Highlights

Due to the deteriorating situation in the east and worsening weather conditions, the number of people registering as internally displaced people (IDPs) is rapidly increasing. On 26 November, the State Emergency Service (SES) has reported the number of registered IDPs at 5,800 in one day.

- The UN technical mission to Donetsk from 10 to 12 November, which UNICEF participated in revealed an urgent need for drinking water and hygiene supplies, including for children living with their families in basements and bunkers in the areas of active fighting.

- According to the Department of Education of Donetsk oblast, out of 237 damaged educational institutions, including kindergartens, 50 were restored while 187 still require repairs.

- UNICEF-supported training for 100 school psychologists and social workers began in eastern Ukraine to provide psychosocial assistance to children affected by the current conflict.

- The long-awaited IDP law was signed by the President and has come into effect, which makes provisions for the social support and protection of registered IDPs.

28 November 2014

130,110
# of children internally displaced

490,046
# of people internally displaced

(State Emergency Service, 26 November 2014)
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Fighting in the conflict-affected areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts is reportedly at its worst since the ceasefire agreement was signed in early September 2014. UNICEF and the humanitarian community receive daily reports of ceasefire violations and indiscriminate shelling. Due to the deteriorating situation in the east and worsening weather conditions, the number of people registering as IDPs is rapidly increasing. In the last month, number of citizens registering as IDPs has been 500 per day as an average. As of 26 November, the State Emergency Service (SES) reported a rapid growth of the number of registered displaced persons. On 26 November, 5,800 IDPs were registered just in one day.

The long-awaited IDP law was signed by the President and has come into effect, making provisions for the social support and protection of registered IDPs. A new regulation was also approved by the Cabinet of Ministers that terminates funding for public services in non-government controlled areas, and provides for the transfer of state-run institutions and social payments from the regions not currently under government control to government-controlled areas. UNICEF is concerned about the access to healthcare, education and other services for most marginalized children, including those in institutions, abandoned children, and children in correctional facilities. UNICEF is developing with partners a monitoring process that would review the protection needs of girls and boys in institutions within the conflict zone.

According to the Department of Education of Donetsk oblast:
- Only 50 damaged educational institutions out of a total 237, including kindergartens, have been repaired.
- Many of them remain open despite damages.
- Only 147 out of 1,123 secondary schools operate in affected areas.
- In Luhansk city, seven schools never opened in the new academic year, while many started operations only in October.

At least 800 children remain in state care (includes residential care, foster/group homes and pre-trial detention facilities) in non-government controlled areas in Donetsk and Luhansk oblast requiring provision of minimum standards of care and support.

The water supply is not reliable in some parts of Donetsk and Luhansk oblast. There are issues with the water quality in specific areas where the water supply has been recently restored. A UNICEF field trip to Kharkiv confirmed the urgent need for hygiene supplies among IDP children and families. The UN technical mission to Donetsk from 10-12 November, which UNICEF participated in, also revealed an urgent need for drinking water and hygiene supplies for people and children living in basements and bunkers in the areas of active fighting.

UNICEF Ukraine is planning to procure winter clothes for 1,000 children in the city of Donetsk and adjacent territories, who are living in bomb shelters and cellars. The winter clothes set will include a winter jacket (parka), warm winter trousers, wool hat and scarf, a pair of wool gloves/mittens, and two pairs of wool socks.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

The Child Protection Working Group, led by UNICEF, is formalizing the coordination mechanisms in Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia, involving key partners working in child protection on the ground. UNICEF has recently created a gender-based violence working group setting up an inter-agency monitoring response mechanism to address reports of increased cases of violence.

The Strategic Response Plan for Ukraine has been finalized. It will be launched on 8 December. The humanitarian community estimates that 1.4 million people are in need of humanitarian aid and will target 900,000 of the most vulnerable people in the five most affected regions of Ukraine in 2015.

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1 According to latest data from the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine, there were approximately 36 children detained in four pre-trial detention facilities in Donetsk, Artemivsk, Luhansk, and Starobilsk, of which three are in the conflict zone.
Summary Analysis of Programme response

Education
In the last two weeks, UNICEF has distributed 30 educational kits and 300 school bags benefitting over 300 children in Illovajsk, Makeyvka, Snezhnoye and Mariupol through State Emergency Service and local NGOs on the ground. UNICEF has completed tenders for the procurement of early childhood development kits covering up to 10,000 children.

WASH
In the past two weeks UNICEF has distributed 230 adult hygiene kits and 74 baby hygiene kits covering the needs for over 600 children and their caregivers. UNICEF is in the process of procuring six water-purifying units, which will provide clean drinking water for 30,000 adults and children in the west of Donetsk oblast in the areas controlled by the government. Following the request by SES and the Ministry of Health, UNICEF is procuring one water quality monitoring unit and 600 bottles of disinfectant.

Child Protection
UNICEF is developing an agreement for child centred mine-risk education with the Danish Refugee Council – Danish Demining Group. The intervention includes three complementary components: public outreach through mass media and new technology, school-based and community-based MRE. From 24 to 28 November, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Kyiv Mohyla Academy, UNICEF provided an initial three days of training for 100 school psychologists and social workers in Sloviansk, Severdonetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Berdiansk and Kharkiv.

The ‘Child Hotline’, supported by UNICEF, received 2,340 calls in the last two weeks, which is an increase of 104 calls from the previous two weeks. The callers who identified themselves as IDPs are mostly concerned about social benefits, reinstatement of legal documents, provision of day-care for children, and evacuation of children from the zone of active fighting.

UNICEF is also working with civil society and local administration to establish community protection centres, which establish community-based, family-centred protective environments where girls, boys and caregivers affected by conflict have access to information and services that provide protection and build resilience. Identification and response to cases of GBV is a key component in the centres’ activities. UNICEF is in negotiation to begin a project with a local NGO based in Donetsk to assist children that have spent a protracted period of time living in civil protection bunkers due to ongoing shelling. The project will entail psychosocial assistance and the distribution of warm winter clothes and hygiene supplies.

Funding and Planning
The UNICEF crisis response in Ukraine is currently only 42% funded. UNICEF is grateful for the contributions to date, and is appealing for additional funds which are urgently required to enable an effective, scaled-up response to the needs of Ukrainian children and their families who are caught up in the conflict.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<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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<tbody>
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<td>In US Dollars</td>
<td>Required</td>
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<td>912,714</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

100 schools psychologists and social workers have started training in the east of Ukraine to provide psychosocial support to children affected by the conflict. [Credit: UNICEF]

Next SitRep: 12/12/2014


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