



# Ukraine

## Humanitarian Situation Report # 27

unicef 

### SITUATION IN NUMBERS

## Highlights

- Displacement figures currently stand at 978,482 people now internally displaced in Ukraine (Source: Ministry of Social Policy), of whom 119,832 are children\* (Source: State Emergency Service).
- Dozens of civilians including children have been killed in the past two weeks in a surge of violence. The United Nations and UNICEF call for immediate support from the international community to support children in need.
- On 29 January, UNICEF launched the Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appealing for US\$32.45 million to help 600,000 children in crisis affected areas in Ukraine.
- From 27 to 31 January, UNICEF Emergency Coordinator (Officer in Charge) took part in a UN inter-agency Mission to Donetsk to assess the humanitarian situation in the region.
- UNICEF and UNDP signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the “Early Recovery of Social Services and Peacebuilding in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts” to improve schools conditions in the area.

## 6 February 2015

**119,832**

# of registered internally displaced children  
(State Emergency Service, 6 February 2015.

\*The data collection method for registered internally displaced children is currently being reviewed)

**978,482**

# of registered internally displaced people  
(Ministry of Social Policy, 2 January 2015)

**5.2 million**

# of affected people

(OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview, December 2014)

**1.7 million**

approx. # of affected children

(UNICEF HAC 2015)

**1.4 million**

# of people in need of humanitarian aid

(OCHA, Strategic Response Plan, December 2014)

**59 children**

# of children casualties since March 2014

(WHO, 06 February 2015)

**153 children**

# of children wounded since March 2014

(WHO, 06 February 2015)

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The past two weeks saw a spike in fighting resulting in an increased number of civilian casualties and displaced population. Dozens of people including civilians were killed in clashes and artillery fire at the past weekend after the collapse of peace talks in Minsk. On 30 January, in Donetsk seven people were killed and several wounded when a mortar attack hit a crowd of people at a humanitarian distribution site. No children casualties were reported in the incident. In and around the town of Debaltseve, intense fighting on 30 and 31 January resulted in 20 civilians dead amidst shelling attacks. Authorities said that 1,000 residents had left in the past weekend. On 24 January 31 people (including two children) were killed and 108 (including nine children) wounded in Mariupol when rockets struck residential areas. Child casualties increased in the past two weeks: as of 06 February, according to WHO 59 children have been killed and 153 wounded since March 2014.

The recent spike in heavy fighting makes it increasingly difficult to deliver essential and life-saving assistance to the affected population. The United Nations in Ukraine concerned by the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Debaltseve, Horlivka and other densely populated areas in eastern Ukraine, called on all the parties to the conflict to desist from targeting civilians and to allow humanitarian partners to assist them and provide for their life-saving needs. Further to this, on 29 January UNICEF launched the Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC). The HAC



**A displaced woman with two children just received UNICEF supplies.** [Credit: UNICEF Ukraine/2015/ P.Zmiv]

included US\$ 32.45 million appeal for Ukraine calling on the international community to support urgent up scaling of the humanitarian response for 600,000 children in the affected areas.

Reports indicate that more than 2,800 civilians, including about 700 children and 60 people with disabilities, have been evacuated from the towns of Debaltseve, Avdviivka and Svitlodar. Still many civilians remain and are stranded in hard-to-reach areas. Approximately 1,500 internally displaced people (IDP) arrived in Svyatohirsk with no belongings and in need of basic facilities. UNICEF supplies were distributed to them on 3 February. In Horlivka, where the city population was 275,000 prior to the increase of the violence, 210,000 people

remained (according to local authorities), with reportedly 29,000 children, of whom 6,800 are up to 6 years old, and 2,000 are up to one year old. According to the non-governmental group (NGO) 'People in Need', the main needs include foil for windows, children's food and health material.

UNICEF Field Monitor in Donetsk reports that bunkers are damp and not heated, so people are facing disease, especially elderly and children. At least three districts of Donetsk, north of Kiyevskij district, part of Kuybishevskij and Petrovskij district have no central water supply. Furthermore, north of the city of Torez (Donetsk Oblast), part of Yasinovataya, Horlivka and Uhlehirk and the town of Krasnohorivka have been experiencing cuts in the water supply due to damage amid heavy shelling.

A comprehensive assessment on children with disabilities in the affected areas is to be conducted, to include access to services and trained professionals. In Donetsk city for example, there are three main organizations assisting 55 families with children with disabilities. There is an urgent need of food, hygiene supplies, drinkable water, clothing and specialized medicines for chronic diseases are reported.

As of 29 January a total of 488 children had been evacuated from the non-government-controlled areas to government-controlled territories. The majority were moved to Odesa and western Ukraine (Lviv), though there were placements in other regions such as Dnipropetrovsk. The evacuation is being taken care of by the Ministry of Social Policy (MSP) and the State Emergency Service (SES). While there are often evacuations of whole families, there are also reported cases where children were separated from their families according to the President Ombudsman for Children Rights.

A UNICEF high-level mission with experts from Headquarters and the Regional Office took place from 26 to 30

January including a visit to the conflict-affected areas. Main purpose of the mission has been to determine ways forward related to scaling-up of UNICEF humanitarian assistance, strengthening of its field presence and capacity for cluster coordination and children rights monitoring.

## Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

From 27 to 31 January, UNICEF Emergency Coordinator and Officer in Charge took part in a UN inter-agency Mission to Donetsk city organized by OCHA with support of UNDSS. Participating agencies included OCHA (coordination), UNHCR (protection), WHO (health), WFP (food), UNDSS (staff security), UNICEF (WASH, child protection, health, nutrition, education). During the visit several meetings were held with local partners, as well as coordination meetings and site visits to affected areas.

The findings of the inter-agency mission to Donetsk showed that the groups identified for UNICEF immediate intervention include: children engaged directly in armed conflict; children out of schools; children with disabilities; children living in conflict areas; children deprived of parental care; children living with HIV; pregnant and breastfeeding women living with HIV. Despite a very difficult humanitarian situation, at general observation level the city centre has been functioning compared to other areas of the city. Currently all UN Agencies operating in Donetsk and in the surrounded area are increasing their field presence, including international staff members.



**EU airlift of humanitarian supplies for affected population in Dnipropetrovsk.**  
(Credit: ECHO)



**Damaged school in Donetsk city** [Credit: UNICEF Ukraine/2015/Radoslaw Rzehak]

UNICEF is currently in negotiations to activate the subnational education cluster with Save the Children and other partners in Dnipropetrovsk and Kharkiv.

The European Union (EU) in its effort to increase the humanitarian assistance in Ukraine, announced the airlift through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism of three cargo planes delivering 85 tonnes of humanitarian supplies (tents, blankets, sleeping bags and warm clothes) including UNICEF procured items. The aid package was announced by EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides, who visited Ukraine on 26 and 27 January. Moreover, the EU pledges EUR15 million in humanitarian assistance.

## Summary of Programme Response

### Education

UNDP and UNICEF signed on February 4th a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the “Early Recovery of Social Services and Peacebuilding in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts”. The MoU includes the improvement of school infrastructure such as water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in the affected areas for at least eight schools and kindergartens.

UNICEF conducts consultations with the Cluster members about a joint implementation platform that would ensure more effectively reaching children in eastern Ukraine with psycho-social interventions making use of teachers and psychologists in schools.

The Education Cluster raised the issue of the final exam for secondary school students in the non-governmental controlled areas with the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) and oblast education authorities in Luhansk

and Donetsk. Issues around exams in non-government-controlled areas remain as all students attending the final year of secondary schools in those areas can receive state-format educational certificates only if they are registered at the nearest school in government-controlled area.

According to the UNICEF field monitor in Donetsk, all schools in the city are closed this week (2-6 Februari) due to heavy shelling. Fourteen schools have been damaged to various extent during the current week. Pupils are enrolled in distance education programmes until 8 February. As of 6 February, the MoES reports 71,632 IDP children registered in schools mainly in Donetsk, Karhrkiv, Dnipropetrovsk regions and Kyiv. This represents an increase as the MoES reported 70,261 children on 12 December 2014.

UNICEF and NGO partner 'Ukrainian Frontiers' are jointly distributing educational kits to displaced children in Svyatohirsk, Kramatorsk, Slovyansk.

### **WASH**

On 28 January a WASH Cluster meeting was held at the regional level in Severodonetsk. Luhansk oblast authorities joined the meeting, raising concern on nine locations within the oblast with no access to drinking water due to damaged water supply amid shelling. To address the needs of affected people, UNICEF is to provide 15,000 bottles of drinking water to local communities.

In addition the Cluster received WASH need requests from local authorities of Druzhkivka, Volnovakha, and Horlivka and Donetsk city. The requests included urgent dispatch of ingredients for filter stations to cover kindergartens, schools and hospitals in remote rural areas, supply of bottled water as well as technical assistance to boreholes. On 3 February UNICEF supplied 3,264 6-liter bottles to the city of Volnovakha. UNICEF is planning to handover three water purification units to Krasnogorovka town.

### **Child Protection**

From 17 January to 2 February, the child hotline run by La Strada and supported by UNICEF received a total of 1,436 calls. Of those 55 per cent were from girls and 45 per cent from boys. Most of the calls were concerning legal advice and requests for psychosocial support. All callers received counselling, support and referral when needed.

During the reporting time 20 January – 3 February, trained psychologists in Donetsk and Luhansk have provided the following psychosocial services: 11 individual counselling for children and their families; 38 group counselling for children and their families, reaching a total of 874 persons. Trained psychologists from Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts have provided six outreach sessions for teachers, reaching 188 persons.

### **Health and Nutrition**

UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Health (MoH) to finalize the procurement of Polio vaccines in order to fill the immunization gap among children in Ukraine.

UNICEF agreed with MoH on protracting the technical support to enhance the vaccine procurement system in the country and the communication strategies. Hence, UNICEF is deploying international experts to work with the Ministry on the implementation of the action plan on vaccine procurement system reform.

A two-week mission of the Nutrition Cluster Coordinator has started this week assessing the needs in the area and options for sub-cluster coordination.



**Over 1,000 children are seeking refuge in bomb shelters in Donetsk city due to ongoing violence.**

[Credit: UNICEF Ukraine/2015/Francesca Volpi]

## External Communication

On 27 January, UNICEF Representative from Kyiv held a telephone briefing for international journalists at the Palais des Nations on the plight of children living in bomb shelters, resulting in international coverage on Xinhua, Le Soir, Agence France Press, Voice of America, The Japan Times, and other news outlets.

A communication package on children living in bomb shelters and UNICEF support to them was also released through the UNICEF website and social media channels. A series of interviews to Paris Match, Radio Vaticana, France INFO, Italian press agency AdnKrons, Polish news service Wirtualna Polska were given by UNICEF Ukraine. On 29 January a local press release was issued to support UNICEF global HAC launch, including for Ukraine, together with factographs and donor briefs on the emergency in Ukraine. The HAC had over 90 media mentions in the local media.

## Funding and Planning

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

Funding Requirements (as defined in Humanitarian Appeal of 29/01/2015 for a period of 12 months)				
Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds received*	Funding gap	
			\$	%
Education	14,400,000	2,465,862	11,934,138	17
Child Protection	1,300,000	1,050,120	249,880	81
Health & Nutrition	4,650,000	4,550,387	99,613	98
WASH	9,600,000	1,567,913	8,032,087	16
Sector Coordination, Field Support	2,500,000	532,388	1,967,612	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,450,000</b>	<b>10,166,670</b>	<b>22,283,330</b>	<b>31</b>

## Next Sit Rep: 20 February 2015

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