



UNICEF continues to distribute basic hygiene kits to IDP families and children. Lviv, 27 May 2014. Copyright: UNICEF Ukraine 2014

Ukraine

Humanitarian Situation Report #10

31 May 2014



SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Highlights

- *Seven children injured by violence in Eastern Ukraine since 9th May.*
- *Reports of disruption to education in some areas along with low attendance. Social payments to families in two cities halt. Health services affected in Donetsk.*
- *UNICEF completes a rapid qualitative research of the psychosocial impact of the crisis on children in Donetsk oblast. Up to half of all children surveyed report exposure to violence or a terrifying event.*
- *According to UNHCR, approximately 1500 IDPs registered fleeing the eastern part of Ukraine.*
- *UNICEF dispatches additional 112 basic hygiene kits to IDP families and children in Lviv.*

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

¹ The 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.

² The 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

³ The 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

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

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

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Overview

The Presidential elections of 25 May concluded with a decisive victory for candidate Mr. Petro Poroshenko amid an escalation of violence in Eastern Ukraine focused in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions (oblasts). The International Airports in Donetsk and Luhansk are closed to all traffic.

In the meantime, the direct impacts of armed conflict over children have become evident during this week. The media report of 7 children injured by gun shots and shrapnel has been confirmed by the Ukrainian authority. Donetsk Regional Administration reports that 148 children from Sloviansk travelled to a children's summer camp in Crimea. . Public security and services to young people and children is of high concern. The situation in Kyiv is stable yet fragile with checkpoints on all routes leading to the city being reinforced. The situation in Odessa remains stable.

According to UNHCR, the overall number of IDPs within Ukraine stands at 10,201 with 15% now displaced from the eastern part of Ukraine. The remainder of displaced population are from Crimea.

The Minister of Health of Ukraine in his speech at 67th World Health Assembly expressed concern that Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST) programme for 800 patients in Crimea has closed. The Minister stated that Ukraine looks forward to closely cooperating with UN member states, and WHO, UNAIDS, Global Fund as well as other international organizations to resolve the problem through dialogue.

Humanitarian needs

In Eastern Ukraine, children's access to education has been affected. Several schools in the vicinity of the airport and the railway station in Donetsk were closed this week due to violent clashes. In Slavyansk, the education department reports that schools and kindergartens are operating normally but attendance is very low - 22% in kindergartens and 30% in schools. May 30 is the last school day before summer holidays for Ukrainian children. The Ministry of Education decides to postpone the deadline for entrance exams to the universities to ensure participation of school graduates from Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

Regarding the access to health services, on 27 May Children's Hospital #1 in Donetsk closes for unspecified period of time as it is situated in the epicenter of the conflict. It is the main hospital in Donetsk for inpatient care. All children in this hospital were evacuated or sent home. Currently, children are being referred to another hospital, but it is not clear yet if the hospital has capacity to accommodate the demands. Donetsk Central City Hospital #18 is also closed for unspecified period of time. The hospital includes an antenatal clinic and pregnant women are being referred to other clinics. Since January, there has been a steady decline of vaccine availability in Donetsk leaving many children unimmunized.

The payment of social benefits has been interrupted in Slavyansk and Kramatorsk. The Treasury branches in these cities have been disconnected from electronic communication with the oblast Treasury. There are 73 children out of 3,500 HIV-positive, who receive ART in Crimea. All of them have access to ARV medicines, as the stock of drugs provided in 2013 by the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, is enough by the end of 2014.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

Under OCHA leadership, the UN agencies are finalizing the plan of a joint assessment in Eastern Ukraine to measure human security aspects including safety, health, education, food security and livelihoods, access to water and sanitation.

The UNCT is preparing a joint donor proposal based on assessments already conducted by a number of UNCT member agencies, including UNICEF, as well as upon requests from the Government of Ukraine. The UN joint donor briefing is also being scheduled by UNCT in this coming week. UNICEF appeals for the funding requirement of 1.6 million USD in the area of Child Protection, Psycho-social, Education, Health and Water & Sanitation.

UN OHCHR is planning to release its third report focused on social and economic rights in Ukraine. The report is expected to reflect inputs provided to OHCHR by UNICEF as well as other UNCT agencies.

WHO has deployed six health impact advisors, including one person in Donetsk.

Summary Analysis of Programme response

UNICEF's main role continues to be monitoring the impact of the crisis on children in Ukraine. UNICEF is finalizing the recruitment of an additional field monitor to Donetsk. Three field monitors are already on the ground in Lviv, Kharkiv and Kherson.

A UNICEF team undertook a mission to Odessa on May 23 to assess the situation, including the needs of newly arrived IDPs and the Government's response. Partner NGO 'Way Home' and the Ministry of Emergency reached an agreement to distribute 56 UNICEF hygiene kits among civilian families from Crimea and the East. The authorities have dealt well with Crimean IDPs and the second wave of IDPs from the East is now on their agenda. Partner NGOs are planning to organize summer camps for IDP children that will include catch-up classes for children to make up for disruptions.

UNICEF through a research company has completed a rapid qualitative assessment in Donetsk Oblast. The report examines the degree and sources of psychosocial distress, children's positive and negative coping mechanisms and capacities of people in communities to support children. It was conducted in four cities - Donetsk, Mariupol, Horlivka, Yenakievo. The methodology included specialized psychological assessment and focus groups discussions with parents and children. The preliminary findings show:

- children aged 3-6 have the highest level of anxiety, while children aged 13-18 show the highest involvement in military and political events;
- about 40% of surveyed children aged 7-12 and over 50% of surveyed children aged 13-18 have seen events which were violent or terrified them in their towns;
- 47% of surveyed children skipped kindergarten/school.

The final report will be submitted in June.

UNICEF extends the on-site psychosocial support to IDP families and children in Lviv in cooperation with a local NGO. In Vinnitsia and Ladyzhin cities such activities are extended for additional two months.

A UNICEF statement about the crisis impact on children in Ukraine released on May 15 was widely picked up by the Ukrainian media with up to 40 articles. .

UNICEF has agreed with the RedR Australia to extend the support of the consultant deployed as Emergency Coordinator in Kyiv for up to three months.

To strengthen the emergency capabilities of the UNICEF Ukraine team, further Emergency Training will take place in Kyiv on 19-20 June 2014 facilitated by the CEE/CIS Regional Office.

Supply and Logistics

UNICEF has dispatched an additional 114 Hygiene Kits following new requests from IDP families located in Lviv. Owing to the availability of prepositioned stock in Kyiv, UNICEF has been able to address the additional needs of IDPs within days.

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