



unicef   
for every child

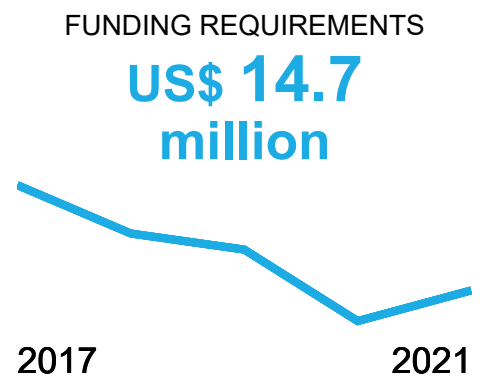
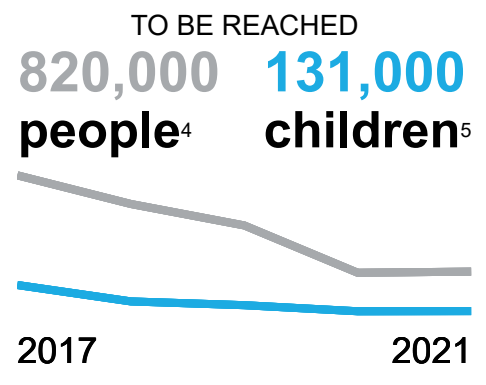
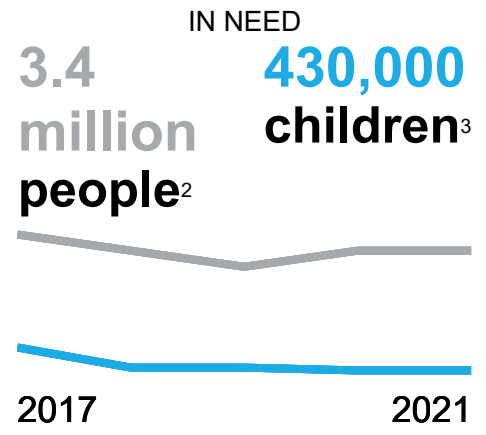
## Humanitarian Action for Children

Like hundreds of other children in eastern Ukraine, Mykyta received a UNICEF backpack with home learning supplies. UNICEF is working to ensure that every child learns during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Ukraine

### HIGHLIGHTS

- After seven years of conflict, women and children in eastern Ukraine remain extremely vulnerable. The conflict is taking a heavy toll on civilians: regular ceasefire violations damage homes and social infrastructure, lead to mine contamination, and limit access to services, threatening the mental and physical well-being of children. The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has generated additional challenges for the already weak health care services.
- In 2021, UNICEF will safeguard children's rights to safety, health, education, psychosocial support, child protection and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services and address the needs of over 820,000 people. The response will address the impacts of conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic in eastern Ukraine.
- UNICEF requires US\$14.7 million<sup>1</sup> to provide access to basic services including WASH, immunization and primary health care, schooling and distance-based learning, psychosocial and gender-based violence support, and protection for children and families.



### KEY PLANNED TARGETS



**40,000**

facility and community health workers trained on infection prevention and control



**820,000**

people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water



**35,000**

children/caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support



**50,000**

people participating in engagement actions

Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.

## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Ukraine is facing the unprecedented dual challenge of coping with the effects of a seven-year armed conflict in the east and the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>8</sup> Although there is optimism regarding the new Government's approach to resolving the conflict, the situation remains difficult for the 3.4 million people,<sup>7</sup> including 1 million children,<sup>6</sup> living in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

In this context of protracted conflict, civilians are bearing the brunt of the crisis, with direct threats to their physical and mental well-being and limited access to essential services. In one of the world's most mine-contaminated areas, fear of stepping on a landmine is a daily reality.<sup>9</sup> Water and education infrastructure are continuously targeted, threatening children's access to safe water and schooling. Access to learning is also imperilled by weak teaching capacities and run-down infrastructure. In the context of active conflict, children and their families require continuous psychosocial support and protection services, including for gender-based violence, and victim assistance for accidents related to explosive remnants of war. Access to quality health services, especially for the most vulnerable, remains a daily challenge, exacerbated by the exodus of specialists.

The health system, including emergency medical services, which was already weak, has been severely challenged by the COVID-19 outbreak. Anecdotal reports indicate a lack of preparedness and awareness among medical professionals at all levels.<sup>10</sup> Immunization rates have dropped, putting a large cohort of children at additional risk. More than 270,000 children under 5 years and their mothers are in need of critical health support, including immunization.<sup>11</sup> Downward economic pressure is preventing the Government from enforcing meaningful quarantine measures, leading to the exponential growth of new confirmed cases.<sup>12</sup>

In March, following lockdown decisions in eastern Ukraine, some 614,000 children were affected by school closures.<sup>13</sup> While a distance education programme has been launched, many vulnerable children were excluded due to limited connectivity and lack of information technology. In addition, 42,000 children,<sup>14</sup> including children with disabilities, were sent home from boarding schools without prior verification of their family conditions, putting them at further risk of abuse and neglect.

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit vulnerable groups particularly hard and exacerbated pre-existing inequalities. Children with disabilities and children in residential care institutions are among the most affected. The COVID-19 crisis and its consequences have given rise to new challenges for the already strained social welfare system in Ukraine, especially in the east.

## SECTOR NEEDS



### Health and nutrition

**196,000** people need quality life-saving/essential services<sup>15</sup>



### Water, sanitation and hygiene

**2.8 million** people lack access to safe water<sup>16</sup>



### Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

**35,000** children and caregivers need services<sup>17,18</sup>



### Education

**104,000** children need education support<sup>19</sup>

## STORY FROM THE FIELD



Sisters Afina, 7, and Valeria, 4, play in Chermalyk, a conflict-affected community in eastern Ukraine. Their family has benefited from UNICEF hygiene e-vouchers critical to preventing COVID-19.

Every day during the spring and summer of 2020, Daria has heard children laughing and playing in the backyard of her house. Her daughters, Afina, 7, and Valeria, 4, have been staying at home since March due to the COVID-19 lockdown.

"I am happy that they are by me," she says. "But I need to do the laundry every day when they are at home. It takes twice as much soap and shampoo."

In 2020, UNICEF and partners reached over 7,000 families and 550 social institutions in conflict-affected areas with much-needed hygiene and sanitation assistance.

[Read more about this story here](#)

## HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

In 2021, UNICEF's strategy in Ukraine will continue to focus on protecting children and realizing child rights on both sides of the contact line, in government-controlled and non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk, while responding to the vulnerabilities caused by the dual crises of conflict and COVID-19.<sup>20</sup>

To respond to the urgent needs of 820,000 people and children, UNICEF will strengthen social protection and psychosocial support, as well as health, education and WASH services, focusing on COVID-19 prevention measures. The capacities of local professionals, authorities and civil society actors will be enhanced to strengthen preparedness and accountability to affected children, in line with the Grand Bargain commitments.<sup>21</sup> UNICEF will improve access to quality, inclusive, age- and gender-sensitive social services to increase families' resilience to protection-related risks. UNICEF will work with humanitarian partners to target the most vulnerable, while also strengthening the educational and community-based systems supporting them. As the lead agency for the WASH cluster and the child protection sub-cluster, UNICEF will continue to advocate with parties to the conflict to comply with international humanitarian law and child rights standards. This includes intensifying advocacy efforts with the Government to implement the Safe Schools Declaration.<sup>22</sup>

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted safe access to all health services, including immunization and primary health care, as well as schools and social care institutions, necessitating specific protective measures for institutions and professionals. To address this, UNICEF will procure critical infection prevention and control supplies and personal protective equipment to ensure a safe environment at the facility level, and conduct training sessions for service providers. To reduce the transmission of COVID-19, UNICEF will continue its robust risk communication activities to raise awareness and increase knowledge through multimedia channels, targeting care providers, parents/caregivers and the general public. This is particularly critical as handwashing and good hygiene practices are essential to COVID-19 prevention. UNICEF and its partners will also increase access to hygiene supplies and drinking water. Advocacy will be conducted at the national and local levels, including in government-controlled and non-government-controlled areas to facilitate the provision of essential and quality services for children and women. These system strengthening actions by UNICEF will directly contribute to improving the linkages between humanitarian action and development programmes, which will in turn benefit the most vulnerable.

Progress against the 2020 programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports:

<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/ukraine/situation-reports>

## 2021 PROGRAMME TARGETS



### Health and nutrition

- **40,000** health care facility staff and community health workers trained on infection prevention and control
- **50,000** mothers and children under 5 years benefiting from direct health service provision
- **20,000** health care providers trained on detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases



### Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **820,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene
- **136,000** people reached with critical water, sanitation and hygiene supplies (including hygiene items) and services
- **17,500** people provided with improved access to adequate sanitation



### Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA

- **35,000** children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support
- **15,000** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions
- **30,000** children accessing explosive weapons-related risk education and survivor assistance interventions



### Education

- **500** schools implementing safe school protocols (infection prevention and control)
- **22,500** girls and boys benefiting from education and early learning supplies and rehabilitated inclusive schools and kindergartens
- **12,000** girls and boys benefiting from conflict-sensitive, risk-informed and life-skills-based education delivered by trained teachers



### HIV and AIDS

- **600** children affected by HIV provided with continuous care and support services



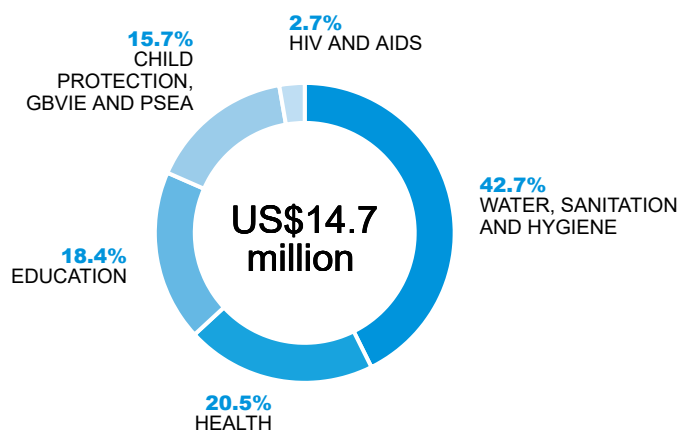
### C4D, community engagement and AAP

- **50,000** people participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change



## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2021

UNICEF requires US\$14.7 million<sup>23</sup> to ensure the continuity of its humanitarian support; meet the needs of children, adolescents, women and families; and provide critical services for affected populations in eastern Ukraine. This funding will enable UNICEF to build the capacities of the health system to better respond to the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and implement critical WASH interventions that will address gaps in hygiene and infection control. It will also support UNICEF to continue vaccination coverage in non-government-controlled areas, expand education coverage and increase access to social services for vulnerable families and their children, including mental health and psychosocial support, gender-based violence services and services for children with disabilities. Tailored interventions will be designed to increase awareness among the general public and service providers on the COVID-19 pandemic and ways to prevent its further spread. UNICEF's appeal requirement is aligned with Ukraine's 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan<sup>24</sup> and includes funding for advocacy to improve institutional capacities in government-controlled areas and support WASH cluster and child protection sub-cluster interventions.



Sector	2021 requirements (US\$)
Health	3,000,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	6,250,000
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	2,300,000 <sup>25</sup>
Education	2,700,000
HIV and AIDS	400,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,650,000</b>

---

### Who to contact for further information:

**Lotta Sylwander**  
Representative, Ukraine  
T +38 044 521 01 25  
lsylwander@unicef.org

**Manuel Fontaine**  
Director, Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS)  
T +1 212 326 7163  
mfontaine@unicef.org

**Carla Haddad Mardini**  
Director, Public Partnership Division (PPD)  
T +1 212 326 7160  
chaddadmardini@unicef.org

## ENDNOTES

1. This funding appeal is for the humanitarian response programme targeting the conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic in eastern Ukraine only. UNICEF's COVID-19 funding appeal for the rest of Ukraine is included in its regional COVID-19 appeal for Europe and Central Asia.
2. An estimated 3 million residents and 353,000 internally displaced persons are in the area directly affected by the armed conflict. Of these, 1.5 million live in government-controlled areas and 1.88 million live in non-government-controlled areas. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs: 'Ukraine: 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan', OCHA, 2020.
3. While the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan estimates that 544,000 children living in conflict-affected areas are in need (16 per cent of the 3.4 million) only 430,000 children in need live in communities within 0-20 km of the Line of Contact in government-controlled areas and non-government-controlled areas. These children are prioritized in the UNICEF response. 'Ukraine: 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan'.
4. This was calculated based on the highest coverage programme target for WASH. Women/girls represent 54 per cent (442,800) and men/boys represent 46 per cent (377,200) An estimated 12 per cent of the population has a disability, according to Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Ukraine: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, 2020. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
5. This was calculated using 16 per cent of the highest coverage programme target for WASH, based 'Ukraine: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview'. This includes 48 per cent girls (62,976) and 52 per cent boys (68,224). An estimated 12 per cent of the population has a disability, so an estimated 15,744 children with disabilities will be reached.
6. This is the estimated number of children living in conflict-affected regions (both government-controlled and non-government-controlled areas) who are directly and indirectly impacted by the armed conflict and its consequences. Of these, 430,000 children are in need, while the rest of the children living in the larger conflict area face challenges, such as limited access to quality education. 'Ukraine: 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan'; and 'Ukraine: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
7. An estimated 3 million residents and 353,000 internally displaced persons are in the area directly affected by the armed conflict. Of these, 1.5 million live in government-controlled areas and 1.88 million live in non-government-controlled areas. 'Ukraine: 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan'.
8. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Ukraine: 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (Revised Requirements due to the COVID-19 Pandemic)', OCHA, June 2020.
9. Ukraine Protection Cluster, 'Mine Action in Ukraine', March 2019.
10. 'Ukraine: 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (Revised Requirements due to the COVID-19 Pandemic)'.
11. UNICEF estimate based on 'Ukraine: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview' and State Statistics Department data.
12. As of September 24, 2020, Ukraine confirmed over 189,000 cases and 3,700 deaths due to COVID-19. The number of new confirmed cases averaged 2,500 per day in September. Ukraine National Health Service, <<https://phc.org.ua/kontrol-zakhvoryuvan/inshi-infekciyni-zakhvoryuvannya/koronavirusna-infekciya-covid-19>>, accessed September 2020.
13. Ukraine Education Cluster, 2020.
14. United Nations Children's Fund, 'UNICEF Ukraine and Ukrainian Child Rights NGO Network are Concerned about the Protection of Children Returned Back to their Families from Boarding Schools and other Childcare Institutions', UNICEF, 16 April 2020.
15. Some 195,000 people are living in conflict-affected areas. 'Ukraine: 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan'. UNICEF's geographic focus is smaller than the Humanitarian Response Plan and will target communities within 0-20 km of the Line of Contact in government-controlled areas and non-government-controlled areas.
16. Some 2.8 million people living in conflict-affected areas lack access to safe water as per 'Ukraine: 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan'. This will be updated once the 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview is available. UNICEF's geographic focus is smaller than the Humanitarian Response Plan and will target communities within 0-20 km of the Line of Contact in government-controlled areas and non-government-controlled areas.
17. Due to space constraints, the following acronyms appear in the appeal: GBViE (gender-based violence in emergencies); PSEA (prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse); C4D (communication for development); and AAP (accountability to affected populations).
18. This includes mental health and psychosocial support services. 'Ukraine: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
19. Some 104,000 children living in conflict-affected areas need education support as per 'Ukraine: 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan'. This will be updated once the 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview is available. UNICEF's geographic focus is smaller than the Humanitarian Response Plan and will target communities within 0-20 km of the Line of Contact in government-controlled areas and non-government-controlled areas.
20. UNICEF leads cluster coordination for the WASH, nutrition and education clusters and the child protection area of responsibility.
21. The Grand Bargain is a unique agreement between some of the largest donors and humanitarian organizations, who have committed to getting more means into the hands of people in need and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action.
22. The Safe Schools Declaration is an inter-governmental political agreement that outlines a set of commitments to strengthen the protection of education from attack and restrict the use of schools and universities for military purposes. It seeks to ensure the continuity of safe education during armed conflict. Ukraine signed the Declaration in November 2019 and developed a National Plan of Action with UNICEF support. Advocacy efforts are needed to advance the implementation of the Plan.
23. This funding appeal is for the humanitarian response programme targeting the conflict and COVID-19 pandemic in eastern Ukraine only. UNICEF's COVID-19 funding appeal for the rest of Ukraine is included in its regional COVID-19 appeal for Europe and Central Asia. Despite targeting a similar population size as the 2020 appeal, the 2021 funding ask for eastern Ukraine has increased because it includes funding to respond to needs related to COVID-19.
24. At the time of writing, the 2021 humanitarian response plan/humanitarian needs overview documents were still under development. Once finalized, UNICEF will review and, in case of discrepancy, will align the targets.
25. This includes US\$400,000 for gender-based violence interventions and US\$20,000 for prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse interventions.