



UNICEF hygiene kits for displaced children and families at the State Emergency Service warehouse

Ukraine

Humanitarian Situation Report #19

07 October 2014



SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Highlights

Despite ceasefire and a 9-point memorandum signed by the parties on 19 September, serious ceasefire violations are reported daily and shelling has intensified in parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions. As a result, children continue to suffer from the protracted conflict.

The Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) reported that 70,000 IDP children are attending school and preschool education facilities in Ukraine. Due to ongoing insecurity and lack of access to non-governmental controlled areas UNICEF is unable to verify how many schools opened in the region.

On 26 September, 300,000 doses of tetanus toxoid arrived in Ukraine. A fast-track approach, developed by UNICEF and WHO, has enabled the country to rapidly obtain prequalified vaccines.

The UN mission to Donetsk city negotiated humanitarian access with de-facto authorities in opposition held territories to facilitate humanitarian aid delivery to people in need, including children.

As of 3 October, the number of internally displaced persons (IDP) has increased to 379,059. One third of them are children.

# of children in Donetsk region ¹	662 245
# of children in Kharkiv region ²	416 442
# of children in Luhansk region ³	334 455
Total # of children in the Eastern regions ⁴	1 413 142
# of children in Crimea ⁵	344 263

¹The 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.

²The 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.

³The 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.

⁴These are the Eastern regions covered: Luhansk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, regions bordering with Russia. Children 0-17.

⁵Data as of 01 January 2013, State Statistics Committee of Ukraine, upon request of UNICEF Ukraine CO. In printed sources: State Statistics Committee of Ukraine publication "Protection of Children Deserving Special Attention of the Society" – p. 8.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

In spite of the Ceasefire Memorandum signed in Minsk, ceasefire violations continue to be reported in parts of eastern Ukraine and the movement of IDPs to and from conflict-affected areas remains fluid. As of 03 October, the number of internally displaced people (IDP) has increased to 379,059. One third of them are children.

The Cabinet of Ministers has approved the text of a resolution to establish a system for IDPs registering. If endorsed by the Prime Minister, the resolution will give the Ministry of Social Policy responsibility for conducting the registration of IDPs and developing a database, which will enable proper registration of unaccompanied children and provision of access to IDPs personal information upon consent to support better families and children in need.

The UN-conducted mission to Donetsk city negotiated humanitarian access with de-facto authorities in occupied territories to facilitate humanitarian aid delivery to people in need, including children. According to OCHA, the representatives of self-proclaimed “Donetsk People’s Republic” have provided their reassurance in allowing UN personnel to operate freely in the territory under their control.



Vika (8 years old, from Gorlovka, Donetsk oblast) is staying now in the accommodation center near Kyiv. She hopes to come back home soon to start school, which she misses a lot (Kyiv oblast, UNICEF Ukraine)

The situation continues to impact on children’s lives, causing physical and psychosocial concern. On 1 October, in Donetsk city shelling on a residential area caused civilian casualties near a school. No children have been reported among those killed in the shelling. On 28 September in Luhansk oblast a 17-year old boy was hospitalized with an amputation of his right hand and wounds to the head and body after the explosion of a grenade. The State Emergency Service (SES) reports that it has removed over 18,000 items of unexploded ordnance (UXOs).

Within the PCNA (Post Crisis Needs Assessment) framework, a joint UN/EU/WB scoping mission has been working for a week with the Government of Ukraine to identify short-term needs as well as the design of a comprehensive assessment for medium-term and long-term recovery needs. The UNICEF expert participating in the mission identified the social sector needs as a matter of priority.

The Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) reported that 70,000 IDP children are attending school and preschool education facilities in Ukraine as of 19 September. The continued lack of data means UNICEF is unable to confirm the overall number of school-age IDP children. The Ministry issued an amendment concerning the enrolment of IDP university students, they now have the right to enrol at public and municipal educational institutions. Children living in or displaced from conflict-affected territories have the right to begin or continue their education free of charge in any other region of Ukraine. All of these measures will be funded from the public budget.

On 1 October, authorities in occupied territories announced the beginning of the schooling year. Due to on-going insecurity and lack of access, UNICEF is unable to confirm the number of children attending school.

Child friendly spaces need to be established in IDP centers to enable psychosocial support and improve wellbeing of displaced children. Despite the challenging situation, child friendly spaces have been established in Kharkiv, Poltava and Zaporizhzhia cities.

According to UNICEF monitors, there are a growing number of cases of domestic violence. UN agencies are working with NGOs and government to develop appropriate response.

As of 30 September, 5,103 people including 87 children were reported wounded and 2,232 people including 35 children were killed according to emergency health care and forensic services of Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

As of 26 September, the State Emergency Service (SES) reports that throughout the conflict period, the total number of IDPs seeking medical assistance totals 37,879 adults and 31,053 children. 621 babies were born by IDP women.

All children in host families and family-type homes are vaccinated against tetanus and diphtheria as scheduled. However, UNICEF monitors report that in the Eastern part of the country many children from IDP families have not been registered at the health services nearby. There is also a shortage of vaccines for IDP children. .

Antiretroviral drugs are urgently needed in Kyiv, Volyn, Odesa, Mykolayiv and Kirovograd oblasts and starting from the January 2015 for the whole Ukraine (over 49,000 HIV-infected patients) due to the delays in state procurement. Regional AIDS Centres in Donbas area are not operating or providing only limited services.

Water pumping stations and priority health and educational institutions are gradually being reconnected to power supply in Luhansk city. UNICEF monitors report a partial, however insufficient, water trucking. Access to toilets and adequate sanitation facilities remains a problem especially to people in apartment blocks where the sewage system is dysfunctional.

The water supply to the city of Donetsk, Makeyevka, Yenakievo, Gorlovka, Dzerzhinsk in eastern Ukraine continues to be limited due to the reduced capacity of the Seversky Donets-Donbass channel. The amount of water supplied to Hartsyzsk, Ilovaïsk, and Panteleymonovka settlements has been further reduced due to scheduled repair works for the coming winter.



Delivery of drinking water to eastern Ukraine continues to be a priority (Luhansk oblast, UNICEF Ukraine)

There has been no significant improvement to the water supply situation in Donetsk oblast. Bigger part of Donetsk oblast still does not have water and people are digging shallow wells to cope with water shortage. Water utility companies continue to struggle to inspect the condition of the pipelines in conflict-affected areas.

Volnovaha, Krasnoarmeïsk, Ukrainsk and many more settlements in Donetsk oblast remain with limited or no access to safe drinking water. There is a need for diesel generators to power the water pumps and water treatment units. While there are less acute problems with access to water in areas controlled by the Government, there are increasing requests for personal hygiene items coming from IDPs in Kherson, Zaporizhzhya, Dnepropetrovsk and Odesa regions.

Sanitation continues to be a priority for people remaining in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. According to requests received and confirmed by UNICEF monitors, temporary latrines and disinfection materials are urgently required. The inspection and repair of the water supply infrastructure is still not possible due to ongoing fighting. It is crucial to repair damages before temperature drops below zero.

Localised problems of food availability continue to be reported within Donetsk and Luhansk cities. With the approaching winter and ongoing crisis, including the negative impacts on markets and food supply chain in these areas, the situation remains urgent.

Interagency Collaboration and Partnerships

Mental Health & Psychosocial Group is being co-led by UNICEF and WHO using Mental Health and Psychosocial Guidelines for Emergencies. UNICEF also contributed to the training of the civil society organisations on international Child Protection standards, mandates, and protocols.

As OCHA coordinates a multi-sector inter-agency humanitarian security assessment, UNICEF with other agencies has contributed to the definition of specific indicators related to sectors of responsibility.

UNICEF led a mission of three UN agencies - UNHCR, UNDP, and OCHA - to Kharkiv to prepare for the opening of a joint field presence there. This will enable UNICEF and other UN agencies to be closer to the needs of 90,000 IDPs in the oblast and to efficiently roll out the humanitarian action in the northern parts of Donetsk oblast and in Luhansk oblast.

Summary UNICEF Programme Response

Health

300,000 doses of tetanus toxoid arrived in Ukraine on 26 September. A fast-track approach, developed by UNICEF and WHO, has enabled the country to rapidly obtain prequalified vaccines. The Ministry of Health has requested assistance in providing vaccines, medicines and consumables for the expensive treatment of chronic diseases that will run out until November. Provision of care for children with haemophilia and von Willebrand disease is recognised to be the most urgent need.

WASH

UNICEF continues to support water treatment and has developed a WASH needs assessment tool, which has been reviewed by all sector partners. The assessment in Lugansk and some areas of Donetsk will start shortly to have up-to-date information on the situation with access and quality of water. Data collection is ongoing in Zaporizhzhya, Kherson, Odesa, Dnepropetrovsk, Kharkiv and Donetsk.

In addition to helping make sure water systems continue to provide safe water for the wider population, UNICEF monitors continue to assess the situation on the ground and are reporting on emerging needs and the situation for children. UNICEF continues to distribute drinking water and hygiene kits through its local partners and is identifying partners for the delivery of hygiene supplies to the Luhansk and Donetsk regions.

Child Protection

UNICEF is strengthening Child Protection coordination in Ukraine, holding, the first Child Protection Working Group meeting with Save the Children and 25 agencies participating. An agreement was reached to develop a coordination structure – involving government, NGOs, international organisations and UN agencies - for the emergency response to child protection issues and needs. The group members agreed on development of mapping and tracking of agencies' response; review of monitoring indicators on child protection issues; establishment of joint work plan to coordinate response efforts to the conflict.

Nutrition

UNICEF and Save the Children are preparing an information leaflet on the dangers of the use of baby formula in emergency context as well as importance of breastfeeding.

Supplies

In the period 19-30 September 2014 UNICEF distributed 154 baby hygiene kits, 24 adult hygiene kits, 3 early childhood development (ECD) kits in Zaporizhzhya and Kyiv oblasts supporting 338 children and 48 adults.

Overall, UNICEF has distributed 2,418 hygiene kits for children and adults as well as ECD kits during the March-September 2014 period through partners on the ground, supporting more than 5,000 people.

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IDP children playing with Early Childhood Development kits distributed by UNICEF Ukraine