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Reporting Period: 1 April to 30 June 2020

# Ukraine

## Country Office

### Humanitarian Situation Report

#### No. 2/2020

## Highlights

As the armed conflict enters its seventh year, children, young people and the elderly remain the most vulnerable groups in eastern Ukraine, in both government (GCA) and non-government (NGCA) controlled areas. The protracted conflict continues to take a heavy toll on civilians: During April of 2020, ten civilian casualties were reported (three killed and four injured as a result of shelling and Small arms and light weapons [SALW] fire, and three injured in mine incidents). Daily ceasefire violations, shelling and explosions have damaged scores of homes and social infrastructure.

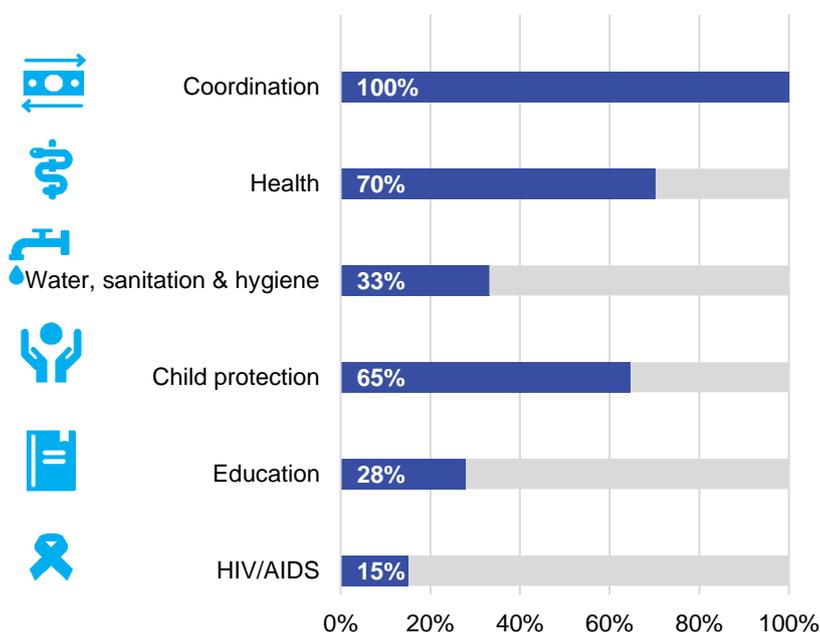
Armed attacks on critical infrastructure, such as water and education, along the Line of Contact (LoC) continued to severely limit access to basic services and impact the lives of hundreds of thousands of residents. During the reporting period, 17 incidents affecting water/sanitation/hygiene (WASH) facilities were recorded, while the Education Cluster reported at least seven cases of physical damage of education facilities, including one fatal case as a result of shelling.

The outbreak and spread of COVID-19 in Ukraine brought additional challenges to the region which has a large elderly population and weak healthcare services. Quarantine measures introduced by the authorities on both sides of the LoC have severely restricted humanitarian access for the UN and partners to deliver critically needed aid. This situation has also significantly restricted freedom of movement by civilians across the LoC. As schools and workplaces largely remain closed, increased cases of violence against women and children are being reported by UNICEF partners.

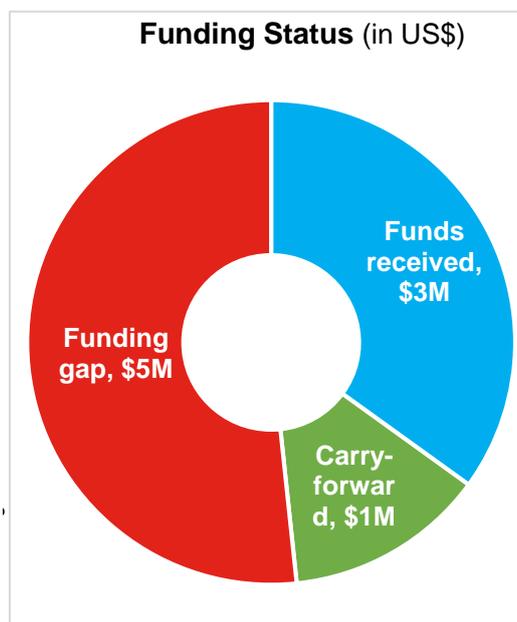
### Situation in Numbers

- 430,000** children in need of humanitarian assistance
- 3,400,000** people in need (HRP, Dec 2019)
- 220,000** Internally displaced people (IDPs, HRP, Dec 2019)

## UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



**UNICEF Appeal 2020**  
**US\$ 9.8 million**



\*Funding available includes carry-over and funds received in the current year.

## Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF has appealed for USD 9.8 million to sustain the provision of life-saving services for children and women in conflict-affected eastern Ukraine. Since the beginning of 2020, the governments of the USA, Italy, Estonia and Germany, as well as ECHO have generously contributed to UNICEF Ukraine's Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal. UNICEF also expresses its gratitude to all public and private donors for the contributions received to date. Still, at the end of Quarter 2, UNICEF 2020 HAC is underfunded by 56% with major gaps in the WASH, Education and HIV/AIDS sectors.

## Humanitarian Strategy

In 2020, UNICEF has maintained its focus on protecting children and realizing the rights of every child on both sides of the Line of Contact. Responding to the urgent needs of children and their families affected by the conflict, UNICEF aims to strengthen social protection and psychosocial support, as well as health, education and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services. UNICEF is also working to further build the capacities of local professionals, authorities and civil society actors to strengthen the access to quality inclusive, age- and gender-sensitive social services increasing the resilience of families and children to protection-related risks.

It is worth highlighting the overall performance achieved by the 12 gender-based violence (GBV) mobile teams supported by UNICEF for several years in eastern Ukraine. These teams have provided GBV-related first aid, including psycho-social support case management; referrals to specialized services when needed for GBV/domestic violence survivors; and prevention and awareness-raising activities in communities, schools, and social support centres. The teams have increasingly gained trust, as evidenced by 97 per cent of the 364 GBV-cases reported in March giving consent to the services.

Adolescents and youth in eastern Ukraine have also been supported through engagement in programmes on life-skills education, resilience and conflict-resolution (mediation), community service and civic education (UpShift) contributing to building their trust, self-esteem and entrepreneurship.

Additionally, UNICEF's programme on Disaster Risk Reduction has enabled adolescents to raise their awareness on safety rules and measures in case of any emergency, particularly related to industrial/environmental hazards, as well as enhance disaster preparedness mechanisms and disaster response plans. Additional humanitarian funding would allow to accelerate the progress and enhance the coverage of these important resilience-building actions on both sides of the Line of Contact.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### Health

UNICEF's medical e-vouchers project continued to benefit children and families affected by HIV and TB. In the first six months of 2020, the project covered 767 beneficiaries, who received 1,014 e-vouchers, enabling them to access medicines available in their communities. During the reporting period, 407 HIV/TB-affected children received medical consultations and medicines, 83 of whom were under the age of 5. In the same period, 360 parents of children with HIV/TB were provided with free-of-charge medical assistance.

UNICEF continued providing necessary support to the health system to strengthen and improve immunization coverage for children, in particular through the implementation and development of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) programmes at primary health facility level. During the reporting period and in collaboration with local health authorities, 147 doctors and nurses were trained on IPC strategy. This intervention is particularly critical in the context of COVID-19 outbreak, but also given the recent data on routine immunization which is indicating a sharp decline as a result of the pandemic.

During the reporting period, 13 health care facilities in both Luhansk and Donetsk GCA were assessed, using standard UNICEF/WHO tools. Among the list of 13 were three primary health care centers, three perinatal centers, two COVID-19 designated hospitals, and children's hospitals offering secondary and tertiary level of health care services. Key findings and recommendations were presented to the oblast authorities and cluster partners. These outcomes will help health authorities to better plan and respond to the needs of the people living in the area and increase effectiveness of interventions planned by UNICEF.

### WASH

Over the past six months, UNICEF has continued to support water utility companies on both sides of the Line of Contact, including Voda Donbasu (VD). The company has received polyethylene (PE) pipes (1,108 m), eight pumps to replace those that were damaged or broken, as well as emergency stocks to ensure response to any emergency that may arise at the VD facilities in NGCA<sup>1</sup>. Chlorine dosing equipment has been procured and delivered to Donetsk Filter Station (DFS), which supplies water to 378,983 people in NGCA, and installed by VD technical services. Such assistance has enabled VD to use liquid chlorine in a safer mode and, as a result, ensuring provision of well-treated and quality water to the population. UNICEF has improved access to safe drinking water for 41,787 people (3,170 girls, 2,722 boys, 19,312 women and 16,583 men) in Donetsk NGCA through support to public services, of

<sup>1</sup> Procured and delivered in the last quarter 2019, but installed in the first quarter 2020

which 5,014 people were identified as people with special needs. UNICEF has also supported Voda Donbasu by providing water treatment chemicals on GCA side; In May-June, 88.36 tons of liquified chlorine gas and 2 tons of flocculant were provided to eight filter stations, improving access to safe drinking water for 230,735 people<sup>2</sup>. UNICEF has also supported the Luhanskvoda public utility company with pipes and pumps for urgent repairs and laboratory equipment for the water quality control. Overall, 85,062 residents in Luhansk NGCA have benefitted from improved access to water due to repairs of water networks and installation of pumps<sup>3</sup>.

At the beginning of 2020, UNICEF completed the rehabilitation of WASH facilities in nine educational and three health centers in Donetsk NGCA, improving the access to water and sanitation services for 9,198 beneficiaries. Additionally, UNICEF has improved access to water, sanitation and heating conditions for 7,440 people, including 7,380 children (3,780 girls, 3,600 boys) through emergency repairs in two health facilities located close to the LoC in Luhansk NGCA. 30 boilers have been installed in five health and 12 education facilities, improving access to hot water for 3,616 people. UNICEF also provided hygiene kits for children and their families and institutional kits for schools and kindergartens. Overall, 9,269 vulnerable individuals have benefitted from improved access to hygiene supplies through the distribution of kits to 856 households and 41 institutions in Donetsk NGCA.

During the first six months of the year, UNICEF continued to support water trucking to three exit-entry checkpoints and a range of educational, health care and social facilities in settlements located along the LoC with limited access to drinking water. Overall, nearly 5,000 residents of the assisted villages and towns, and around 20,000 people crossing the checkpoints every month have benefitted from water trucking. In January 2020, the installation of water tanks in educational and health facilities of Bakhmut was finalized, improving resilience to water supply interruptions for 5,000 children and patients. Bottled water was provided to Lysychansk municipal hospital that often experiences water cuts, improving access to safe drinking water to 2,552 people. Access to hygiene items has been improved for 3,696 vulnerable individuals through the distribution of hygiene kits in towns located within 0 to 5 kms from the LoC. Hygiene promotion sessions were conducted in schools and kindergartens mostly in rural areas along the LoC, reaching 668 children with key hygiene messages throughout January-March 2020.

## Education

From April to June 2020, UNICEF reached 3,282 boys and girls and improved their access to quality education and a safe learning environment through emergency repairs of education facilities and provision of learning supplies. Six schools in Donetska NGCA and four schools in Luhanska GCA benefited from rehabilitation work, improving the learning environment for 1,822 children residing in conflict affected areas. Four schools in GCA have also been provided with basic hygiene supplies for cleaning and disinfection in preparation for school reopening following COVID-19 related school closure, while a similar intervention in NGCA is planned for later in the year. UNICEF has continued providing support to 1,460 most vulnerable boys and girls in GCA attending schools located near the LoC with the provision of individual learning kits with stationery supplies.

Building on the success of piloting Safe and Child-Friendly Schools (SCFS) model in 14 education facilities in Donetska and Luhanska oblasts, UNICEF together with MoES continues scaling up of SCFS concept to other education facilities. 10 new schools located 0-20 kms along the LoC were identified to improve safe learning environment and achieve compliance with the four core quality standards of safety and child-friendliness. It is expected that the 10 core SCFS, together with UNICEF and local department of education, will also support 40 additional education facilities located in their close proximity to build capacity of the school staff, administration, parents and students on the 'Safe School' principles and will provide further technical support to model a 'Safe School' concept. A virtual conference for more than 100 representatives from 50 schools was conducted in June, presenting the SCFS Concept, the results of piloting in 14 schools and KGs during 2018-2019 and the plan of implementation of SCFS in their education facilities.

During the second quarter of 2020, UNICEF has continued capacity building activities for teachers on life-saving and life-sustaining knowledge and skills among children and adolescents through the implementation of the Life Skills course in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES). During the reporting period 49 teachers from 39 schools in Donetska and Luhanska oblasts completed online course on life skills education and will further use the methodology to develop skills needed to prepare for the personal, interpersonal and active citizenship aspects of their students' individual and social lives.

## Child Protection

During the period of April to June 2020, UNICEF in partnership with national non-governmental organizations (NGOs), continued providing community-based psychosocial support (PSS) to children, youth and their caregivers residing in conflict-affected settlements alongside the LoC in the NGCAs of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts. In total, 1,627 children (571 boys and 1,056 girls), including 77 children (40 boys, 37 girls) in alternative care arrangements have benefitted from psychosocial support. In addition, 197 community professionals have been reached with capacity-building activities aiming to improve their knowledge on child protection issues, including on positive parenting.

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<sup>2</sup> Calculation of beneficiaries from the water treatment chemicals provision is done in accordance with WASH Cluster methodology (each month 1/12 of the total coverage is added).

<sup>3</sup> Procured and delivered in the last quarter 2019, but installed in the first quarter 2020.

Moreover, in June 2020, UNICEF in partnership with international non-governmental organizations launched new projects on protective services and assistance to mine/Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) victims, as well as on strengthening the capacities of local communities to respond to child protection cases alongside the LoC in Donetsk and Luhansk GCAs. It is envisaged that partners will provide psychosocial support to children and their caregivers, and ensure case management and referrals to mine/ERW victims, including children and their caregivers. To reinforce local communities' response to emergencies, capacity building activities will be carried out for community professionals on psychosocial support, positive parenting and inclusion.

In addition, UNICEF has continued supporting 12 PSS /gender-based violence (GBV) mobile teams in Donetsk and Luhansk GCAs providing psycho-social support and consultations to 7,557 survivors of GBV/domestic violence (1380M/6177F) and to 756 children affected by violence (272M/484F). During the COVID-19 lockdown, partners have continued the psychosocial consultations via phone and/or virtually, and ensured the emergency outreach to the most at risk women/men and children in conflict-affected GCAs of Eastern Ukraine. As a result, most vulnerable men and women, boys and girls gained access and were referred to child-friendly and survivor-friendly protection and other social services, as well as enhanced their coping mechanisms.

In April, as a result of the increasing level of violence against children observed during the COVID-19 lockdown, UNICEF started to support the national toll-free Child Helpline providing online consultations to children, caregivers and youth affected by violence and neglect. Within the reporting period, 10,015 beneficiaries received consultations out of which 77% were girls/women. 23% of the calls were related to violence against children; 20%, to address the requests for consultations with regards to mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of children, including cases of self-harm and suicidal attempts; and 10%, to family relationships. Moreover, the Helpline has been linked to the Hotline for Online Legal Aid provided by the Free Legal Aid Office for further referral of cases requiring legal protection of children subjected to violence. Both helplines are available nationwide.

UNICEF, in cooperation with partners, has elaborated online courses for parents, pedagogues, and psychologists of educational facilities for psychosocial support to children during COVID-19. The courses aim to improve the knowledge of professionals and caregivers on positive parenting, psychosocial support as well as contain modules on how to talk with children about health and prevention of viruses without fear and anxiety. Courses are available in both Russian and Ukrainian.

Due to the increased needs for coordination and guidance during the COVID -19 quarantine, UNICEF has continued to facilitate the Child Protection Sub-cluster's online meetings on a regular basis. UNICEF's Global Guidance and Technical Notes on community-based child protection, coping with stress, positive parenting, mental health and psychosocial support and inclusion of children, adolescents and adults with disabilities, alternative care in COVID-19 response and others were translated and disseminated among the partner organizations and relevant stakeholders.

### Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF leads the WASH Cluster and Child Protection Sub-cluster, and co-leads the Education Cluster. UNICEF is also actively participating in the Health Cluster and Mine Action working group. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between UNICEF and each co-Lead Agency at Country level to guide effective and efficient Coordination and ensure clear roles and responsibilities of each party. UNICEF also participates in the in-country interagency PSEA Task Force.

### Communication

UNICEF has continued to highlight the situation of children and families trapped in the volatile conflict in eastern Ukraine in its communication with local and international media, as well as across local and global digital platforms.

Marking the World Poetry Day (21 March), UNICEF Ukraine joined the Poems for Peace initiative, activated by UNICEF to provide a platform for children and young people affected by conflict to express themselves and have their voices heard. More than 300 Ukrainian young people from government controlled areas shared powerful and emotive poems calling for peace in a national poetry contest, announced by UNICEF Ukraine. Using clips from the individual videos, UNICEF created a short film from one of the powerful poem out of the best ten poems submitted by Ukrainian youth. The local version of the project, created under global initiative, was largely supported by Ukrainian poets and celebrities and resulted in over 6 million views across social media channels ([UNICEF Ukraine Facebook](#), [UNICEF Global Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)).

In early March, UNICEF Ukraine hosted a media mission of the Finnish Committee for UNICEF. The mission visited frontline communities in eastern Ukraine to document needs of families and UNICEF response. Multimedia assets produced during the mission will be released during the planned telethon on "children under attack" to be organized in September on Finnish national media platforms. As a result of the mission, [an extensive feature](#) was published in one of the most popular Finnish foreign news publications.

To mark Mine Awareness Day, UNICEF prepared [a feature story](#) focusing on child mine victims and results of the Mine Victim Assistance Programme in Ukraine. UNICEF Ukraine video content produced on a child mine survivor was picked up by Henrietta H. Fore, [UNICEF Executive Director's Twitter account](#) to advocate for this pressing issue on International Mine Awareness Day.

[UNICEF press release on surge in violent attacks in eastern Ukraine](#) during the pandemic received an extensive coverage in international and national media, including [Independent](#), [Voice of America](#), [Radio Liberty](#), [Relief Web](#), [UN Regional Information Center for Western Europe](#), [Kyiv Post](#), [TSN](#), [24 Channel](#), [Unian](#), [UkrInform](#), [Correspondent](#), [Dzerkalo Tyzhdnnya](#), [Facts](#) and others. In total, the press release appeared in nearly 80 national outlets, reaching an audience of over 7.5 million readers in Ukraine.

Additionally, UNICEF produced a series of social media videos to raise awareness [about the double burden - conflict and COVID - faced by children at the frontline in eastern Ukraine](#), which received over 22 million views on the UNICEF global social media accounts and over 500,000 views [at the UNICEF Ukraine social media](#)

UNICEF Ukraine continues to raise the visibility of children living along the LOC, through its social media platforms reaching over 230,000 people with daily updates.

Next SitRep: 15 October 2020

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## Annex A

### Summary of Programme Results

Sector	Cluster/Sector Response <sup>2</sup>			UNICEF and IPs		
	2020 target	Total results	Change since last report ▲ ▼	2020 target	Total results	Change since last report ▲ ▼
<b>Health</b>						
Number of mothers and children U5 benefit from direct health service provision	N/A	N/A		20,000	139 <sup>3</sup>	
<b>WASH</b>						
Number of people accessing a sufficient quantity of water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	1,000,000	185,182	▲	800,000	286,460	▲
Number of people provided with critical WASH related supplies and/or awareness	100,000	16,902	▲	70,000	122,862 <sup>4</sup>	▲
Number of people provided with improved access to adequate sanitation	175,000	18,008	▲	15,000	16,496 <sup>5</sup>	
<b>Child Protection</b>						
Number of children and their families receiving mine risk education	N/A	N/A		150,000	1,391 <sup>6</sup>	
Number of boys, girls, and caregivers reached with psycho-social support	N/A	8,409	▲	30,000	22,648	▲
Number of community professionals gained enhanced capacity on child protection	N/A	775	▲	5,000	696 <sup>7</sup>	▲
Number of children and women accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions	N/A	N/A		5,000	4,743	▲
<b>Education</b>						
Number of girls and boys benefitting from education and early learning supplies and inclusive schools and kindergartens	120,000	9,011	▲	36,500	5,557 <sup>8</sup>	▲
Number of girls and boys benefitting from conflict-sensitive, risk-informed and life-skills education	44,350	8,361	▲	13,000	8,341 <sup>9</sup>	
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>						
Number of people living with HIV and AIDS and tuberculosis provided with financial support through cash or vouchers for health care expenses	N/A	N/A		1,000	767	▲
Number of HIV-affected children provided with continuous care and support services	N/A	N/A		600	N/A <sup>10</sup>	

<sup>2</sup> For some indicators the cluster data was not available at the time of the reporting or no cluster target is available.

<sup>3</sup> As of this reporting period, funding for MCH was still expected. Hence the low result reported.

<sup>4</sup> The overachievement of target is the result of COVID-19 response with a focus made on provision of hygiene supplies, representing 89% of the reported beneficiaries.

<sup>5</sup> In comparison to water, the sanitation target is low as Ukraine counts with 96% of improved sanitation. Nevertheless, efforts are made to improve the sanitation at institutional level (schools and KG, Health centers), but not at household level.

<sup>6</sup> As of this reporting period, funding for MRE was still expected. Hence the low result reported.

<sup>7</sup> ibid

<sup>8</sup> With the COVID-19 outbreak, the schools were closed and due to initially imposed quarantine measures, these activities were not implemented.

<sup>9</sup> With the COVID-19 outbreak, the schools were closed, and this activity was not implemented.

<sup>10</sup> The response programme did not yet start at the time of the reporting due to lack of funding.

## Annex B

### Funding Status\*

Sector	Requirements \$	Funds available \$		Funding gap	
		Received Current Year	Carry-Over	\$	%
Health	610,000	428,319	78	181,602	30
WASH	3,700,000	904,985	322,809	2,472,205	67
Child Protection	2,000,000	1,047,859	244,893	707,248	35
Education	2,424,000	321,045	356,700	1,746,255	72
HIV/AIDS	500,000	75,600	271	424,129	85
Cluster Coordination	600,000	663,119	387,060	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,834,000</b>	<b>3,440,928</b>	<b>1,311,812</b>	<b>5,532,439</b>	<b>56</b>

\* As defined in Humanitarian Appeal of December 2019 for a period of 12 months