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for every child

## UNICEF Flash Report

### COVID-19 Impact on Children in Ukraine

## Key Highlights and Advocacy Points

- UNICEF is appealing to donors to increase their funding and support the most vulnerable children and their families during the pandemic in Ukraine. **UNICEF is calling for joint efforts to prevent the pandemic from turning into a long-lasting child crisis.** UNICEF is currently appealing for US\$23 million for the COVID-19 response in Ukraine.
- The final examinations for school graduates have taken place across the country as scheduled, with the last exam on 17 July. **Over 350,000 students have sat exams in 1,625 safe testing centres** that received infection prevention supplies and informational materials on safe behavioural practices, provided with support from UNICEF and Ukrainian private sector.
- UNICEF and the Ministry of Social Policy [have launched a pilot project to enhance the child protection of children who have returned from boarding institutions to their families](#) because of the COVID-19 restrictions.

## Epidemics Trends

As reported by Public Health Centre of Ukraine on August 2, 2020



**72,168**

COVID-19 cases [have been confirmed](#) in Ukraine, 39,543 patients have recovered and 1,725 have died as of 2 August.



Health care workers account for 12 per cent of cases. At least 63 of them died.



**5,072**

children have been diagnosed with COVID-19, 2,978 have recovered. Children account for 7 per cent of cases.



**225**

pregnant women have been [diagnosed](#) with COVID-19 in Ukraine since the beginning of the pandemic. Of these two have died.



The regions with the highest numbers of confirmed COVID-19 cases are Lviv (14 per cent), Kyiv city (12 per cent), Rivne (9 per cent), Chernivtsi (8 per cent), and Zakarpattya (7 per cent).

## Overview of Child Rights



### Health and Nutrition

- WHO and UNICEF are [calling](#) for immediate action to vaccinate all children. In Ukraine, a large number of children have missed scheduled vaccinations due to the disruption of immunization programmes caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and quarantine measures in many oblasts in spring 2020.
- According to the Ministry of Health of Ukraine (MoH), as of 1 June, only 28.3 per cent of children aged 1 year received the first dose of the measles, rubella, and mumps vaccine (compared to 41.9 per cent for the same period of 2019).



### Education

- Schools remain closed for the summer holidays. Most preschool education facilities remain operational; however, they reportedly have very low attendance rates, not exceeding 30 per cent.
- The sporadic opening of the 'contact line' made it difficult for over 80 per cent of graduates from non-government-controlled areas to sit for the final examination in government-controlled areas of Ukraine.
- Parliament adopted changes to the current legislation providing more options for school graduates from non-government-controlled areas to continue their higher education in government-controlled areas of Ukraine.
- The Government has been actively discussing three scenarios for the reopening of schools from 1 September:
  - 1 **low incidence** of COVID-19: in-classroom learning is not restricted;
  - 2 **high incidence**: education is provided entirely remotely;
  - 3 **medium incidence** – the educational process is provided in a mixed form – remotely and in-classrooms, with appropriate infection prevention measures in place.
- UNICEF and the Institute of Educational Analytics under the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) conducted a national survey to better understand the readiness of schools, communities, and the general education system to resume education in the conditions of the global pandemic.



## Child Protection

- Data provided by UNICEF partners indicates that 22 per cent of the calls to the national hotline for children relate to their mental health and the psychosocial well-being. Another, 24 per cent of calls relate to violence against children and 11 per cent to relationships in the family.
- Results from recently conducted surveys by the U-Report Ukraine team, 38 per cent of young people described their current emotional state as 'sad'. More than half of the respondents feel that their anxiety level has increased. For 40 per cent of respondents, COVID-19 has worsened their vision of their future.

**38%** of young people described their current emotional state as 'sad'.



## Social Protection and Well-being

- UNICEF and the Ministry of Social Policy launched a [pilot project](#) to enhance the protection of children who have returned from boarding institutions to their families because of the COVID-19 restrictions. The project goals will be pursued by strengthening the capacity of social workers, assessing the situation of families and directly providing assistance to children and families based on their needs.



## Water, Hygiene and Sanitation

- More than 1,000 families in Luhansk oblast caught in the July forest fires [have been left](#) without electricity and gas. Most of the residents have no access to drinking water. Amid hot and windy conditions, a wall of fire consumed coniferous forests and reached houses in several villages in Luhansk region. At least five people have died because of the fires, and the total number of victims is not yet known. Twenty-five people were hospitalized with burns, of whom 16 were children.
- On 22 July, WASH Cluster reported shell-damage and a near-stoppage of major parallel water pipelines of the Siverskyi Donets Donbas (SDD) channel, which supply 3.1 million people on both sides of the 'contact line' in eastern Ukraine. Along with other recent reported damage, this incident is another example of the extreme vulnerability of the water systems crossing into and out of non-government-controlled areas, upon which millions of people in eastern Ukraine rely for domestic water supply, watering of vegetable gardens in the summer, and heating in the winter.
- 1,311 households living along the 'contact line' received e-vouchers for hygiene supplies. Eight health care institutions in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts also redeemed their e-vouchers. UNICEF launched a new project to extend the e-vouchers' support for hygiene supplies to vulnerable households, health care centres, social institutions and educational facilities in eastern Ukraine.

## Situation in Eastern Ukraine

- The humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine remains tense, despite a relative de-escalation in the situation. Civilians and social infrastructure continued to be impacted by constant violations of the ceasefire.
- After a closed period, the crossing checkpoints re-opened in July, sporadically allowing people to cross between the government- and non-government-controlled areas, though only under certain conditions. UNICEF and partners received reports about families with children forced to sleep overnight in tents at the checkpoints.
- UNICEF, as well other United Nations agencies, are continuing to experience the impact of the lock-down, particularly in non-government-controlled areas, in terms of delivering the programmes, staff movement and also access to communities.

## Promising Practices and Solutions:

- UNICEF launched a digital campaign to support over 340,000 students graduating from school. Together with the MoES, UNICEF [engaged](#) celebrities, sports personalities and opinion leaders to develop a series of inspirational videos for Class 2020 to support and encourage Ukrainian youth facing an uncertain future.
- UNICEF negotiated an in-kind donation and distribution of 80 tons of disinfectant, hygiene products and washing detergent for use at school end-of-term exams in 24 regions of Ukraine.
- An international jury [has announced](#) the winners of Young Lions Competitions Ukraine, that will represent Ukraine at the global stage of the competition during Cannes Lions 2021. The participants in all three categories suggested creative solutions to combat child poverty, meeting the terms of a brief set by UNICEF.
- UNICEF [continued](#) its video project on youth initiatives in Ukraine during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has had a total online reach of 12,000,000.
- 911 particularly vulnerable families with children with disabilities and families with children who had returned from the residential care institutions in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, as well as 867 people living in Roma settlements in western Ukraine, benefited from the provision of family hygiene kits.
- 47,400 litres of drinking water were delivered to nine hospitals in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, to cover the monthly drinking water needs of 1,814 health care staff and patients. An additional delivery of 6,600 litres of drinking water was organized for 18 kindergartens in Donetsk oblast.

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- 9 hospitals in western Ukraine were supported with 30 oxygen concentrators as well as other life-saving devices and accessories for 3 months of regular service.
- A national solidarity campaign designed to fight stigma and discrimination against people associated with COVID-19, continued on social media and reached 2,000,000 people. The campaign was expanded to out-of-home advertising platforms, including new public transport stops in the capital. With increased visibility, it reached 6,834,000 per month.
- Together with a media partner, UNICEF produced and aired a series of video stories from the 'red zones' of infection hospitals dealing with COVID-19, reaching over 1.3 million people on national television during evening prime time.
- The first telephone volunteering system continued to operate in response to the growing loneliness and isolation caused by the pandemic. Over 1,000 young people were mobilized to provide telephone support to most vulnerable groups of people.

## Funds

UNICEF is currently appealing for US\$23,000,000 for the COVID-19 response in Ukraine, in addition to an existing humanitarian appeal of US\$9,800,000 to support families with children in the conflict-affected east. As of yet, only 12 per cent of the funds needed for the COVID-19 response in Ukraine is available.

**For more information, please contact:**

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