

Children's playground next to a heavily damaged residential building after an attack on Kyiv on 6 July 2026. ©UNICEF/Filippov



Reporting period: 1 January to 30 June 2026

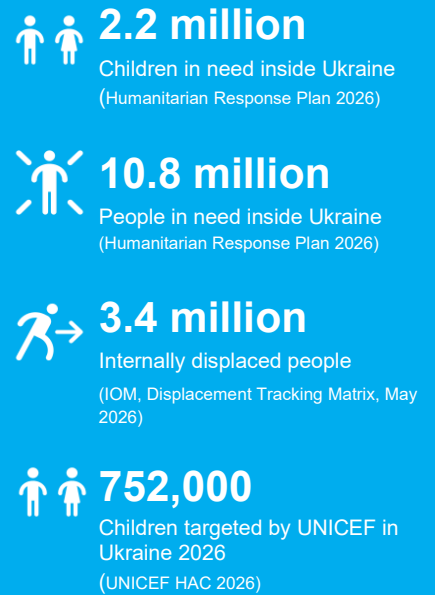
Ukraine Humanitarian Situation Report No. 61



Highlights

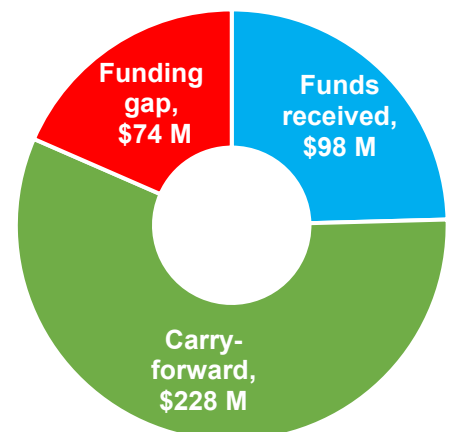
- In the first half of 2026, civilian casualties were 37 per cent higher than in the same period in 2025 and 114 per cent higher than 2024. The impact of the war on civilians is escalating month by month: at least seven children were killed and 116 injured in June, the highest monthly number of verified child casualties since 2022.
- Since January 2026, UNICEF has ensured safe water and sanitation for 3.6 million people; supported 228,000 children, adolescents and caregivers to access mental health and psychosocial support services as well as 23,000 to access primary health care services; provided opportunity for formal and informal learning to 107,000 children; and delivered cash assistance to 94,350 people, including 53,435 children.
- Additionally, 2,670,044 people benefitted from restored municipal heating systems over the recent harsh winter. Across the eight frontline regions as well as Kyiv city, UNICEF repaired damaged heating networks, installed boiler houses and delivered generators to allow heating systems to function during lengthy blackouts.
- As air strikes increasingly impact families with children, UNICEF continues to ensure a package of responses including: mobile teams deployed to strike sites to deliver psychological first aid and critical supplies; cash assistance for 4,647 affected families; repairs to water, sanitation and heating networks and 22 kindergartens and schools, as well as two health facilities damaged in attacks.

Situation in Numbers



UNICEF Appeal 2026 US\$400 million

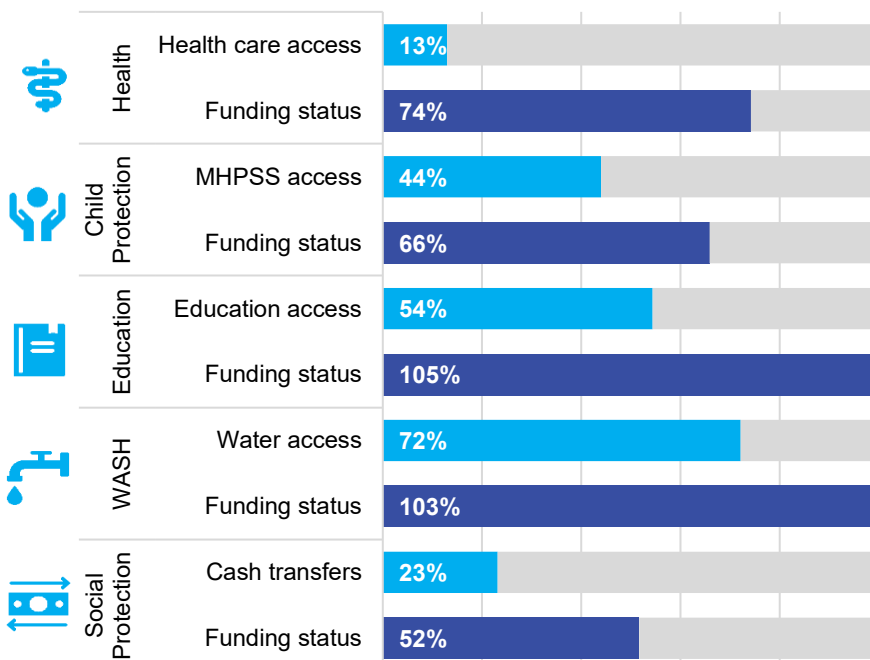
Funding status as of 30 June



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).

UNICEF Response and Funding Status



Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

In the first half of 2026, [United Nations-verified civilian casualties](#) were 37 per cent higher than in the same period in 2025 and 114 per cent higher than 2024. This includes 1,396 people who have been killed and 7,978 people who have been injured in 2026 including 40 children killed and 472 children injured. The impact of the war on civilians is escalating month by month: At least 293 civilians were killed and 1,990 injured in Ukraine in June 2026, the highest monthly number of civilians killed and injured since April 2022. June also recorded the highest number of child casualties in 2026 with 7 children killed and 116 injured, a 40 per cent increase compared with May. Long-range weapons caused 45 per cent of civilian casualties in June, impacting families far from the frontline in urban centres such as Kyiv and Dnipro. Near the frontline, casualties from short-range drones reached their highest monthly level since 24 February 2022. Since the start of the war, 803 children have been killed and 2,960 have been injured.

A March study among 223 parents with three or more children found high levels of stress (58 per cent) and exhaustion (49 per cent) among caregivers tied to the **impact of winter**. Financial hardship (80 per cent), power outages (65 per cent) and security concerns (33 per cent) were identified as the main challenges. Seventy per cent of parents reported frequent disruptions to children's daily routines, while 58 per cent observed learning difficulties and 47 per cent reported sudden changes in children's mood, emotions or behaviour. Increased anxiety, sleep disturbances, irritability and problems with concentration were among the most reported impacts on children. Families with children with disabilities were disproportionately affected.

In a May-June survey of 505 parents and caregivers who recently **evacuated from frontline areas**, 82 per cent of respondents cited direct threats to their children's safety as the main reason for evacuation. Thirty-five per cent reported loss of access to services such as education, health care and psychosocial support, while 28 per cent cited inadequate living conditions for children. Before evacuating, families relied on social media (52 per cent), relatives and friends (34 per cent) and local authorities (31 per cent) for information. Guaranteed housing (77 per cent) and financial assistance (61 per cent) were identified as the strongest motivators to leave

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 co-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 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, as well as 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 (integrated early childhood development, care and education), Better Learning and Skills (maximizing the potential of children and youth), Better Care (a family for every child) and Better WASH (water, sanitation and heating).

Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF has US\$326.2 million available for its response inside Ukraine (Pillar 1) under its [Humanitarian Action for Children](#) (HAC) appeal of US\$400 million. This includes US\$227.9 million carried over from 2025 and US\$98.3 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. HAC requirements were increased from \$350 million to \$400 million in June to allow UNICEF to respond to what is expected to be another extremely harsh winter. An accelerated Winter Response was not factored into the original 2026 HAC which was developed before the worst of the energy strikes and blackouts as well as the cumulative disruption to water and heating systems. Generous contributions have been received from the private sector, including individuals, corporations and foundations. These funds will allow UNICEF to reach 4.5 million people including 752,000 children with humanitarian assistance. Generous contributions have been received from the people and Governments of Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as from the European Union, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. Funding has also been received from the private sector, including individuals, corporations and foundations.

UNICEF works with the Government of Ukraine, United Nations agencies, civil society, 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, Culture, Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development, Economy and Finance, regional administrations, 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 274 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: During the first half of 2026, air strikes damaged civilian infrastructure, disrupted essential services and increased demand for emergency, primary, rehabilitation and mental health care. The [Fifth Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment](#) (RDNA5) highlighted US\$1.8 billion in damage to health infrastructure and equipment along with disrupted service delivery and increased pressure on already overstretched health services. The 2025 [Multi-Sector Needs Assessment](#), published in March 2026, indicated that conflict-affected households face significant barriers in accessing health care including insecurity, damaged infrastructure, transportation constraints and financial hardship, while mental health needs remain widespread among caregivers and children.

During the first half of 2026, **mobile medical teams** reached 2,325 people in Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kharkiv, including 1,014 children (499 girls) and 1,311 caregivers (1,031 women). This includes 1,238 people who received mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) consultations (47 girls, 33 boys, 885 women and 273 men). Additionally, 246 first responders received individual and group psychological consultations.

Following attacks on health infrastructure, UNICEF **rehabilitated facilities** and replaced critical medical equipment. In Ternopil, UNICEF replaced damaged windows in the paediatric department of City Hospital No. 2, supporting 6,610 beneficiaries. In Ivano-Frankivsk, UNICEF replaced equipment damaged during shelling at the Perinatal Centre of the City Clinical Hospital No. 1, including two artificial ventilation devices, enabling the continuation of safe maternal and newborn care for 6,440 beneficiaries. Anti-blast safety film and metal roller shutters were installed in the Perinatal Department of Odesa Regional Clinical Hospital used by 3,750 beneficiaries.

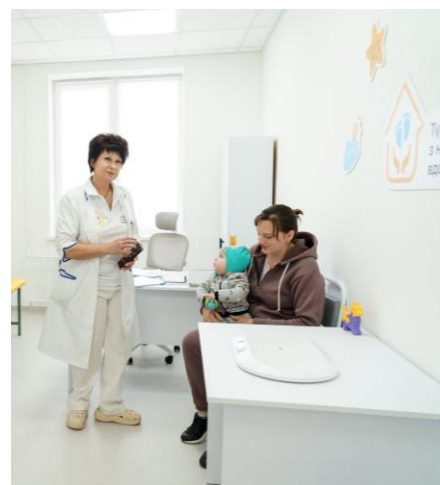
UNICEF advanced the **Safe and Resilient Hospital Programme**, strengthening emergency preparedness across the health sector. In partnership with the Ministry of Health, the Public Health Center and SESU, standardized hospital safety assessment tools, emergency preparedness standard operating procedures and a Health Readiness Index were developed to assess facility preparedness and guide emergency response planning. Based on a risk-informed prioritization, five Mother and Child Hospitals in Odesa, Dnipro and Kyiv were enrolled in the initiative. An assessment of key performance indicators and field readiness was conducted to measure their ability to respond to strikes. This assessment established the specific readiness level of each of the five facilities, outlined the core systemic challenges they face and delivered actionable recommendations to strengthen their emergency response frameworks.

UNICEF also continued strengthening specialized **paediatric rehabilitation services** for children. Equipment was delivered to Kharkiv Regional Children's Hospital, enhancing inpatient rehabilitation capacity. 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 in Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia, Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Sumy, Odesa and Mykolaiv supported 1,953 children (887 girls) in the first half of the year.

Child Protection: Increased frontline hostilities, long-range missile and drone attacks and continued strikes on civilian infrastructure in 2026 have further intensified protection risks for children across Ukraine. At least [164,000 people fled frontline areas](#) during the first quarter of the year, while, in June, OHCHR recorded the [highest child casualty levels](#) for any month since 2022. Repeated attacks on energy systems, schools, healthcare facilities and residential areas disrupted access to essential services and contributed to growing psychosocial distress among children and caregivers.

UNICEF ensured access to child protection case management services through a network of **40 static child protection hubs and 70 mobile multidisciplinary teams across eight regions**. UNICEF and partners reached vulnerable children and caregivers in urban, rural and frontline communities with identification, assessment, referral and follow-up services, linking emergency responses such as evacuations and post-strike interventions to sustained protection and social support. UNICEF supported 15,318 vulnerable children (7,425 girls), with integrated case management services.

Integrated winter assistance reached 6,441 children and 11,085 caregivers, combining **winterization support**, continuity of essential services, MHPSS and case management. In total, 620 vulnerable families received voucher and



A mother brings her baby to a UNICEF-supported space in Desnyansky District Primary Care Center No. 4 Kyiv ©UNICEF/2026



UNICEF-supported mobile team meets families affected by shelling in Sumy. ©UNICEF/2026

in-kind support, helping them meet essential seasonal needs. UNICEF also supported the continued operation of social service centres and Points of Invincibility, enabling children and caregivers to access heating, electricity, internet connectivity and critical social and psychosocial services during power outages and severe weather.

UNICEF's winter response also strengthened the protection and resilience of over 1,600 vulnerable children across Ukraine, including **children in family-based care, returnee children and children in detention settings**. Timely provision of winterization and energy-resilience support enabled children and their caregivers to maintain safe living conditions, ensured continuity of care and essential child protection services during the winter period, and reinforced family-based care and reintegration efforts in line with longer-term child care reform objectives.

Integrated gender-based violence (GBV) programming was sustained despite ongoing insecurity, ensuring that 91,343 people, including 28,883 girls, 23,307 boys and 39,153 women, received **GBV prevention, response, and risk mitigation** interventions. Through a combination of static services at four sites along with, mobile outreach and community-based interventions, UNICEF and partners provided GBV case management, psychosocial support, referrals and prevention activities. Prevention and awareness activities include safe spaces, girls' clubs, and mobile outreach interventions reached more than 41,800 women and girls. These interventions helped strengthen protective peer networks, promote help-seeking behaviours, and maintain access to support amid heightened protection risks.

According to [UN Mine Action Service](#), 139,000 km² of territory, or 25 per cent of Ukraine, is potentially contaminated by explosive ordnance. Through community-based sessions, outreach activities and integration with broader child protection services, UNICEF reached 123,770 people, including 52,446 children (25,852 girls), with explosive ordnance prevention activities. SESU delivered mine safety lessons to 29,348 children (15,097 girls) using UNICEF mine education materials. Participation was highest among children in Grades 5–8, a priority audience for mine safety prevention due to a higher likelihood of risk-taking behaviour. Mobile Safety Classes provided mine safety training to 21,450 children across 9 regions.



International Day for Mine Awareness ©UNICEF/2026

From 20 March to 15 April, UNICEF, the Ministry of Education and Science (MOES), SESU and local mine action operators implemented a nationwide set of activities dedicated to the **International Day for Mine Awareness**. The activities reached 2.3 million people through TV, radio and social media while 160,500 children learned mine safety rules through SESU and partner-led sessions. 119,814 children (59,508 girls) gained new knowledge through preschool- and school-based activities from 4,583 education institutions. Learning assessments completed by 87,571 children aged 6–17 showed an increase in correct answers from 48 per cent before the lessons to 69 per cent after them.

From January to June 2026, **Child Protection Workstream** partners reached 145,027 people (79,432 children including 36,251 girls). The response remained concentrated in frontline regions, particularly Kharkiv, Sumy, Zaporizhzhia and Dnipropetrovsk, ensuring assistance reached children facing the greatest humanitarian needs. MHPSS continued to be the primary intervention, reaching 90,103 people (59,597 children), followed by case management (11,117 people including 3,352 children), while life-saving information reached 6,754 people (2,563 children) and protection-related transportation and essential items (7,201 people including 858 children) and cash assistance for protection outcomes reached 2,038 people (518 children). CPIMS+ is currently used by 38 organizations and 281 case workers, managing more than 9,200 child protection cases. The Child Protection

response is 25 per cent funded; the funding shortfall continues to constrain the scale-up of critical child protection interventions, particularly in frontline and newly displaced areas. Information management systems continued to support evidence-based decision-making.

Following endorsement by UNHCR, UNICEF and UNFPA, implementation of the Protection Cluster integration is ongoing. The Child Protection Workstream is implementing the agreed outcome document, including development of revised Terms of Reference, transition to a single Protection Strategic Advisory Group, and alignment of governance and coordination structures. The phased implementation will continue while maintaining UNICEF's leadership and child protection technical capacity.

Education: Intensified attacks on critical infrastructure further affected education service delivery in early 2026, reversing gains made in in-person education. Heating and power disruptions, occurring during a period of severe winter weather with temperatures dropping to as low as –20°C, left many education facilities unable to maintain in-person learning. Schools were forced to transition to remote learning, with winter holidays extended until February due to prolonged interruptions to heating and electricity services. An [Education Cluster analysis](#) estimated that power and heating outages had disrupted 66 per cent of learning time between mid-January and mid-February.

Recent [Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey \(MICS\)](#) findings show that attendance rates at the preschool level are lowest, with only 48 per cent of children aged 36–59 months attending. However, attendance rates vary significantly by region, ranging from 69 per cent in the west to just 19 per cent in the east. Additionally, preschool education remains the level with the most limited coverage, which may affect children's readiness for primary school. These findings highlight the need to continue strengthening

access to quality **early childhood education** (ECE) through the 2×2 model implemented together with MOES and the Association of Preschool Education Workers. Safe, quality in-person early learning reached 9,902 young children (4,901 girls) across 149 locations. Learning sessions were conducted twice weekly in safe, child-friendly facilities. Additionally, 3,662 caregivers (3,039 women) received support and guidance on early childhood development, with a particular focus on social and emotional learning, MHPSS and well-being. Programme monitoring indicates positive effects on children's socialization, confidence, communication skills, peer interactions and emotional well-being. Caregivers report improvements in children's attentiveness, engagement and ability to interact with others, while the programme strengthened caregivers' capacity to support children's development and well-being at home. To better understand the impact of the 2×2 model on outcomes, an endline assessment is planned for the end of July 2026.

Catch-up classes, operated through direct implementation with departments of education or with NGO implementing partners, supported 56,133 children (26,741 girls) through 162 Student Learning Support Centres (SLSCs) and 30 Digital Learning Centres (DLCs). These include 5 newly established DLCs in Dnipro and 12 SLSCs opened in Chernihiv for the first time. Pre- and post-tests continued to demonstrate the effectiveness of catch-up programming in addressing learning losses. Eighty-six per cent of assessed children demonstrated improvements in learning outcomes following participation in catch-up activities. Results across programme areas highlight the positive impact of structured catch-up support in improving academic performance and helping children recover learning losses caused by prolonged disruptions to education.

UNICEF strengthened **inclusive education** services for children with disabilities and special educational needs through integrated ECE, catch-up and MHPSS programming, specialized rehabilitation services and support to Inclusive Resource Centres. During the reporting period, 12,959 rehabilitation sessions were delivered, reaching 326 children (99 girls). In addition, 1,164 children (698 girls) accessed individualized support through 12 mobile Inclusive Resource Centres operating in remote and conflict-affected communities.

UNICEF continued to restore and expand access to safe in-person learning through **school shelter rehabilitation and rapid repairs** of education facilities damaged by air strikes. In the first half of 2026, UNICEF rehabilitated 14 school and kindergarten shelters in Sumy, Dnipropetrovsk, Mykolaiv and Odesa, enabling safer access to education for 6,552 children (3,211 girls). In response to attacks, UNICEF repaired 22 schools and kindergartens in Odesa, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Dnipropetrovsk, Ternopil and Vinnytsia and Kyiv city, restoring safe learning conditions for 8,576 children (4,202 girls). Together with the installation of shatter-resistant film (SRF) and other protective measures, these interventions supported the continuity of safe, in-person learning for 15,128 children living in conflict-affected areas. UNICEF has supported three out of seven Metro Schools in Kharkiv. During the reporting period, the second Metro School that UNICEF supported through rehabilitation and provision of furniture became operational, which is fully inclusive, enabling 1,500 children from four schools to participate in formal offline education. The premises are also used for ECE classes and extracurricular activities during weekends.

In close partnership with the MOES, UNICEF provided grants of \$10,000 each to 1,500 schools and kindergartens to strengthen their **heating and energy resilience** and maintain year-round school operations, reducing learning disruptions and safeguarding continuous access to education. These institutions are currently in the process of utilizing the funds to support 444,033 children (217,576 girls). Of 1,110 education surveyed facilities, 54 per cent used the funds to improve electricity availability; 46 per cent to reduce heating leakages; 31 per cent on heating systems and 8 per cent on fuel.

From January to June 2026, **Education Cluster** partners reached 89,760 children and education personnel (45,778 girls and women). As most school rehabilitation and repair work is done over the summer, results are expected to increase in the second half of the year. Most children were supported under Strategic Priority 1 (frontline response) through catch-up and remedial learning, social and emotional learning, shelters and school repairs. Under Strategic Priority 3 (response after strikes), 38,467 children were reached through school rehabilitation while under Strategic Priority 4 (humanitarian protection support to vulnerable IDPs) 5,609 children were reached with social and emotional learning and catch-up learning.

Progress continued on the **transition of the Education Cluster toward national leadership**, with the Education in Emergencies Thematic Working Group (EiE TWG) now functioning as the primary coordination platform under MOES leadership. The EiE Strategic Framework, finalized in quarter one, is now guiding a coordinated education response among education partners, aligned with MOES priorities for 2026-2028 and the 2026 HNRP. Work is underway to develop an accompanying monitoring framework and information management system. This will provide the data infrastructure needed to track implementation of the EiE Strategic Framework and strengthen evidence-based decision-making as coordination functions continue to shift toward national systems.



Nastia, an 11th grader, attends in-person classes again after the heating and water system in her school was rehabilitated and improved with support from UNICEF and partners.

©UNICEF/UNI954090/ Alyona Malashina

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support: UNICEF partnered with International Medical Corps to conduct an MHPSS needs assessment and service mapping across seven frontline regions. Using an adapted Minimum Service Package methodology, the assessment surveyed 1,336 households and mapped 1,509 MHPSS services for children and adolescents. Findings highlighted the profound psychosocial impact of the war, with nearly one in three people aged 2 years and above showing signs of psychological distress and 70 per cent of adolescents and adults reporting at least one mental health symptom during the two weeks preceding the survey. The assessment also identified significant barriers to accessing care, including limited awareness of available services. The evidence generated through this initiative is informing MHPSS programming, strengthening inter-agency coordination and supporting more targeted, evidence-based planning.



Children attend a Child Friendly Space in Izium, Kharkiv ©UNICEF/2026

During the reporting period, 227,784 children, adolescents and caregivers (69,354 girls and 63,722 boys) accessed in-person MHPSS services through integrated child protection programmes, child-friendly spaces, family hubs and mobile outreach teams. This included 9,989 people who received individual and group counselling focused on emotional wellbeing, stress management, resilience and social adaptation. Structured interventions, including *Children and War*, *Positive Parenting* and *Building a Positive Life Perspective*, helped strengthen coping mechanisms and support recovery from the effects of conflict and displacement.

To expand access to psychosocial support nationwide, UNICEF and partners delivered services through the **PORUCH online platform**, reaching 2,205 children, 1,545 parents and 520 specialists with individual counselling and group-based interventions. The platform serves as an important resource to expand access to mental health services, particularly in communities where demand outstrips limited service capacity. Through PORUCH and complementary digital outreach channels, 464,895 children and caregivers were reached through online awareness campaigns and targeted psychosocial support materials, expanding access to information on

wellbeing, coping strategies and psychosocial support content.

UNICEF provided grants to 21 municipalities across four regions, enabling **local social service centres and Invincibility Points** to address staffing shortages and growing demand for services. These investments expanded the availability of community-based MHPSS for 13,494 children and caregivers. The strengthened workforce also supported rapid response to emergencies, with 320 people, including 156 children, receiving MHPSS following air strikes. Additionally, 84 specialists from partner organizations, Resilience Centres and the education sector were trained, while 30 National Social Service specialists received training on monitoring and quality assurance of MHPSS interventions.

MHPSS interventions integrated across UNICEF-supported **education programmes** strengthened children's resilience, well-being and capacity to learn. During the reporting period, 23,643 children (13,671 girls) participated in structured MHPSS activities focused on stress management, coping skills, social skills and overall well-being.

Water, Sanitation and Heating: Ukraine's water, sanitation and heating sector entered 2026 facing its highest level of need since the start of the full-scale war. [RDNA5](#) estimates damage to the water supply and sanitation sector at US\$7.8 billion, a 55 per cent increase since 2024. These challenges are compounded by nearly US\$25 billion in damage to the energy sector. Attacks on energy infrastructure increased by 163 per cent between December 2024 and November 2025, while [an assessment of 43 utilities](#) serving 11.2 million people found that 85 per cent lacked sufficient backup power, leaving essential services vulnerable to cascading grid failures. This dependence was exposed during the 2025–2026 heating season, when [sustained strikes disrupted](#) water services and district heating. Frontline regions — notably Donetsk, Kherson and Kharkiv — remain the most severely affected while delivering assistance to the last mile in these areas was constrained by damaged roads, security clearances, checkpoint delays and a shortage of available personnel and contractors.

UNICEF supported 29 district heating utilities in 10 regions, facilitating major **repairs to heating systems** and the provision of generators, mobile and stationary boilers, pumps, heat exchangers and water treatment systems to heating companies. So far, 2,670,044 people (214,089 girls, 227,075 boys, 1,17,509 women and 1,041,371 men) have benefited from improved heating. The higher-than-planned reach was driven by the severity of infrastructure damage, which exceeded initial assumptions and generated sustained demand from water and heating utilities. UNICEF's established field presence, procurement capacity and supplier network enabled a rapid scale-up of support in response to these needs. In addition, the integrated programming model — combining power solutions, spare parts, chemicals and rehabilitation works — allowed support to be delivered more efficiently and to benefit larger service areas without a proportional increase in costs.

Water trucking continued in Kherson (3,333 people), Kharkiv (28,094 people), Dnipro (3,266 people) and Donetsk (6,067 people) where conflict impedes infrastructure repairs. Independent monitoring of water trucking in Kherson confirms that it meets sanitary standards and is easily accessible, though ongoing shelling creates security risks. Beneficiaries — mostly women aged around age 50 — reported full satisfaction with services but emphasized urgent needs for financial aid and basic supplies.

To date, 65 institutions (38 per cent of the annual target) have been equipped with **inclusive, gender-sensitive, and child-**

friendly WASH facilities. An additional 56 institutions have received kits containing cleaning supplies for three months. UNICEF remains committed to expanding this support in the second half of the year, including through the solarization of health facilities throughout the country.

Recent [Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey \(MICS\)](#) findings show that water kiosks and bottled water are the main source of water for 22 per cent of the population, underscoring the continued reliance on alternative and often costlier water supplies in areas where piped infrastructure is limited or unreliable. Fifty-six per cent of [surveyed individuals](#) believe that tap water quality has deteriorated during the war, and 76 per cent report frequent water supply disruptions. E. coli, an indicator of fecal contamination, was detected in 24 per cent of household drinking water samples. Disparities are substantial: contamination is higher in rural households, at 34 per cent, and reaches 45 per cent in the Western region, while households in the poorest quintile are more than twice as likely to have E. coli detected at source compared with the richest quintile. Access inequalities are also pronounced, with only 30 per cent of rural households relying on piped water compared with 55 per cent in urban areas, and 34 per cent of households in the East lacking water on premises. A [UNICEF national water quality analysis](#) revealed that only 5 out of 38 cities assessed fully comply with national standards, with a 10-to-15 per cent decline in water quality from 2021 to 2023 and far higher non-compliance rates than in EU countries.

Since January, UNICEF has enabled access to **safe water and sanitation** for 3,574,795 people (286,633 girls, 304,020 boys, 1,589,899 women and 1,394,243 men) across 84 communities. This progress was driven by the repair and rehabilitation of WASH networks and facilities together with 88 water utilities across 16 regions. UNICEF also supplied valves, fittings, pumps, laboratory equipment and water treatment chemicals to ensure sustained service delivery. For example, when repeated drone strikes hit the Holovna pumping station of Infoksvodokanal (Odesa city water utility) threatening the water supply for over a million people reliant on a single Dniestr intake, UNICEF responded with pre-positioned bottled water and hygiene supplies, public water points, decentralized boreholes in Chornomorsk and Pivdenne, and water-trucking services to sustain access.



Hygiene kit distribution in Kherson
©UNICEF/2026

UNICEF provided **hygiene items and emergency water and sanitation services** to 399,184 people in 16 regions. Third-party monitoring of hygiene kit distribution showed that all recipients found the distribution process easy and 99.8 per cent of respondents were satisfied with their quality and relevance. The kits helped 96 per cent of households save money for other essential needs, and overall satisfaction reached 99.8 per cent. The main area for fine-tuning is kit composition: while three-quarters of recipients found all items in their kit useful, a minority flagged items such as women's underwear, sanitary pads and water-purification tablets as less essential. UNICEF supported **market-based alternatives** with 15,280 people (6,579 children) receiving hygiene vouchers in market-accessible areas in Kherson. In a recent post-distribution survey, 96 per cent of beneficiaries reported overall satisfaction, and 99 per cent said the voucher reduced their household spending on hygiene items, easing financial pressure. Shops (all owned or managed by women) also benefited, with all reporting an expanded customer base and most seeing increased revenue.

WASH Cluster partners worked alongside the Shelter, Health and Protection Clusters, coordinating winterization assistance and emergency repairs to district heating networks alongside cash-based support. During the most severe blackouts, the Cluster supported prioritization of generator assistance for district heating utilities based on service impact and readiness for rapid installation. Under the Winter Response Plan, these interventions reached 1.2 million people. Partners gave strong positive feedback on the timeliness of assistance, supported by close coordination with municipal utilities. The Cluster's focus then shifted to the [public health risks](#) of a strained system under seasonal heat: elevated risk of water contamination and waterborne disease linked to compromised treatment and distribution systems, with extreme heat identified as an additional stressor on WASH infrastructure.

The Cluster maintained dedicated support for the **humanitarian response in Donetsk** with a particular focus on Sloviansk and Kramatorsk. It also strengthened advocacy and coordination around Odesa water-supply risks; as a result, UNICEF, ICRC, DCA, and Caritas Ukraine initiated or planned humanitarian support. Following widespread flooding in eastern, northern and southern Ukraine in spring, the Cluster coordinated on flood-related WASH risks, including reported borehole contamination and reduced access to safe water. Meanwhile, on 1 July, the WASH Cluster launched the online Building Blocks approach to assistance; the free framework supports harmonized in-kind and cash-based WASH assistance, household-level deduplication and alignment with inter-sectoral cash and Universal Cash Transfer mechanisms. The Cluster's Technical Cell also developed a Water Vulnerability Index to identify and prioritize the utilities and communities at greatest risk of service collapse, drawing on infrastructure, power-dependency and access indicators.

Social Protection: Families continued to face significant humanitarian and socio-economic challenges due to the prolonged impact of the war. The national poverty rate has [doubled since the onset of the full-scale war](#), with an estimated 42 per cent of the population living in monetary poverty. Families in frontline areas face repeated displacement, damage to homes, loss of livelihoods and disruptions to essential services caused by intensified aerial attacks.



Families are registered for cash after an air strike.
©UNICEF/2026

During the first six months of 2026, UNICEF provided humanitarian cash transfers to 37,469 families, supporting 94,350 people, including 53,435 children (25,883 girls). **Multi-purpose cash assistance** reached 5,622 families affected by sudden conflict-related shocks, supporting 13,548 people, including 3,023 children (1,406 girls). Of these families, 975 were affected by mandatory evacuations in Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhia, while the remaining 4,647 families received assistance following missile strikes across Chernihiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Kyiv, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Sumy and Zaporizhzhia. Each family member received a one-time cash transfer of UAH 10,800 (US\$ 250), which increased to UAH 12,300 (US\$ 285) starting from Q2 2026, as per the updated inter-agency cash transfer value.

Emergency protection cash assistance was provided to 578 families, supporting 1,827 people (including 806 children) in families where a family member had been injured or killed due to explosive weapons attacks. Each family received UAH 16,700 (US\$ 400) as part of a holistic child protection case management approach.

Winter cash assistance supported 7,232 vulnerable and low-income families with children living in frontline areas, covering 22,162 people, including 12,427 children in 2026. The one-time transfer of UAH 19,400 (US\$ 470) helped families meet their winter and heating needs. Overall, UNICEF's 2025-26 winter response reached 189,271 people, including 89,300 children. Post-distribution monitoring found that families used 97 per cent of the transfer for winter-related needs, primarily utilities, heating and winter clothing for children, while 92 per cent reported receiving assistance on time and identified cash as their preferred form of winter support.

UNICEF also expanded the **government's warm winter support programme** to cover 7,745 children with severe disabilities in nine frontline regions with a one-time cash transfer of UAH 6,500 (US\$ 150). The assistance was delivered through the government Humanitarian and Resilience Account, a formal mechanism for donors and humanitarian partners to channel earmarked resources for emergency cash delivery through government systems. This response not only addressed the humanitarian needs of a highly vulnerable group but was also an important milestone in informing the gradual transition from parallel humanitarian delivery to a government-led shock-responsive social protection system. The assistance was delivered to beneficiaries within six weeks after UNICEF provided the funds to the Ministry of Social Policy and Family Unity, demonstrating the operational readiness and efficiency of the new government-led delivery system.

Shock-responsive cash assistance reached 16,314 families in Odesa, Kharkiv and Kyiv, covering 49,366 people including 29,764 children (14,448 girls). The intervention addressed prolonged disruptions to electricity, heating and water services resulting from attacks on critical infrastructure. The cash assistance was delivered through local social protection departments, who identify, verify and pay the assistance to eligible families. The one-time transfer of UAH 4,100 (US\$ 95) per person was provided to 17,657 people in Odesa city and to 14,200 people in Kharkiv city, along with 15,509 people in the rest of Kharkiv region through parallel delivery systems. UNICEF also supported 2,376 children with severe disabilities in Kyiv as a result of the energy crisis in early 2026.

Preparations are underway for the 2026-27 winter response, which will use a hybrid delivery model combining government-led assistance (through the Humanitarian and Resilience Account) together with direct delivery by Shelter Cluster partners. UNICEF, together with UNHCR and the Shelter Cluster, is supporting the Ministry of Social Policy, Family and Unity in designing this government-led response. UNICEF will deliver support through government systems for the upcoming winter response, which will prioritize vulnerable families with children living within the 0-20 km frontline zone. This approach will strengthen government ownership while maintaining the scale and timeliness of humanitarian winter assistance.

Supply and Logistics: So far this year, UNICEF has placed US\$48.5 million worth of orders to purchase life-saving supplies. US\$19.3 million worth of supplies were received in Ukraine and US\$9.5 million dispatched from UNICEF-controlled warehouses while US\$8.6 million of supplies were delivered to implementing partners directly from local vendors in 2026. The value of supplies currently at stock at UNICEF-controlled warehouses is US\$2.1 million with US\$33.7 million of supplies in the pipeline.

Communication and Advocacy: UNICEF intensified advocacy and communication efforts over the extreme winter period. [Strong media engagement](#) showed the worsening living conditions for families and the UNICEF's large-scale response building on years of investments to reduce disruptions to essential services. International media engagement resulted in 10 interviews or mentions in outlets across eight countries as well as [UN News](#) and [global newswires](#). Digital content focused on the human impact, including video diaries, as well as UNICEF's support to meet the critical needs of children and people in [Kyiv](#), [Mykolaiv](#), [Shostka](#) and across frontline regions.

To mark four years of war, UNICEF issued a [global press release](#) highlighting the impact on children and their continued displacement, complemented by a [media briefing](#) delivered from Kherson. The result included 20 interviews and mentions in

international media, including a [live on CNN](#). UNICEF also produced “[The Class](#)” an interactive multimedia initiative, including an installation, about how the lives of four adolescents from one class in Kharkiv changed after the start of the full-scale war. The content was adapted and disseminated by UNICEF National Committees for their audiences, including at an event in Berlin, Germany.

During the second quarter of 2026, intense attacks continued to devastate the lives of children and families. This has been regularly communicated on [social media channels](#), along with UNICEF’s response and [work on the ground](#), while [Press Releases](#) were used to focus on the increase of child casualties. Advocacy focused on calling for the protection of children, civilians, their homes and the services that they rely on. [Remarks were also delivered to the Security Council](#) in May in response to the deteriorating security situation. UNICEF called for the Council and member states to facilitate a political dialogue and put an end to the war to provide hope for millions of children.

Over the past six months, UNICEF reached more than 13 million people across its digital platforms, through 2,555 content pieces that engaged some 3.17 million. Fifty international media engagements have strengthened UNICEF voice with and for children, while positioning the support and work of our partners and donors front and centre of the response.

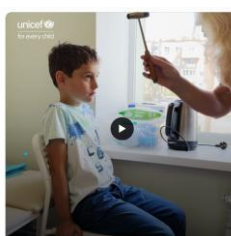
Human Interest Stories and Press Releases



[Child casualties in Ukraine increase by 65 per cent over the past month](#)



[Four years of full-scale war in Ukraine](#)



[Attacks on critical civilian infrastructure in Ukraine have caused power cuts that disrupt services for children.](#)



[“It was really hard to stand on my feet again”](#)

Next SitRep: November 2026

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Annex A: Programme Results (January–June 2026)

		UNICEF and IPs Response		
Sector		2026 target	Total results	Change
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		176,500	22,854	11,695
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	517,900	227,784	111,530
	Girls		69,354	39,346
	Boys		63,722	37,016
	Women		72,368	26,460
	Men		22,340	8,708
Number of women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions		325,920	91,343	52,497
Number of children who have received individual case management	Total	54,293	15,318	7,490
	Girls		7,425	3,648
	Boys		7,893	3,842
Number of children and caregivers provided with landmine or other explosive weapons prevention and/or survivor assistance interventions		616,154	123,770	57,308
Education & Skills (850,000 people in need)				
Number of children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	Total	197,166	107,244	72,511
	Girls		54,771	36,642
	Boys		52,473	35,869
Number of children accessing protective learning environments		275,970	43,169	39,777
WASH (6,430,000 people in need)				
Number of people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs		4,954,698	3,574,795	1,749,738
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies		563,337	399,184	249,122
Number of institutions provided with child friendly, gender sensitive and inclusive WASH facilities		171	65	52
Number of people benefiting from restored or maintained heating services		2,038,315	2,670,044	2,151,010
Social Protection				
Number of households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers (including for social protection and other sectors)		162,000	37,469	14,323
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	425,365	212,054
Number of people participating in engagement actions for social and behaviour change		1,000,000	412,350	346,652
Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms		140,000	123,321	88,764

Annex B: Funding Status as of 30 June 2026

Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Resources received (ORE/current year)	Carry-over (ORR and ORE)	US\$	%
Health and Nutrition	\$10,403,122	\$1,808,302	\$5,908,927	\$2,685,892	26%
Child Protection, GBViE and PSEA	\$89,579,613	\$15,552,227	\$43,444,246	\$30,583,141	-
Education	\$59,429,027	\$21,213,220	\$40,930,038	-	34%
WASH	\$143,247,002	\$45,575,358	\$101,451,799	-	-
Social Protection	\$97,495,935	\$14,185,240	\$36,157,681	\$47,153,014	48%
Total	\$400,154,699	\$98,334,348	\$227,892,691	\$73,927,660	18%