UKRAINE
Situation report No.39 as of 8 May 2015

This report is produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period of 2 - 8 May 2015, unless otherwise noted. The next report will be published when the situation necessitates it. Alternative products, including weekly updates and other reports, will be issued on a regular basis.

Highlights

- Increased fighting in and around Donetsk airport, and near Shyrokyne, 20km east of Mariupol, have been reported. This poses a significant threat to civilians and increases suffering of people in the vicinity of these locations.
- Unexploded ordnances (UXOs) and landmines in conflict-affected area are a major risk for civilians in both government and non-government controlled areas.
- The Government authorities in Luhansa oblast issued a local order affecting civilian movements across the line of contact and their access to some basic services.
- Funding for humanitarian operations remains low: only 25 percent of US$316 required for Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2015 is funded or pledged.

1.2 million registered IDPs
Source: Ministry of Social Policy (MoSP)

Situation Overview

During the reporting period, sporadic fighting and artillery shelling continued in a number of locations along the line of contact between Ukrainian armed forces and armed groups, posing a significant threat to civilians and increasing suffering of people in the vicinity of those locations. The Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) continued to observe ceasefire violations in and around Donetsk airport, and near Shyrokyne (20km east of Mariupol). Between mid-April 2014 and 8 May 2015, at least 6,254 people had been documented as killed and 15,696 as wounded in the conflict zone of eastern Ukraine. This includes 176 children who were killed and 68 children wounded.  

The Government of Ukraine is facing challenges in terms of accurately registering internally displaced persons (IDPs). There has been no change in the number of IDPs registered over the past week, with the total figure across Ukraine remaining 1,255,700. Accurate registration is essential to provide IDPs with access to social assistance and other forms of aid. UNHCR is working with MoSP to improve the IDP database. Meanwhile, the number of Ukrainian nationals who have fled to neighbouring countries is increasing. According to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), by 7 May close to 834,284 Ukrainians had sought asylum, residence permits or other forms of legal stay in neighbouring countries – an increase of about 33,000 people compared to the previous

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1 The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Internal Displacement data was provided by the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine as of 6 April 2015.

2 This is a conservative estimate of the UN Human Rights Mission in Ukraine (HRMU) and the World Health Organization based on available official data: casualties of the Ukrainian armed forces as reported by the Ukrainian authorities; 298 people from flight MH-17; and casualties reported by medical establishments of Donetsk and Luhansa Oblasts: civilians and some members of the armed groups. The HRMU and WHO believe that the actual numbers of fatalities are considerably higher.
week. This includes 688,611 individuals in Russia, 81,065 individuals in Belarus and another 51,382 individuals in Poland. The number of Ukrainian nationals who had sought asylum, residence permits or other forms of legal stay in Russia increased by about 10,000 people compared to the previous week. The number of Ukrainians applying for international protection in the European Union increased from about 9,000 people by the end of October 2014 (according to UNHCR) to over 13,000 by the end of April 2015. As of 30 April, since the beginning of the crisis there were 3,648 applications for international protection in Germany, 3,270 in Poland, 2,647 in Italy, 1,637 in Sweden, 1,625 in France, 200 in Moldova, 50 in Romania, 50 in Hungary and 20 in Slovakia, according to government sources in receiving countries.

UXOs and landmines in conflict-affected area are posing a major risk for civilians, according to humanitarian organisations on the ground. In non-government controlled areas in Luhansa oblast, three children were reportedly killed and another child injured by UXOs during the past month. There are also reports of adults who have been injured by landmines, however, no exact figures are available. According to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), by the end of March 2015, at least 109 children were reported to have been injured and 42 killed by landmines and UXOs in the Donetska and Luhansa oblasts. The State Emergency Service (SES) of Ukraine says that by 26 April, 34,644 pieces of UXOs (including 5,511 artillery shells, 2,885 mortar shells, 3,404 grenades and landmines) have been removed since July 2014 on the territories of Donetska and Luhansa oblasts controlled by the government. Demining of about 7,000 square km containing approximately 75,000 shells and other UXO pieces is still pending. The extent of the problem in non-government controlled areas is not clear. At its most recent meeting, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) decided to establish the mine action sub-cluster under the protection cluster. The United Nations Development Programme and the Danish Demining Group (DDG) will co-chair the sub-cluster, while UNICEF will continue with its coordinating role in terms of Mine Risk Education (MRE).

Freedom of movement for civilians between government and non-government controlled areas remains an issue across the entire contact line, and it is likely to further worsen in Luhansa oblast, where the Governor has issued an order forbidding the passage (with the exception of pedestrians and vehicles of the international humanitarian organisations) of the vehicles, goods and cargos across entry/exit check point “Lysychansk-Hirske-Zolote-Pervomaysk” starting from 13 May 2015 ‘until the movement across the conflict line is regulated legally by the Parliament and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine’. Another order issued by the Governor of Luhansa oblast states that the movement of Ukrainian citizens across the contact line is made exclusively based on the passport of the citizen of Ukraine. The order instructs Government security forces to seize and transfer to the Department of the State Migration Service of Ukraine in Luhansa oblast ‘personal identification documents’ issued by non-state actors in areas beyond government control. These restrictions on civilian movements across the contact line have a significant impact on civilians in the area and their ability to access health services. For instance, all medical personnel of the local hospital in non-government controlled Slaviansoserbsk, 28km north-west of Luhansk, live on the government-controlled side and cannot cross the bridge on the contact line to go to work.

The initial draft concept of the new law on humanitarian assistance in Ukraine is being elaborated by the Working Group of the Parliamentary Committee, with considerable advisory support from humanitarian community. The draft concept of the law will be circulated next week to the Government agencies involved in the process for comments and feedback. After the consolidation of all those inputs, the drafting of the main body/text of the new law will proceed. It is expected that the draft law will be submitted to the Parliament towards the end of June. The new law is set to underline the primary responsibility and role of the Government in terms of meeting humanitarian needs, be in line with international humanitarian law and principles, facilitate access to people in need, facilitate the delivery of relief aid and remove all bureaucratic obstacles and impediments. The law will also stipulate the creation a one-stop Government entity to coordinate all aspects of aid delivery, access, taxation, etc. The Working Group has also been provided with a set of documents, best international practices, draft laws in line with international humanitarian law and standards.

The de-facto authorities in non-government controlled areas have also been provided with the same package of documents. This has become even more important after the de-facto authorities in Donetsk posted on their website a ‘draft law on humanitarian assistance’ which is not in line with international humanitarian law and - if approved - would seriously affect the ability of organisations to deliver aid. This is also aimed at addressing issues and concerns around the severe incident affecting operation of NGOs that has occurred in the last weeks in the non-government controlled areas of Donetsk, where the de-facto security services of the self-proclaimed “Donetsk People's Republic (DPR)” raided the offices of two international NGOs. The operation was not preceded by any warning or interaction with the international organisation of possible wrongdoing.

**Funding**

Following the launch of the revised HRP 2015 for Ukraine on 25 February, which appeals to the generosity of the international community to fund life-saving activities targeting 3.2 million people across Ukraine, as of 8 May
donors funded or pledged around US$79 million, or 25 percent of the $316 million required for 2015. This includes about $48 million (15 per cent) that has been disbursed by donors, while another $31 million has been pledged (10 per cent), but not yet disbursed.

Low level of funding coupled with a lack of implementing partners on the ground prevents many cluster partners from expanding their activities to meet the needs of thousands of people.

OCHA records all humanitarian contributions through its Financial Tracking Service (FTS). Please register your contributions by emailing fts@un.org or through the online contribution form at fts.unocha.org.

Humanitarian Response

Livelihoods and Early Recovery (cluster coordinator: Initia Paulovica, Initia.Paulovica@undp.org)

Needs:
- Livelihoods needs are reported in many districts of Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts, in particular Selidovo, Dobropilka, Lysychans and others. Labour opportunities continue to worsen in Ukraine as a whole largely due to difficult economic situation.

Response:
- By 6 May, about 1,300 IDPs have undergone self-employment training in different parts of the country. Two NGOs were selected to conduct 15 self-employment trainings in return areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Trainings will start in early May. Consultations on employment and re-registration were provided to 52 IDPs. Some 43 IDPs were provided with micro-enterprise development grants on a competitive basis to jump start micro businesses in Dnipropetrovsk, Lviska and Ternopilska oblasts. Business plan approval sessions for micro-granting were held in Odessa, Lviska and Kharkivska oblasts.
- IDPs participating in the International Organization for Migration (IOM) micro enterprise/self-employment development programme report difficulties in employment opportunities in places of resettlement. Issues reported include lack of job vacancies, unsustainability for a profession, irregular employment without any social benefits, low salaries, delays in payments and discrimination. Another challenge for IDPs is developing a viable business plan that would be competitive in the local market of the area of resettlement.
- Preparatory work to rehabilitate 33 social service facilities in Donetsk and Luhanska regions continues.

Gaps & Constraints:
- Lack of information on population movements and reliable data on IDPs is one of main obstacles for efficient targeting and programming.

Education (cluster co-coordinators: Rekha Das, redas@unicef.org; Tyler Arnot, T.Arnot@savethechildren.org.uk)
Needs:

- A mission to non-government controlled areas in Luhanska oblast sheds some light on current education needs indicating that some 77,000 children are enrolled in school and another 25,000 children enrolled in kindergartens. Reconstruction assistance is urgently needed as approximately 60 per cent of schools in the non-government controlled areas of Luhanska oblast have been damaged. Five schools in Luhansk city have been destroyed. The majority of schools are currently functioning, but reportedly some 35 per cent of the teachers have left non-government controlled areas of Luhanska oblast, which resulted in a strain on the system. The payment of salaries for teachers has been delayed for several months. They are supposed to receive the November 2014 salary and a portion of their January 2015 salary in the next few days. Partners report that boarding schools hosting orphans are in urgent needed of assistance.

- The de-facto authorities in Donetsk announced the schedule of final examination for graduates, which will take place for grade 9 of primary school from 3 to 11 June. Grade 11 (secondary school) final examinations will take place from 2 to 10 June.

Response:

- Children in non-government controlled areas have been offered distance learning, which involves teachers giving a weekly curriculum, and visiting students each week to verify their work and give them next week’s assignments.

- A system of school meals has been established in non-government controlled areas, this includes cereals and canned meat.

- Kharkiv Department of Education will offer enrolled children, including IDP children, the traditional three weeks summer camp in June. The Department of Education cannot include children who are out of school in these camps. Volunteer organisations, such as Human Home and Ukrainian Frontier in Kharkiv, are also planning to organise summer camps and aim to include IDP children out of school and possibly establish catch-up classes on some subjects in the camps.

- During the last two weeks of April, the Ukrainian Disabled People Association has distributed 52 early childhood development (ECD) kits to 495 IDP children with special needs in Vinnytska, Chernivetska, Zhytomyrska, Donetsksa and Luhanska oblasts.

Gaps & Constraints:

- To get more accurate information about movement and return plans of IDPs will help organisations on both sides of the contact line to prepare their programmes. Anecdotal information indicates that many IDP families have returned or plan to return to their area of origin during the upcoming summer holidays. They reportedly plan to enroll their children to school in their areas of origin.

- Few education cluster partners are prepared for a potential escalation of the conflict and new waves of IDPs. Most partners have depleted their stocks and have neither procured nor planned warehousing for education materials or school supplies. As the summer holidays are approaching, some partners do not see the need. This is a challenge for the education cluster, should the response increase rapidly.

Emergency Shelter and NFI (cluster coordinator: Igor Chantefor, chantefo@unhcr.org)

Needs:

- Bedding items (blankets, bed linen and towel) are continuously reported as needs both in government-controlled areas and beyond government control.

- There is a need for candles and flashlights as well as plastic sheeting and other emergency shelter materials in areas under shelling along the line of contact.

Response:

- The Shelter/NFI Cluster continues regular updates of partners’ warehouses and stock for contingency purposes. So far, there are 23 warehouses recorded and updated. To provide an update, please visit this link (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Hd0L6u3iD9dEdiUH5nMIW2KgLizWkjkAjaM12wGtbY/viewform).

- The 3W mapping has shown that there is no partner covering Rivenska oblast (western Ukraine) and there are seven oblasts in Zone 4 (Chernihivska, Chernivetska, Khmelnytska, Kirovohradska, Mykolaivska, Ternopilska and Volynska) where only one cluster partner operates. Zone 4 is an area with relatively limited influx of displaced people. Detailed district analysis will be finalised next week.

- During the reporting period some 1,300 individuals in government-controlled areas have received NFI assistance (including Zolote village in Luhanska oblast located on the line of contact).

- The international NGO People in Need (PIN) has distributed shelter materials to 22 individual houses in government controlled areas in northern parts of Donetsksa oblast.
• Luhansk Red Cross has distributed 4,000 blankets, 1,750 jackets and emergency shelter material (plastic sheeting and tarpaulins) provided by UNHCR to 4,000 beneficiaries in Luhansk city and the nearby villages of Krasnodon, Novosvitlivka, Khryashchuvat, Lutuhyne, Alchevsk in non-government controlled areas.

Gaps & Constraints:
• Civilians in remote villages, especially in non-government controlled areas, where access hinders response, and in areas along the conflict line, are lacking humanitarian assistance.

Food Security (cluster coordinator: Giancarlo Stopponi, giancarlo.stopponi@wfp.org)

Needs:
• Following the findings of the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) conducted by Ukraine NGO Forum together with the Assessment Capacities Project (ACAPS), about 670,000 individuals are in need for food support, with nearly 90 percent of those in need located in non-government controlled areas. The World Food Programme (WFP) found out during its field mission that there is an additional vulnerable group of middle-aged people (between the ages of 40-55) which is not covered by rapid assessment process (RAP).
• The international NGO Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA) reports that the following districts in Kharkivska oblast need urgent food assistance: Izyumskyi (more than 26,000 IDPs), Barvinkivskyi (around 5,500 IDPs), Balakliivskyi (more than 9,000 IDPs). Government cash aid has been cut off to most of IDPs in these areas.

Response:
• By 24 April 2015, 62,572 people had received food parcels and 32,428 people had received food vouchers. PIN is distributing food vouchers for 500 people in Velikonovoselka, Donetsk oblast covering the needs of 167 families. In addition, 2,855 persons will receive food rations throughout this week.
• WFP is preparing a scale up of its activities to reach more beneficiaries in non-government controlled areas through to December 2015.
• HIA distributed a new batch of food aid for IDP families with children. This includes 64 food parcels and 76 baby food parcels to 56 IDP families in Lvivska oblast; 104 food parcels and 13 baby food parcels to 102 IDP families in Zakarpatska oblast.
• PIN distributed 1,000 food rations in Chernukhina, and another 2,000 food rations in Kirovsk, Stakhanov and Brianka.

Gaps & Constraints:
• As of the beginning of May, WFP operations in Ukraine have a shortfall of US$5 million through June 2015, which is 23.3 per cent of gross needs.
• HIA is reporting that in different oblasts it is a challenge to obtain lists of IDP families in need. Local social services offices are reluctant to provide such information on the basis of breaking the law on personal data protection.

Health & Nutrition (cluster lead: Dr. Dorit Nitzan, DON@euro.who.int; Patricia Kormoss, kpij@euro.who.int)

Needs:
• Needs assessments have been carried out at the Novopskovsk District Hospital and Novopskovsk Primary Health Care Center. The health facilities experience a substantial increase in demand for health care services (especially the maternity department) because of the major influx of IDPs, followed by the lack of access to the facilities due to petrol shortage and long distances between the settlements. The preliminary results highlighted the need for specialist health care services (i.e. neurologists, functional diagnostics and infectious diseases), as well as Emergency Health Kits and diagnostic equipment for the out-patient clinics.
• Needs assessment at the Sievieronodonetsk Outpatient Clinic serving IDPs and local population (Starobelsk district), indicated that the facility requires: lab reagents, rapid tests (i.e. for determination of protein and sugar, hemoglobin etc.), Emergency Health Kits, disinfectants and medical equipment (i.e. quarts lamps, tonometer and glucometer).
• Health care facilities in non-government controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts need medicines and medical supplies, especially I/V fluids, laboratory reagents, insulin and oral antidiabetic, cytostatic drugs, and drugs for cardiovascular disease (CVD) conditions, while local pharmacies offer very limited range of medicines.
• Key informant interviews conducted in Luhanska oblast confirmed results from rapid infant and young child feeding (IYCF) assessments in other oblasts showing that IYCF practices significantly deteriorated due to the crisis. They also highlighted the issue of increased rates of anaemia in pregnant women and children among IDPs and in population living in non-government controlled areas.

• There is a growing demand for the services of mental health professionals, especially in the non-government controlled areas. Mental health and psychosocial support services are needed already at primary care level while they are currently available mainly at facilities of secondary and tertiary levels. Services aiming to improve coping with stress, anxiety and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) are set by partner organisations as priority in the five eastern oblasts, particularly in the non-government controlled areas.

• The need for hygiene supplies and medication for Roma IDPs in the Nerubayskoe IDPs settlement has been reported.

• An assessment of needs related to PMTCT (Prevention of HIV transmission from Mother to Child) in Luhansk and Donetsk is ongoing.

Response:

• Between 22 and 28 April, a mission from the World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters had visited Ukraine to support the improvement of routine immunisation and to identify the best strategy for the most effective utilisation of expected inactivated and oral polio vaccines (IPV and OPV). Strong technical assistance and guidance will be provided to the government to ensure the proper usage of multi-dose IPV and OPV, including training plan for health care professionals and communication strategy, with focus on high risk groups such as Roma IDP and IDPs in general.

• Two new MEPUs (Mobile emergency primary health care unit) were launched by the Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS) in Melitopol (Zaporizka oblast) and in Poltava city (Poltavska oblast). In total, 15 MEPUs are operational in the eastern oblasts of Ukraine. Over the reporting period, the MEPU teams provided 1,647 consultations to IDPs and resident population. Since the beginning of MEPUs work, the teams conducted 23,421 consultations.

• Nutrition sub-cluster is working with the Ministry of Health to set up a surveillance system for anaemia prevalence in five oblasts (i.e. Kharkivska, Zaporizka, Dnipropetrovska, Donetskas and Luhanska oblasts).

• Nutrition sub-cluster is finalising key communication messages on IYCF based on the priority issues identified during the focus group discussions and key informant interviews in Kharkivska, Donetskas and Luhanska oblasts. Potential partners for the delivery of complementary food baskets and IYCF counselling were identified.

• A common Implementation Plan for HIV/TB/OST activities in the non-government controlled areas of Donetskas and Luhanska oblasts is drafted by cluster partner organizations and other stakeholders, in order to implement sustainable and sound solutions for HIV/TB/OST problems in the non-government controlled areas.

Gaps & Constraints:

• Lack of funding remains the main challenge hampering the efforts of cluster partners to meet growing nutritional needs of infants and young children and other vulnerable groups. Limited expertise in the country on nutrition in emergencies further impacts scaling up of nutrition programmes.

• In the field of HIV/TB/OST, the major challenges remaining are: advocacy and fundraising to address the humanitarian needs in terms of MDR-TB and HIV in NGCA and GCA; considerations related to the revision of the quotes GFATM (The Global Fund to Fight AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria) in order to cover non-government controlled areas; solution for the provision of opioid substitution treatment (OST) in the non-government controlled areas.

• The vaccination calendar in non-government controlled areas in Donetsk oblast will be slightly modified by the de-facto local health authorities. However, additional information is needed in order to verify whether the new vaccination calendar will conform to international standards.

**Protection** (cluster co-coordinators: Christine Goyer, goyer@unhcr.org; Claire Whelan, whelan1@un.org) – see also overview

**Needs:**

• The Responsibility to Protection (R2P) reports of concerns related to documents of newly born children who remain in the non-government controlled areas as well as those who moved to the government-controlled areas. ‘Birth certificates’ issued in Luhansk and Alchevsk (non-government controlled areas) are considered invalid, because the information about the newly born is not added to the national database of newly born children.
• Protection Cluster actors visited two facilities for elderly persons in Luhansk city that has about 400 patients. The staff at the facilities reported increased death rates and attributed this to stress and malnutrition as nutrition has worsened dramatically since the start of the conflict. Elderly persons is a vulnerable group and their needs and general situation remains a protection concern, including nutrition, access to information and ability to apply for passes needed to cross the contact line.

• The State Security Service of Ukraine established a working group with participation of NGOs on the pass system introduced by the Temporary Order on 21 January and several protection actors attended. The need for advocacy continues on this matter as the system significantly limits the freedom of movement of civilians across the contact line, isolates residents in non-government controlled areas, generates corruption and impedes access to aid.

• According to protection cluster partners, many families have been separated during hostilities and now, they cannot get united because of the pass system. There are cases when relatives cannot apply for a child’s permit because papers were lost, or house was burnt with all the documents lost. Many families are separated in Debaltseve as parents sent their children away during the hostilities.

• Registration of IDPs continues to prove challenging. Protection Cluster actor R2P reports of long lines to get registered at the State Migration Service in South Donetsk, North Donetsk, and in Zaporizhzhia. It is reported that the process of verification differs between regions and within districts.

• Although gradually there is a better overview of accidents related to mines and UXOs in government-controlled areas, the overview of accidents is much more limited in non-government controlled areas. In non-government controlled areas of Luhanska and Donetsk oblasts, there are reports of urgent need for Mine Risk Education (MRE).

Response:

• Following an intervention by R2P, the Departments of Social Protection of the Kharkivska oblast extended certificates automatically for all IDPs in the city of Kharkiv. R2P also provided legal counselling to 42 IDPs on the procedure of getting special permits, assisted to five IDPs in preparation of requests to the local authorities and provided consultations to 37 IDPs on the procedure and necessity of getting registered with the State Migration Service.

• In Dzerzhynsk, Donetsk oblast, Roma Fund Chirici reported incidents of Roma’s limited access to bomb shelters because non-Roma population objects to Roma’s presence in the shelters.

• In response to urgent MRE needs in non-government controlled areas of Luhanska oblast, UNICEF delivered 3,000 MRE posters and 2,000 MRE leaflets for distribution in schools.

Gaps & Constraints

• A continued protection concern and response gap are the so-called ‘grey areas’ – territories near the contact line with limited access for humanitarian partners, while some of those areas also continues to be under shelling.

• Psychosocial support is available from several partners to IDPs, however, protection actor KrymSOS reports that in their experience many IDPs do not wish to visit psychologists or join psychosocial groups, stating that it is too difficult to talk about what they have experienced.

• On 28 April, Luhansk regional Military-Civil Administration further limited the movement of transport to the non-government controlled territories of the region. Since 1 May, only passenger vehicles and pedestrians are allowed to pass through the check points. The movement of buses and cargo was stopped. The exceptions were made for humanitarian aid and specialised transport, including medical and that of companies restoring infrastructure and utilities. The measure may further limit the freedom of movement for the civilians and protection actors report this to be causing serious concerns among IDPs, especially given the degree of ties that remain between IDPs and their places of origin (family, property, etc.).

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (cluster lead: Silvia Ramos, washcluster.ukraine@gmail.com)

Needs:

• A total of 28,714 people have limited access to safe water in the following locations in the non-government controlled areas that have been assessed: Ilvaisk, Novoazovsk, Snizhne, Zalische, Gornatskyi, Severnoe, Olenovka (Donetsk oblast), and Bryanka, Pervomaisk, Kirovsk (Luhanska oblast). De-facto authorities in these locations have limited capacity to conduct repairs or to provide drinking water by water trucking.

• Water distribution company Voda Donbassa requested financial assistance to repair the Siverskiy Donets Canal, which has been damaged during recent fighting. The canal supplies water to Donetsk city and
other areas. The demand for water treatment chemicals from various water treatment utilities operating in non-government controlled areas continues.

- Needs for hygiene items for a total of 1,000 vulnerable children and over 1,300 adults living in specialized social institutions have been identified through assessments conducted in 18 locations, including Amvrosiivka, Horlivka, Illovaisk, Snizhne, Telmanovskyi, Torez, Kharbizk, and Yasinuvata.
- Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) pre-conflict surveys conducted in Donetsk, Luhansk and Kharkiv showed the hygiene awareness in those areas was very high, while a lack of access to hygiene items and reduced water access do not allow population to continue with their habitual hygiene practices. This poses a new risk to the already vulnerable population.
- Limited water access and generalised lack of domestic and personal hygiene items have been reported in 21 collective centers in Kharkiv, affecting 1,500 IDPs. The basic needs of IDPs remain sanitary and hygiene items, including diapers for children.

Response:

- Preparations for the comprehensive water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) assessment in the Donbass region is ongoing in order to define benchmarks and baseline, which will support assessments initiative carried out by partners.
- Comprehensive WASH secondary data review ongoing, this data is needed as it has been difficult to distinguish between pre-crisis WASH services and affected community due to the current crisis.
- A technical working group has been established to define effective approaches and key messages to promote hygiene in culturally appropriate way and to develop common, key messages and promotional materials.
- Distribution of hygiene kits targeting the most vulnerable people, including those assisted in centres for people with special needs (elderly and people with disabilities), and those in neuropsychiatric institutions have been reported in Luhanska oblast, reaching Popasna (2,108 people), Sievierodonetsk (238) and Stanychno-Luhansky (1,377). Monthly needs of diapers have been covered for 725 children in Stakhanov, Luhansa oblast.
- Water monitoring visits aiming to assess the quality of water and mitigating the risk of the spread of water-borne diseases, have been conducted since the past week in Sloyvansky, Dobropillia, Chervonoarmiissk, Oleksandrivka and Kostiantynivka. So far, 126 bacteriological and physical analysis tests from centralised water sources used by IDPs were conducted. Eight samples out of the 126 did not meet standards and immediate actions have been taken to ensure access to safe water.
- As of 29 April, centralized water supply has been restored in Vuhledar and Kurakhove cities, Donetsk oblast. There is no centralized water supply in Marinka city, water is provided through the water hydrant, which receives water from Donetsk city.
- In the framework of Hygiene Awareness Campaign, specific activities on correct hygiene practices adapted to IDP children have been conducted, benefiting 300 people in IDP centres and collective shelters in Kyiv.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Difficulties to access the contact zone to repair water infrastructure damaged by fighting.
- Insufficient number of cluster partners on the ground to respond.

Logistics (cluster lead: Matthew Serventy, matthew.serventy@wfp.org)

Response:

- Two trucks carrying UNHCR humanitarian cargo were on route to Donetsk through Kurakhove check-point carrying approximately 25 metric tonnes of humanitarian items.
- The Logistics Cluster has improved contact with the Ministry of Social Policy. The Ministry has further clarified the list and content of documents to be submitted in order to recognise a cargo as humanitarian.
- A Snapshot for Service Request Form (SRF) Instructions and Calculations has been translated into Ukrainian and is available on the Logistics Cluster web-site http://logcluster.org/document/snapshot-srf-instructions-and-calculations-ukrainian-21-april-2015. Translation of other Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) into Ukrainian and Russian will follow.

Coordination

- Humanitarian Response website (http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/ukraine) aims to strengthen information sharing among the humanitarian community in Ukraine and beyond. It is easy to
Background on the crisis

In April 2014, armed groups in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine (Donetsk and Luhansk) began to seize buildings and arms. As a result of ongoing fighting between armed groups and government forces, and events in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (ARC) in March 2014, people fled their homes and have become increasingly vulnerable as the conflict spread. Those in parts of Donbas affected by fighting, face imminent security threats due to military activities by all parties to the conflict that are increasingly concentrated in densely populated urban areas. Provision of basic services has been disrupted, supplies are increasingly limited, and an upsurge in lawlessness has occurred. Ongoing daily ceasefire violations continue to be reported, despite the 5 September Ceasefire and 19 September nine-point Memorandum agreed in Minsk. Indiscriminate shelling and continued insecurity are placing conflict-affected people and humanitarian actors at risk. An 11 February Minsk II Agreement resulted in general adherence to ceasefire. However, tensions and hostilities remain and pose continued security risks both to local population and humanitarian actors on the ground.

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