

UNICEF Ukraine
Consolidated Emergency Report
2016



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Prepared by:
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for every child

Table of Contents

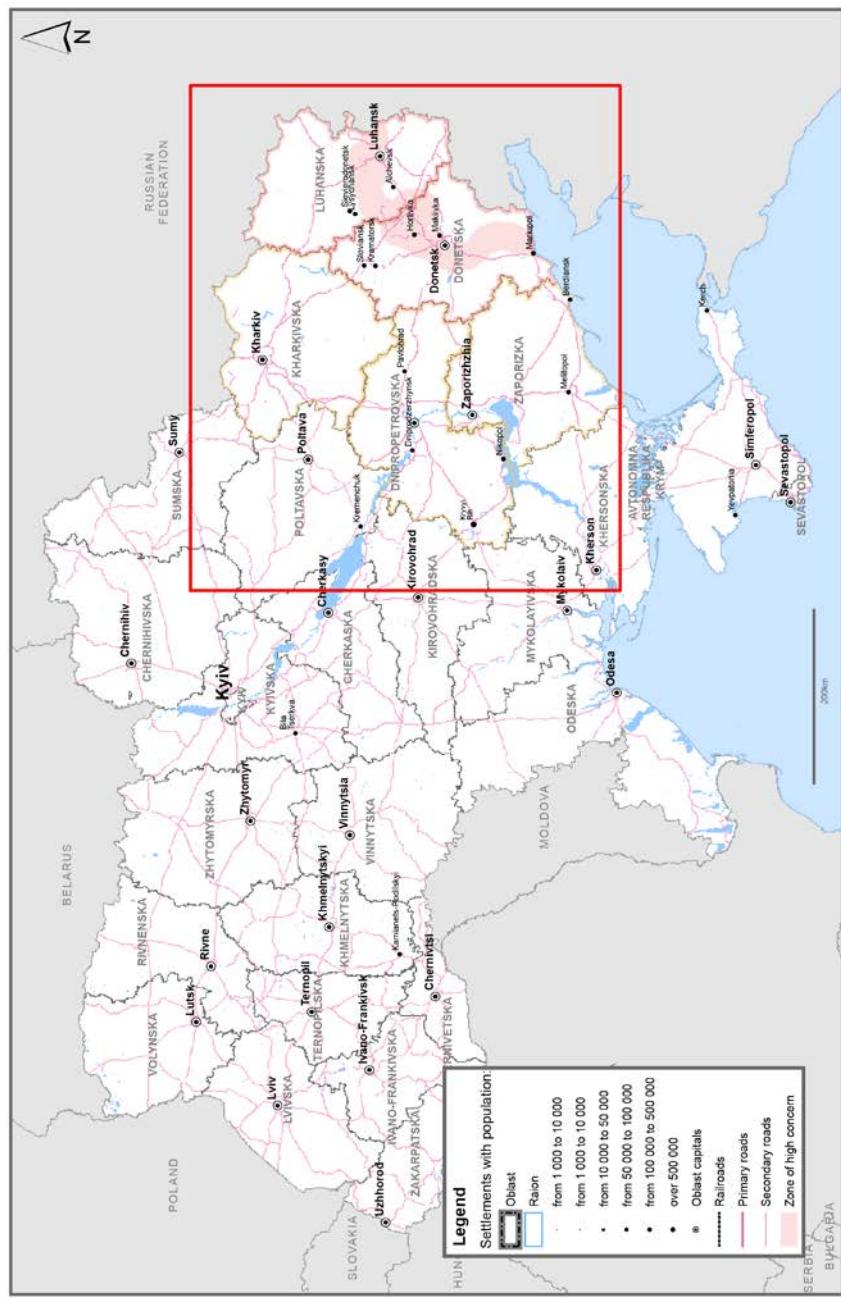
Abbreviations and Acronyms	3
Eastern Ukraine: Reference Map	5
Donetsk And Luhansk Oblasts: Reference Map.....	6
Executive Summary.....	7
Humanitarian Context.....	8
Humanitarian Results	11
Results Table	11
Nutrition	12
Health.....	13
WASH	13
Child Protection.....	15
Education	16
HIV and AIDS	18
UNICEF and the Cluster System	19
Building Resilience.....	19
Monitoring and Evaluation	21
Financial Analysis	21
Table 1: Funding status against the appeal by sector.....	21
Table 2: Funding received and available by donor and funding type.....	22
Table 3: Thematic humanitarian contributions received in 2016.....	23
Future Work Plan.....	24
Expression of Thanks.....	24
Annexes.....	25

Abbreviations and Acronyms

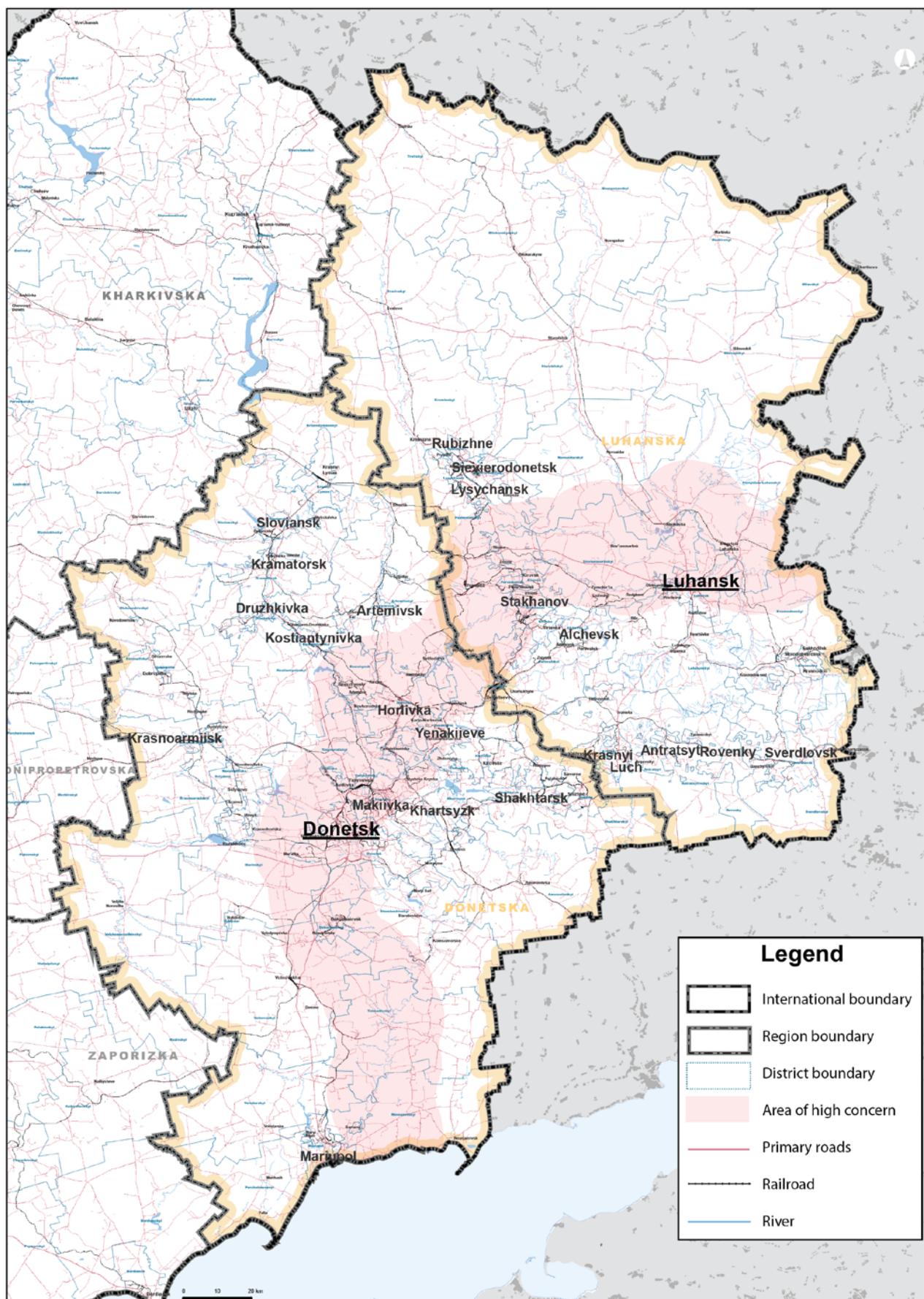
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ART	Antiretroviral therapy
ARV	Antiretroviral (drugs)
C4D	Communication for Development
CCC	Core Commitments for Children
CEE/CIS	Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States
CER	Consolidated Emergency Report
CERF	United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund
CDC	US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CO	Country Office
CP	Country Programme
CPCs	Child Protection Centres
CPWG	Child Protection Working Group
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
FO	Field Office
GCAs	Government-controlled Areas
GF	Global Fund
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
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
HTC	HIV testing and counselling
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
INGO	International Non-governmental Organisation
IYCF	Infant and Young Children Feeding
IPV	Inactivated Polio Vaccine
KAPB	Knowledge, Attitude, Practices and Behaviour (survey)
MoES	Ministry of Education and Science
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRE	Mine Risk Education
MDR-TB	Multi-drug Resistant Tuberculosis
NGCAs	Non-Government Controlled Area
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
OCHA	United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OPV	Oral Polio Vaccine
OSCE	Organisation for Security Cooperation in Europe
OST	Opioid Substitution Therapy
PIN	People in Need
PLHIV	People Living with HIV
PRV	Popasnyans'kyi Rayonnyi Vodokanal

PSS	Psychosocial Support
PUC	Public Utility Company
RAF	Renat Akhmetov Foundation
SES	State Emergency Service
SRP	Strategic Response Plan
TB	Tuberculosis
UCDC	Ukraine Centers for Disease Control
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
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

Eastern Ukraine: Reference Map



Donetsk And Luhansk Oblasts: Reference Map



Executive Summary

Since 2014, the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine has resulted in extensive human suffering and significant displacement of people, affecting about 3.7 million people. Over 3.1 million people, including 580,000 children, were in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.¹ In addition, there were considerable needs in areas of high concentration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in three eastern oblasts of Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv and Zaporizhia. However, the most vulnerable segment of child and adult population is situated in areas along the so-called 'contact line' that divides territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions ('oblasts') onto government- and non-government controlled areas (GCAs and NGCAs respectively).² The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates that there are over 200,000 boys and girls who live inside a 30km-wide 'buffer zone' on both sides of the contact line, with two thirds of these children situated in NGCAs. These children and their caregivers are at recurring risk from shelling, unexploded ordnance, communicable disease due to the lack of medicines, hygiene supplies and safe drinking water.

It is estimated that in 2016, up to 150 children have been killed,³ while over 1.6 million people internally displaced, including approximately 225,000 children since the beginning of the conflict.⁴ As a result, many children continue to suffer enormous levels of stress and witness frequent fighting and shelling. The resulting ruined critical civilian infrastructure, disrupted access to education and insecurity have all had a substantial negative impact on the psychological well-being of families, especially children.

The persistent lack of capacity of public institutions, toppled with the ongoing armed conflict has further weakened the formal and community based child protective environment. Overwhelmed by the increased workload, weak rule of law, and restrictions imposed on the monitoring of protection issues, the staff fled from the conflict-affected regions. Moreover, due to the interconnection of water supply, electricity supply, and water-based heating systems, around 2.9 million people continued suffer from various levels of disruption of services due to their damage or breakdown in 2016.⁵ To this end, UNICEF and its partners attempted to strengthen the links between immediate life-saving and protection humanitarian results, with longer term development, including strengthening capacities and systems for national and local resilience in the face of future shocks.



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Children are undergoing a shelling exercise during regular school hours in Schastye, Luhansk Oblast.

¹ Humanitarian Needs Overview, UNOCHA, 2016.

² See map of the Eastern Conflict Area.

³ Conflict-related civilian casualties in Ukraine. OHCHR, dated 28 February 2017.

⁴ The Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, 27 February 2016.

⁵ Humanitarian Needs Overview, UNOCHA, 2016.

Notwithstanding the obstacles in 2016, UNICEF had almost achieved the planned results planned for 2016. In Nutrition, UNICEF could reach over 43,000 pregnant or lactating women with infant and young child feeding counselling as to reduce excess morbidity and mortality, and ensure the optimal physical and mental development of infants and young children in emergency. In Health, with support from UNICEF Supply Division Procurement Services, the Ukraine Ministry of Health and funding from the national budget, over 400,000 children received regular immunization through the enhancement of cold chain and vaccine distribution systems. Under the UNICEF-led water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) response, over 2.5 million conflict-affected people gained

access to safe drinking water. The target was overreached because UNICEF focused on the provision of water treatment chemicals to additional water treatment plants in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, which ensured the population's greater access to safe drinking water. With Child Protection (CP) programme response, UNICEF successfully delivered life-saving mine risk education to more than 500,000 children through the distribution of printed materials in schools as well as a mass media campaign on television and on the Internet. Over 200,000 boys and girls, youth and caregivers affected by the conflict were provided with a psychosocial support (PSS) activities that ranged from simple forms of art therapy to provision of professional psychological support. In addition, over 140,000 children directly benefited from rehabilitated education infrastructure, life-skills



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Sandbags protect containers with liquid chlorine inside a chlorinating room of Kramatorsk water filter station.

training and education supplies delivered to restore normalcy of educational process inside the Eastern Conflict Area and the three eastern oblasts with the highest concentration of IDPs.

Overall, while the humanitarian needs remain acute in the East, particularly in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, there are nevertheless emerging opportunities for shifting the focus from crisis response to building societal resilience and promoting sustainable crisis recovery. UNICEF proposes to engage with children, adolescents and youth who are crucial for building societal resilience and stability in this phase of the conflict and for long-term conflict resolution and peace-building prospects in Ukraine. As the current and next generation, they are the single most important group that can shape the attitudes, values and social norms of their communities and that of Ukraine. The key objective is to mitigate the severe impact of the conflict on boys and girls, however, the interventions are also forward looking with an emphasis on building resilience of children and communities they live in to ensure they are better equipped to cope and to actively participate and contribute to sustainable recovery, stability and prosperity in Ukraine.

Humanitarian Context

In 2016, the humanitarian situation inside the Eastern Conflict Area (ECA) remained tense. As the conflict continued, approximately 3.7 million people, including about 580,000 children, remained affected and vulnerable. Despite the Minsk II agreement, parties to the conflict have continued hostilities, especially in areas along the contact line pushing the conflict to its second year. Whilst

the socioeconomic burden on host communities is increasing, humanitarian access to certain areas remains limited, particularly in the NGCAs and in certain areas of GCAs along the contact line where armed hostilities never stopped. Overall, the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable people remained a challenge in 2016.

The conflict has further exacerbated the long-lasting water supply issues, as the contact line cut through key water supply systems and water points in both Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. In 2016, water pipes, pumps, and filtration systems were also frequently damaged by shelling, and the capacity of public utility companies (PUC) "Voda Donbassa" and the former "Luhanskvoda" to repair them being hindered by a shortage of funds and materials needed for repairs. The security aspect played a crucial role as recurring hostilities significantly limited access to the damaged infrastructure. In addition, frequent electricity outages due to shell-damaged infrastructure halted pumping and filtration station production, temporarily cutting water and heating to consumers on both sides of the contact line.

As hostilities continued, loss of life and injury among civilian population further worsened human rights protection issues, impunity and lack of accountability, and the loss of basic services became more entrenched; community cohesion, family unity, and children's wellbeing has further fragmented across Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The protection of conflict-affected people remained a major priority, amid efforts to stop the fighting and to find a sustainable peace. With the humanitarian and socioeconomic situation deteriorating further, increasing the need for scaling up of UNICEF's response has become more acute, especially in the face of limited funding by donors.

The established restrictions on the freedom of movement inside the ECA continued to have a negative impact on Ukrainian citizens on both



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Two sisters at the gates with signs of shrapnel, Donetsk, Donetsk Oblast.

such as to obtain legal documents (i.e. birth and death certificates, certificates of primary and secondary education) or to access vital social benefits (i.e. education, pensions and medical care). Moreover, people in some settlements along the contact line still require passes to cross on the other side of the line, making it difficult to access services that although physically very close, they are still inaccessible due to their location on the opposite side of the line. Thus, restrictions on freedom of movement continue to isolate people and limit access to the vital social entitlements and humanitarian assistance. Moreover, a myriad of checkpoints inside GCAs as well as five special exit-entrance checkpoints on the contact line force people to wait in the cold of winter or in the heat of summer in long queues for many hours before crossing usually without access to sanitation and in danger of sniper fire, shelling, unexploded ordnance and landmines. Notwithstanding these dangers, in November 2016 and the preceding months, nearly 700,000 people crossed the contact line through five checkpoints to access vital services and simply visit relatives across the line.⁶

Furthermore, access to the NGCAs remained an issue in 2016. The imposed restrictions only worsened the humanitarian situation, especially for the most vulnerable people in need of vital goods and services. UN Agencies have called on humanitarian actors to have the freedom to deliver aid to those in need. In a joint statement, they highlighted the fact that access to water and other basic needs is a human right and that all authorities are duty-bound to provide it to the population, regardless of whether there is conflict or not. In 2016, UNICEF in cooperation with more than 45 different partners, including relevant Ministries, regional- and local-level authorities, local and international non-government organizations, local communities and UN agencies has applied evidence-based advocacy and innovative approaches to deliver results for children in complex socio-political and security situations.



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A UNICEF convoy with humanitarian aid on its way to Donetsk (NGCA), Donetsk Oblast.

sides of the contact line. Local communities had to redefine their lives to access regular services

⁶ "ECA: Crossing Points – Security Snapshot", UN Department of Safety and Security, November 2016.

UNICEF continued to build the humanitarian response on long-term partnership and trust achieved before the conflict and the design of the programme opened opportunities for long-term engagement with the government on issues such as inclusive education, social protection and cohesion. UNICEF continues to coordinate its efforts with other stakeholders to ensure efficient and effective use of the limited resources available to establish base for sustainable programming with a long-term impact. The common initiatives of the organisation sideline with the initiatives of other key stakeholders and agencies that aim at capacity building of the government to take a lead in the improvement of socioeconomic situation in Ukraine.

Humanitarian Results

Due to the ongoing political and economic crisis on top of the escalation of the armed conflict in the East, there has been a tangible subsequent slow-down in the implementation of the overall development agenda by GoU, and it is reasonable to expect that the situation will continue to be unstable for the foreseeable future. To ensure the effectiveness of the humanitarian response and development work in this complex and fluid environment, there is a clear need to merge both these aspects and, in cooperation with the GoU deliver the UNICEF Country programme as a coherent whole. Furthermore, securing financial resources to provide adequate services remained the key challenge for national and local authorities especially in the light of the current economic downturn, leveraging financial resources from the GoU to finance services and programmes for children continued to be a challenge.

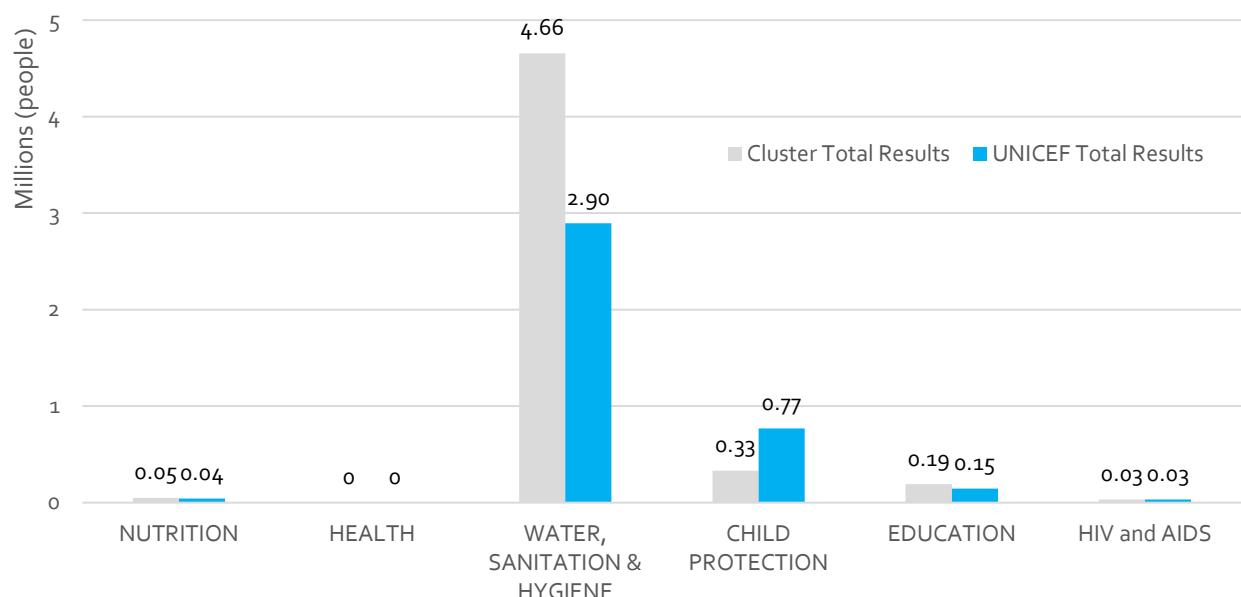
Results Table

	Cluster 2016 Target	Cluster Total Results	UNICEF 2016 Target	UNICEF Total Results
NUTRITION				
Pregnant or lactating women reached with infant and young child feeding counselling	80,000	50,000	80,000	43,879
HEALTH				
Number of children who received regular immunization through the enhancement of cold chain and vaccine distribution systems	NA	NA	400,000	0 ⁷
Number of health professionals who gained increased knowledge and capacity for the implementation of public health campaigns	NA	NA	2,000	1,165
WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE				
Number of conflict-affected people who gained access to safe drinking water.	1,700,000	4,234,411	1,200,000	2,555,665
Number of people with access to hygiene supplies.	412,500	422,771	300,000	339,470
CHILD PROTECTION				
Number of affected children, youth and caregivers provided with psychosocial support	470,000	331,377	400,000	257,828
Number of children and their families who received MRE	NA	NA	400,000	511,761
EDUCATION				
Number of children who benefited from rehabilitated education infrastructure, life skills training and education supplies	187,200	192,615	169,000	146,446
HIV and AIDS				

⁷ Vaccine procurement was done through UNICEF Supply Division Procurement Services by the Ministry of Health of Ukraine and funded from the national budget.

Number of pregnant women provided with tests for diagnostic of HIV to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV	30,000	33,240	30,000	33,240
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2016 UNICEF Results Against Targets



Nutrition

Infant and young children feeding (IYCF) is crucial to preventing excess morbidity and mortality, and ensuring the optimal physical and mental development of infants and young children. IYCF practices are often compromised in emergencies due to displacement, decreased access to age-appropriate baby foods, lack of privacy space for breastfeeding, and conflict-related stress. Research shows that optimal breastfeeding is the single most effective preventive intervention for reducing infant mortality, especially in crisis.



A group of women partake in a breastfeeding exercise in Kramatorsk, Donetsk Oblast.

In partnership with CDC and local NGOs, UNICEF conducted five nutrition assessments in conflict-affected areas in both CGA and NGCA that indicated high anemia rates among pregnant women, low breastfeeding rates with stress-related cessation and poor nutrition among the elderly. To address these issues, UNICEF established an anemia surveillance system in health care, developed communication materials and enhanced capacities of 800 health professionals on IYCF in Luhansk and Donetsk GCAs. As a result, nearly 44,000 mothers received counselling on IYCF including exclusive breastfeeding. Within the Nutrition Sub-Cluster, UNICEF succeeded in preventing indiscriminate distribution of breastmilk substitute by capacitating providers of baby food baskets.

Health

In response to the polio outbreak the previous year, in January 2016, UNICEF supported the final round of the national vaccination campaign procuring vaccine for 3.7 million children under 10 years of age. The Ministry of Health procured all vaccines for routine immunization through the UNICEF Supply Division; however, no humanitarian resources from UNICEF was used for this activity. Moreover, UNICEF conducted a comprehensive multi-channelled communication campaign on the benefits of vaccination that reached about 70 per cent of population of Ukraine. During the reporting period, UNICEF built capacity of 1,165 health workers on effective counselling on polio and immunization. As a result, in the facilities with trained personnel, the level of refusals decreased, and number of contraindication decreased, while vaccination coverage was higher than average in those regions. Furthermore, positive attitude towards immunization increased with 71 per cent of parents supporting vaccination in 2016, if compared with 46 per cent in 2012. In April 2016, an outbreak assessment team concluded that the outbreak of cVDPV-1 had probably stopped.

Notwithstanding difficult security situation as well as limited access to NGCAs, UNICEF supported safe deliveries by procuring midwifery kits to medical establishments covering 3,000 deliveries in GCAs and 26,000 in NGCAs.

WASH

The unchanging position of the contact line in 2016 continued to pose problems with access to water in both Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts. With the River of Donets, the main source of all water in the region, situated in the GCA, the population of the NGCAs remained in greater water dependency throughout the year.



UNICEF WASH engineer assesses operations at a water pumping station in Mariupol, Donetsk Oblast.

Attempts to stop delivery of water to NGCA due to the result of operations in 2016. No reliable 'cross-border' payment mechanism was established by the parties to the conflict in 2016.

The position of the contact line in Luhansk oblast has made water provision to the NGCA particularly challenging with seven out of the nine main water inflows located in the GCA. In fact, with five of the nine water inflow systems crossing the contact line and with 60 per cent of wells out of service due to recurring damages, the access to drinking water in Luhansk NGCAs remained a challenge in 2016. The company's refusal to relocate its top management from Luhansk (NGCA) has persuaded the GoU to establish a separate PUC "Popasnyans'kyi Rayonnyi Vodokanal" (PRV), which took over authority of the water inflows and production facilities of the PUC "Luhanskvoda" remaining in the GCAs. However, with no return payments for water delivered to NGCA, the GoU made several

In Donetsk oblast, the operations of PUC "Voda Donbassa" were constrained by a similar set of problems. Although the main water inflows were also located on the GCAs in the north, with the main supply crossing the contact line several times before reaching Mariupol in the south, the company has managed to continue its operations



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Women review the content of a family hygiene kit in Toretsk, Donetsk Oblast.



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UNICEF WASH specialists inspect a damaged 1,400mm pipeline that transports water to more than 600,000 people in Donetsk Oblast.

as a single entity instead of fragmenting to meet the conflict-defined territorial arrangements. As with the example of PUC "Luhanskvoda", the ageing system in need of major replacement has also been exposed to shelling on a regular basis.

The position of the contact line as well as the continuous limited access to the NGCAs have continued to shape UNICEF's WASH strategy in 2016, in its attempt to improve children's access to safe drinking water in areas directly affected by the conflict. Furthermore, given that the water supply systems are also an essential part of the heating system for households and institutions throughout Ukraine, the conflict-related damages to infrastructure of PUCs in Donetsk and Luhansk regions reduced the provision of both water and heat, resulting in a wide-scale impact on children's health especially during the winter months. Consequently, to reach the most vulnerable communities in the conflict-affected areas, UNICEF, in close cooperation with PUCs and implementing partners organized water trucking to improve access to drinking water in the NGCAs, whilst also continuing the provision of chlorine and other critical treatment chemicals as well as reconstruction and creation of alternative water sources in the GCAs.

A hygiene and sanitation awareness programme, including distribution of hygiene kits to the most-affected families, adults and children have proven to be effective strategies to address the immediate needs of more than 330,000 conflict affected people in 2016. The number of people with access to safe water was exceeded for both the WASH Cluster and UNICEF targets primarily due to the continued uninterrupted delivery of chlorine and other critical chemicals for water treatment. Moreover, UNICEF continued working towards resilience of communities vis-à-vis water supply shortages by providing communities with water tanks, installing water pumps boring wells and dispersing infomercials about personal hygiene practices. Working with local partner organizations, UNICEF could achieve some progress in the NGCAs by preparing grounds for water



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An art therapist from a mobile team is working with affected children living in Myrnyi settlement, Donetsk oblast, near the contact line.

beneficiaries' door step.

risk assessments in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts as to identify critical issues in the system and inform stakeholders about dangers the civil population would face should the critical water infrastructure to endure more targeting.

As a part of the innovative WASH strategy for 2016, UNICEF and its partners developed an electronic voucher system aimed to optimize the distribution of hygiene supplies. The technology that works like an electronic wallet available on mobile phones, allowed the exchange of vouchers for hygiene items at selected shops for over 6,000 vulnerable persons and over 400 infants living along the contact line. The innovation also provided the possibility to choose hygiene items according to beneficiaries' needs, as opposed to receiving a pre-packaged hygiene kit; favoring "value for money" through considerably reduced distribution costs and improving access to hygiene supplies at the

Child Protection

While the conflict has created greater vulnerabilities, opportunities have arisen to identify system families and enhance service responses. In 2016, steps were taken to increase access and quality of community-based protection services for vulnerable children and families, linking these developments with Ukraine's broader reform processes.

To increase access of basic services to children and families affected by the conflict, UNICEF developed a network of community protection centers (CPCs) which provided protective and psycho-social responses to over 170,000 children and caregivers in 2016. Mobile teams, comprised of qualified personnel from CPCs, travelled to remote GCA close to the contact line and delivered legal counselling, PSS interventions, catch-up classes to over 6,300 children and 2,600 caregivers. Furthermore, CPCs were designed to address the needs of the conflict-affected population, UNICEF response served as a model of community-based prevention services. Moreover, advocacy with national state partners has raised attention to the model as an option for social work, with interest expressed from colleagues from the Ministry of Social Policy and the Ministry of IDPs and Temporarily Occupied Territories.

To build capacity of community professionals, UNICEF partnered with Terre des Hommes to enhance the capacity of 386 community professionals working with children directly through training workshops on child protection issues in emergency, making available a Russian version of the Global Child Protection Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Action. At the same time, child-friendly spaces (i.e. movement, games and sports) were established in 60 rural and remote areas towards the buffer zone in the southern part of Donetsk oblast, providing psycho-social and game



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Kindergarten children react during a play that incorporates MRE material in Slovyansk, Donetsk Oblast.

educational facilities, lack of documentation which led to problems of getting social benefits for children or planning for vaccination, and identification of a greater need for psychological support for children.

To improve MRE in the affected regions, UNICEF together with partners, reached over 500,000 children with information materials on key messages on safe behaviour to all schools of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions and communities in GCA. The capacity building and direct outreach components were implemented in partnership with the Danish Refugee Council/Danish Demining Group (DRC/DDG) and Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD) through training of community trainers and volunteers, and mobile teams. By the end of 2016, there were about 200,000 beneficiaries directly reached through MRE sessions at community level and in schools. The age and season specific messages were developed with partners and rolled out in the mine risk awareness campaign, which reached over 12 million people via TV spots, and over 600,000 people through social advertising and education materials on digital channels, billboards and city-lights in the eastern regions. Moreover, Education booklets, and interactive education games developed jointly with the partners, were approved by the MoES and introduced in all schools in the affected regions to raise mine risk awareness among children and their caregivers.

Education

In 2016, the conflict continued to cause major disruption to the education sector with several schools directly damaged and others closed due to deteriorating

therapy to 16,268 children and 2,603 caregivers. Many of these points are in schools which enable the process to be sustainable.

In 2016, UNICEF worked with different partners to enhance monitoring of child rights. Support of the Child Protection Sub-Cluster has provided a critical platform for civil society organizations and government partners to share strategies on responding to children's needs in the conflict situation. UNICEF also collaborated with a national NGO and the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsperson to strengthen local partners to monitor the situation of children in institutions who have been evacuated due to the conflict. A total of 35 child care institutions, foster families and small group homes affected by the conflict were monitored. Findings revealed cases where military was neighboring



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Children participate in an art therapy session in Mariupol Child Protection Center, Donetsk Oblast.

security situation. In areas along the contact line, the exchange of fire by the parties to the conflict has further worsened education quality, teaching and learning process and caused months of lost school days. Educational facilities have been damaged as the result of heavy shelling, and waves of IDPs to neighboring districts and regions has left schools and kindergartens overcrowded. With the outside temperature dropping below zero as early as November, damaged educational facilities with exposed heating and water networks suffered additional structural damage. Moreover, with the socio-economic condition in Ukraine in decline, teaching and learning materials have also become prohibitively expensive, especially for IDPs and families leaving within 5km along the contact line.



© UNICEF/Ukraine 2016/Okhmat
New school furniture assembled and installed in
Zorinsk (NGCA) as a part of UNICEF project to improve
access to education in Luhansk oblast.



© UNICEF/Ukraine 2016/ Het'man
Children engaged in a rope pulling game inside a
renovated gym of School No. 8 in Lysychansk, Donetsk
Oblast.

UNICEF has mobilized regional and district education departments, local communal and housing services departments, municipal authorities and local communities to ensure all relevant stakeholders were included at all phases of procurement of education supplies and equipment for the renovated schools, as well as to strengthen the capacity of the local authorities. For instance, parents and specialists from the education departments, including municipal administrators, were engaged in defining the contents of furniture, sports equipment and educational supplies. In many schools, parents, volunteers, and activists have assembled and installed the furniture themselves.

Such efforts served to strengthen the partnership between the GoU, UNICEF, the international donor community, and local partners. Notwithstanding the lack of resources and funding, all actors working in education have demonstrated remarkable flexibility and willingness to provide support for more than 146,000 affected children.

UNICEF joined the global U-Report initiative, with 25,000 young Ukrainians registered in 2016. Using mobile phone based survey, U-Report helped to gather young people's perceptions on issues of their concern, providing evidence base for UNICEF programming and policymaking. In 2016, U-

Report Ukraine was working with the world's largest non-profit student-run organisation AIESEC on the organization of a hackathon for social ideas. U-Report was also used to choose a priority Sustainable Development Goals for Ukraine, which U-Reporters identified as "Decent work and economic growth".

HIV and AIDS

Availability and delivery of drugs and health products to the NGCAs remained a challenge in 2016. Delivery of any Government-funded health, education, social or other services, including supplies of medications, to the NGCAs have been suspended since March 2015 following the passing of the GoU law that identified the NGCAs in the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts as 'temporary occupied territories'. Notwithstanding the political motives, Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts are home to more than 30,000 people living with HIV. Due to the lack of access to NGCAs as well as GoU's restrictions, UNICEF actively communicated to the public that due to the conflict, people living with HIV in the NGCAs, including pregnant women and children, are facing a potentially life-threatening situation due to growing poverty and lack of medications. Hence, a serious risk of disruption of ARV drugs for treatment of adults and children and for prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission remained a concern in 2016.

In cooperation with AIDS centers in the NGCAs, UNICEF has identified and flagged the serious threat of discontinuation of essential HIV commodities and services (e.g. for HIV diagnostics and monitoring) that could affect treatment effectiveness and outcomes. With no end to the conflict in sight in 2016, the risk that new forms of drug-resistant virus would develop, which would pose a further threat to public health in the NGCAs and in Ukraine overall. Therefore, quick access to additional humanitarian emergency funds in 2016 played an essential role in ensuring rapid procurement and distribution of antiretroviral (ARV) drugs to the NGCAs through the established international humanitarian mechanisms. UNICEF used advocacy and local capacities to deliver life-saving drugs in a period when access was very limited, to ensure continuity of treatment and essential services for populations affected by HIV/AIDS in the NGCAs. In addition, 33,000 pregnant women were provided with tests for diagnostic of HIV to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV.



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Workers of AIDS Centre in Donetsk (NGCA), Donetsk Oblast, unload a truck with ARV drugs.

Moreover, a UNICEF-initiated assessment of the condition of children living along the contact line in late 2016 has revealed that the presence of the contact line has severed access of people in GCA to major medical facilities in NGCA. As the result, only one facility that can do all the needed lab work to analyze blood for an HIV test is currently available in GCA of Donetsk and Luhansk oblast. For example, places like the AIDS center in Avdiivka must send blood samples once a month by public bus to Kharkiv situated about 400km westwards. Hence, UNICEF has begun to apply evidence based advocacy to advocate for improvement of access to quality healthcare,

including HIV/AIDS testing and treatment in GCAs.

The introduction of the standardized first line Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) instead of three separate ARV drugs, as recommended by the World Health Organisation, increased patients' satisfaction in ART in 2016. Close to 90 per cent of patients in NGCA switched to receiving first line ART regimens, whereas new patients were provided with a once-a-day fixed-dose combination tablet containing tenofovir, emtricitabine and efavirenz. UNICEF continuous advocacy and policy change efforts in the introduction of the standardized ART represents prospects that can now fuel the momentum needed to push the HIV epidemic into irreversible decline in Ukraine.

UNICEF and the Cluster System

UNICEF continuously improves its approaches to establishing and maintaining an appropriate humanitarian coordination mechanism by deploying full time dedicated local staff to strengthen pre-existing sectoral coordination, reinforce the complementarity of partner actions to avoid duplication and gaps. For an effective humanitarian response in 2016, UNICEF facilitated coordination by leading the Education Cluster, WASH Cluster, the Child Protection and Nutrition Sub-clusters. Additionally, it contributed to the Health Cluster as well as the HIV/Tuberculosis/Opioid Substitution Treatment and Mine Action Sub-clusters. Collaboration continued with the government and *de facto* authorities as well as with UN agencies, international NGOs and local partners advocating for de-escalation of the armed conflict.

The WASH Cluster, led by UNICEF, has taken a leadership role providing updates about the impact of armed conflict on the region's water infrastructure. In 2016, the WASH Cluster, in coordination with utility companies, produced incident reports and numerous updates keeping stakeholders informed about the conflict-related damages to critical parts of civilian infrastructure and the number of affected population. Similarly, the Education Cluster also provided information updates and coordinated response between the co-leads (UNICEF and Save the Children), the local Departments of Education, and other partners. In 2016, the Education Cluster, along with the Child Protection Sub-cluster, also began to produce situation updates that document damages to educational facilities, closures of schools and kindergartens, the relocation of children, and immediate educational and child protection needs keeping stakeholders informed about the situation on the ground.

Moreover, landing support to the Education Cluster, UNICEF continued the promotion of the Safe School Declaration (SSD) to be adopted by the GoU to protect educational facilities and children in them from dangers of the conflict such as seizure and targeting of buildings. UNICEF also provided support to the Education Cluster to launch the development of a monitoring mechanism for Attacks on Education in Ukraine. The database, developed in consultation with the Cluster partners and the "Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack" incorporates verified cases of damages to schools due to conflict. The information and analysis produced will support the strategy for promoting response and facilitating advocacy for education in emergencies, including the signing and implementation of the SSD.

Building Resilience

In line with the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, UNICEF in Ukraine contributed to increasing the resilience through capacity building of local governments to sustain the provision of social protection services and reduce the equity gap. Reliable and continuous

water supply for people critical to averting many of the crisis-related issues and it can be used as a peace building entry point for the parties involved in the conflict. Empowerment of communities and increasing their capacities to access safe drinking water and adapt more environmental friendly practices and contributes to household resilience. In addition, UNICEF used the multispectral approach ensuring that girls and boys will have equal access to education in Ukraine, thus enabling schools to be perceived as a safe and inclusive learning environment. Educated boys and girls have more opportunity to employment within and beyond the country, and are better positioned to support their own lives, and those of their wider communities.

During the reporting period UNICEF focused its efforts on strengthening the linkages between the emergency and development programme to maximize long-term resilience and system strengthening. For example, WASH activities have been closely coordinated with and embedded in the education and child protection sections to ensure WASH services delivered in schools affected by the conflict. Moreover, the child protection and education sections have closely worked together on the Safe Schools Declaration, school based trainings and the Safe Schools Strategies, as part of the planned education sector reform.

Furthermore, enhancing cross-sectoral linkages beyond the social sectors was at the core of the design and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) concept. In 2016, the structure and content of the CRC implementation concept was discussed and agreed between key ministries, think tanks and local NGOs. The approved concept assumes to establish an effective and efficient child rights protection system not only at the national but also at the local level, within the frameworks of the ongoing decentralization process in Ukraine.

Capacity development of service providers and policy makers remained one of the key strategies for UNICEF Ukraine in 2016. As a key step in strengthening the overall national system for the protection of children's rights, UNICEF supported the development of the "State programme of the National Plan of Action on CRC implementation 2017-2022". This step constitutes a significant strengthening of the governmental capacities towards the establishment of an effective and efficient child rights protection system both at national and local level.

Outreach to children to address heightened distress was also enhanced through capacity development of over 5,000 school psychologists, teachers, social workers and volunteer community workers to identify, refer and provide immediate psychosocial support to children. In Health, capacity building efforts and training on polio counselling reached 2,200 medical workers and educational professionals working in secondary schools and kindergartens. Over 750 medical workers improved their capacities and skills on effective counselling of parents, while around 300 health workers from rayon, regional and national level became



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Students of School No. 14 photograph in front of a mural dedicated to "Learning Live Together" project. Severodonetsk, Luhansk Oblast.

trainers on effective counselling on maternal and child health issues.

Monitoring and Evaluation

UNICEF Ukraine, through six zonal offices/presence, established in Kramatorsk (GCA), Mariupol (GCA), Donetsk (NGCA), Luhansk (NGCA), Kharkiv (GCA) and Dnipro (GCA), covering five oblasts of eastern Ukraine, continued monitoring of its activities on a regular basis with established systems in place. 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.

In late 2016, UNICEF has launched an independent assessment of the condition of children living along the contact line with an intent to redesign its ongoing humanitarian response and to better adapt to the needs of the most affected population. The assessment was conducted in GCAs of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, inside the 15km zone along the contact. The assessment helped UNICEF to obtain qualitative and quantitative data on children and humanitarian condition along the contact line, which laid the groundwork for evidence-based public advocacy strategy and helped to shape the future of monitoring and evaluation work as to improve the protection of children's rights in Ukraine.

Financial Analysis

In 2016, UNICEF sought US\$54.3 million to provide emergency relief assistance to children affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine. In addition to nearly US\$19 million carried forward from 2015, nearly US\$9 million was received through the Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) 2016 appeal, representing 51 per cent of the total appeal. UNICEF is grateful to the EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO), the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the Governments of Japan, Canada, Estonia, Poland, Lithuania, Germany and Luxembourg, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and corporate partners for their contributions. The table below provides a detailed overview for 2016 funding by sector.

Table 1: Funding status against the appeal by sector

2016 Funding Status Against the Appeal by Sector (in USD)

Sector	Requirements	Funds Received Against Appeal as of 31 December 2016*	% Funded
Nutrition	1,000,000	0	0%
Health	4,450,000	779,000	18%
WASH	30,400,000	1,939,842	6%
Child Protection	8,500,000	2,202,320	26%
Education	5,850,000	3,342,342	57%
HIV/AIDS	3,500,000	0	0%
Cluster/Sector Coordination	600,000	533,913	89%
Carried-Forward	—	18,805,681	—

Total	54,300,000	27,603,098	51%
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* Total 'Funds Available' includes funding received current appeal as well as 'Carry-Forward' from the previous year.

2016 Funding Status Against the Appeal by Sector (in USD)

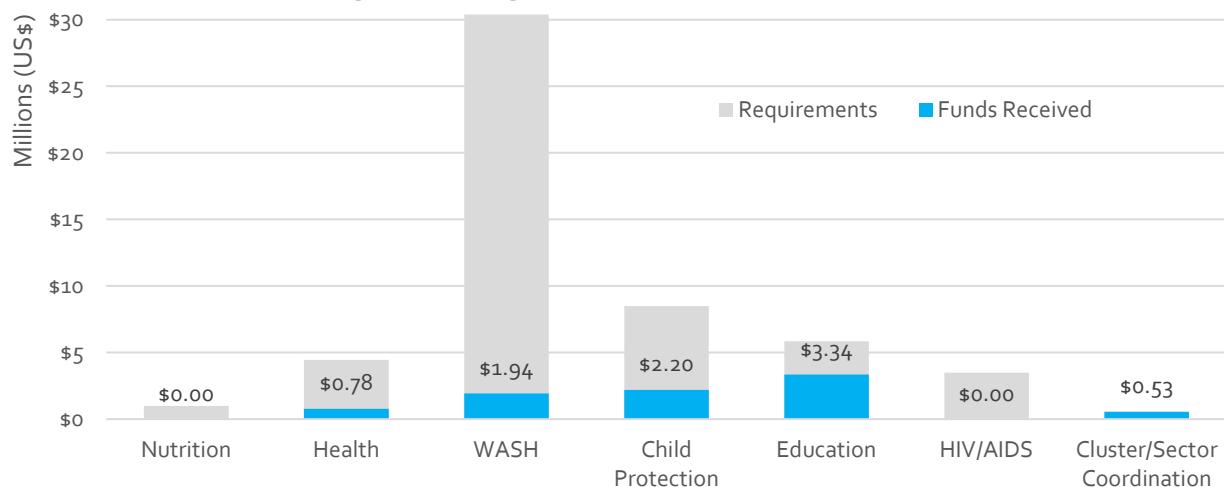


Table 2: Funding received and available by donor and funding type

Funding Received and Available by 31 December 2016 by Donor and Funding type (in USD)

	Donor Name/Type of funding	Programme Budget Allotment reference	Programmable Amount*
I. Humanitarian funds received in 2016			
a) Thematic Humanitarian Funds			
	See details in "Thematic Humanitarian Contributions"	SM149910	998,524
b) Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds			
	Canada	SM160153	520,183
	Estonia	SM160188	104,980
	Estonia	SM160603	201,288
	Japan	SM160073	2,407,407
	Lithuania	SM160227	26,245
	Luxembourg	SM160538	251,610

Poland	SM160597	224,547
USA USAID	SM160520	721,296
USA (USAID) OFDA	SM160234	740,741
Germany	SM150396	503,282
European Commission/ECHO	SM160369	1,443,256
Estonia	SM140649**	204,652
SIDA - Sweden	SM150182**	322,547
USA (USAID) OFDA	SM150477**	926,852
Republic of Korea	SM150348**	462,963
Total Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds		9,061,849
c) Pooled Funding		
d) Other types of humanitarian funds		
UNICEF-Ukraine	KM160004	231,163
Total humanitarian funds received in 2016 (a+b+c+d)		10,291,536
II. Carry-Over Humanitarian Funds Available in 2016		
Total Carry-Over Humanitarian Funds		18,805,681
III. Other Sources		
EPF (not reimbursed by 31 Dec 2016)	GE150001	669,610
Total Other Resources		669,610

* Programmable amounts of donor contributions, excluding recovery cost

** Grant was received in 2015

Table 3: Thematic humanitarian contributions received in 2016

Thematic Humanitarian Contributions Received in 2016 (in USD)

Donor	Programmable Amount	Total Contribution Amount
Polish National Comm for UNICEF	22,462	23,644
United States Fund for UNICEF	55,278	58,187
German Committee for UNICEF	696,683	733,351
Slovak Committee for UNICEF**	10,463	11,050
United States Fund for UNICEF**	189,371	200,000
UNICEF-Ukraine**	1,909	2,016
UNICEF-Ukraine**	22,358	23,613
Total	998,524	1,051,861

** Grant was received in 2015

In line with the UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children drafted in line with the country's Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), UNICEF is requesting US\$31.2 million to meet the humanitarian needs of children in Ukraine in 2017.

Future Work Plan

UNICEF, in close coordination with all relevant stakeholders, will continue to support its humanitarian response programme on both sides of the 'contact line' through its FOs in eastern Ukraine. The humanitarian situation in the ECA calls for an immediate response to the needs of the most vulnerable children by ensuring their access to WASH, education, safe learning spaces, child protection community-based services and immediate psychosocial support service. Moreover, pending availability of funding, UNICEF will continue to enhance access to immunization and life-saving maternal and child health services, including adequate infant and young child feeding practices in emergencies.

In addition to calling for a ceasefire, UNICEF aims to scale up the provision of immediate life-saving WASH services, ensuring access to safe drinking water for affected women and children. UNICEF will advocate for the respect for and protection of educational facilities and together with partner organisations, promoting the Safe School Declaration to be adopted by the Government of Ukraine. Moreover, UNICEF continues to monitor and report about children in conflict-affected areas focusing on preventing the separation of children from their families during evacuations. The provision of psychosocial support service will be continued to strengthen the resilience of conflict-affected children and adolescents living near the 'contact line' in 2017.

During its work in 2016, UNICEF advocated for acceleration of reform in the social sector and provision of more effective support, especially regarding humanitarian and early recovery interventions. UNICEF has demonstrated that the integration of social sector services at regional (oblast) and community levels is cost-effective and a means with which to enhance resilience of local communities. To continue delivering the CP within the necessary humanitarian response will lead to an enhancement of the relevance, effectiveness and sustainability prospects.

Expression of Thanks

UNICEF Ukraine's humanitarian interventions in 2016 would not have been possible without the continued support from funding partners. Acting as the "provider of last resort" and thereby saving lives that would have been lost otherwise, was possible because donors were willing to provide flexible funding allowing UNICEF Ukraine to determine where it could be used most effectively.

The challenges remain ahead for Ukraine. Responding to the protection needs of children living along the contact line, displaced children and their caregivers, with due regard to international humanitarian norms and standards, has not been addressed sufficiently.

More effort is required to provide life-saving assistance and ensure non-discriminatory access to quality essential services for displaced and other conflict-affected people, with the emphasis on the most vulnerable who continue to witness recurring violence daily. Improving their access to



high-impact early recovery activities with a focus on livelihoods opportunities, normalization of basic services, return and post-conflict reconciliation programming, with attention to reducing social inequalities will be addressed by UNICEF in 2017. Hence, we count on our donors' continued support to tackle these remaining challenges.

Repeatedly, on behalf of the children and women throughout Ukraine who have benefitted from key humanitarian assistance throughout 2016, UNICEF sincerely expresses gratitude to donors and partners for their support.

Annexes

- Two pagers
- Human Interest Stories
- Case Studies
- Donor Feedback Forms