sector-led recovery.

Through close collaboration between the Education Cluster and the EiE TWG, the government-endorsed EiE Framework 2026 is now guiding coordinated education response, aligned with MOES priorities for 2026-2028 and the 2026 HNRP. The framework is improving safe access to education, learning continuity and the quality of teaching and learning, while reinforcing national systems and supporting a gradual transition from humanitarian response to sustainable recovery.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support: From January to March, 116,254 children and caregivers (30,008 girls, 26,706 boys, 45,908 women and 13,632 men) accessed MHPSS via static hubs, mobile teams, structured group activities and individual consultations both offline and online. Feedback from children and caregivers received via the online MHPSS platform, PORUCH, indicated that the combined effects of forced school closures and worsening energy shortages profoundly impacted children's emotional well-being. Children from frontline communities voiced concerns about the lack of meaningful contact with friends and disruptions to daily routines, most notably irregular sleep patterns. Many parents reported high levels of emotional exhaustion, negatively impacting their interaction with children.

To build the capacity and preparedness of frontline providers, and as part of the winter response, 70 **State Emergency Service of Ukraine psychologists** were trained in crisis-focused child counselling and how to refer children and families for continued specialized support. The psychologists also received winter and emergency supplies (blankets, sleeping bags, power banks and hygiene items) as well as small toys and psychosocial support game kits purpose-built for emergency response contexts for use in their daily practice. These psychologists delivered MHPSS to 26,218 people (11,314 children) in Invincibility Points in the Kyiv region and as first response to air strikes.

MHPSS was also provided through 137 SLSCs and 30 DLCs for 19,378 children who participated in activities aimed at strengthening resilience, well-being and learning outcomes. In frontline municipalities where children cannot access safe learning environments and formal catch-up classes are not possible, mobile MHPSS teams engaged children and prepared them to return to in-person learning when conditions allow. Additionally, UNICEF reached 2,370 parents and caregivers through integrated social and emotional learning interventions, strengthening their capacity to support children's well-being and resilience in crisis-affected contexts.



UNICEF Representative Anne-Claire Dufay and Ivan Fedorov, Governor, visit a class in a shelter in Zaporizhzhia ©UNICEF/2026



MHPSS session in Kharkiv ©UNICEF/2026

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: In the first quarter of 2026, UNICEF reached 1,825,057 people across 13 regions with **safe water and sanitation services** – 43 per cent of the annual target in the first quarter alone. This acceleration was driven by generators distributed as critical back-up power sources due to unprecedented attacks on water and energy infrastructure. In total, 226 generators (ranging from 13.8 kVA to 1,105 kVA), along with one 1 MW gas co-generation unit, were delivered to water and heating utilities across 15 regions, supporting the continued operation of water, sanitation and heating networks for 1,477,939 people. Results of the third-party monitoring of the first batch of 92 generators substantiated their impact. Of those monitored, 82 per cent were installed and in active use at the time of inspection, with each unit averaging 110 hours of operation. Monitored institutions reported an average of eight hours of electricity outages per day throughout the reporting period. Eighty-one per cent of supported utilities reported their water supply and wastewater needs were fully covered during outages, with the remaining 19 per cent reporting near-complete coverage. All monitored generators were rated as very high quality, safety compliance was assessed as strong and an average of seven staff per institution received training on operation and maintenance, building durable institutional capacity. Meanwhile, uninterrupted water supply was restored to one of the districts of Pervomaïsk in Mykolaiv, securing safe water for 20,000 people, as well as schools, kindergartens and health care facilities. The completion of a 3,000m³ reservoir further embeds resilience in the system guaranteeing the entire area at least three days of autonomous supply in an emergency.

Heating supply interventions reached 519,034 people across Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Kyiv, Mykolaiv, Odesa and Sumy regions. In Oleksandrivka in Mykolaiv region UNICEF completed a major rehabilitation of the heating system, including the installation of a block-modular solid fuel boiler house and its connection to external networks. Additional interventions included the provision of diesel generators, pipes, spare parts, and repair materials to support the restoration and continuity of heating services across affected areas.



A family shopping using a hygiene voucher in Kherson. ©UNICEF/2026

Critical WASH in-kind supplies and hygiene vouchers reached 150,062 people across ten regions. People on the move hygiene kits were provided to children and families travelling through transit centres and evacuation routes in Kharkiv and Donetsk regions. People with disabilities and other vulnerable groups were supported with specialized hygiene kits distributed through hospitals and primary health care facilities in Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk and Kharkiv. In parallel, health care facilities - including maternity and children's hospitals - received kits of cleaning supplies in Chernihiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Kyiv and Odesa.

The winter energy crisis led to significant disruptions in sanitation and heating. While no disease outbreaks have been reported to date, early warning signs have emerged. [Assessments](#) indicate that some households resorted to unsafe coping mechanisms, including improvised sanitation arrangements and hazardous indoor heating practices. Sanitation and hygiene supplies were

distributed to 21 school-based Invincibility Points acting as 24/7 stable heating points in the three most affected districts of Kyiv. In addition, 27 WASH facilities across 13 of these points were repaired or upgraded, based on joint needs assessments with local authorities. Twenty-eight taps, 15 sinks and 9 toilets were repaired or replaced and 3 boilers were installed to enable hot water access.

As the **summer season approaches**, continued and potentially intensified attacks on water and energy infrastructure represent a serious risk. Experience from previous years indicates that strikes on pumping stations, treatment facilities and distribution networks escalate during warmer months, when higher demand and reduced storage capacity leave systems more exposed. UNICEF is actively pre-positioning emergency repair materials, spare parts and backup power equipment as well as hygiene and sanitation supplies in high-risk regions, alongside the expansion of generator coverage to utilities not yet supported. Coordination with national authorities and sectoral partners is being used to map vulnerabilities and sequence investments in the most exposed systems. Critically, investments in the resilience of infrastructure put in place in the first three months of 2026, including reservoirs, backup generation capacity and trained utility staff, means communities are better placed to withstand disruptions than in previous years. UNICEF will continue to monitor the situation closely and scale its response rapidly as needs emerge.

WASH Cluster district heating emergency interventions under the **2025-2026 Winter Response Plan** reached 1.2 million people (89 per cent of the target) through 10 humanitarian organizations including 5 national actors. The cluster received positive feedback from utilities and authorities on the timely provision of assistance by humanitarian partners under the challenging conditions of the heating season. However, a critical lesson learned is the insufficiency of modular boiler houses in partner stocks.

The WASH Cluster has started an analysis for **contingency planning, anticipatory actions and priority interventions in large cities in advance of the summer season**. The analysis highlights a critical intersection between escalating energy infrastructure attacks and systemic water vulnerability in these cities. The analysis notes a 169 per cent increase in attacks against energy infrastructure between the last two winter seasons. While backup power capabilities have improved (roughly

+25 per cent since 2024), up to 11 million people remain at risk of water shortage. Water utilities remain highly susceptible to collateral or direct damage, with river-based intakes particularly exposed. These risks threaten large-scale service disruptions, potential public health outbreaks and environmental contamination from wastewater failures, which could trigger evacuations or social conflict over water access. To mitigate these impacts, priority interventions focus on equipping water utilities with backup power, alternative water sources and specific equipment for mobile treatment stations, filtration and reagents. Furthermore, the strategy emphasizes contingency planning for water trucking, alongside enhancing water treatment and storage in healthcare facilities, considering also the principle of using buvettes (“free water points”) that varies by city.

Social Protection: Multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) benefitted 2,581 households affected by sudden conflict-related shocks, such as strikes and displacement, supporting 6,546 people including 1,812 children. Out of these households, 784 were residing in frontline areas under mandatory evacuation in Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhia, while the remaining 1,797 received MPCA since they were affected by missile strikes across 10 regions, with Zaporizhzhia (519 households), Donetsk (460) and Kherson (376) the most affected regions. Each household member received a one-time payment of UAH 10,800 (USD 250), to support their basic needs and ensure minimum living standards.

Emergency protection cash assistance has been provided to 190 households in 18 regions across the country, covering 615 people including 283 children (146 girls). Each household received UAH 16,700 (US\$ 400), supporting households with at least one household member injured or killed, as part of UNICEF’s holistic child protection case management approach.



Victoria, a 34-year-old mother of four children from Kherson, received winter case assistance from UNICEF. She bought warm clothes for children and was able to pay utilities. ©UNICEF/2026

Winter cash assistance supported 7,232 vulnerable and low-income households with children in frontline areas, covering 22,162 people including 12,427 children (5,953 girls) in 2026. This seasonal assistance supported heating and energy needs during the harsh winter condition in Ukraine, providing a one-time transfer of UAH 19,400 (US\$ 470). In total, in 2025-26, UNICEF reached 189,271 people including 89,300 children with winter cash assistance. As the second largest winter cash actor (two years in a row), UNICEF accounted for one-third of the humanitarian winter cash response (33 per cent).

In a **post-distribution monitoring** survey of winter cash beneficiaries 99 per cent of households indicated they had either fully (86 per cent) or partially (13 per cent) spent the cash assistance on winter and heating needs, namely: utilities, including electricity and centralized heating (35 per cent), heating/solid fuel (27 per cent), and winter clothes and shoes for children (16 per cent). Of the UAH 19,400 cash transfer to households, almost 97 per cent was spent on winter-related items (UAH 18,725). An estimated 92 per cent of respondents reported that the winterization assistance was provided on time, and 92 per cent of families indicated that cash was their preferred modality for future winterization assistance (6 per cent had no preference, and 2 per cent preferred in-kind assistance).

Shock-responsive cash assistance has been provided to 13,459 households in Odesa, Kharkiv and Kyiv, covering 39,391 individuals including 23,693 children (11,475 girls). This cash intervention was first launched in January due to prolonged, emergency disruptions in access to essential services, such as electricity, heating and water, as a result of strikes on critical infrastructure. These shocks disproportionately affected socio-economically vulnerable households who were unable to cope with the compounded emergencies of the war, winter and impact to social infrastructure. The shock-responsive cash assistance was delivered through government systems by the local social protection departments, who identify, verify and pay the assistance themselves to eligible families. The one-time, emergency cash transfer of UAH 4,100 (US\$ 95) per person has been provided to 17,594 people in Odesa city and to 5,000 people in Kharkiv city, along with 15,097 people in the rest of Kharkiv region through parallel delivery systems. UNICEF has also supported the expansion of the government’s warm winter support programme, covering 1,700 children with severe disabilities in Kyiv city so far. Post-distribution monitoring is ongoing for the shock-responsive interventions in Odesa and Kharkiv cities, with results and key findings expected next month.

Supply and Logistics: So far this year, UNICEF has placed US\$12.6 million worth of orders to purchase life-saving supplies. US\$12.3 million worth of supplies have been received in Ukraine. US\$7.4 million worth of supplies have been dispatched from UNICEF-controlled warehouses and US\$4.4 million of supplies delivered to



Hygiene kit distribution in Chernihiv ©UNICEF/2026

implementing partners directly from local vendors. The value of supplies currently at stock at UNICEF-controlled warehouses is US\$2.4 million with US\$7.5 million of supplies in the pipeline.

Communication and Advocacy: In response to the acute winter situation, UNICEF rapidly scaled up its communication and advocacy efforts to highlight the impact on children and UNICEF's response with partners. This included early media engagement through a [press briefing](#) at the Palais in Geneva, resulting in 10 interviews or mentions in outlets across eight countries as well as [UN News](#) and [global newswires](#). Social media updates and human interest stories communicated how UNICEF supported the critical needs of children and people – in [Kyiv](#), [Mykolaiv](#), [Shostka](#) and across frontline regions – by [bolstering district heating](#), providing [generators](#) to health facilities, providing [cash assistance](#) and [case management](#) support to families, and [supporting Invincibility Points](#). The messaging articulated how UNICEF's winter preparedness work was helping to reduce disruptions to essential services, with the expanded response now building on [previous investments](#).

For the four-year mark of the war, UNICEF issued a [global press release](#) highlighting the continued displacement of children and its holistic impact on children, complemented by a [Palais briefing](#) delivered remotely from Kherson. Media engagement resulted in 20 interviews, including a [live interview on CNN International](#). UNICEF's powerful multimedia content was also used by media, running on CNN and other outlets. UNICEF's statement at the [61st session of the Human Rights Council](#) highlighted the winter situation and ongoing impact of the war at a high-level platform. Eighteen short social media statements on reported child casualties and damaged health and educational facilities were published from January to March 2026, alongside updates on UNICEF's response on the ground in the aftermath of strikes. UNICEF provided a platform for the voices of children through [the Poems for Peace activation](#), which enabled children to use poetry to speak about the impact of the war on their lives.

More than 1,200 content pieces were published on UNICEF Ukraine's social media channels from January to March 2026, which reached 13 million users and generated 131.7 million impressions and 2.1 million engagements. The distribution of UNICEF's key messages and content, both on UNICEF and external channels, ensured that children were included in the humanitarian narrative of news coverage of the war and amplified by partners when relevant.

Human Interest Stories and Press Releases



[Under fire and freezing, children in Ukraine endure the harshest winter of war](#)



[More than a third of Ukraine's children remain displaced four years into war – UNICEF](#)



["I don't give darkness or war a chance to change me"](#)



[Ice, darkness and uncertainty](#)

Next SitRep: July 2026

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Annex A: Programme Results (January–March 2026)

		UNICEF and IPs Response	
Sector		2026 target	Total results
Health (4,470,000 people in need)			
Number of children and caregivers accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities, and through mobile teams and home visits		160,400	11,159
Child Protection and GBViE (2,480,000 people in need - Child Protection)			
Number of children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support	Total	484,019	116,254
	Girls		30,008
	Boys		26,706
	Women		45,908
	Men		13,632
Number of women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions		325,920	38,846
Number of children who have received individual case management	Total	50,271	7,828
	Girls		3,777
	Boys		4,051
Number of children and caregivers provided with landmine or other explosive weapons prevention and/or survivor assistance interventions		616,154	66,462
Education & Skills (850,000 people in need)			
Number of children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	Total	197,166	34,733
	Girls		18,129
	Boys		16,604
Number of children accessing protective learning environments		275,970	3,392
WASH (6,430,000 people in need)			
Number of people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs		4,260,711	1,825,057
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies		484,626	150,062
Number of institutions provided with child friendly, gender sensitive and inclusive WASH facilities		147	13
Number of people benefiting from restored or maintained heating services		1,802,815	519,034
Social Protection			
Number of households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers (including for social protection and other sectors)		110,000	23,146
Cross-sectoral			
Number of people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations		1,071,380	213,311
Number of people participating in engagement actions for social and behaviour change		1,000,000	65,698
Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms		1,400,000	34,557

Annex B: Funding Status as of 31 March 2026

Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Resources received (ORE/current year)	Carry-over (ORR and ORE)	US\$	%
Health and Nutrition	\$8,070,322	\$996,912	\$5,287,940	\$1,785,470	22%
Child Protection, GBViE and PSEA	\$76,749,213	\$7,292,765	\$41,321,229	\$28,135,219	37%
Education	\$59,429,027	\$6,828,370	\$39,300,216	\$13,300,441	22%
WASH	\$125,751,002	\$13,547,745	\$99,803,087	\$12,400,170	10%
Social Protection	\$79,999,936	\$8,092,082	\$35,409,313	\$36,498,541	46%
Total	\$349,999,500	\$36,757,874	\$221,121,785	\$92,119,841	26%