Highlights

Violence continues to increase on a daily base in Eastern Ukraine. The two-month-old ceasefire is under severe threat with each side accusing the other of having violated the terms of the peace plan.

Two children were killed and four injured as a result of shelling of a school sports field in Donetsk city on 5 November 2014. UNICEF issued a statement calling all parties of the conflict to keep children out of harm’s way.

UNICEF distributed 90 educational kits and 300 school bags to 900 IDP children in Odesa, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, Dnipropetrovsk and Luhansk through State Emergency Service and local NGOs.

UNICEF-supported Child Hotline received 2,244 calls from parents and children during the last two weeks; there is a notable increase in number of calls every month.

On 9-12 November 2014 UNICEF participated in the joint UN expert mission that visited Donetsk city to identify reliable implementing partners for future aid distribution.

State Emergency Service (SES) reports the total number of internally displaced persons (IDP) at 460,865, including 127,991 children as of 14 November 2014.

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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.
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

A year into the conflict, violence continues to increase on a daily base in Eastern Ukraine. The two-month-old ceasefire is under severe threat with each side accusing the other of having violated the terms of the peace plan.

In the past weeks Donetsk city witnessed some of its heaviest shelling. On November 5, at least two children were killed and four were injured as a result of shelling of a school sports field in Donetsk city.

UNICEF issued a global public statement calling all parties to the conflict to keep children out of harm’s way. The Organisation for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE) reported several columns of heavy artillery and armour as well as troops without government uniforms in the areas of active fighting.

As of 13 November 2014, the escalation of armed conflict in Eastern Ukraine, which began with civil unrest in November 2013, has resulted in displacement within the country of 460,865 people including 127,991 children according to the State Emergency Service (SES). The fighting continues to impact on the lives of children and their families, and further damage to essential infrastructure, weakening capacity to deliver vital humanitarian needs.

Ukraine’s Cabinet of Ministers has approved a resolution, stipulating that payment of social benefits to the non-governmental controlled areas will be suspended until Ukrainian authorities have regained control. It also envisages that all state institutions will be relocated from those areas and that no state-budget will be allocated to public institutions in non-governmental controlled territories.

The Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) has reported no increase in the number of IDP children (about 70,000) attending school and preschool education facilities in Ukraine. Since the Ministry is unlikely to recognize the school certificates issued by the educational authorities within the non-governmental controlled territories, Ukrainian authorities suggested the alternative solutions, for example, validation of knowledge for getting the performance certificates at the nearest school on the government-controlled territories to ensure children’s right to get their education. UNICEF advocates with the MoES for the safety of these children and implementation of the decision in the best interest of the child.

Due to intensified shelling in Donetsk city, damage to the city infrastructure and disruption of services has been reported. The water supply was cut several times in Kijevskiy and Kuybyshhevskiy districts of Donetsk city. All major damages have been repaired by local authorities. Since 10 November there has been no supply of water and electricity in Avdeevka, Donetsk oblast due to intensified fighting in the area. The local authorities continue the recovery work at the Donetsk filter station that remains without electricity.

Access to drinking water continue to be a priority for people living in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. According to requests received and confirmed by UNICEF monitors, hygiene supplies and disinfection materials are urgently required by groups of most marginalized and vulnerable groups of the population. The full repair of the water supply infrastructure in the two oblasts is still not possible due to shelling. An increasing need for personal hygiene items for IDPs in Kherson, Zaporizhzhya, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, and Odesa regions as well as returnees to Lugansk and Donetsk oblast has been registered.

As UNICEF continues to support the Child Hotline run by LaStrada NGO, the number of calls increases as the crisis deepens in Ukraine. During the last two weeks 2,244 calls were received. Among those 88% were calls from adults and 12% were from children asking about the following:

- 56% are calling regarding social benefits,
- 26% are calling regarding lost documents;
- 9% - day care for children;
- 4% - evacuation of children from zone of active fighting, and
- 4% - on receiving medical treatment.

On 5 November, 609,000 doses of BCG vaccine of Russian origin, quarantined in March 2014, became available with
immediate effect due to a legal amendment. The Ministry of Health authorizes the use of the vaccines starting from the week of November 14 in maternity hospitals, child polyclinics and primary health care centers.

The government finalized tenders for several vaccines, amongst them MMR, HIB, DTap, Pentaxim (DTaP IPV HIB), DtaP, IPV, HIB, rabies etc. The amount of vaccines tendered constitutes for about 50% of the required coverage.

Access to antiretroviral drugs (ART) is hampered due to the known delays in procurement. The current stock of ART is sufficient until December 2014. There are difficulties in delivering ART to the areas of active fighting in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. UNICEF is a part of inter-agency group planning the response to address the situation.

**Interagency Coordination and Partnerships**

An expert mission of UN agencies including UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP, WHO and OCHA visited Donetsk city on 9-12 November to assess capacities of local (potential) implementing partners for the provision of humanitarian aid. The team also visited the humanitarian aid distribution center and a referral emergency hospital. As a result, the mission has mapped the local partners for delivery and distribution of humanitarian assistance in non-governmental controlled areas. Also, the preparations for an initial small-scale humanitarian convoy of relief items were carried out to be undertaken shortly after the mission.

The Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment (RPA) jointly supported by the UN, the World Bank and the EU has started this week. UNICEF is making four senior technical experts available to participate in the first round of the assessment in order to ensure that aspects related to children’s rights in the area of Education, Child Protection, WASH and Peacebuilding are reflected in the outcome of the assessment. The report will be the key document to inform a major Donor Conference on Ukraine due to take place at the end of January 2015 in Kyiv.

The Education and WASH sectors led by UNICEF as well as the Child Protection sub Group have finalized their respective components of the Strategic Response Plan (SRP) including objectives, indicators and funding needs. The SRP launch is planned to take place in Geneva in the beginning of December 2014.

**Summary Programme Response**

**Education**

90 educational kits and 300 school bags covering 900 IDP children were distributed by UNICEF in Odesa, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, Dnipropetrovsk and Luhansk through State Emergency Service and local NGOs.

UNICEF developed a collaboration framework with the Danish Refugee Council (Danish Demining Group) on Mine Risk Education, including assessment of risks and levels of knowledge among children and families in Donbas region; the collaborative framework will be focused on education and community behavior change activities.

**WASH**

60 hygiene kits were distributed by UNICEF through partner NGOs in Slavyansk, Donetsk and Luhansk benefitting at least 120 IDPs, including children with disabilities.

Another five tons of drinking water has been distributed by UNICEF through its corporate and NGO partners to the most vulnerable children of the rehabilitation facility in Luhansk city.

UNICEF cooperates with NGO “Mama 86” for hygiene promotion activities in Kharkiv and Lugansk, including territories controlled by the separatists.

**Child Protection**

After a series of field missions to Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia and Dnipropetrovsk regions, the child protection team secured agreements with two organisations on the development of joint project cooperation agreements. The projects will focus on development of “Community Protection” Centres, where all affected community members can access

Young mother Inna with her children (Sophie, 4 and Andrew, 7) left Donetsk after heavy shelling that damaged houses and killed some of their neighbors. With support of NGO ‘Station Kharkiv’ volunteers and international organizations support, this family found a refuge, got food, warm clothes and blankets. Strong and determined to survive, Inna immediately looked for work and luckily found one at a similar plant she worked for in Donetsk. With her 9-years work experience, she was immediately hired. The state social service provided benefits for the children, Andrew and Sophie were enrolled in a school and kindergarten nearby. For Inna, she only needs support for her initial month while waiting for her first salary. The children are nice, friendly and well brought up. Andrew helps mom with everything. However, his stammering has noticeably increased while Sophie is scared of loud sounds and often hides behind Andrew.
information and services but with a specific focus on providing affected women, adolescents and girls and boys protection and building resilience. The centres will incorporate multiple programmes such as psycho-social support, education, recreational activities and referral to other established government or other community-based programmes. UNICEF develops information package for IDP families on psychosocial support and good parenting practices. UNICEF started partnership with an advertising agency to develop innovative behaviour change activities on helping beneficiaries to find coping mechanisms and strengthen resilience of children and families affected by crisis.

Following the death of children in a school stadium in Donetsk, UNICEF in New York, Geneva and Kyiv issued a public statement followed by the press release on the protection of children during the armed conflict in Eastern Ukraine.

Health

As per UNICEF request, the government is currently going through the process of authorizing 130 UNICEF basic emergency health kits and 90 midwifery kits as humanitarian aid designated for Donetsk, Luhans, Zaporizhzia, Dnipropetrovsk and Kharkiv oblasts. Once delivered, the emergency health kits will support health care services outreaching 130,000 IDPs and returnees. 4500 normal deliveries will be covered by midwifery kits.

To raise IDPs awareness about the importance of breastfeeding in emergencies, UNICEF is distributing 6000 information leaflets in IDP accommodation centres and health care facilities in Kharkiv, Donetsk, Luhans, Odesa, Zaporizhzia, Kherson, Dnipropetrovsk.

Funding Situation:

UNICEF crisis response in Ukraine is currently only 33% funded ¹. UNICEF is grateful for the contributions to date, and is appealing for additional urgently required funds to enable an effective scaled-up response to the plight of Ukrainian children and their families who are caught up in the conflict.

<table>
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<th>Funding Status</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Child Protection</th>
<th>Health &amp; Nutrition</th>
<th>WASH</th>
<th>Field support &amp; Coordination</th>
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¹ The funding received against UNICEF HAC figures