# Ukraine

# WASH Sectoral and OR+ (Thematic) Report

January - December 2018



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Sasha, 9, lives in a village near the "contact line" in the Donetsk region. Her family does not have a reliable water source. Due to the ongoing hostilities clean water disappeared from community wells. Now, Sasha and her family have to carry buckets of water with their own hands to meet their basic needs

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### **C. Abbreviations and Acronyms**

CP Country Programme

GCAs Government-controlled Areas

GoU Government of Ukraine

EECP Exit-Entrance Checkpoint

ECA Eastern Conflict Area

ERW Explosive Remnants of War

HAC Humanitarian Action for Children

HCT Humanitarian Country Team

IDPs Internally Displaced Persons

LoC Line of Contact

MoES Ministry of Education and Science

MoH Ministry of Health

MoU Memorandum of Understanding

MRE Mine Risk Education

NGCAs Non-government Controlled Area

NGO Non-governmental Organization

OCHA United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

OSCE Organisation for Security Cooperation in Europe

PRV Popasnyans'kyi Rayonnyi Vodokanal

PSS Psychosocial Support

PUC Public Utility Company

SES State Emergency Service

SRP Strategic Response Plan

UN United Nations

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

USAID United States Agency for International Development

UXO Unexploded Ordnance

WASH Water, Sanitation, Hygiene

WHO World Health Organization

#### **D. Executive Summary**

The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene component in Ukraine 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 behaviours in communities, schools and health facilities. These results will also directly contribute to UNDAF outcomes supporting recovery in Eastern Ukraine. Based on a UNICEF water risk assessment, and taking into account the evolving situation, support will continue to be focused on the physical infrastructure of schools and the rehabilitation of water systems, with an emphasis on water quality, while at the same time fostering intersectoral cooperation and social cohesion at the local level.

The development of a national strategy to address the environmental risks faced by children in Ukraine will contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 13 targets, taking to the national level the good practices learned in improving access to water, sanitation and hygiene in conflict-affected areas. UNICEF will invest in generating new evidence and advocacy to demonstrate the impact of environmental change on children and highlight children's perspectives in building resilient communities.

#### **E. Strategic Context of 2018**

2018 marked 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, while integrating development, recovery and humanitarian interventions, with the intent of strengthening the humanitarian and development nexus.

With the conflict in eastern Ukraine in its fifth year, humanitarian assistance remains vital to continuous well-being of children and their families living in conflict-affected regions. In 2018, UNICEF reached 1.9 million people including over 266,000 boys and girls with humanitarian assistance.

The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector in Ukraine appears to be extraordinary complex. Though Ukraine is a developed country, with Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) indicators of 92% for water, the induced 'safety' rate, contributing to decreasing the vulnerability of the population to water and sanitation 'unsafely managed' consequences, is high. Meanwhile, the region of Donbas in Eastern Ukraine – where the conflict persists – is facing a humanitarian situation in WASH. The complexity relies on various factors, including weighting Humanitarian versus Development interventions, operating in government-controlled areas (GCA) versus non-government controlled areas (NGCA), linking communities with central systems, and dealing with regional versus national government. Above all, the complexity is related to massive centralized and urban water systems (1.1 billion m3/year for the largest), which are running across the line of contact (LoC) dividing GCA from NGCA. This has implications in terms of technics, governance, financial, environment and security of the WASH interventions

In Eastern Ukraine, many settlements/municipalities continue to highlight water supply as the most pressing need. In 2018, 27% of people living close to the contact line experienced frequent water shortages, either daily or weekly. At the same time, due to lack of funding, the number of people

accessing trucked water dropped from 12% to 7% in one year (REACH). The situation for major water infrastructure remains critical: in an area where 4.6 million people rely on centralized water systems, 105 WASH incidents were reported when shelling, shooting or other issues directly affected water infrastructure this year. Meanwhile, massive water pipelines supplying water to Luhansk city failed repeatedly due to their age, coupled with access for repairs severely compromised due to their proximity to the LoC. Water companies continued to struggle with debt in spite of some relief provided by the Ukrainian government towards the end of 2017. They still require essential chemicals to treat water (the cost of chlorine gas trebled in 2018), and it was only thanks to UNICEF, ICRC and SDC that adequate quality water was produced and distributed. Preparations for winter 2019, such as critical front-line repairs to major pipes supplying big cities remained unfinished due to non-agreement of windows of silence to conduct the necessary repairs. Should pipelines fail centralized heating would also stop, with the potential for widespread suffering among the population as temperatures often reach -20C in winter. Old existing sewage networks/wastewater treatment facilities (70 years old), are also failing with a high risk of water contamination.

Close to the LoC, only 56% of people within 5 km of the frontline have a toilet connected to a sewer network. However, 18% have a septic tank and 32% have an outside toilet, rising to 69% in rural areas (REACH) and difficulties for people to empty septic tanks. There are around 3,500 schools, kindergartens and vocational training colleges in the two conflict affected oblasts, of which 52% reported a need for improvements to substandard latrines, or inadequate water supply (Education cluster 2018). Availability of Hygiene items remains challenging along the LoC, especially those for babies and elders.

Advocacy around WASH issues remains a prerequisite in order to expect any improvement in a near future

# F. Results in the Outcome Area

During the reporting period, UNICEF Ukraine achieved the following results covering UNICEF Wash in emergency, as well as recovery and development programme interventions.

#### WASH in emergency

In 2018, in response to the humanitarian needs of the population, UNICEF and its Implementing Partners CF ADRA, Arche noVa and Première Urgence International (PUI), provided access to safe water through drilling/rehabilitation of 12 boreholes, installation of 10 water towers, pipes and pumps to 37 settlements in Donetsk oblast, following a need assessment. In the second half of 2018, another needs assessment was finalized for Luhansk oblast GCA and the scope and locations for new interventions were identified. The two surveys resulted into a revision of the planned coverage due to demographic situation, by the small size of the settlements located along the contact line and comprehensive approach to rehabilitation works.

UNICEF jointly with partners also **improved access to water and sanitation in educational and health** institutions. 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.

UNICEF provided emergency response when the water supply was disrupted. In December, 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

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. 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.

In addition, access to **hygiene supplies** improved **for 41,989 children**, women and persons with disabilities residing on both sides of the line of contact through distribution by implementing partners (DDC, Arche noVa, Friends Hands and Proliska) 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. In addition, hygiene kits contained menstrual hygiene items.

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.

Knowledge of basic hygiene practices among children and their caregivers was improved through distribution of informational materials and hygiene promotion sessions in schools. In Luhansk oblast, 1,119 pupils participated in hygiene promotion sessions that covered basic hygiene practices for younger age groups and menstrual hygiene and sexual education for older age groups. For the first time, menstrual hygiene was included into the hygiene promotion agenda of UNICEF Ukraine, complementing basic hygiene practices among children in kindergartens and primary schools. Additionally, 417 girls of 7-11 grades participated in menstrual hygiene sessions in schools. A U-report poll identified the MHM as an area of progress (91.2% of girls, 73.9% of boys want to get more information), and activities are being prepared for 2019

Lastly, the WASH cluster was instrumental in providing coordination and guidance to the sector, but also in monitoring and documenting significant acute incidents on a real time basis, using information checked with engineers from the water companies and electricity companies and local authorities. More than 58 such reports were issued and distributed to international decision makers, including incountry embassies, donors, but also advisors of key foreign governments. The WASH cluster played a key role in advocating with all parties for the compliance to the international humanitarian law, not to target WASH related infrastructure (89 incidents in 2018), and called for windows of silence for workers to be able to proceed with the repairs. Because of the conflict, there is a strong need to support the main water companies on voicing the problems faced with the low revenue collection, induced debts and consecutive electricity cuts, infrastructures problem.

#### Recovery and Development WASH

National authorities' support to WASH related issues in conflict-affected regions is rather limited. On the other hand, regional authorities (Oblast administrations) strive to solve WASH issues for water companies and communities. Over 80 per cent of the population of Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts receive drinking water from centralized water supply systems. UNICEF supported water utility companies operating centralized systems to ensure that people have uninterrupted access to safe water.

On the water quality in particular, UNICEF provides **water treatment chemicals** to Voda Donbassa and Popasna vodokanals, due to their reduced financial capacity, ensuring the safety of the water supply in terms of water quality, in close collaboration with ICRC and SDC to cover entire demand in chemical products. Since January 2018, UNICEF procured 438 tons of liquefied chlorine gas, 285 tons of sodium hypochlorite, 262 tons of activated carbon, 604 tons of coagulant, 11 tons of flocculants to Voda Donbassa and Popasna vodokanals benefiting nearly 11,697,143 people in the two oblasts.

On the soft component, UNICEF identified potential actions on the chemical side, both relate to safety and process. As a result, assessments on the hazardous potential use of water treatment chemicals (of which chlorine gas, widely utilized in Ukraine) are conducted. Such action will allow setting up mitigation actions for VD and PVK by decreasing the risk and/or eliminate it through the development of a transition strategy. The development of water system management was initiated recently to capacitate a communal water company to identify problems and simulate solutions through a hydraulic model. In NGCA Luhansk, UNICEF provided a sodium hypochlorite plant to Luhansk Voda to improve access to safe drinking water for population securing sustainable drinking water supply to 100,000 people. This is the first project for UNICEF to assist counterparts in transitioning from liquefied chlorine gas as technology associated with high environmental and civil risks, especially for areas located close to the contact line, where the risks of chlorine leakage due to shelling are high.

UNICEF provided **technical equipment** (steel and PE pipes, motors, frequency invertors, pumps and fittings), in replacement of defective or outdated equipment/network, ensure uninterrupted water supply to 255,087 people in different locations. For instance, the reconstruction of Donetsk Water Supply Line approx. 530 m length and 1400 mm diameter of steel pipe in Slavyansk rayon, Donetsk Oblast. On the soft component, the implementation of software tools such as Geographic Information System (GIS), Asset Management System (AMS) and Hydraulic Modelling Tool (HMT) for Mariupol vodokanal to improve the local water supply management. Discussions on energy efficiency and decrease of energy dependency are ongoing with VD. The provision of machinery (excavators, loader-

diggers and service trucks), to different water departments will capacitate the companies to intervene on their own to repair damaged pipelines. With the procurement of working equipment (generators, welding machines, and tools), and protective clothing and accessories to the public utility companies, this support enables timely repairs, and as a result uninterrupted water supply. In order to strengthen the capacity of company workers on safety and security and reduce the number of incidents, UNICEF is supporting tailored made Mine Risk Education sessions and First Aid trainings.

Apart from supporting major water companies, UNICEF intents also to assist 5 small scale vodokanals in Donetsk oblast and 4 in Luhansk oblast. An assessment aiming at identifying major bottlenecks and priority measures for each vodokanal is ongoing since late 2018, and support to develop rehabilitation and risks mitigation plans will be provided in 2019.

During the reporting period, UNICEF actions on **decentralized networks** allowed to improve the situation in settlements and villages, for 51,801 children (15%) and families, through the drilling of new boreholes and/or rehabilitation of existing ones, the installation of water towers, and the rehabilitation of small-piped networks. During water supply disruptions because of the hostilities, UNICEF organized and assisted 45,706 persons with the distribution of emergency bottled water and jerry cans, or the installation of water tanks. Educational and health facilities were also supported by UNICEF and partners, through the improvement of water and heating networks necessary to create a favourable learning environment for students, or better conditions for patients in hospitals.

At national level, the Ministry of Ecology signed a partnership with the European Union to implement the directives issued on water in the year 2000. The Water Framework Directive implies the development of River Basin Management Plans (one of the national SDG indicators), aiming at improving the water quality of the different water bodies in a catchment basin. Supported at country level by four European/international organisations (UNECE, Austria Environment Services, International Office for Water, OECD), UNICEF and OSCE are being involved in the development of Siverskyi-Donets River, in Eastern Ukraine. However, due to the lack of funds, the implementation of UNICEF-supported activities started only recently. The main noticeable progress is the development of the strategy. Several meetings with the stakeholders were hold (Ministry of Ecology, OSCE/Environmental Dept., Internal Office for Water, Expert consultants, UNDP, State Agency of Water Resources, Donetsk and Luhansk Oblast administrations) to strategize possible UNICEF's support related to the policies in the sector. An agreed area is to support 1 (Sloviansk) of the 4 planned central laboratories that will be used as reference for the analysis of water in Ukraine; upgrading the laboratory will serve several purposes and allow UNICEF to work on different activities related to drinking water quality, verification of water treatment process, basin management project. At regional level, with the Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts administrations, discussions on possible UNICEF support on solid waste management were conducted, however requiring further development. Additional potential activities around energy efficiency and decreasing of dependency to electrical suppliers are discussed with the main water provider in Ukraine.

#### **Constraints and lessons learned**

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 because 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 during the year. 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.

The primary cause of increased vulnerability of the population of Eastern Ukraine is insecurity, particularly along the contact line between government and armed groups, and in densely populated urban settings. People living in conflict areas are facing disrupted, reduced or unreliable services with water, sanitation, electricity supply and transportation.

The conflict also amplified problems with water and sanitation service provision that already existed at the national level, stressing the vulnerability and critical situation of the sector. Government capability to formulate, finance, manage and maintain water and sanitation sector remains weak, despite some massive investments from international donors to modernize the sector. At the national level, there is a need to have effective and concise policy on water and sanitation that is in line with SDGs and Ukraine national development agenda. The distribution of the responsibilities over several ministries (Ecology, Regional Development, Health, Economy, Temporary Occupied Territories ...) and inherent rivalries do not help to solve the issue. Moreover, Ukrainian water and sanitation sectors face significant shortage of funds countrywide to address the rising problems. Unless a properly structured and realistically planned reform is designed and implemented, the entire system of service delivery is likely to continue breaking, especially in the East, affecting public health, well-being and overall poverty reduction efforts. The most disadvantaged groups, women and children will be first to bear the consequences of inadequate sector development and service provision.

With about 70% of cities receive water of acceptable quality as per Ukrainian standards, water quality still remains an issue all over the country, due to structural problems (outdated equipment, lack of investments...), with drinking water supplied that does not meet national drinking water standards, putting many Ukrainians at risk for their health. In 30-50% of cities and towns water quality can be improved by implementation of asset rehabilitation programme. About 10-15% of cities and towns' require major infrastructure modernization to achieve acceptable standards. In rural areas, water has high concentration of nitrate and phosphate.

As for sanitation, the improved sanitation facilities are widely used, but are in degraded state, especially urban sewage systems (sewerage pipes, collectors and treatment plants), to which urban population is mainly connected (75%). The rural population tends to use pit latrines and septic tanks (almost 90%). The average age of treatment plant is 25 years. Almost 40% of sewerage networks and pumping stations require rehabilitation or replacement.

Water and sanitation facilities in schools and health institutions require improvement. For example, in primary and secondary schools the availability of water and sanitation services is relatively high (about 95% of primary schools and 85% of secondary schools have access to safe drinking water), but

quality of services is frequently compromised. Research in 2010 suggested that only 54-60% of schools in Ukraine met national norms for water supply, with 40-57% satisfying the norms for sewage systems thus require an urgent need for capital investment and improvement.

The need to continuing delivering on the CCC will continue as long as the conflict continues it also provides opportunities for the future.

#### **G. Financial Analysis**

Table 1: Planned budget for the thematic sector

OUTCOME/OUTPUTS	Funding Type <sup>1</sup>	Planned Budget for 2018
OUTCOME:	ORR	1,227,600
ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER AND REDUCED	RR	40,000
EXPOSURE TO ANY ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS	ORE	13,619,000
CONFLICT-AFFECTED POPULATIONS BENEFIT FROM	ORR	0
COMMUNITY-ORIENTED WASH INTERVENTIONS	RR	0
	ORE	10,000,000
PUBLIC WATER UTILITIES INCREASED CAPACITIES TO	ORR	0
ENSURE UNINTERRUPTED WATER SUPPLY	RR	1,227,600
	ORE	3,619,000
SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES	ORR	0
AND SOLID WASTES	RR	40,000
	ORE	0
Total		14,886,600

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

Donors	Grant Number	Contribution Amount	Programmable Amount
Global	SC189906	907,169.47	850,000.00
Total		907,169.47	850,000.00

Table 3: Expenditures in the thematic sector by results area: Safe and Clean Environment

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

	Expenditure Amount			
Organizational Targets	Other Resources -	Other Resources -	Regular Resources	All Programme
	Emergency	Regular		Accounts
24-01 Water	1,628,754	5,064,739	60,133	6,753,626
24-02 Sanitation	256,430	451,392	2,681	710,503
24-04 Children in Urban Settings / Local Governance	16,569	201,939	8,854	227,362
24-05 Environmental Sustainability	5	2,395	3	2,403
Total	1,901,757	5,720,465	71,671	7,693,893

<sup>\*</sup>All expense amounts are provisional and subject to change

Table 4: Thematic expenses by results area: Safe and Clean Environment

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

Fund Category	All Programme Accounts	<b>T</b>
Year	2018	T
Business Area	Ukraine - 4410	<b>T</b>
Prorated Goal Area	24 Safe and Clean Environment	<b>.T</b>
Donor Class Level2	Thematic	<b>.T</b>

Row Labels	Expense
■ Other Resources - Emergency	130,373
24-01 Water	119,204
24-02 Sanitation	3,900
24-04 Children in Urban Settings / Local Governance	7,270
Other Resources - Regular	11,857
24-01 Water	7,814
24-04 Children in Urban Settings / Local Governance	2,089
24-05 Environmental Sustainability	1,954
Grand Total	142,230

<sup>\*</sup>All expense amounts are provisional and subject to change.

Table 5: Expenses by Specific Intervention Codes: **Safe and Clean Environment** 

# 2018 Expenditures Specific Intervention Codes (in US Dollars)

Fund Category	All Programme Accounts	<b>T</b>
Year	2018	<b>"T</b> "
Business Area	Ukraine - 4410	<b>"T</b>
Prorated Goal Area	24 Safe and Clean Environment	<b>"T</b>
Fund Sub-Category	(Multiple Items)	"T

Row Labels Exp	pense
24-01-03 WASH - risk informed programming including climate resilience disaster and conflict	2,714
24-01-04 Water supply - sustainability checks	177,134
24-01-05 Water supply - institutions (schools, health care facilities, ECD centres)	378,153
24-01-06 Water supply - rural communities service delivery	1,147,240
24-01-07 Water supply - peri-urban and urban communities service delivery	2,491,888
24-01-08 Water supply - safetylqualityltreatment (including household treatment and safe storage)	131,766
24-01-09 Water supply in emergencies - improving water supply services communities	592,711
24-01-99 Technical assistance - Water	921,137
24-02-02 Hygiene in emergencies - handwashing facility with soap in communities	610,291
24-02-03 Hygiene promotion activities in communities	9,250
24-02-11 WASH humanitarian cluster/humanitarian sector coordination	26,241
24-04-02 Urbanlocal policy, planning and budgeting	18,714
24-04-99 Technical assistance - Children in urban settings	169,290
24-05-99 Technical assistance - Environmental sustainability	2,323
26-01-01 Country programme process (including UNDAF planning and CCA)	27,614
26-01-03 Humanitarian planning and review activities (HRP, RRP, UNICEF HAC)	10,545
26-02-01 Situation Analysis or Update on women and children	2,383
26-02-02 MICS - General	750
26-02-04 Stimulating demand for and capacity to use data	3,237
26-02-06 Analysis of data	1,832
26-02-08 Programme monitoring	407,364
26-02-09 Field monitoring	204
26-03-01 Advocacy and partnership-building for social behaviour change	9,080
26-03-02 Capacity and skills development for social behaviour change	59
26-03-03 Children, adolescent and youth engagement and participation	73,295
26-03-04 Community engagement, participation and accountability	21,722
26-06-04 Leading advocate	22,552
26-06-05 Leading voice	32,946
26-06-06 Supporter engagement	38
26-06-07 Leading brand	17,039
26-06-08 Emergency preparedness (cross-sectoral)	11,350
26-07-01 Operations support to programme delivery	344,542
27-01-06 HQ and RO technical support to multiple Goal Areas	34,793
27-01-15 CO programme coordination	-12,742
28-07-04 Management and Operations support at CO	6,438
Grand Total	7,693,893

<sup>\*</sup>All expense amounts are provisional and subject to change.

Table 6: Planned Budget for 2019

OUTCOME	Funding Type <sup>1</sup>	Planned Budget for 2019	Funded Budget for 2019	Shortfall as of 23.03.2019
	ORR	1,227,600	12,153,207	0
ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER AND REDUCED EXPOSURE TO ANY	RR	40,000	40,000	0
ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS	ORE	13,619,000	710,324	12,908,676

#### H. Future Workplan

The CO will continue working on the Humanitarian and development nexus, responding to emergencies caused by the conflict and supporting children and their families by providing drinking water and basic hygiene items. UNICEF will also work on early recovery to keep the centralized water systems operational the next 5 years for a continuous and necessary service delivery and invest in more sustainable activities, like protection of water resources, water basin management and solid waste management.

Four supporting WASH strategies will be prioritized to reach the most disadvantaged children and conflict-affected populations: i) national-level advocacy and provision of quality technical assistance for strengthening sectoral policies and legal frameworks; ii) strengthening technical and management capacities among government partners and service providers for delivery of quality water and sanitation services, particularly at sub-national and regional levels; iii) improve the efficiency and quality of decentralized service delivery; iv) support for essential WASH services and supplies during humanitarian action.

#### I. Expression of Thanks

UNICEF Ukraine's interventions in 2018 would not have been possible without the financial support from contributors to Global WASH thematic funding, the Government of Germany through contributions of KFW and GIZ, as well as ECHO, OFDA, UNOCHA and the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Thanks to this financial support, UNICEF contributed to build the resilience of conflict-affected children and to improve access to WASH 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: <a href="English version">English version</a>



Water delivery to Toretsk School No.3 on 19 Dec 2018 ©UNICEF/2018/Getman

Information about water delivery to Toretsk was posted on UNICEF social media (Facebook with over 100,000 followers and Twitter with over 7,000 followers):

https://www.facebook.com/UNICEFUkraine/posts/2096551433742710 https://twitter.com/UNICEF\_UA/status/1075790834811985920



Distribution of hygiene kits by Adra and Mariupol Youth Union August 2018