

# Ukraine

## Consolidated Emergency Report 2018



Distribution of Hygiene kits in XXXX in August 2018  
(©UNICEF/Ukraine 2018)

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## **B. ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ART	Antiretroviral therapy
ARV	Antiretroviral (drugs)
C4D	Communication for Development
CPCs	Child Protection Centres
CPWG	Child Protection Working Group
FO	Field Office
GCA	Government-controlled Areas
GF	Global Fund
GoU	Government of Ukraine
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War
HAC	Humanitarian Action for Children
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
INGO	International Non-governmental Organization
IYCF	Infant and Young Children Feeding
KAPB	Knowledge, Attitude, Practices and Behaviour (survey)
MoES	Ministry of Education and Science
MoH	Ministry of Health
MRE	Mine Risk Education
NGCAs	Non-Government Controlled Area
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
OCHA	United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PSS	Psychosocial Support
PUC	Public Utility Company
TB	Tuberculosis
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance

## C. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2018, the human toll of the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine remained critical, with 4.4 million people affected by the crisis, of whom 3.4 million required humanitarian assistance and protection<sup>1</sup> due to widespread mine contamination, escalating psychological trauma and the degrading impact of the lack of access to basic services. The population mostly affected by the crisis lives on both sides of the so called 'contact line', dividing government (GCA) and non-government controlled areas (NGCA). According to recent estimates (2019 HNO)<sup>2</sup>, 500,000 children in need of humanitarian assistance live in the 20-kilometre zone on both sides of the contact line and NGCAs, growing up amidst shelling and distress.

The conflict in eastern Ukraine (in Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts) continues to place relentless pressure on critical civilian structures and services in and near conflict-affected areas. The hostilities have also damaged and destroyed homes, hospitals, schools, roads, water supply systems and other civilian infrastructure, disrupting or cutting off people's access to these critical services.

In eastern Ukraine, the operational environment remained complex throughout 2018. The contact line and the *de facto* barrier created between GCA and NGCA not only minimized the economic exchange among the territories but also hindered freedom of movement of families and children. Breaches of the ceasefire agreement occurred on a daily basis along the contact line, limiting the access and putting at further risk of death, physical and psychological children and their families.

In 2017 and 2018 alone, civilian casualties resulting from land mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERWs) accounted for 350 out of 864 casualties or 40 per cent. Mine-related incidents and handling of ERWs accounted for 65 per cent of child casualties in 2017 and 2018. Freezing temperatures during Ukraine's harsh winter further exacerbated the humanitarian situation, along with restrictions on and unpredictability of humanitarian access as well as diminishing or limited livelihood opportunities.

In 2018, UNICEF and its implementing partners reached vulnerable **children and caregivers, in particular those residing within the 20 km zone of the contact line, with health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), protection and education services**, as follows:

- UNICEF improved access to **health services for 32,154 people**. To improve the quality of maternal health services for an estimated 20,000 pregnant women and newborn children, a total of 861 midwifery kits were distributed to health facilities in Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts and e-vouchers for medicines were distributed to 1,612 beneficiaries. In addition, UNICEF built the capacity of 240 caregivers and health workers on immunization and strengthened the cold chain systems through provision of fridges, cold boxes and cold chain rooms.
- Throughout the year, **42,034 people** residing in non-government controlled areas of Ukraine received HIV-related services including antiretroviral treatment, HIV counselling and testing.
- UNICEF continued to ensure uninterrupted **access to WASH facilities**, reaching more **than 1.8 million** people through the repair of WASH infrastructure in schools and hospitals, supply of chemicals and coordination of humanitarian and development assistance throughout the year. This included also the

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<sup>1</sup> 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview, available at:

[https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/ukraine\\_humanitarian\\_needs\\_overview\\_2018\\_en\\_1.pdf](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/ukraine_humanitarian_needs_overview_2018_en_1.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview

<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/ukraine/document/ukraine-2019-humanitarian-needs-overview-hno>

provision of e-vouchers for hygiene products for 29,005 vulnerable individuals and hygiene kit supplies for 41,989 children.

- UNICEF reached over 750,635 individuals with **protection interventions**. UNICEF continued to provide pre-school, school and community-based psychosocial services (PSS) to over 130,000 children and their caregivers in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts on both sides of the line of contact, GBV support to 5,600 children and capacity building of 2,800 professionals on child protection issues. About 631,355 children and their caregivers received mine-risk education.
- UNICEF provided access to an improved learning environment and to educational supplies to a total of **136,053 children and teachers** through rehabilitation of 33 education facilities and 50 pre-school kindergartens on both sides of the line of contact and provision of educational supplies such as ECD kits, sport equipment, school furniture and kindergarten supplies. In response to the harsh winter weather, UNICEF delivered winter clothing to 2,000 children. Through awareness-raising events, 12,000 children were provided with an opportunity to continue their learning on-line. In addition, 4,600 teachers were reached with tailored training on Life Skills Education (LSE).
- Throughout the year, UNICEF has implemented various **communication for development** initiatives, including on MRE, hygiene and health and has continued its efforts to increase visibility on issues related to children affected by conflict in eastern Ukraine and to advocate for their wellbeing through various press releases, media briefs and social media campaigns.

In 2018, UNICEF continued to lead the WASH and education clusters and the child protection sub-cluster while contributing to the health cluster, and HIV/AIDS and mine action sub-clusters.

While there has been slight progress in reaching more people in need in 2018, access in NGCA and along the 'contact line' remains unpredictable and restricted due to bureaucratic impediments, insecurity and logistical challenges. In 2018, people's freedom of movement and ability to access humanitarian goods, basic services and their social entitlements and pension remains constrained. Overall, while the humanitarian needs remain acute in the East, there are nevertheless emerging opportunities for shifting the focus from crisis response to building societal resilience and promoting sustainable crisis recovery.

## **E. HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT**

In 2018, ceasefire violations continued to affect the lives of 500,000 children who remain in need of immediate humanitarian assistance. The repeated shelling of critical infrastructure has threatened access to basic services for million people in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, prompting UNICEF to establish and maintain programs aimed at ensuring uninterrupted access to these services, regardless of the scale and intensity of shelling.

Throughout the year, quality of care and **access to health care** continued to worsen, particularly in areas along the contact line on both sides. An estimated 1.3 million people remained in need of essential health services. For households with children within 5km of the contact line in GCA, barriers included the cost of medicine (30%), crossing checkpoints (31%), distance to facilities (23%), cost of travel to facility (11%) and lack of facilities (11%).

Overall, the conflict has increased vulnerability of the population to HIV/AIDS, especially considering the increased reporting in substance abuse, termination of substitution therapy for injecting drug users, and limited access that children and adolescents to HIV preventative and treatment services.

In 2018, non-communicable diseases represented the heavy disease burden with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and tuberculosis (TB) - in particular multi-drug resistant TB- as the most serious ones. While Ukraine progressed in the mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) with the rate decreasing from 7 per cent in 2005 to 2.2 % in 2017, TB continued being the main cause of death among people living with HIV. This is concerning in a situation of high mobility and scanty healthcare services. With two-thirds of health facilities in areas closest to the 'contact line' damaged, 38 per cent of households report lacking access to health-care services. Mental health and psychosocial disorders are a growing concern that requires urgent action for millions of people, with children and the elderly most in need.

Immunization coverage remained alarmingly low<sup>3</sup>. Ukraine experienced the largest measles outbreak in Europe with 47 000 measles cases in 2018, including 16 deaths (10 adults and 6 children). With the low polio coverage rate, Ukraine remained on the red list as country with high risk of polio outbreak.

Recent data from an independent National Health Index survey suggested that while support to vaccination remained at 75 per cent among parents with children (0- 18 years old), negative attitude towards immunization decreased slightly from 13 per cent in 2017 to 11 per cent in 2018 among parents with children (0-17 years old). Health service networks remain seriously disrupted which, coupled with low vaccination rates, raise concerns about the possible outbreak of other diseases.

Access to services for children and adults living with HIV and prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV remains a key objective for UNICEF in 2018, and UNICEF continued to ensure access to uninterrupted antiretroviral treatment for over 13,000 people living with HIV in Donetsk and Luhansk, in NGCA until end of June and handed over to national non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Hostilities continued to damage critical infrastructure and disrupt basic social services further isolating rural communities along both sides of the contact line. This was particularly true for the water infrastructure and the provision of **water and sanitation**. In 2018, there were 105 incidents reported on both sides of the contact line, putting at risk 4.6 million people relying on centralized water systems.

Nearly 30 per cent of people living close to the contact line experienced frequent water shortages, either daily or weekly. The number of people accessing trucked water dropped from 12 per cent to 7 per cent in one year due to financial constraints. REACH assessment conducted in Donetsk and Luhansk GCA suggested that many settlements continued to highlight water supply as their most pressing need.

In NGCA, access to drinking water via piped supply dropped from 64 per cent before the conflict to around 53 per cent at the end of 2017. Also in NGCA, 13 per cent of households reported daily water shortages and only one in two households have never experienced water shortages.

In 2018, the scope and range of **protection issues** affecting children in eastern Ukraine were multiple. Children have been exposed to the risk of ERW and landmines, with girls at particular risk of different forms of gender-based violence. In 2018, 4 children were killed and 16 injured in mine/ERW related incidents. Psychosocial distress stemming from the conflict continues to impact children, their parents and educators and psychosocial support remains a critical need.

The threat of physical violence and emotional distress continued to pose serious risks to over 200,000 children and their families living along the contact line. Violence against children (VAC) also poses a significant challenge. UNICEF-supported KAP study from June 2018, documented widespread beliefs reinforcing the culture of violence. About 67 per cent of adults interviewed believed that physical punishment can be applied to a child with educational purpose; 46 per cent of male and 32 per cent women respondents believe that

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<sup>3</sup> At the end of November 2018, the following immunization coverage rates were officially reported: 76 per cent for MMR1 at 12 month, 78 per cent for MMR 2 at 6 years of age, 54 per cent for DTP3 under 1 year of age , 53 per cent for hepatitis B3 under 1 year of age and 54 per cent for polio 3 under 1 year of age.

the victim of domestic violence is guilty and every second person believes that smacking children is not an act of violence.

In the absence of national system for prevention, early identification, registration and response to VAC cases, a cross-sectoral cooperation among health, education, social, legal and other services remains a priority. Lack of reliable data hinders efforts to reveal the pervasive nature of violence and convince decision makers on the need to invest in comprehensive services at local level. Moreover, lack of specialized services for the cases of sexual violence and exploitation, as well as other complex cases of VAC is limited.

Gender-based violence (GBV) remains a significant risk in eastern Ukraine, particularly in the areas along the contact line. Loss of income and lack of livelihood opportunities are the second main concern among conflict-affected communities, which is closely correlated with increased alcohol and drug use, particularly among young people. This has contributed to the increase in domestic violence. For three consecutive years, Ukraine has had more anti-vehicle mine incidents than any other country, which together with other mine-related incidents and the mishandling of explosive remnants of war (ERW) accounted for more than 40 per cent of civilian casualties in 2017 and 2018.

Both **access to education services and the quality of education** remained of concern. With an estimated 13 educational facilities damaged by shelling since January 2018<sup>4</sup>, the impact of hostilities on schools and the safety of children has been severe. Over the past two years, 58 education facilities were damaged and 65 schools were closed in conflict-affected areas. A survey of 920 schools (out of 3,500 in conflict-affected areas in government controlled areas), conducted by the Education Cluster in September 2018, revealed that 84 percent of education facilities need rehabilitation for some of infrastructural components, such as repairs of windows and WASH facilities. Many schools struggle to cope with the winter cold due to old or non-functioning heating systems or lack of resources to procure fuel. Throughout the year, UNICEF rehabilitated education facilities and provided educational supplies, on both sides of the line of contact.

On pre-school education, the waiting lists for pre-schools enrolment decreased from 46,898 in 2017 to approximately 39,000 in 2018. However, access to Early Childhood Environment (ECE) remained a challenge, particularly for children in rural areas. Young children living with disabilities continued to have fewer opportunities to access ECE across the country. This is true despite progress achieved and the doubling of the number of kindergartens with inclusive groups from 425 in 2017 to 578 in 2018.

In the education sector, the Government adopted in 2018 the ‘New Ukrainian School’ approach that set out values and principles of the pedagogy of partnership and promoted inclusive education (IE) and the child-centered model of education. As part of “New Ukrainian School’ approach, the government also developed and introduced a ‘Safe Schools’ concept that integrated the principles of child friendliness, school safety and a protective learning environment. It supported crucial priority areas of the Ministry’s education reform throughout policy and curricular changes at national level, notably the acquisition by children of key life competencies and crosscutting skills, motivated teachers, and stronger focus on children. As an additional pillar to their new approach, the MOES recently introduced the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). PISA aims at assessing the levels of literacy as defined by “capacity to apply knowledge, analyze, reason, communicate, interpret and solve real life problems”. This approach is consistent with UNICEF’s notion of “competency-based quality education”.

Presence of armed personnel in and around schools were reported during the year. The proximity of military operations to schools increases the risk of collateral damage to educational institutions, of injuries and of sexual violence against students and school staff. Forced recruitment of boys into by armed groups is also a

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<sup>4</sup> Education Cluster data.

real risk at the time of increased tensions. Access to civil registration continued to pose a problem for children born in non-governmental controlled areas.

## F. HUMANITARIAN RESULTS

In 2018, UNICEF continued to strengthen the resilience of children, providing life-saving support and building the long-term capacities of communities and institutions in conflict-affected areas of Ukraine. UNICEF remains committed to ensuring access to gender-specific and age-sensitive education, as well as safe learning spaces with WASH facilities, community-based protection services and immediate psychosocial support for the most vulnerable boys and girls. Primary health care services along the line of contact are supported through partner mobile teams, community engagement and cash voucher systems. Treatment of adults and children living with HIV and prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV remain a key objective as does the promotion of infant and young child feeding in emergencies. Displaced and host communities facing serious constraints to accessing safe drinking water are supported through the provision of chemicals for treatment plants, emergency repairs of damaged infrastructure and the creation of alternative decentralized water sources.

In 2018, UNICEF has continued to lead the WASH and education clusters and the child protection sub-cluster and contributed to the health cluster, and HIV/AIDS and mine action sub-clusters. Collaboration with governments and partners was strengthened at all levels. Additionally, in actively promoting the adoption of the 'Safe School Declaration' by the Government of Ukraine, UNICEF continued to monitor and report on children in conflict-affected areas, focusing on preventing the separation of children from their families during evacuations.

Overall, in 2018, UNICEF further increased its leadership in promoting changes for children by scaling up its advocacy and strategic communication on children's rights in traditional and digital media, as well as strengthening its partnerships with key actors in the government and private sectors, donors, civil society partners and UN agencies. UNICEF participated as an active member to inter-agency fora, including contributing to initial discussions on the UN reform implementation in Ukraine.

A summary of the programme response by sector of intervention is provided in the table below.

### Results against targets (UNICEF 2018 Annual Emergency Report)

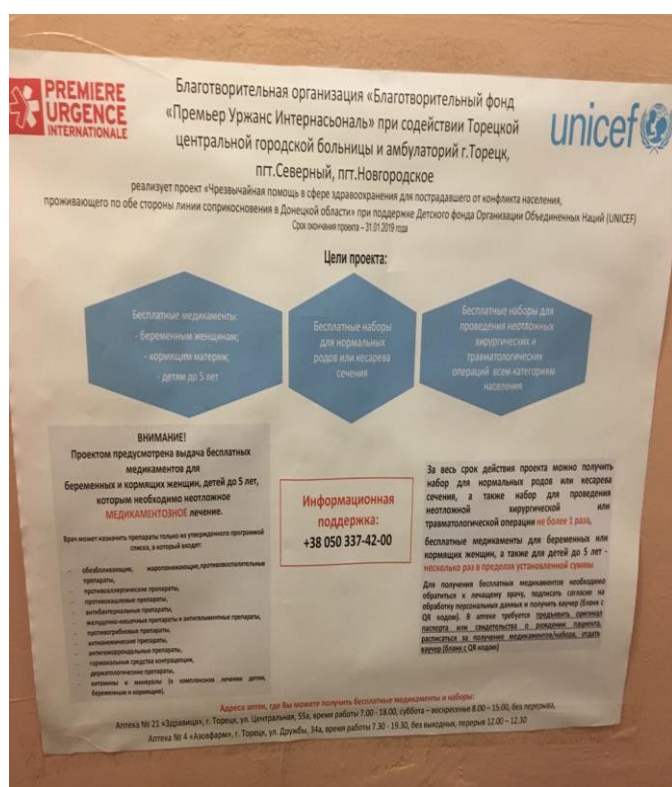
	UNICEF 2018*		Sector/Cluster 2018	
	UNICEF Target	Cumulative results (#)	Cluster Target	Cumulative results (#)
Nutrition	20,000	70	900,000	450,000
Health	20,000	32,154		
WASH	1,990,000	1,887,335	2,300,000	2,943,279
Child Protection	605,000	750,635	1,300,000	843,832
Education	131,000	136,053	200,000	281,243
HIV & AIDS	46,000	42,034	N/A	N/A



## Health and Nutrition

Health service networks remain seriously disrupted, which coupled with low vaccination rates raise concerns about the outbreak of disease. Towards ensuring access to quality maternal health services for an estimated **20,000 pregnant women and new-born children**, a total of 861 midwifery kits were distributed to health facilities in Luhansk and Donetsk oblast (GCA). Having identified mother and child health care as a priority for its Country Programme, UNICEF sought to leverage the ongoing health sector reform, to enhance access to quality maternal and child health across all of Ukraine, including Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and on both sides of the line of contact. Capacity building trainings on immunization were conducted for **120 health workers** practicing in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (GCA) as well as 120 parents from both oblasts. UNICEF facilitated the active participation of 25 health workers from conflict-affected areas in the annual immunization conference organized by the Ministry of Health and UNICEF during which major immunization bottlenecks were discussed.

©UNICEF/Ukraine 2018 -A poster explaining the e-voucher system in Toretsk, Donetsk GCA.



UNICEF continued to support vulnerable families, in particular women and children under five, living along the contact line through an e-voucher system for free-of-charge essential medicines. In 2018, **1,612 beneficiaries received e-vouchers**, including 1,120 children under five, 377 pregnant and lactating women, and 115 adult trauma cases.

Despite the ongoing nationwide health reforms by the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, many patients are still expected to pay out-of-pocket payments to health care providers in order to receive appropriate care and life-saving medication. The e-vouchers programme used an electronic database for physicians to use as a tool to prescribe medications to women and children under five during their consultations. After the consultation with their treating doctor, beneficiaries received e-vouchers that they could give to the partner pharmacies and receive the medication needed free of charge.

In order to further strengthen **cold chain systems**, UNICEF provided 75 fridges and 72 cold boxes to 78 facilities in conflict-affected areas, as well as started the installation of 2 large cold chain rooms in Ukrainsk (Donetsk Oblast GCA) and Lysychansk (Luhansk oblast GCA). To further support access to quality healthcare, essential MCH equipment was procured for affected facilities on both sides of the contact line, including: midwifery kits (8), emergency health kits (2), phototherapy units (2), resuscitation kit (40), resuscitation table for new-borns (1), warmer system for new-borns (2), and AED defibrillators (2).

The lack of funding for the planned nutrition response in Eastern Ukraine has led to low cumulative results in 2018. Nevertheless, UNICEF has identified that nutrition issues remain and should be addressed, with a

focus on micronutrient deficiencies and IYCF. While micronutrient deficiencies, lack of flour fortification, and lack of salt iodisation are pressing issues countrywide, breastfeeding cessation due to conflict-related stress and moderate anaemia in pregnant women, in particular, remain as serious concerns in areas affected by conflict. Intervention activities such as training of healthcare workers and people living with HIV on correct IYCF practices and adequate micronutrient supplementation are planned in 2019 provided adequate funding is available.

## WASH

The conflict in Eastern Ukraine resulted in civilian displacement and serious damages to the infrastructure limiting access of over 1.3 million people (approximately 300,000 children) people in the conflict zone to safe drinking water. Much of these damages remain unrepaired to today, some due to a lack of access but mostly due to a lack of financial resources required to repair/rehabilitate centrally managed urban water and sanitation systems. Meanwhile, massive water pipelines supplying water to the Luhansk city (NGCA) failed repeatedly due to obsolete infrastructure. The situation was further complicated, as access to repair the infrastructure was severely restricted as a result of fighting or extreme levels of mine contamination.

In addition to the age of the structure, there were 89 WASH incidents when shelling, Small Arms and Light Weapons fire or other issues directly affected water infrastructure in 2018; 7 water workers were injured in 2018. Water companies, such as the “Voda Donbassa” and “Popasnyanskyi Vodokanal” continued to struggle with debts and risk of nationalisation from the Non-Government Controlled side. At the time, when the cost of chlorine gas increased three times in 2018, companies still require essential chemicals to treat water.

In response to the humanitarian needs, **UNICEF reached 1,887,735 people** in GCA and NGCA with improved WASH services aiming at enhancing their resilience, with support of Implementing Partners (CF ADRA, Arche noVa and Première Urgence International). Overall, in 2018, **12 boreholes were drilled/rehabilitated, 10 water towers were installed**, pipes and pumps were provided to 37 settlements in Donetsk oblast, following a need assessment.

Throughout 2018, UNICEF supplied water treatment chemicals to **6 filter stations and 10 production** departments of Voda Donbassa to ensure access to safe drinking water for almost 1.4 million people in Donetsk oblast. In June-December 2018, UNICEF supported Popasna vodokanal with water treatment chemicals; this public utility company provides drinking water to more than 500,000 people residing on both sides of the line of contact. This support is crucial for ensuring access to safe drinking water for children, due to the deteriorated financial situation of both companies and high cost of the chemicals.

In addition to supporting the public utility companies, UNICEF provided emergency response when the water supply was disrupted. In December 2018, UNICEF responded to an emergency in Toretsk by delivering water to children affected by a conflict related 4-day water cut.

Over **5,000 beneficiaries**, including children and disabled persons were reached with essential 3-day stock of the drinking water after pipelines were damaged by shelling. In non-government controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, **water supply, sanitation and heating systems were rehabilitated** in 21 schools and kindergartens and 10 health facilities, improving access to sanitation and heating for 5,778 children and 39,282 patients. Additionally, 50 water tanks were installed in kindergartens, schools and health facilities to increase population’s resilience to water supply interruptions and to ensure access to drinking water for 10,322 children, caregivers and patients of medical institutions.

The conflict and economic instability have affected access to hygiene supplies, especially for the most vulnerable groups. TGH conducted a Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) in spring 2017, which showed that, even if hygiene items belong to the four prior expenditures shares (along with food, drugs and heating

systems), 69.9% of household income was dedicated to food, leaving few disposable cash for health and almost nothing for hygiene items. Hygiene needs are not fully covered thus, reducing basic hygiene practices and raising risks of sanitation-borne diseases. Vulnerable groups with specific needs such as children, elderly isolated, single mothers, households with a member suffering from chronic disease are particularly at risk

With the support of civil society partners, UNICEF provided **e-vouchers for hygiene products** to 10,500 households, reaching 29,005 vulnerable individuals in ten districts of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts located along the contact line, in government controlled areas. Such e-vouchers, which are redeemable in 80 partner grocery stores, provided a major boost for vulnerable families in meeting the needs for personal and household hygiene. In addition, 83 kindergartens, schools, health care facilities and social institutions were provided with e-vouchers for hygiene products for institutions in 2018, allowing 6,377 persons attending these facilities to have an improved sanitary environment.

The distribution of hygiene e-vouchers provides a customized response to the needs of the beneficiaries. Due to the flexibility of the e-vouchers' system, the beneficiaries have a choice of hygiene items that correspond to their needs. A network of partner shops was established in 10 districts along the contact line, enabling further contingency response to cover immediate emergency needs of people in case of escalation of the conflict and/or disruption of water. This not only diversifies the availability of hygiene products but also boosts the local economy, creating additional job opportunities for the local shop owners.

In addition, access to **hygiene supplies was improved for 41,989** children, women and persons with disabilities residing on both sides of the line of contact through distribution of **hygiene kits** to individuals, households and institutions.

Hygiene kits were tailored to the needs of the most vulnerable population and included diapers and hygiene products for babies (baby kits), diapers for elderly and personal hygiene products (kits for people with special needs) and household and personal hygiene items, including sanitary pads (family kits).

The high cost of hygiene products (especially diapers) and low income of the residents of the contact line make it difficult to satisfy basic hygiene needs without UNICEF support.

Over 50,000 children were engaged in the Children Cinema Festival across eastern regions learning about hygiene practices through cartoons. In addition, together with partners UNICEF conducted direct edutainment sessions on hygiene promotion with 4,496 children in pre-school and school facilities in conflict-affected areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

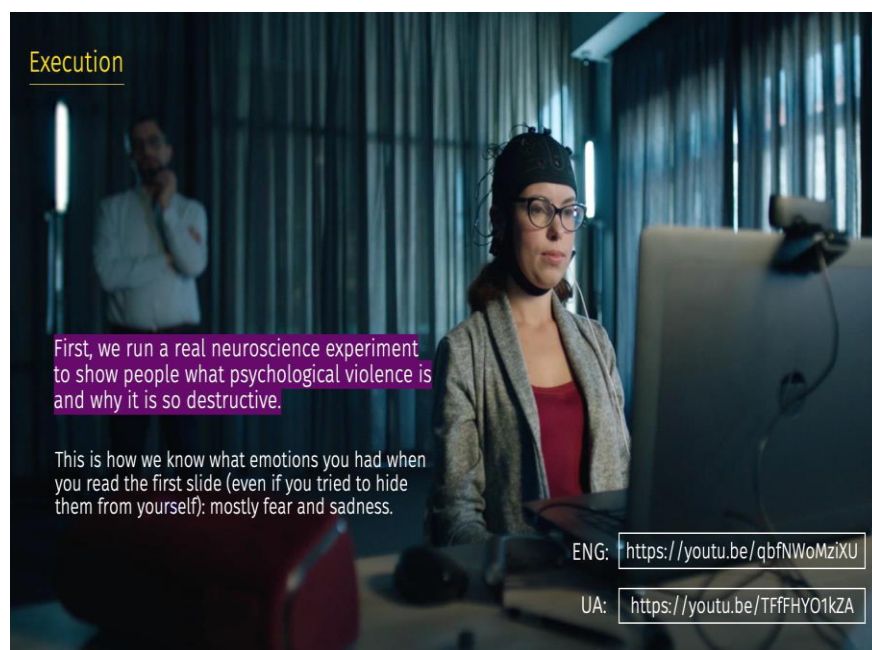
As part of the behaviour change programme, UNICEF has developed and piloted an interactive edutainment game and education materials on hygiene practices planned for 50,000 school-aged children.

## Child Protection

The threat of physical violence and emotional distress continue to pose serious risks to over 200,000 children and their families living along the contact line. UNICEF continued to provide **psychosocial support (PSS)** to over **130,000 children**, their caregivers and professionals working with them how to cope with stress, anxiety and how to address protection concerns.

UNICEF-supported 15 mobile teams, which responded to over **5,000 cases of gender-based violence and 600 cases of violence against children**. Such services included critical survivor-friendly case management, PSS and referral services for boys, girls, women and men who suffered from different forms of violence in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts (GCA). UNICEF identified key behavioural indicators, which it validated with stakeholders in the first quarter of 2019. According to the findings of the first rapid survey on

domestic violence among men and women aged 18 -55 years, only 31 percent of respondents recognized spanking as an act of violence, 59% recognize verbal offenses as violence against children, and 46 percent recognize it as violence against adult partner.



Based on the findings, a multimedia movement "*Talk against violence*" was launched together with Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine focusing on domestic violence including violence against children.

A video focusing on the impact of violence <sup>5</sup>was produced and viewed by 774,000 people via Facebook and 1.1 million adults via YouTube, including people living in conflict affected Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts. A dedicated website on domestic violence was launched.

About 1 million households learnt about key behaviours on positive parenting and anti-violence practices through thematic stickers on milk bottles. A thematic TV series about domestic violence, VAC and GBV was seen by about 7.5 million people during one week of airing, while 229,000 people watched interviews about violence with top celebrities.

Through **capacity-building programmes** implemented by partners, **2,800** professionals and community members in eastern Ukraine including social service providers, police, and education professionals increased their capacities on child protection issues, as well as skills to identify and address PSS, GBV and VAC cases. Community professionals and child rights specialists, including officials from the Office of the Ombudsperson improved their knowledge on quality monitoring and response to child rights violations.

Within the framework of its partnership with the Ukrainian Child Rights Network (UCRN) - a coalition of local NGOs working on child protection issues, including child rights monitoring - enhanced the capacity of 85 representatives on child rights monitoring in alternative care with focus on residential care institutions in the East. The use of the "*Tracking Progress*" International Tool, developed by UNICEF and partners to further support and advocate for family-based alternative care models based on international standards, was promoted.

In 2018, UNICEF initiated partnerships with civil society to assess the needs of child mine victims and map available services. This is the first ever attempt to strengthen the protective environment for child mine victims through community support networks and awareness raising, which will contribute to the development of essential foundation blocks for effective child mine victim assistance in Ukraine.

UNICEF placed emphasis on ensuring access to birth registration for children born in nongovernment-controlled areas (NGCA) of Ukraine. In doing so, UNICEF engaged with duty bearers to formulate a comprehensive white paper on birth registration, which was transmitted to member states in 2018. Such

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TffFHYO1kZA&feature=youtu.be>



engagement contributed to the introduction of a simplified administrative procedure formulated in the newly adopted legislation directed at reintegration of children born in NGCA.

## Education

In 2018, the UNICEF's humanitarian interventions improved safe learning environments for children in the east of Ukraine, reaching **136,053 children and teachers** in both government and non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions. To ensure uninterrupted access to early childhood education services (ECE), quality education, life skills education (LSE), and safe schooling, UNICEF's education interventions prioritized most vulnerable girls and boys affected by the conflict with focus on children living within 20 kilometres of the line of contact, on both sides

In total **46,000 children benefitted from supplies** provided to schools and kindergartens in the conflict-affected Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts including 19,000 reached through ECD and educational kits and a further 27,000 through different educational supplies including sport equipment, school furniture and kindergarten supplies. **Winter clothing was provided to 2,000 children** residing in non-government controlled areas. The rehabilitation of **50 preschool premises** in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and in Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts was completed providing early childhood development opportunities to 1,061 children through the creation of new kindergarten seats. Emergency repairs were completed in **33 schools** in both government and non-government controlled areas near the contact line and resulted in over 7,000 children having uninterrupted access to learning opportunities in safe spaces.



A girl received the UNICEF Educational Kit in the backpack, Popasna School #20, Luhansk region

In addition, UNICEF completed its 'access to education' campaign for children residing in nongovernment-controlled areas. In close partnership with local civil society, UNICEF raised the awareness of children on learning opportunities and as a result, facilitated access to online learning for **12,000 children** and access to higher education for **1,749 students** who entered university in 2018.

High-level advocacy continued for the endorsement of the Safe School Declaration by the Government of Ukraine and publication materials were provided to raise awareness on the protection of schools from military attacks for **650 educational professionals** and members of the armed forces in areas near the contact line. UNICEF, Save the Children and the UN Education Cluster joined their advocacy efforts towards the endorsement of the Safe School Declaration by the Government of Ukraine, including two round table events, which contributed to an official recommendation to sign the declaration issued by the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) to the Vice Prime Minister.

Through its continued leadership of the Education cluster, UNICEF focused on strengthening coordination with actors on both sides of the line of contact. Together with Save the Children and UNICEF, the Cluster supported an introduction of **Conflict Sensitive Education** (CSE) in 2018, delivering on the plan to instil local knowledge on and create CSE champions for Ukraine. The CSE capacity development programme targeted national and local authorities and education actors working close to the contact line

UNICEF worked closely with regional and local departments of education and science to increase resilience, strengthen peer and teacher connectedness and support the development of positive coping mechanisms among the most conflict-affected children through the development of key life skills. Over **4,600 teachers were trained on LSE** through online and face-to-face trainings and subsequently used the knowledge and tools provided during the training to integrate life skills learning into the curriculum reaching 95,096 children in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, in Government Controlled Areas (GCA).

UNICEF supported the national education reform through modelling of 'Safe Schools,' with particular emphasis on children acquiring key life competencies and crosscutting skills, pedagogy of partnership, motivated teachers and ensuring inclusiveness across the education spectrum. All 14 educational facilities of the safe school pilot initiated the implementation of their individual action plans for 2018/2019. These plans were co-financed by local authorities and were informed by rapid needs and gaps assessments as well as consultations with teachers, students and communities. The aim of the plans is to increase the safety of children and apply new, student-centred teaching methodologies building life-skills including civic engagement.

## HIV and AIDS

Throughout the year, **42,034 people** residing in non-government controlled areas of Ukraine received HIV-related services including antiretroviral treatment, HIV counselling and testing.

In 2018, UNICEF ensured the continued provision of anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs) to 13,000 people living with HIV in NGCAs, including children and pregnant women. In addition, UNICEF promoted treatment optimization according to WHO standards, transferring from single-dose medicines to fixed dose combinations. The program monitoring demonstrated more than 3 times higher patients' satisfaction with the non-inferior level of viral suppression in the group of patients with optimized ART in comparison with groups of patients with non-optimized treatment.

Having pioneered the optimization process, UNICEF's response has been invoked to revise approaches of the national 'AIDS Control Program' of Ukraine. UNICEF facilitated the transfer of over 4,000 PLHIV to optimized treatment. At the same time, ART expansion considered the use of optimized regimens only. As a result, by the end of June 2018 about 80% PLHIV on 1-st line treatment (around 7,000 people) received optimized ARV-regimens. UNICEF also provided around 30,000 pregnant women with HIV testing.

On HIV/AIDS, UNICEF advocated and provided inputs to the revision of the law on the minimum age of consent for adolescents to receive health services. UNICEF also supported the update and review of the Prevention of Mother-to-child Transmission (PMTCT guidelines), while optimizing ARV treatment for children, pregnant women and adults in the context of the emergency response in non-government controlled area of eastern Ukraine.

A national campaign organized for young people during February-March 2018 increased HIV testing in Youth Friendly facilities by 44 per cent compared to testing in similar period in 2017. Through a social media quest, over 7,637 teens participated online, which then led to the generation of content related to HIV testing and healthy lifestyle reaching more than 2 million young people online. Overall, the campaign reached over 3.2 million young people through multi-media platforms and with engagement of top celebrity artist<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://goo.gl/QD5Axb>

## Communication for Development (C4D)

In 2018, C4D has established new effective partnerships and collaborations with civil sector organizations, education institutions, media outlets and cultural platforms for promoting social and behavioral change and support government's capacities for promoting social change. UNICEF together with Ukrainian Catholic University and partner NGO established team of trainers on social and behaviour change communication for young people who trained about 90 young people from Donetsk and Luhansk regions during 6-days 'Youth For Change Camp', and young leaders are developing their local initiatives on civic engagement with support from UNICEF's mentors.

Over 51,000 children were engaged in the Children Cinema Festival across eastern regions learning about hygiene practices (HP) through cartoons.

In addition, with partners UNICEF conducted direct edutainment sessions on hygiene practices with 3,457 children in pre-school and school facilities in conflict-affected areas. Together with partners, UNICEF developed and piloted an interactive edutainment game and education materials on hygiene practices for 50,000 school-aged children.

While in late 2018, the Government has approved the Mine Action Law becoming the guiding document for Mine Risk Education coordination and scaling up, UNICEF continued to build knowledge and motivate safe practices related to mines and unexploded ordinance through C4D intervention. The behavior change strategy was implemented through digital education campaign and capacity building of adult trainers and young leaders on MRE. In partnership with local education departments and international partners, some 184 teachers became trainers on mine safety, and 418 young leaders became peer-to-peer master trainers who has already conducted learning sessions on mine risk education for 613, 431 children in Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts (GCA) and will be continuing outreach in 2019.



Digital education campaign with comic cartoons (<https://youtu.be/xGOxsZFJIHE>) and edutainment video with local team of young experimenters (<https://youtu.be/ggZlxRYuxnk>) has reached over 613,431 children with lifesaving messages on mines and UXOs safety.

## Media & External Communication

In 2018, UNICEF served as a leading source of information about the situation of conflict-affected children in eastern Ukraine. In coordination with the Regional Office and Division of Communication, the year saw content-gathering missions to areas along the 'contact line', various coverage trips by international and national media, the dissemination of press statements, and the creation of powerful stories for UNICEF's national, regional and global social media channels.

On average, UNICEF created over 110 million media impressions per quarter. The rate increased by 29 per cent in comparison to 2017 with 90 per cent of UNICEF messages receiving positive feedback. In 2018, UNICEF remained the most reported UN or International Agency in Ukraine receiving 46 per cent of the total UN media coverage.

UNICEF continued to reach local and international audiences with key messages about the situation of children in Ukraine, including in the conflict-affected areas in Eastern Ukraine. International media coverage about the risks faced by children living of both sides of the contact line remained extensive, with mine risks and attacks on schools and water infrastructure selected as key topics of UNICEF media communication. UNICEF statements were reported in international media such as AFP, BBC, Xinhua, Bloomberg, France 24, Voice of America, Radio Free Europe, Deutsche Welle, Zeit, and Reuters. In June 2018, UNICEF Ukraine facilitated the visit of UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Agnes Chan to Eastern Ukraine, which resulted in a significant increase of stories about Ukraine in the Japanese media.

Additionally, humanitarian interventions were reported by targeted, sector-specific communication on child protection, education, WASH and health.

### UNICEF and the Cluster System

In close coordination with the UN Humanitarian Coordination Team, the Government of Ukraine is leading the humanitarian response, including the rollout of humanitarian-development nexus working groups, to strengthen coordination between humanitarian and development actors in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. Through its continued leadership of the WASH and Education clusters, Child Protection sub-cluster and contribution to the Health and Nutrition Cluster, HIV/AIDS and Mine Action sub clusters, UNICEF focused on strengthening coordination with actors on both sides of the line of contact. In the WASH cluster, a comprehensive prioritization exercise was completed to identify short term and medium-term WASH interventions on both sides of the line of contact. WASH Cluster partners increased their coverage in 2018 from 2.5 million in 2017 to more than 2.8 million people. This increase is the result of macro-level interventions, such as provision of chemicals for water treatment. While essential, the cluster is now prioritising the implementation of sustainable repairs, which require member state support, a sustained approach to hygiene promotion, and greater alignment with Disaster Risk Reduction and the Humanitarian Development Nexus in 2019-2020.

UNICEF continued to lead the Child Protection sub-cluster, contributing to the overall coordination of work of local and international organizations that are active in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, as well as contributing to the mapping of existing projects, services, initiatives, and advocacy. In 2018, the sub-cluster conducted two refresher trainings in Kyiv and in Kramatorsk on Child Protection in Emergency for 31 professionals from local and international NGOs.

Having rolled out the concept of child- and youth-friendly municipalities with the Government of Ukraine, UNICEF sought to involve localities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblast, including those along the line of contact, to ensure enhanced access to high quality education, health and social services to children and youth.

### Building Resilience

In 2018, UNICEF continued to strengthen the resilience of conflict-affected boys and girls and provide life-saving support in the eastern conflict areas. This includes ensuring access to gender and age sensitive education, safe learning spaces, community-based protection services and immediate psychosocial support for the most vulnerable boys and girls



Given the protracted nature of the conflict in Eastern Ukraine, an integrated approach across humanitarian and recovery strategies is necessary in order to contribute to building the resilience of affected communities and ensuring a safe and protective environment for children. On the other hand, it is also necessary to strengthen existing systems and structures, contributing to the Government of Ukraine ambitious social sectors' reform, in particular in the framework of planned decentralization.

This was the first year of the new country programme 2018-2022 for UNICEF Ukraine bringing a major programming shift. While the previous programme was structured around cross-sectoral outcomes and a stand-alone emergency programme, the new country programme almost mirrored the new organizational strategic plan's goal areas. It integrates development, recovery and humanitarian interventions, with the intent of strengthening the humanitarian and development nexus.

Responding to the humanitarian needs of hundreds of thousands of children and capitalizing on the gained experience, the office expanded its development programme in support of the country's reform agenda capitalizing in every opportunity to advocate for children and young people. While continuing to provide life-saving assistance in accordance with the CCCs for the most vulnerable boys and girls, UNICEF also aims through its interventions at strengthening the link between humanitarian response, recovery and development agenda, as well as through improved inter-sector collaboration.

Equipping children and adolescents with tailor made support and skills increases their likelihood to contribute positively to post-conflict recovery. Through ensuring access to gender and age sensitive education, safe learning spaces, community-based protection services and immediate psychosocial support, UNICEF is seeking at building and/ or strengthening the resilience of conflict-affected boys and girls. Simultaneously, UNICEF is focusing at enhancing the capacities of professionals as well as community level services providers and caregivers to be better prepared to understand and respond to the age and gender related needs of boys and girls.

Finally, by working closely with partner organizations, schools, community centers and through mobile teams, the programme also supports primary health care services in conflict-affected areas, strengthening their capacity to provide quality services, including ensuring continuous treatment for adults and children with HIV as well as prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission.

#### **a. Case studies**

##### **Cash-based hygiene and health emergency response to the conflict affected population**

###### **Top Level Results:**

In 2018, UNICEF Ukraine implemented two e-vouchers programmes, one supporting children under five and Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) and one supporting conflict-affected families; both programmes targeted families all residing along the contact line, in both government controlled areas (GCA) and non-government-controlled areas (NGCA) of eastern Ukraine.

The *"Cash-based health emergency response to the conflict-affected population residing on both sides of the contact line, Donetsk oblast"* programme was implemented in partnership with the international non-governmental organization (NGO), Première Urgence Internationale (PUI). As of a result of these activities, 1,990 children under five and PLW were able to access essential health care, services, and medications. This included 1,489 children under five and 411 PLW. This programme was primarily funded by the generous contribution of the Governments of Germany and Canada.

The *"Provision of essential hygiene items to vulnerable conflict-affected residents of the contact line"* programme was implemented in partnership with Triangle Generation Humanitaire (TGH), which provided

hygiene e-vouchers to a targeted 10,500 households and 231 educational, health and social institutions in 10 rayons along the contact line in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, GCA. This programme was generously financed by the Government of Germany, through KfW.

#### **Issue/Background:**

The ongoing conflict worsened the socio-economic situation of people living in areas along the contact line, as well as in neighbouring rayons in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts. Inflation (the food basket price rose from 6% to 10% in one year), fuel/electricity shortages, power cuts, nationalization and economic/trade blockades led to an increase of poverty and unemployment. The poverty combined with higher prices and poor access to hygiene items in most remote localities led the households (HH) to dedicate their expenses to their most urgent needs such as food and hygiene. TGH conducted a Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) in spring 2017, which showed that, even if hygiene items belong to the four prior expenditures shares (along with food, drugs and heating systems), 69.9% of HH income was dedicated to food, leaving only a minimal disposable cash allowance for health, and almost nothing for hygiene items. As a result, hygiene needs are not fully covered, leading to a reduction in basic hygiene practices and raising risks of sanitation-borne diseases. Vulnerable groups with specific needs such as children, elderly and isolated, single mothers and HHs with a member suffering from chronic disease are particularly at risk.

Further compounding the situation, the conflict in eastern Ukraine also continues to negatively affect quality and access to health care, particularly in areas along the contact line. Families, women and children in particular, face continuous barriers to accessing care, in particular due to high costs of medicines and lack of facilities, especially those living within 5 kilometres of the contact line. Due to the ongoing economic vulnerability of these families, pregnant women, mothers, and children are often unable to afford to pay for services and essential medicines. The e-vouchers programme used an electronic database for physicians to use as a tool to prescribe medications to women and children under five during their consultations. After the consultation with their treating doctor, beneficiaries received e-vouchers that they could give to the partner pharmacies and receive the medication needed free-of-charge.

#### **Resources Required/Allocated:**

UNICEF Ukraine implemented the e-voucher programme through a partnership with two international NGOs – PUI and TGH. The resources required and allocated for the health-related e-voucher programme amounted to 124,072.69 USD, while the resources for the WASH e-vouchers programme amounted to 788,750 USD. For health e-vouchers, PUI involved three programme colleagues in monitoring programme activities in GCA and worked through a local NGO, Donbass Development Centre to implement activities in NGCA. For WASH e-vouchers, TGH involved a number of local partner organizations to cover all rayons along the contact line.

#### **Progress and Results:**

Through its partnership with PUI, UNICEF supported the *integrated emergency response* to families living five kilometres from the contact line in GCA and NGCA of Donetsk oblast. Implementation of activities took place in four sites in two cities of Donetsk oblast, which are all located less than five kilometres from the contact line. Within the scope of the project, physicians and pharmacists were trained on how to use electronic databases and tablets for collection of information and dispensing of medication. As a result of these activities, a total of 1,990 children and PLW were able to access essential health care, services, and medications. This included 1,097 children under five in Toretsk and 392 children under five in Dokuchaevsk, and 261 PLW in Toretsk and 150 PLW in Dokuchaevsk.

Through its partnership with TGH, overall 70,556 residents of the contact line benefitted from hygiene e-vouchers. In total 10,500 households, or 37,740 persons including 12,253 children, received hygiene e-

vouchers. The hygiene e-vouchers had different monetary values, which were based on the composition of the HH. Additional vouchers were provided to HHs with children under five to cover the needs for baby products (4,099 e-vouchers), as well as to HHs with persons with disabilities to cover needs for adult diapers and other needed hygiene products (3957 e-vouchers), and HHs with women of reproductive age (12-49 years old) to cover needs for menstrual hygiene products (7,639).

The following table shows key results achieved:

Project Output	Performance Indicator	Results achieved
Access by the conflict-affected population to essential healthcare services is improved	Number of people benefitting from cash/voucher assistance (for health)	1,990
Access to essential and quality health care services to conflict affected population is improved through provision of vouchers for free medicines to children under five year old and pregnant and lactating women (during the pregnancy, during institutional delivery, and during postpartum), in Toretsk City Hospital and Primary Health Care Center – GCA and Dokuchaevsk City Hospital - NGCA.	Number of children under five having access to free medicines	Dokuchaevsk, Donetsk NGCA: 295 children under five  Toretsk, Donetsk GCA: 1,097 children under five  Total: 1,392 children under five
	Number of pregnant and lactating women having access to free medicines	Dokuchaevsk, Donetsk NGCA: 150 PLW  Toretsk, Donetsk GCA: 261 PLW  Total: 411 PLW
Hygiene needs coverage of the most vulnerable has improved due to hygiene e-vouchers distribution and accessible diversified hygiene items	Number of individuals benefit from one round of hygiene assistance through e-vouchers transfer	<b>70,556 individuals</b>  In total 10,500 households (37,740 persons including 12,253 children) received hygiene e-vouchers with different values based on the household's characteristics.  231 institutions, including schools, kindergartens, health care facilities and other types of social institutions received hygiene e-vouchers reaching 32,816 individuals, including 29,641 children.

#### Criticality and value addition:

As the conflict enters its fifth year, the criticality of this intervention is evident, especially for families living along the contact line and in NGCA. Despite the ongoing nationwide health reforms by the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, many patients are still expected to pay out-of-pocket payments to health care providers in order

to receive appropriate care and life-saving medication. While the reforms are being rolled out, the change will not be immediate and individuals and families in conflict-affected areas remain unable to afford and access healthcare, particularly in NGCA. Furthermore, the project also led to other unexpected positive outcomes, such as the introduction of e-health methods and the use of mobile technology, including tablets, to health administrators and workers that were previously using paper-based methods for their patient records and consultations. E-health is currently a key component in the context of the health reforms, thus the early introduction of such technologies through the e-voucher programme is beneficial to staff of health facilities in eastern Ukraine, who are often elderly, because of the conflict and the migration of health professionals out of the region.

Approach on hygiene e-vouchers provides an adapted response to the needs of population by calculating a needed monetary amount for each specific targeted group. Due to the flexibility of the e-vouchers' system, the beneficiaries have a choice of hygiene items that correspond to their needs. The network of partner local shops has been established along the contact line (80 shops), which is easily accessible by the conflict-affected population and can be easily involved into the repeated distributions, especially now that they are trained and well aware of the approach. The project boosts local economy, diversifies the availability of hygiene products, helps to create additional job opportunities to the local shop owners.

### **Challenges and Lesson learned:**

For the e-voucher for health programme, challenges encountered were mostly related to operational difficulties which did not impact the results of the project greatly. As the health e-voucher programme has been implemented since 2017, UNICEF has been able to observe best practices and lessons learned since then. A major lesson learned is the distinction between 'access to healthcare' versus 'access to *quality* healthcare.' After analysis of medical databases from participating facilities, it was found that antibiotic prescriptions are common, which is concerning, taking into account the growing global threat of antimicrobial resistance.

For the hygiene e-vouchers programme, minor challenges were encountered during the identification of beneficiaries. While TGH established a database of 21,000 households surveyed at the beginning of the project, only 10,500 most vulnerable households were selected and received e-vouchers assistance. The identification took longer than expected due to incomplete lists of vulnerable households provided by local authorities, delays with responses, low quality of work of one of the local partners and repeated surveys for some of the locations where survey results were not complete. Furthermore, temporary delays with mobile coverage had some negative impact. In terms of planning of targets, the number of infants was overestimated, due to the movement of families with babies and their tendency to move away from the contact line. Therefore, the target age for e-vouchers for children was raised from 0-3 to 0-5 years old.

### **Moving Forward:**

UNICEF Ukraine is planning to continue to provide e-vouchers to the most vulnerable categories of children, focusing on HIV-positive children and children in contact with TB and their families in Donetsk NGCA. The programme will promote prevention of transmission of infectious diseases, such as HIV and TB in families and societies in the most affected regions of Donetsk NGCA. It will also empower medical staff to provide treatment and prevention services to eligible children and their families, ensuring the use of international treatment protocols and optimization of doctors' time, through the use of information technology, which is needed for working with patients. The activity will be funded by Global Humanitarian funding from the Government of Estonia and the Government of Germany contribution planning to reach 1,700 beneficiaries covered with HIV and TB preventive services due to e-vouchers for free medicine.

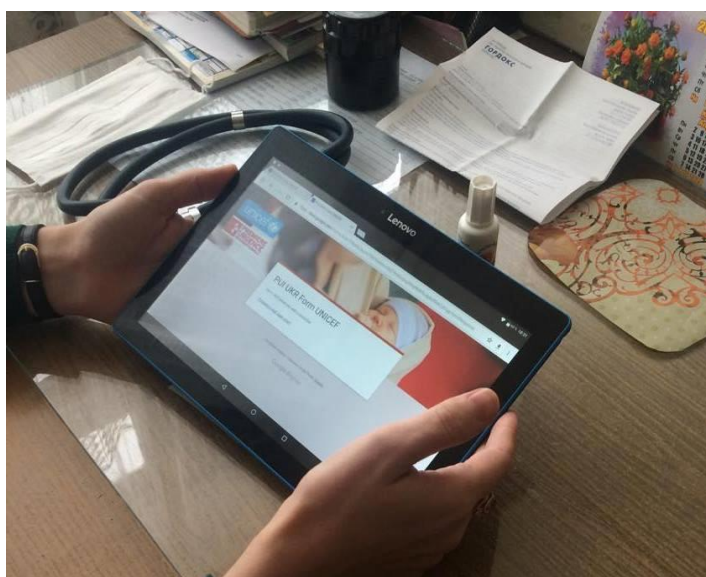
UNICEF is also continuing the implementation of the hygiene e-vouchers project jointly with TGH. The second round of e-vouchers distribution started in January 2019. Within this second round, 4,076 children under

five and 7,630 women of reproductive age will receive assistance. Starting from April 2019, an additional round of hygiene e-vouchers will target vulnerable HHs living in the 0-5 kilometre zone from the contact line, as well as HHs living in isolated settlements. With this additional round, 7,242 HHs (18,550 individuals) and 231 educational and health institutions will be targeted.

#### Photos and Visibility:



UNICEF and PUI visibility indicating the entrance to a participating e-vouchers pharmacy in Toretsk, Donetsk GCA. (©PUI/Ukraine 2018)



A participating physician demonstrating the use of the e-vouchers database. (©UNICEF/Ukraine 2018)



TGH hygiene e-vouchers

## G. RESULTS ACHIEVED FROM HUMANITARIAN THEMATIC FUNDING

In 2018, UNICEF Ukraine received four thematic funding in support of Nutrition, Education, Child protection and WASH interventions.

The generous contributions from the Governments of Estonia and Lithuania and from the National Committee of Andorra through the humanitarian thematic funding contributed to improving the learning and protective environment as well as access to WASH and nutrition services for children in both GCA and NGCA.

In the *education* sector, the funding contributed to the rehabilitation of six preschool facilities in GCA of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, providing early childhood learning and development opportunities to 215 children through the creation of new kindergarten seats. It also contributed to the ‘access to education’ campaign on the importance of learning for children residing in NGCAs.

The *Nutrition* thematic funding contributed to strengthening the technical capacity of the Ministry of Health (MoH) to establish a functioning Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) programme.

The *Child protection* thematic funding contributed to the provision of awareness-raising activities on child protection risks, including mine risk education for over 3,000 children and their caregivers. It also contributed to build the capacity of professionals on psychosocial support and civil society organization’s capacity to strengthen the system of monitoring of violations against children affected by the conflict in Ukraine.

The *WASH thematic funding* aimed at ensuring that children and their families, on both sides of the conflict line, have equitable access to sustainably managed water and sanitation services and improved hygiene behaviors in communities, schools and health facilities.

### a. Thematic funding Case studies

## U-Report

### Top Level Results:

Based on the current political context in Ukraine, UNICEF reached out to vulnerable youth, specifically those in conflict-affected areas, to ensure their voices are heard on important issues that affect their lives and their future. The U-Report was used to provide useful information on key health, educational, recreational information. U-Report ran a series of polls on menstrual hygiene, which helped to identify issues, challenges and perceptions related to the topic. These polls became the only evidence available for designing new interventions and C4D campaigns on adolescent girls' hygiene in WASH section, which will be implemented in 2019. In addition, specific barriers, bottlenecks and opportunities experienced by boys and girls were identified through gender-disaggregated data from studies conducted on UNICEF humanitarian and recovery-building response. The studies were funded by the Government of Germany through KfW.

#### **Issue/Background:**

UNICEF Ukraine is actively involved in developing and delivering programs for youth as a cross-sectoral theme, addressing their issues and needs through health, education, WASH, communication for development and child protection programs. As part of this, UNICEF is working on youth and adolescents' resilience, development, civic engagement and participation with a particular focus on eastern Ukraine. In 2018-2022, UNICEF is supporting innovative youth-focused interventions aimed at building sustainable civic engagement of young people and providing them with skills and opportunities to act as agents of social change.

U-Report is a global UNICEF project aimed at strengthening youth participation, based on innovative, user-centered opinion monitoring tool, which enables real-time and anonymous data collection. In addition, U-Report team runs youth engagement activities and develops U-reporters' community through a number of online and offline events.

#### **Resources Required/Allocated:**

Within UNICEF Ukraine, a project team oversees partners and contractors for U-Report, including the Head of Education Section and Adolescent Development Officer, responsible for budgeting, strategic planning and management of the project and two Consultants – U-Report coordinator and Youth Engagement Consultant, and one Communication/Communication for Development Officer, providing support for communication activities.

The two consultants work exclusively on U-Report, supervising all partners, developing strategies and key indicators and other documents, working with celebrities and ensuring data collection, planning, communication and partnership activities, youth engagement through youth committee, correspondence with the Global Innovations Center, representing U-Report in public events and monitoring.

#### **Progress and Results:**

The WASH and Communication for Development (C4D) sections together with external partners conducted a series of polls on the following topics:

- perceptions of gender equality by girls and boys - 12 823 U-Reporters;
- challenges for girls in urban and rural area - 12 242 U-Reporters;
- girls' empowerment through sport -12 998 U-Reporters;
- menstrual hygiene (part) 1 - 12 473 U-Reporters;
- menstrual hygiene (part 2) - 11 888 U-Reporters.
- hygiene practices – 13,839 U-Reporters
- WASH facilities in schools – 4,353 U-Reporters



The knowledge received from these polls helped to gather evidence for further programming and plan interventions accordingly. In particular, the menstrual hygiene campaign was developed based on the concerns and informational needs raised by U-Reporters in the polls: 91.2% of girls and 73.9% of boys wanted to get more information about menstrual hygiene. In addition, the campaign promoted ethical behaviours and tolerance, as U-Report poll showed that 10.5% of girls faced menstruation-related bullying and 30% of boys witnessed such cases.

The table below describes detailed findings on the U-report pools:

Thematic (involved partners)	Date	Results achieved
<b>Hygiene</b> (UNICEF WASH and Communication Section for Development)	November 2018	<p>The results were used to inform UNICEF WASH interventions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 77.4% of U-reporters wash their hands after using the toilet, 71.8% after being outside, 69.6% - before cooking, 16.8% in other situations (after contact with animals, after cleaning, before cosmetic procedures), 54.0% brush their teeth twice a day, 37.7% less than twice a day.</li> <li>- 68.2% of respondents turn off water when brushing their teeth, 35.9% switch off water during soaping, 21.0% - do not save or not think about it, 25% of respondents report having no hot water or disruptions;</li> <li>- 84.4% of the respondents received information about hygiene at school, out of which 78.3% received this information from their teachers in school.</li> </ul>
<b>Mine Safety</b> (UNICEF, Communication Section for Development; State Emergency Service)	April 2018	<p>The results were used to inform the awareness-raising campaign against mines and explosives and for planning interventions in the field of mine security next year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-50.3% of U-reporters saw an information campaign about mines safety, 37.3% believe that the most effective mine safety measures would be to inform the pupils about the stories of children affected by mines, 32.3% teachers' lessons; 49, 8% saw hand-outs on the subject of mines safety in their educational institution.</li> </ul>
<b>Safety</b> , (Mariupol City council)	December 2018	<p>The results helped to inform the campaign on security activities for young people in Mariupol</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 68.8% of U-reporters from Mariupol feel safe in their city. Among those U-reporters who do not feel safe in Mariupol (N = 97), feeling of insecurity was caused by the environmental situation in the city (60.8%), the proximity to fighting (52.6%), the military state (38.1%), the fake news (21.6%).</li> <li>-Since the introduction of military state, 88.8% of U-reporters have not felt changes in their daily lives. In order to enhance the sense of safety in Mariupol, U-reporters advised the local authorities to increase control over order and security (30.3%) and to improve the environmental situation in the city (15.8%).</li> </ul>

#### Criticality and value addition:

Partnerships are a key part of U-Report's success in Ukraine, which were established across the youth and adolescent development sector, including with civil society, government and other UN agencies to harness U-Report as a national public good. U-Report is being implemented with the following partners: the Ministry



of Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Policy, the Ombudsman for Child Rights Office, the Ukrainian Institute for Social Researches after Olexandr Yaremenko, AIESEC, the NGO National Youth Council of Ukraine, Charitable Organizations, the Adolescent and Youth Association “Teenergizer”, the National Organization of Scouts of Ukraine, the NGO Institute of Social Initiatives, the UN Youth Advisory Panel and other partners.

UNICEF Ukraine is providing leadership over the U-Report brand development guided by UNICEF at a global level through the GIC. UNICEF manages the implementation of U-Report through its main implementing partner UISR, who is in charge of the technology and dissemination of U-Report on a daily basis.

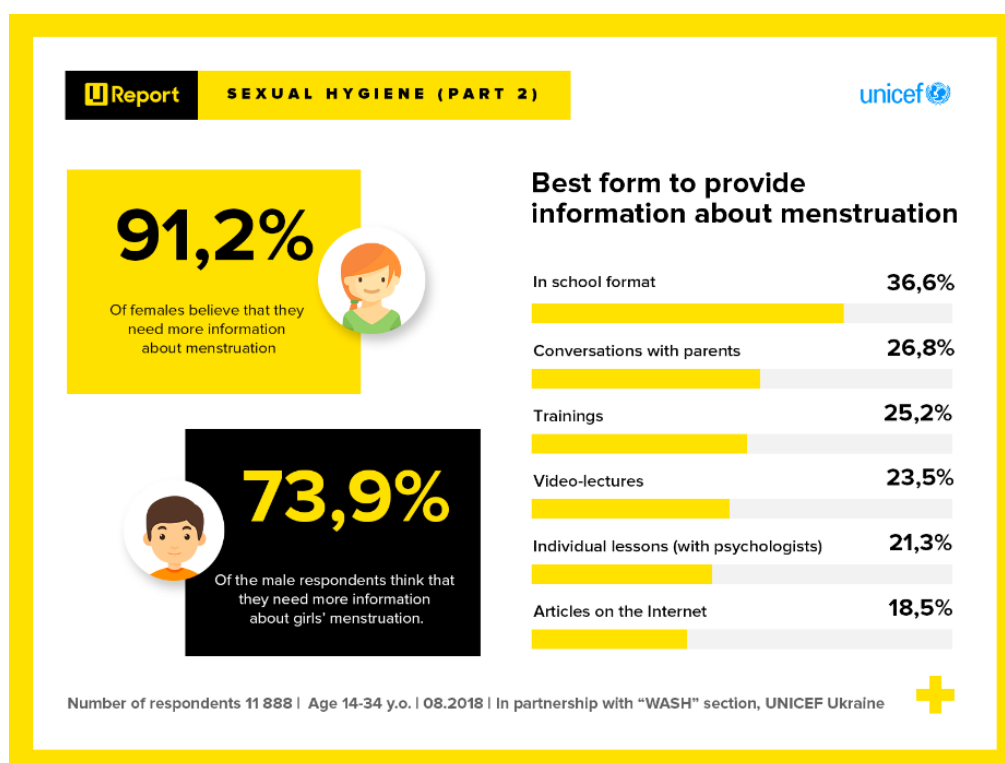
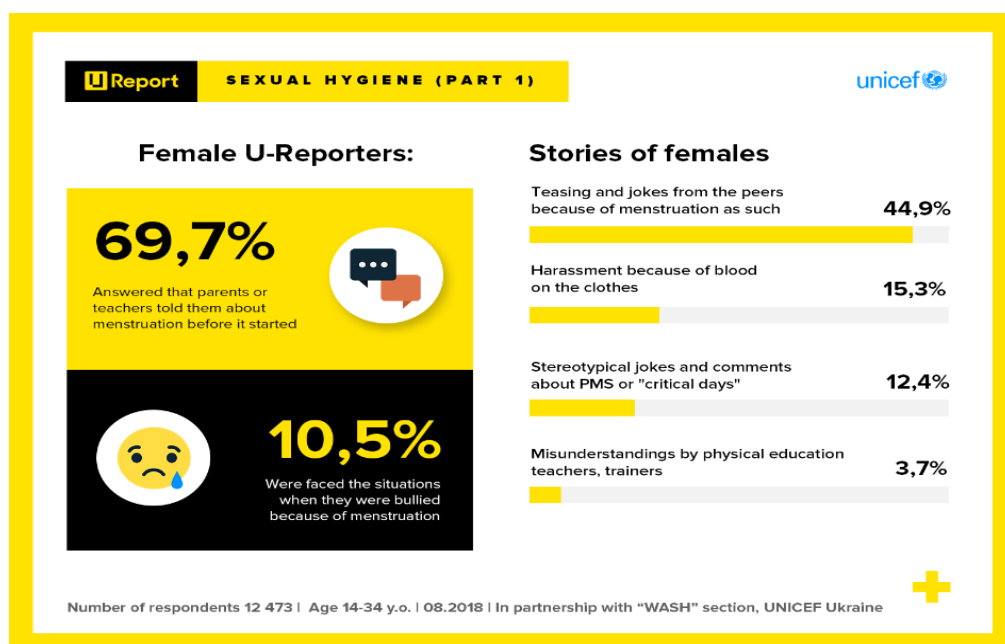
#### **Challenges and Lesson Learned:**

There is opportunity for wider analysis of U-Report data, which could be used to inform programming through an enhanced understanding of the youth population, and youth perspectives and habits. Despite the fact that the M&E plan being rolled out for U-Report globally identifies the ‘unit cost per registered user’ as a key indicator to measure and understand, the CO has not yet analysed outreach data to understand cost-effectiveness of recruitment methods used and successful tactics for engaging first time U-Reporters, specifically those within targeted groups (e.g. vulnerable populations; Eastern Ukraine). Analysing the results of outreach campaigns based on associated campaign costs and the acquisition of new U-Reporters will provide insight into which methods are most effective in engaging targeted youth, as well as which method acquires youth that stay on the platform longer. Further, the CO does not currently analyse U-Report data in a consolidated database to understand U-Reporter data trends, including broader trends in youth perspectives and habits; however, is set to begin this analysis since this case study. This analysis could help the CO to better understand their target clients and help to shape programming to be better tailored to support youth and enhance government and partner programming.

#### **Moving Forward:**

UNICEF Ukraine is planning to further analyse U-Report data in a consolidated database to understand U-Reporter data trends, including broader trends in youth perspectives and habits. This analysis will help UNICEF to better understand their target clients and help to shape programming to support youth and enhance government and partner programming in particular in eastern Ukraine. UNICEF has already initiated a draft MOU with a leading civil society organization on comprehensive data analysis methods such “data science”.

#### **Photos:**



## H. ASSESSMENT, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

UNICEF has a robust monitoring system in place with the required capacities, tools and procedures for systematic situation monitoring - to assess needs and priorities for assistance - as well as programme monitoring of all UNICEF-supported interventions. Monitoring includes physical verification to ensure any bottlenecks are identified and adjustments made in real time. Experienced Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

and IM (Information Management) staff work closely together with the various Programme Sections, providing technical advice and key support. In addition, technical experts are used where necessary, for example to ensure the quality of any rehabilitation or construction work such as for water & sanitation infrastructure and school rehabilitation. Moreover, joint monitoring missions have taken place with local government authorities and major donors to ensure that both partners understand the progress to date and can discuss any problems identified at the project sites. UNICEF continued to produce public monthly Situation Reports, capturing its programme results and cluster targets implemented over the reporting period.

UNICEF Ukraine four zonal offices in Kramatorsk (GCA), Mariupol (GCA), Donetsk (NGCA) and Luhansk (NGCA), covering the two most affected oblasts of eastern Ukraine, continued monitoring of its activities on a regular basis with established systems in place.

The new country programme places a stronger emphasis on planning and monitoring with a new section created relating to Programme performance and implementing partner management. In the first quarter of 2018, UNICEF developed and signed with the Government of Ukraine two years (2018-2019) Work Plans which then served as a basis for the development of field level to ensure that field level activities contribute to the overall UNICEF country office results.

As part of strengthening partnership engagement, the M&E section established together with the deputy representative a solid quality-assurance review process of project documentation with inputs from HACT officer, M&E, budgeting, communication and supply. Thus in 2018, 57 project documents were reviewed by the M&E to ensure that each project contributes to UNICEF AWP, HRP and HAC appeals and that project results were set up with realistic baselines and targets and all HACT assurance activities are planned according to the guidelines.

In line with HACT, the M&E team conducted one capacity building training for 18 implementing partners on HACT, budgeting and finance reporting, supply, communication and monitoring. Internal trainings on Budget and HACT Monitoring Training for all staff were conducted. By solid monitoring of HACT assurance activities in 2018, 100% of the required spot checks and programme visits were conducted.

A comprehensive Country Programme Monitoring Framework was designed ensuring the quality of the planning, implementation and field monitoring of the projects. Standard reporting tools on disaggregated data on location and gender were also designed to consolidate in one information management system as part of the monitoring framework. In addition, in order to get on track with output results and activities and to be prepared for annual reporting, the M&E section organized a mid-year review of the AWP at country and field levels.

The M&E section extended its technical support to sections in designing donor proposals and reports contributing to overall UNICEF reporting, including with the RAM, SMQ and 2018 COAR. As part of the inter-agency support, within the first year of implementation of the Ukraine UNPF, the M&E section also participated and contributed by providing inputs to the UN Joint Work Plan on output results, activities, budget and donors

As per the evaluation plan, UNICEF Ukraine started an Evaluation of the Provision of Psychosocial Support and Protective Services through Child and Youth Friendly Spaces and Community Protection Centres in Eastern Ukraine since 2014.

## I. FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

UNICEF's 2018 humanitarian appeal requirement for Ukraine was US\$23.6M of which, as of 31 December \$10.8 was available, including funds carried forward from the previous year. This addressed only 46 percent of required resources. Under funding affected the continuity of UNICEF emergency assistance for children residing in conflict-affected areas on both sides of the contact line, especially in the area of health and nutrition, education and protection programs. UNICEF Ukraine is taking this opportunity to thank the Governments of Estonia, Japan, Lithuania, United States of America (PRM and OFDA), Germany, EU/ECHO, UNOCHA and UNICEF national committees of Andorra and German, as well as UNICEF Croatia for their valuable contributions to improving the lives of children and women in Eastern Ukraine.

In line with the 2019 HRP, UNICEF is seeking US\$21.1 million to respond to the needs of conflicted-affected children and families residing within 20 kilometers of both sides of the contact line and nongovernment controlled areas. Funding will enable UNICEF to fulfill the core commitments for children in humanitarian action, including access to education, psychosocial support, WASH, mine risk education, maternal and child health and HIV and AIDS services. Humanitarian initiatives will be complemented by broader development work to strengthen national capacities.

A detailed overview for 2018 funding by sector is provided in Tables 1, 2 and 3.

**Table 1: 2018 Funding status against the appeal by sector (Revenue in USD)**

Sector	Requirements	Funds Available Against Appeal as of 31 December 2018*		% Funding Gap
		Funds Received in 2018	Carry-Over	
Nutrition	300,000			100%
Health	1,800,000	373,478	89,525	74%
Water, sanitation and hygiene	13,619,000	2,152,201	856,424	78%
Child protection	3,200,000	2,372,591	635,066	6%
Education	3,050,000	1,256,587	315,628	48%
HIV and AIDS	1,130,000		442,264	61%
Cluster/sector coordination	500,000	932,194	787,346	-244%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,599,000</b>	<b>7,087,051</b>	<b>3,126,253</b>	<b>57%</b>

**Table 2 - Funding Received and Available by 31 December 2018 by Donor and Funding type (in USD)**

Donor Name/Type of funding	Programme Budget Allotment reference	Overall Amount*
<b>I. Humanitarian funds received in 2018</b>		
<b>a) Thematic Humanitarian Funds</b>		
See details in Table 3	SM/18/9910	894,856
<b>b) Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds</b>		
European Commission / ECHO	SM/18/0280	1,354,493
Germany	SM/18/0445	1,070,435
USA (State) BPRM	SM/18/0315	925,926
USA (USAID) OFDA	SM/18/0334	462,963
Japan	SM/18/0077	277,778
German Committee for UNICEF	SM/18/0214	234,724
UNICEF-Croatia	SM/18/0147	114,286
<b>Total Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds</b>		<b>4,440,605</b>
<b>c) Pooled Funding</b>		
<b>(i) CERF Grants</b>		
<b>(ii) Other Pooled funds</b> - including Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF), Humanitarian Response Funds, Emergency Response Funds, UN Trust Fund for Human Security, Country-based Pooled Funds etc.		
CERF (UNOCHA)	SM/18/0285	1,785,748
<b>d) Other types of humanitarian funds</b>		
<b>Total humanitarian funds received in 2018</b>		<b>7,121,209</b>
<b>II. Carry-over of humanitarian funds available in 2018</b>		
<b>e) Carry over Thematic Humanitarian Funds</b>		
Thematic Humanitarian Funds	SM/14/9910	<b>475,459</b>
<b>f) Carry-over of non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds</b>		
Estonia	SM/17/0442	441,408
Poland	SM/17/0633	514,546
Italy	SM/17/0654	553,122
The Global Fund to Fight AIDS	SM/17/0117	442,264
European Commission / ECHO	SM/17/0279	76,495
Switzerland	SM/17/0619	470,491
USA (State) BPRM	SM/17/0454	134,040
Japan	SM/17/0051	18,428
<b>Total carry-over non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds</b>		<b>2,650,794</b>
<b>Total carry-over humanitarian funds</b>		<b>3,126,253</b>
<b>III. Other sources</b>		

This table includes all resource partners and all types of funding received and available for emergency activities in the humanitarian appeals.

*Programmable amounts of donor contributions, excluding recovery cost.*

*\*\* 2018 loans have not been waived; COs are liable to reimburse in 2019 as donor funds become available.*

**Table 3: Thematic Humanitarian Contributions Received in 2018**

<b>Thematic Humanitarian Contributions Received in 2018 (in USD): Donor</b>	<b>Grant Number<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>Programmable Amount (in USD)</b>	<b>Total Contribution Amount (in USD)</b>
Estonia	SM/18/9910/0269	310,794	329,801
Lithuania	SM/18/9910/0082	22,935	24,540
Andorran National Comm for UNICEF	SM/18/9910/0013	11,127	11,684
Allocation from global Thematic Humanitarian*	SM189910	550,000	580,271
<b>Total</b>		<b>894,856</b>	<b>946,296</b>

*\*Global Thematic Humanitarian Funding contributions are pooled and then allocated to country and regional offices. For a detailed list of grants, please see the 2018 Humanitarian Action Annual Results Reports.*

## **J. FUTURE WORK PLAN**

For 2019, UNICEF's overarching strategy in Ukraine will focus on protecting children and progressively realizing child rights on both sides of the contact line. Responding to the urgent needs of 234,000 children and their families, UNICEF will continue to strengthen social services for child protection, health, education and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). The capacities of local stakeholders and civil society will be enhanced, and preparedness and accountability to affected populations will be strengthened. UNICEF will improve access to quality, inclusive, age- and gender-sensitive social services for children and families to reduce their vulnerabilities and increase their resilience to protection-related risks. UNICEF will work with humanitarian partners to target those closest to the contact line, while also strengthening family and community-based systems to support those impacted by the conflict. This bridging of humanitarian action and development programming will be central to UNICEF's approach. UNICEF will continue to support an e-voucher system for vulnerable populations along the contact line, while expanding community-based psychosocial support services for children.

Leading the WASH and education clusters and the child protection sub-cluster, UNICEF will continue to advocate with parties to the conflict to comply with International Humanitarian Law and child rights standards.

## K. EXPRESSION OF THANKS

Without the support from the donor community, UNICEF's humanitarian interventions in Ukraine would not have been possible. On behalf of the children and women of Ukraine who have benefitted from key humanitarian assistance throughout 2018, UNICEF sincerely expresses gratitude to donors and partners for their support, particularly to: the EU/ECHO, the Governments and people of Germany, of the United States of America (BPRM) and USAID (OFDA), Japan, Estonia, Poland and Italy, Switzerland and Lithuania, the National Committees of Andorra, Croatia and Germany, CERF (UNOCHA) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS.



In 2019, UNICEF will concentrate all efforts in contributing to the progressive realization of the rights of all children in Ukraine and to the reduction of equity gaps, maintaining a balance between humanitarian, recovery and development interventions, incorporating conflict –supportive programming and peace building in the framework of on-going key reforms in social sectors and decentralization. We count on our donors' continued support to tackle these remaining challenges.

## ANNEXES TO THE CER

- a. Two-pagers Non Thematic funding contributions
- b. Donor statement (as of 31 December 2018)
- c. Human Interest Stories and Communication
- d. Donor feedback forms