

Ukraine

Child Protection Sectoral and OR + (Thematic Report) January – December 2018



@UNICEF/Ukraine/2018/Filipov

Children at Mine Awareness Day in a school in Shastya town, Luhansk oblast

Prepared by:
UNICEF Ukraine
March 2019

B. Table of Contents

Abbreviations and Acronyms	2
Executive Summary	3
Strategic Context in 2018	4
Results in the Outcome Area	5
Constraints and Lessons Learnt	7
Financial Analysis	7
Future Work Plan	9
Expression of Thanks	10
Annexes	

C. Abbreviations and Acronyms

EI	Early Intervention
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GCA	Government Controlled Areas
KAP	Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
NGCA	Non-government controlled areas
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
VAC	Violence Against Children

D. Executive Summary

Now in its fifth year, the conflict in eastern Ukraine continues to have a strong impact on the lives of Ukrainian children and particularly to those living near the 'contact line' where fighting remains a daily occurrence. Between January and December 2018, an estimated 16 educational facilities were damaged by shelling and 50 facilities temporarily closed hampering children from access to safe learning¹. According to the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO²), some 500,000 children continue to be in need of humanitarian

Mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) remain a significant threat to the health and life of the children in the conflict affected regions. In 2018, 4 children were killed and 16 injured in mine/ERW related incidents.

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 to over 130,000 children, their caregivers and professionals working with them how to cope with stress, anxiety and how to address protection concerns.

Gender-based violence (GBV) remains a significant risk in eastern Ukraine, particularly in the areas along the contact line. To tackle the issue, UNICEF-supported mobile teams in the East addressed the immediate needs of over 5,600 women, girls and boys affected by GBV and domestic violence, as well as carried out awareness raising activities among children, youth and caregivers. Moreover, the experience and knowledge from the field assisted UNICEF to contribute to the development of legal and administrative framework on domestic violence at the national level.

Though many of these services were initially introduced through humanitarian interventions, UNICEF continued its advocacy to ensure their sustainability through recovery and development efforts, UNICEF continued to enhance the capacities at national, regional and local levels and support the child-centered services in selected municipalities, contributing to child protection system strengthening.

UNICEF ensured smooth interagency coordination of several inter-sectoral platforms, including on J4C and early intervention, bringing together Ministries of Social Policy, Health, Education, Justice, Police, as well as sub-national, development and CSO partners. These platforms are instrumental in facilitating dialogue and enhancing cooperation around child rights issues, as well as for promoting new models of work.

Finally, 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 the East, as well as contributing to the mapping of existing projects, services, initiatives, and advocacy. Concurrently, UNICEF contributed to the implementation of the emergency child protection programmes under the HRP and HAC, and development of new plans and programmes.

¹ Education cluster in Ukraine, 2018

² Available at <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/ukraine/document/ukraine-2019-humanitarian-needs-overview-hno>

E. Strategic Context in 2018

While the intensity of shelling remained relatively consistent throughout the year, the number of children killed or injured confirmed the continuing severity of the threats facing children and their caregivers on both sides of the contact line in Donetsk and Luhansk Regions. From 1 January to 31 December 2018, OHCHR recorded 279 conflict-related civilian casualties: 55 killed (32 men, 15 women, 6 boys and 2 girls) and 224 injured (122 men, 70 women, 16 boys, 7 girls and 9 adults whose sex is yet unknown). This is a 53.8 per cent decrease compared with 2017, when 604 civilian casualties (117 killed and 487 injured) were recorded, and the lowest yearly civilian casualties during the entire conflict period. Of the civilian casualties, 119 resulted from mine related incidents and ERQ handling (34 killed and 85 injured).

Existing national child protection systems and structures have failed to systematically address key challenges, particularly in the areas of family separation, access to justice for all children and protection from violence, abuse and exploitation, in particular addressing the many inter-connected risks faced by children and their families.

Ukraine has one of the highest numbers of children separated from their families in the region. Despite the ongoing de-institutionalization reform, around 106,000 children separated from their families and placed in childcare institutions remained high and predominantly from extremely poor families having at least one parent and/or caregiver alive. Furthermore, the country lacks reliable data and information that could meaningfully inform policies and programmes. Family-oriented care systems and community-based “gatekeeping” mechanisms are not widespread, often weak or not efficient.

Children with disabilities represent a significant proportion of children in state run residential institutions. The scale-up of the early identification and early intervention (EI) models remained slow although the Government introduced a national Platform on Early Intervention (EI) in 2016.

Violence against children (VAC) also poses a significant challenge. UNICEF-supported Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) study from June 2018, documented widespread beliefs reinforcing the culture of violence. 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 the victim of domestic violence is guilty. In addition, most worryingly, 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.

In the justice sector, ongoing reforms on juvenile justice led to a sharp reduction in the number of children remanded to judicial care. However, the justice system needs further strengthening for the protection of rights of child victims and witnesses, as well as introduction of models of restorative justice such as diversion and mediation.

In Eastern Ukraine, the operational environment remained complex throughout 2018. The contact line and the de facto barrier created between Government Controlled Areas (GCA) and Non-Government Controlled Areas (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 ERWs (spell out) accounted for 350 out of 864 casualties or 40 per cent. Mine-related incidents and handling of ERW accounted for 65 per cent of child casualties in 2017 and 2018

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 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. The scope and range of protection issues affecting children in eastern Ukraine are multiple: displacement, exposure to violence, including GBV, limited access to birth registration for children born in NGCA, family separation and psychosocial distress. Thousands of children bear the cognitive and emotional scars of the traumatic experience that has become their everyday reality. Moreover, limited awareness of children on risks of landmines still result in injuries directly related to the conflict.

F. Results in the Outcome Area

Through recovery and development efforts and in response to identified gaps, UNICEF continued enhancing the capacities at national, regional and local levels and supporting the child-centered services in selected municipalities contributing to the child protection system strengthening. Though many of those services were introduced through humanitarian interventions, UNICEF continued its' advocacy with local authorities to ensure their sustainability. Meanwhile, UNICEF and partners addressed the social and PSS needs of a large number of children and their caregivers in the most conflict-affected communities of Ukraine.

In parallel and in responding to on-going reforms, UNICEF worked directly with the Government advocating for more child-focused welfare reforms with more focus on prevention of separation of children from their families, de-institutionalization, community-based child and family support services (including early intervention). Complemented by UNICEF's technical support to the Government in drafting a financial framework for the de-institutionalization reform with the 'money follows the child' principle, it will eventually assist the authorities to shift the services from residential care to family and community-based care and support.

As part of the support to strengthen monitoring of violations of child rights at local level, including in alternative child care institutions using the Child Tracking tools, UNICEF signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of Ombudsman, Ministry of Social Policy and the Ukrainian Child Rights Network. Trainings of local stakeholders are being conducted. UNICEF also contributed to the knowledge generation on child protection providing children, their caregivers and communities with evidence to prevent VAC and GBV cases. A newly developed training package on positive parenting addresses concerns of children and caregivers. It includes tools to prevent violent methods of discipline and improve communication between adolescents and their parents. About 50 community professionals were trained as trainers to conduct a series of trainings for caregivers on positive parenting in December 2018 and to be continued throughout 2019. To note, this is a new direction of UNICEF's work in Ukraine that, in a long-run will address the issue of increased violence, bullying and other protection challenges.

In particular, UNICEF in partnership with NGO 'Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health' has developed the manual on prevention and addressing violence against children (VAC) and domestic violence designed for specialists working with children and their families. Furthermore, UNICEF in cooperation with NGO 'Words Help' has developed a comprehensive training package on child protection issues, including PSS, VAC, GBV and Life Skills Education (LSE) modules, also available in e-version to ensure wider outreach. Those materials are used for strengthening the capacity and raising awareness among children and youth in eastern Ukraine.

In parallel, as a result of the first nationwide rapid survey on domestic violence among men and women aged 18-55 years conducted in June 2018, UNICEF co-sponsored the launch of 'Talk against violence' programme, a multi-media-based movement aimed at fostering a dialogue on domestic violence, including violence against children and GBV. More than 7.5 million people were reached through different media. The movement involved the Ministry of Social Policy and UNFPA.

As part of UNICEF global commitment to coordinate the humanitarian response in the area of child protection, UNICEF continued to lead the Child Protection sub-cluster contributing to the overall coordination of local and international organizations active in conflict affected regions, as well as mapping of existing projects/services/initiatives and advocacy. Meanwhile, UNICEF contributed to the implementation of the child protection programmes under the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP 2018) and UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC).

In government and non-government controlled areas of Eastern Ukraine, UNICEF and partners further addressed social and psychosocial needs of around **123,500 children** and their caregivers affected by the on-going conflict. UNICEF also contributed to knowledge generation on child protection by providing children, their caregivers, and communities with information materials on child protection risks to prevent VAC and GBV cases. UNICEF-supported 15 mobile teams continued to address the immediate needs of over 5,600 women, girls and boys affected by GBV and domestic violence. The work of this dedicated team has contributed to the development of legal and administrative framework on domestic violence at the national level.

As part of the support to mine risk education, UNICEF continued to build knowledge and motivate safe practices related to mines and unexploded ordinance through C4D intervention, including digital education campaign and capacity building of adult trainers and young leaders on MRE. Some 76 teachers became trainers on mine safety while 1,442 children including 246 peer-to-peer became master trainers who will in return conduct learning sessions on mine risk education for children in Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts (GCA) 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>) reached over 613,431 children with lifesaving messages on mine safety.

UNICEF also initiated a new partnership with Danish Refugee Council-Danish Demining Group on situation analysis on child mine victims and mapping of available services. This is the first ever attempt to strengthen the protective environment for child mine victims through community support networks, awareness raising; and will contribute to the development of essential foundation blocks for a comprehensive child mine victim assistance in Ukraine.

End of December, the Government ultimately approved the Mine Action Law becoming the guiding document for Mine Risk Education coordination and scaling up of interventions in the coming years.

In the humanitarian area, UNICEF joined the efforts with other UN agencies preparing a paper on challenges and recommendations for birth registration of children born in the NGCA. The paper is included in the advocacy package on social cohesion shared with key national stakeholders and donors

In addition, UNICEF also facilitated a few discussions with the representatives of the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, CSOs and other relevant stakeholders in order to simplify and accelerate the process of registration of births and deaths.

Constraints and lessons learned

Humanitarian access remained an overall concern, in particular to NGCA and in areas near the 'contact line' (0-15 km zone) due to ongoing hostilities and the heavy presence of mines. Closure of checkpoints caused delays for timely implementation of programme activities and related travels. The design of the UNICEF's operation had anticipated some of these challenges. Sub-offices located near the contact line were established to effectively monitor the situation of children and women and respond quickly. The larger UNICEF office based in Kyiv, which has more resources provided back up support to these operations. It has also provided technical aid and financial assistance and strategic guidance including liaison with UN and other development partners.

The security situation is another key concern especially due to limited access to education facilities located in 0-5km along contact line. It poses security risks to schoolteachers who need to travel to attend training and also limitations in accessing learning materials on-line due to lack of Internet. In addition, despite the significant international support to humanitarian and recovery interventions in conflict-affected areas of Eastern Ukraine, critical public infrastructure, including educational, health, social facilities, lack major financial investments from central government. This calls for increased technical support from partners, enhanced coordination among actors and further advocacy with government, including through humanitarian clusters. Lack of local partners in communities close to the Line of Contact and in NGCA as well as local suppliers, remains of concern.

Finally, fund-raising both for the humanitarian and development sectors remains challenging. UNICEF Office in Ukraine will submit funding proposals to specific donors, but will also reach out to new partnerships, including the private sector.

G. Financial analysis

Table 1: Planned budget for the thematic sector

OUTCOME/OUTPUTS	Funding Type ¹	Planned Budget for 2018
OUTCOME: CHILD-FRIENDLY AND FAMILY-ORIENTED SOCIAL WELFARE AND JUSTICE SYSTEM	ORR	1,674,000
	RR	170,000
	ORE	3,200,000
PROVISION OF CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES	ORR	800,000
	RR	170,000
	ORE	2,500,000
CHILD FRIENDLY JUSTICE	ORR	300,000
	RR	0
	ORE	100,000
ALTERNATIVE CHILD CARE	ORR	374,000
	RR	0
	ORE	100,000
PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE & PROMOTION OF HEALTHY LIFE STYLE	ORR	200,000
	RR	0
	ORE	500,000
Total		5,044,000

Table 2: Country-level Thematic contributions to thematic pool received in 2018

No country-level thematic contributions was received for this outcome area in 2018.

Table 3: Expenditures in the thematic sector by results area: **Protection from Violence and Exploitation**

2018 Expenditures by Key-Results Areas (in US Dollars)

Organizational Targets	Expenditure Amount			
	Other Resources - Emergency	Other Resources - Regular	Regular Resources	All Programme Accounts
23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children	1,762,050	837,141	314,735	2,913,926
23-03 Access to justice	72,077	179,928	38,679	290,684
Total	1,834,128	1,017,069	353,414	3,204,610

**All expense amounts are provisional and subject to change.*

Table 4: Thematic expenses by results area: **Protection from Violence and Exploitation**

2018 Expenditures (Thematic) by Key-Results Areas (in US Dollars)

Fund Category	All Programme Accounts	<input type="button" value="v"/>
Year	2018	<input type="button" value="v"/>
Business Area	Ukraine - 4410	<input type="button" value="v"/>
Prorated Goal Area	23 Protection from Violence and Exploitation	<input type="button" value="v"/>
Donor Class Level2	Thematic	<input type="button" value="v"/>

Row Labels	<input type="button" value="v"/> Expense
<input type="button" value="v"/> Other Resources - Emergency	390,177
23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children	324,623
23-03 Access to justice	65,553
<input type="button" value="v"/> Other Resources - Regular	1,877
23-03 Access to justice	1,877
Grand Total	392,054

**All expense amounts are provisional and subject to change.*

Table 5: Expenses by Specific Intervention Codes: **Protection from Violence and Exploitation**

2018 Expenditures Specific Intervention Codes (in US Dollars)

Fund Category	All Programme Accounts	✓
Year	2018	✓
Business Area	Ukraine - 4410	✓
Prorated Goal Area	23 Protection from Violence and Exploitation	✓
Fund Sub-Category	(Multiple Items)	✓

Row Labels	Expense
23-01-02 Services to prevent or respond to violence, exploitation and abuse	68,649
23-01-03 Services to prevent or respond to gender-based violence in emergencies	132,097
23-01-04 Psycho-social support in emergencies	761,523
23-01-05 Social welfare workforce systems strengthening (accreditation, staffing and supervision)	261,661
23-01-18 Child protection focused on care and support for children with disabilities	192,840
23-01-19 Violence, exploitation, and abuse - surveys (e.g. KAP, VACS), data analysis/research/evaluation evidence generation	17,500
23-01-23 Child Protection humanitarian AoP/humanitarian sector coordination	5,022
23-01-99 Technical assistance - Prevention and response services for violence against children	648,311
23-03-01 Promoting diversion and alternatives to deprivation of liberty	57,903
23-03-02 Justice sector workforce strengthening and capacity building (including police)	86,629
23-03-03 Access to child-friendly police and justice sector services	56,359
23-03-99 Technical assistance - Access to justice	54,559
26-01-01 Country programme process (including LUNDAF planning and CCA)	3,541
26-01-03 Humanitarian planning and review activities (HRP, RRP, UNICEF HAC)	-8,907
26-02-01 Situation Analysis or Update on women and children	13,474
26-02-02 MICS - General	9,630
26-02-04 Stimulating demand for and capacity to use data	18,301
26-02-06 Analysis of data	10,921
26-02-08 Programme monitoring	252,874
26-02-09 Field monitoring	2,280
26-03-01 Advocacy and partnership-building for social behaviour change	58,944
26-03-02 Capacity and skills development for social behaviour change	18,422
26-03-03 Children, adolescent and youth engagement and participation	167,947
26-03-04 Community engagement, participation and accountability	59,740
26-06-04 Leading advocate	24,539
26-06-05 Leading voice	17,778
26-06-06 Supporter engagement	212
26-06-07 Leading brand	3,505
26-06-08 Emergency preparedness (cross-sectoral)	1,669
26-07-01 Operations support to programme delivery	199,309
27-01-06 HQ and RO technical support to multiple Goal Areas	5,120
28-07-04 Management and Operations support at CO	2,258
Grand Total	3,204,610

**All expense amounts are provisional and subject to change.*

Table 6: Planned Budget for 2019

Protection from Violence and Exploitation	Funding Type ¹	Planned Budget for 2019	Funded Budget for 2019	Shortfall as of 23.03.2019
CHILD-FRIENDLY AND FAMILY-ORIENTED SOCIAL WELFARE AND JUSTICE SYSTEM	ORR	1,674,000	1,014,659	659,341
	RR	170,000	272,390	0
	ORE	3,200,000	1,567,387	1,632,613

H. Future work plan

In line with UNICEF 2018-2022 country programme and 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and HAC, UNICEF will continue to strengthen national child protection system to work in the best interests of all children, including the most vulnerable. The programme will focus in three key areas: keeping children and families together, ensuring equal access to justice for all children, and preventing violence against children. This programme aims to improve the capability of social welfare, justice, law enforcement and other sectors to support vulnerable and disadvantaged children and families, with a focus on strengthening the linkages across all relevant sectors.

In conflict affected areas, UNICEF will continue to strengthen child protection services on both sides of the contact line by improving access to psychosocial support and by building the capacity of professionals on child protection risks and vulnerabilities, including GBV and VAC. Mine Risk Education will also remain a key priority for UNICEF in 2019.

I. Expression of thanks

UNICEF Ukraine's interventions in 2018 would not have been possible without the financial support from contributors to Global Child Protection thematic funding, as well as EU, ECHO, UNOCHA, the Governments of Estonia, Poland, United States (BPRM) and Germany and Andorran National Committee for UNICEF. Thanks to this financial support, UNICEF contributed to enhancing the social welfare and justice systems to ensure protection services-including alternative family care- are available in selected municipalities and that principles of child-friendly justice are part of the existing legal framework and are effectively implemented. Financial contributions also supported building the resilience of conflict-affected children and to improve access to protective services in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. UNICEF Ukraine, on behalf of all children of Ukraine, would like to thank donors for their continuous support.

Annex:

Thank you for being a valuable partner of UNICEF. We strive to improve our reporting on results, and are grateful for any feedback you can provide at the following link:

[English version](#)