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1. INTRODUCTION

This Strategy Note describes significant steps to be taken forward towards realizing the rights of all children in Ukraine, particularly the most marginalized. It takes place in the context of a conflict that has brought new realities and poses severe stresses on families and children, the outcome and consequences of which are still unclear. The strategy is for the five-year period of 2018-2022, matching national development plans for the same period. This corresponds closely to time span of the new UNICEF strategic plan, which clearly sets out UNICEF’s global priorities for the period 2018-2021. Preparation of the new programme also benefits from the thinking behind the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030. The strategy has been prepared as part of an active consultative process involving close partners, senior government officials and UNICEF staff.

Given the strong orientation of the government towards European Integration, where appropriate the strategy makes explicit use, where appropriate, of concepts promoted in the EU such as social inclusion and decentralisation. The strategy also draws on the lessons of the 2015 Mid Term Review (MTR) and the recommendations of the recent 2016 Independent Country Programme Evaluation. The strategy reflects conceptual frameworks developed as part of the regional knowledge leadership agenda (RKLA), grounded and applied in the context of Ukraine. It aims to be rights-based putting children at the centre of Ukraine’s development.

Ukraine is at a special moment in its transition towards establishing a democratic state. A new government is launching a major set of reforms that aim to address fundamental constraints on development. These will address areas that have major implications for children including the rule of law, social sector reform and governance. While it shares many of the same goals and ambitions of the earlier wave of reforms initiated in 2004 and is taking place in particularly difficult circumstances, the current drive for reform has promising features that are importantly different from that earlier attempt. A bold move towards decentralization towards establishing effective local government is underway, empowering municipalities with independent budgets and decision-making powers. A new, younger and highly educated leadership, often drawn from the ranks of civil society activism that emerged from the ‘Revolution of Dignity’ movement, is at the helm of key portfolios in government. The reform agenda is gathering pace and will have implications for all aspects of children right across the new programme period.

Economic recovery is underway but is fragile and vulnerable to shocks. After a sharp contraction of economic activity in 2014 and 2015, initial signs of stabilization are beginning to emerge1. According to the World Bank, a gradual economic recovery by 1% in 2016 and 2% in 2017 is projected, contingent on reform progress and no further escalation of the conflict in the East. A very inconsistent pattern of growth is forecast to continue in the coming years, in particular due to the rigidity of Ukraine’s production structure and Ukraine’s vulnerability to external developments. As a result, the prospect of fiscal space remains limited for the coming 2-3 years.

Unresolved conflict in the East brings both pressing needs and political volatility. The protracted and for the moment ‘frozen’ conflict in the Eastern part of the country has drained national resources and attention. Its effects have reached far beyond the physical geographic centre of hostilities. Over 1.7 million IDPs have been displaced and relocated across the country, largely overwhelming largely unprepared social services and protection systems. The most damaging effects of the conflict however remain the deep divisions that have emerged at the political level and the undermining of social cohesion. The final outcome of the conflict is still highly uncertain, but failure

2 Ukraine is being supported by a $17 billion IMF loan approved in April 2016
to resolve the crisis is increasingly having political repercussions at the national level. The unpredictability of the situation and persistent political uncertainty are features of the future plan period that UNICEF will need to explicitly take into account in the future plan period.

**UNICEF’s response to the humanitarian crisis in Eastern Ukraine has been deemed a striking achievement**. Almost from scratch, UNICEF was able to mount an effective and large scale response reaching children and their families on both sides of the conflict zone, innovating in education, WASH and child protection interventions (albeit with still limited access in Non-Government Controlled Areas (NGCAs)). This substantive and purposive response has given visibility and credibility to UNICEF’s work in Ukraine. These achievements need to be continued and sustained in the conflict affected areas. They also represent a set of learnings from the local level that will be vital ingredients of future programming and service delivery strategies. At the same time, one of the determinants of success of the new country programme strategy will be how well UNICEF finds a balance between responding to the urgent pressures of the humanitarian and recovery response and finding space for its core mandate of programming and advocacy for children at the national and sub-national level across the country.

**2. PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES**

Four areas of priority have emerged from consultation with partners: Dealing with the ‘unfinished business’ of the MDGs; pushing ahead on areas of child rights where traction has been unacceptably slow; addressing social exclusion of extremely vulnerable children; and establishing accountability mechanisms underpinning child rights.

Each has been matched against what are UNICEF Ukraine’s comparative advantages in Ukraine at the present time: the ability to provide policy advice across a wide range of children’s concerns, to innovate in difficult circumstances, and to work with a range of partners at different levels of Ukraine’s governance system. Combined with its long term presence in Ukraine, these allow UNICEF to serve as a bridge between past experience and the current development and reform process, as a neutral and facilitating custodian of ‘what works’.

**2.1 Dealing with ‘unfinished business’**

The Ukraine 2015 MDG Report\(^4\) identified a number of areas of ‘unfinished business’ related to children. These include dramatic gaps in critical services for children – ones that one would not expect in a country that recently had Upper Middle Income country status and make any progress in other areas for children. The collapse of immunization coverage has reached levels\(^5\) that pose threats of renewed outbreaks of life threatening diseases such as measles. Levels of polio OPV3 coverage have reached such low levels at 45% that they sound the alarm for global polio eradication effort. UNICEF has no choice but to find ways and use its full weight to turn such unacceptable developments around as quickly as possible.

While such gaps require urgent attention from national authorities and partners, they need at the same time to be seen as symptoms of the wider problems erupting from weak systems (and possibly corruption) and often result from failure to push through reform in the previous period.

‘Unfinished business’ can also be associated with ‘success’. Scaling up of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)

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\(^3\) Independent Evaluation Ukraine Country Programme (Draft) Sept 2016
\(^5\) DPT3 coverage in 2015 at just over 20% was the lowest in the world that year. See data set in Annex 1.
for pregnant women has been a remarkable achievement of Ukraine’s PMTCT programme with UNICEF support. The task is not yet finished in the sense that the goals of reaching ambitious targets for elimination of HIV infections in children calls for a further push in prevention and treatment of HIV in young women. The above are examples of ‘doable action’ that will receive priority attention and action in the lead up and for the first years of the new programme cycle.

2.2 Focusing on underlying causes where children’s rights have been overlooked or are only slowly gaining traction.

The second wave of reform holds the key to building a protective environment for children through making progress in those areas where reform has not reached critical mass, or barely begun. There is a risk that the core agenda of the national reform process absorbs all of the political capital of government and attention of leadership. Up until now, the only social sector that has been singled out clearly as being part of the current wave of reform is Education. Crucial areas of children’s rights such as de-institutionalisation, inclusive education or ‘justice for children’ have been neglected in the past and may be missed out again, unless specific efforts are taken to highlight their vital importance for children. At the time of strategy preparation, UNICEF is being asked to play a role in help define a number of the national reform strategies.

This opportunity gives UNICEF a remarkable leverage that may not come again for a long while. In such a context, there is a need to re-state clearly what are the package of priority reforms needed for children and the roadmaps that can take each of these this forward individually and together. The ‘best interests of the child’ becomes a key principle where choices are to be made and to guide both policy and programme design and implementation.

2.3 Making ‘Leave no child behind’ a reality

The Sustainable Development Goals are bringing an array of new agendas for Ukraine to respond to up until 2030. In national consultations on the SDGs to date, those that are considered to ‘really matter’ for Ukraine have been identified as ‘Building Peace and Justice’, ‘the promotion of safe societies and strong institutions’; and ‘prosperity, by shaping a strong, inclusive and transformative economy’. These provide openings for priority agendas for children.

One of the most powerful injunctions of the SDGs related to children is the call for action to ‘Leave No One Behind’. If realized well, this will bring most benefits for children. In Ukraine, there is a strong legacy of universalism. It is expected that all children go to school, and all families have access to health services and that women and men have equal rights. A generous social protection system was put in place that was one of the most ‘family friendly’ in the CEECIS region. Equity gaps exist, however, and are growing. And systems are less and less effective in protecting the most vulnerable. It is of great concern that the largest equity gaps at the present time are those that society doesn’t

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6 ITAD (2016) Evaluation of UNICEF’s PMTCT/ Paediatric AIDS Programme – Ukraine Note

7 The 2016 Ukraine MDG Report also identified ‘unfinished business’ as the need to address the ‘renewed increase in relative poverty’ and tackle the ‘quality of education,’ noting that there has been ‘no significant progress in gender equality particularly concerning gender parity in representative authorities’.

8 See for example ‘The Ukraine We Want’ Consultation on SDGs 2015. And further series of Sub-national Consultations on SDGs at city level in 2016 UNDP 2016

9 ‘Child Benefits in Central and Eastern Europe – A comparative review’ ILO 2016
Although Ukraine has a high rate of education participation among children, there are groups of children left out of mainstream provision of education: children with disabilities, the Roma child, young people living on the streets, and more recently IDP children. The groups that are most left out are those whom dominant society disapproves of such as young people who inject drugs, or children on the street. Children with disabilities remain a group of children whose lives are often blighted at birth with frequent and unjustifiable separation from their parents in health services. The HIV epidemic is slowly coming under control. Highly marginalized young people however are still at the centre of spiralling rates of infection\textsuperscript{10} - a symbol of wider social malaise and dislocation.

Data on trends affecting these groups is lacking; however recent surveys suggest that poverty levels are rising and the situation of the most vulnerable is deteriorating\textsuperscript{11}. Armed conflict and other events occurring in 2014–2015, has resulted in reducing the purchasing power of family income and entailed a growing incidence of absolute poverty and the risk of more children being pushed to the margins of society.

The SDGs represent a unique opportunity that UNICEF will take full advantage of, particularly with respect to the goals of poverty reduction and health that the government has recognised as particularly relevant for Ukraine. Education, long neglected by reform, once again becomes a focus, under an equity lens.

### 2.4 Making systems accountable to children

Ukraine is arguably very different from other countries of similar level of economic and social development. Performance of the state at all levels lags what its otherwise positive economic indicators might suggest. Growing inequalities combined with inefficient systems generate poor very results for children. Huge gaps in data availability exist at all levels of the administration. The lack of a recent Census\textsuperscript{12} is a concern not only on population figures but for its problematic consequences on other data gathering instruments and estimations. Data on many of the basic dimensions of children’s lives are missing or of uncertain quality. Monitoring is particularly fragmented, and not established as a function in many ministries. Again, there is a systemic problem producing these outcomes. Weak demand for evidence by policy makers underlies these gaps.

The bold decentralisation initiative of the new government brings new demands for exactly this kind of data and information and provides a major opportunity to strengthen accountabilities at the local governance level. Also on the positive side, the role of young people in a mobilized society is an enormous asset for social progress and still to be tapped.

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\textsuperscript{10} L.V. Gromashevsky Institute of Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases 2015

\textsuperscript{11} E. M. Libanova 2016 National Academy of Sciences Kyiv

\textsuperscript{12} The last National Census in Ukraine took place in 2003 and is considered to suffer from serious weaknesses.
2.5 Taking challenges into account. Finding ‘2 Balances’

UNICEF will use the above principles to prioritise its actions in the coming cycle, particularly in those areas of children’s lives that are not part of the current political and social discourse and where vulnerable children remain invisible.

The coexistence of continuing humanitarian needs with the need to revamp or reform mainstream services poses a special challenge. Although easing at the present moment, the presence of significant numbers of IDPs across the country has put pressure on services, and raised issues of social inclusion for adults and children. UNICEF is gearing its support to reconstruction in a way that is explicitly system strengthening. In some areas, innovations from the humanitarian response are providing impetus to inject new ideas and approaches in national programmes. The presence of field offices in Eastern Ukraine provides a unique opportunity to establish new ways of testing out new approaches, and allowing UNICEF to act as a sources of current feedback on programme progress to national partners.

The above priorities will be operationalized within two critical points of tension where UNICEF will constantly need to find a balance:

- Between working on system and policy reform and modeling interventions at the local level, and
- Between responding to the conflict and recovery (reinforced by the newly established Multi-partner Trust Fund) in the East and programming for the country as a whole.

Throughout the Theory of Change set out in Section 4 below, striking the right balance between these two challenges, through regularly review and discussion, becomes a major criterion of success.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Country Programme Results Framework

**Country Programme Results Framework** VISUAL 1 provides the overall Results Framework that underpins and drives the strategy for the coming 5 years (2018 -2022). It specifies the overall impact and outcomes that are sought to be achieved by UNICEF with partners. A key focus will be on ensuring that the national reform process now underway takes children into account both in design and implementation, is ‘family friendly’ and is rights based.

Specific outcomes will be sought in the areas of (a) Health /Early Years, (b) Education and Learning, (c) Child Protection, (d) Social Policy and in (e) Monitoring of Child Rights. WASH has been at the centre of the humanitarian response as well as part of rehabilitation of schools. The further CPD development process will need to make the call, whether to highlight WASH in support to the outcome area related to survival, as a separate outcome contributing to the “safe environment” outlined in the Strategic Plan and in relation to the SDG targets on sustainable environment or interlinked with the five ‘Outcomes’ of child rights that UNICEF will seek to realize by the end of the new programme cycle. Towards achieving these Outcomes, 15 Outputs are specified where UNICEF
is setting itself a clear accountability to achieve results by 2022. Not all outputs will be taken at once, with attention to the most ‘doable’ in the first years of the programme.

The new UNDAF for Ukraine has four core ‘pillars’: Economic Growth; Governance; Inclusive Social Services and Sustainable Environment. A fifth UNDAF pillar for Eastern Ukraine offers an important broader framework for the coming phase of recovery and reconstruction and an opportunity to strengthen linkages between humanitarian response and longer term work at national policy level. UNICEF will be working under all 5 pillars with a focus on Social Services and Governance. UNICEF will seek to ensure that each pillar achieves at least one clear ‘value added’ high impact result for children.

‘Key Indicators of Success’ are specified for each Output in a way that will allow tracking of progress. By comparing those indicators of success against a current baseline, they capture the ‘ambition’ of UNICEF plans in each of these Output areas. Fuller sets of indicators for each Output are set out in the set of 5 accompanying thematic ‘Theories of Change’ (TOC), ensuring that they are consistent with goals and methodologies agreed with partners, and by UNICEF in the region and globally. Results for the humanitarian response in Eastern Ukraine are shown integrated into the main results framework within each Outcome area.

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13 Drawing on RKLAs developed by UNICEF collectively across CEECIS Region
### VISUAL 1. COUNTRY PROGRAMME DRAFT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OUTCOME 1. By 2022, all children and pregnant women in Ukraine, especially those affected by poverty, adversity and exclusion, progressively utilize quality health services, including in situations of humanitarian crisis</th>
<th>OUTCOME 2. By 2022, all children and adolescents in Ukraine especially disadvantaged and affected by the conflict are progressively provided with equal opportunity based learning adapted to the needs of the most disadvantaged</th>
<th>OUTCOME 3. By 2022, all vulnerable children and young people in Ukraine progressively uphold their rights through integrated and family-oriented child protection system and increased access to protective community based services</th>
<th>OUTCOME 4. By 2022, social exclusion and child poverty of children in Ukraine is reduced through evidence driven and integrated social protection policies, efficient financial allocations and equitable local service provision</th>
<th>OUTCOME 5. By 2022, rights of all children in Ukraine are effectively monitored in all settings and clear mechanisms of accountability are established through a child rights monitoring system</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Output indicator of success</strong></td>
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<td>100% DPT coverage rate</td>
<td>70% of schools ‘violence free’</td>
<td>50% reduction of children entering formal care</td>
<td>50% of families with children lifted out from poverty</td>
<td>Major reforms in social sectors informed by the disaggregated child rights data</td>
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<td>% of reduced service leakages in the delivery of MCH services</td>
<td>% of mothers who refused immunization</td>
<td>% of children aged 3-6 accessing early learning and school readiness programs</td>
<td>% of most at-risk adolescents who have access to specialized services</td>
<td>% of line ministries whose CRC submissions contain quality and disaggregated child rights data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of children at risk of MTCT</td>
<td>% of mothers attending life skills based inclusive and violence-free, education for all</td>
<td>% of schools applying life skills based and conflict-sensitive education</td>
<td>% of public expenditures for early intervention services in total social expenditures</td>
<td>Number of the newly established administrative data systems on children that is periodically used for reporting</td>
</tr>
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<td>% of children affected by conflict in Ukraine</td>
<td>% of children affected by conflict including in NGCA whose access to education is impeded</td>
<td>% of children affected by conflict including in NGCA whose access to education is impeded</td>
<td>% of at-risk adolescents who have full access to (integrated services) health and social services in all of Ukraine</td>
<td>% of budget expenditures primarily directed to the most disadvantaged children and their agents</td>
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<td>% of children affected by conflict including in NGCA is timely enrolled and learning</td>
<td>% of children affected by conflict including in NGCA whose access to education is impeded</td>
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<td>% of most at-risk adolescents who have access to specialized services</td>
<td>Number of newly established social care units that reach the most vulnerable children, per 10 000 inhabitants</td>
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### OUTCOME 1. By 2022, all children and pregnant women in Ukraine, especially those affected by poverty, adversity and exclusion, progressively utilize quality health services, including in situations of humanitarian crisis

- By 2022, primary health workers apply vaccines and immunization practices to respond to the increased demand of families bringing children for vaccination
- By 2022, sub-national administrations are increasingly establishing mechanisms that focus on addressing child specific needs and supporting families
- By 2022, MoH have increased human, technical and financial capacity for the implementation of evidence based, effective and inclusive MCH services

### OUTCOME 2. By 2022, all children and adolescents in Ukraine especially disadvantaged and affected by the conflict are progressively provided with equal opportunity based learning adapted to the needs of the most disadvantaged

- By 2022, children and especially the most disadvantaged have increased access to quality and inclusive early childhood development services
- By 2022, education system progressively provides life skills based inclusive and violence-free, education for all
- By 2022, the justice system for children has increased preventative and restorative responses with strengthened mechanisms for children’s redress

### OUTCOME 3. By 2022, all vulnerable children and young people in Ukraine progressively uphold their rights through integrated and family-oriented child protection system and increased access to protective community based services

- By 2022, most at-risk adolescents have full access to (integrated services) health and social services in all of Ukraine
- By 2022, early intervention service model is tested and costed, enabling full access to EI services for young children (0-4 years) and their families in at least 10 regions throughout Ukraine
- By 2022, the economic system of children is established at national level informing major social policies and increasing accountabilities of duty bearers

### OUTCOME 4. By 2022, social exclusion and child poverty of children in Ukraine is reduced through evidence driven and integrated social protection policies, efficient financial allocations and equitable local service provision

- By 2022, most at-risk adolescents have full access to (integrated services) health and social services in all of Ukraine
- By 2022, most at-risk adolescents have full access to (integrated services) health and social services in all of Ukraine
- By 2022, the child rights monitoring system is established at national level informing major social policies and increasing accountabilities of duty bearers

### OUTCOME 5. By 2022, rights of all children in Ukraine are effectively monitored in all settings and clear mechanisms of accountability are established through a child rights monitoring system

- By 2022, the child rights monitoring system is established at national level informing major social policies and increasing accountabilities of duty bearers
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- By 2022, the child rights monitoring system is established at national level informing major social policies and increasing accountabilities of duty bearers
3.2 Four Cross Cutting Areas that inform and drive the Results Framework

Four ‘cross-cutting’ themes that underpin all UNICEF’s work in Ukraine have been identified, as follows.

**Equity.** Understanding of the concept of equity in policy and programmes is still to be fully developed in Ukraine. Across all programme areas, there will be an explicit focus on clearly defining and narrowing ‘equity gaps’ and in ensuring access to services for particularly marginalized children. Progress on equity for children will be the main benchmark for monitoring progress of the Country Programme. This will link to innovation in data collection and use.

**Decentralisation** gives an opportunity to push ahead with reform emphasizing the most marginalized and build an integrated set of services for children at the local and municipality level. Shared approaches across sectors will allow UNICEF to pioneer new combinations of services and support to reform at sub-national level as well as promote innovative platforms to facilitate dialogue between policy makers and affected groups and wider reconciliation among communities.

**Gender inequalities** are often not perceived as raising concerns in Ukraine. Yet in key areas gender equality is slipping back. Gender equality is not only a matter of social justice – it is also of foremost importance to women’s wellbeing and development. It is the government’s role to address the cultural and social factors underlying gender bias and extending the services that are vitally important to women, especially those at work, and to tackle domestic violence. UNICEF will support these efforts through gender mainstreaming in relevant programmes and a focused effort on articulating and addressing key gender concerns.

**Young People** represent the most powerful group as agents of change in Ukraine today. Mobilising this potential creatively through innovative methods will be a hallmark of the coming Ukraine programme. This will involve innovative approaches to programming and use of Communication For Development (C4D). New partnerships with Young People around peace-building will be particularly important, not just in conflict affected areas, but extending to the wider country. A new focus on adolescents in programme areas such as health and child protection will be launched.

All of the above results take on a special dimension in the context of conflict, recovery and development in Ukraine.

4. THEORY OF CHANGE

The Theory of Change describes the process which UNICEF intends to pursue to achieve the above results and clarifies the assumptions that determine success. Looking closely at assumptions also generates insights into bottlenecks that are likely to be faced, and call for adoption of strategies to mitigate such risks by UNICEF.

The TOC aims to capture a country that is still experiencing the consequences of a divisive civil conflict whose effects are only now accumulating. ‘Vertical’ inequalities in income and wealth are important but still relatively limited to a few very rich individuals shaping the distribution. ‘Horizontal’, spatial, inequalities between regions, however, and the divide between very large cities and the smaller cities/towns and rural areas are large and growing. One overall Theory of Change

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The combined effect of the Outputs aims to move the agenda for children’s rights forward significantly. It is a combination of focused and time-bound interventions to solve bottlenecks; ambitious scaling up to universal level of tested services for extremely vulnerable young people; achieving breakthroughs on reform in core areas of child protection and justice for children; and exploring entry points for new or revived areas of work. Inter-sectoral approaches, particularly in linking social protection with other sectors will be sought to ensure vulnerable families are supported in substantive terms. Promoting the use of outcome data on children for planning and design of services and monitoring runs as a thread through all fields of work. Attention is focused on duty bearers, in order to bring their accountability into sharp focus, especially in conflict areas. All the above programme directions need to be constantly revisited and updated in the light of what happens in relation to the conflict in the East.

Continuity of vision and purpose will be particularly important for this mix of transformative action as well as attention to the ‘unfinished business’ that cannot be overlooked at this critical moment in Ukraine. The Country Programme is envisaged as establishing the foundations for a subsequent programme where even further progress can be envisaged in the future.
By 2022, the rights of every child and youth in Ukraine, especially the most disadvantaged and affected by the conflict, to quality and inclusive social services, caring family and protective and safe environment are progressively realized.

Policies are implemented that promote children’s rights while addressing inequalities, strengthen equity and are adequately resourced over time.

Access to quality and socially inclusive services is ensured for all children (including in humanitarian situations).

The national reform process is designed and implemented in a holistic fashion, takes into account children, is family-friendly and rights-based.

Vertical and horizontal social cohesion is strengthened in and beyond conflict areas.

By 2022, all children and pregnant women in Ukraine, especially those affected by poverty, adversity and exclusion, progressively utilize quality health care services, including in situations of humanitarian crisis.

By 2022, all children and adolescents in Ukraine are progressively provided with equal opportunity based learning adapted to needs of the most disadvantaged.

By 2022, all vulnerable children and young people in Ukraine progressively uphold their rights through integrated and family-oriented child protection system and increased access to protective community based services.

By 2022, social exclusion and child poverty of children in Ukraine is reduced through evidence driven and integrated social protection policies, efficient financial allocations and equitable local service provision.

By 2022, the rights of all children in Ukraine are effectively monitored in all settings and clear mechanisms of accountability are established through a child rights monitoring system.

KEY STRATEGIES

**SD 1** Support rigorous modeling of programme interventions linking decentralized governance to national policies and standards.

**SD 2** Promote pro-reform alliances and build accountability mechanisms in all programmatic areas.

**SD 3** Demonstrate innovation in service delivery including intersectorality and ways to strengthen voice of marginalized young people.

**SD 4** Ensure that children’s rights monitoring is mainstreamed across all sectors and national priorities built.

**SD 5** Strengthen equity analysis and use of findings by decision-makers.

**SD 6** Make available to national partners relevant experience and knowledge related to system reform from region and nationally.

**SD 7** Generate, collate, and disseminate strategic information and knowledge in critical areas of children’s lives.

**SD 8** Build capacities of sectoral ministries in routine data collection and analysis and innovate with survey technologies.

**SD 9** Develop shared vision of programme directions with partners and encourage linkages across sectors.

**SD 10** Support key stakeholders at all levels to plan, resource and implement integrated services for children.

**SD 11** Mobilize adequate resources for high leverage and ‘unpopular’ programme areas.

**SD 12** Ensure that effective interventions are adequately integrated within humanitarian, reconstruction and recovery.

**SD 13** Ensure programmes for children receive adequate priority in national decision-making.

**SD 14** Initiate movements, advocacy campaigns, behavioral interventions around social norms that block positive fulfillment of children’s rights.

**SD 15** Support peacebuilding and tolerance between communities through participation young people.

**SD 16** Scan national context for opportunities & constraints, introducing course corrections where needed.

**SD 17** UNICEF as an organization responds to changes in the national and external environment especially in conflict setting and leverages its comparative advantage.

Evolving global/national context changing political, technical and funding environment.
4.1 Major Assumptions and Risks

VISUAL 3 describes what are seen as the five paramount assumptions and risks that will determine the success of the new country programme. The assumptions are matched against the four main strategic directions/functions that UNICEF will be deploying. The major risks concern primarily high level factors that UNICEF may not be able to influence but which will need to be mitigated or managed. Strategies to minimize risks are shown with the aim of ‘protecting’ the results UNICEF wants to achieve.

The ‘macro level’ world of politics in Ukraine is currently in flux and far from ideal. The unpredictability that comes with political uncertainty and rapid rotation of top leadership challenges the assumption that ‘political will’ will be sufficient to bring positive and long lasting change for children. Unpredictability of the conflict will interact with the dynamics of national leadership and is likely to spill over to programme performance.

UNICEF needs to plan for results in such an unpredictable world. In order to take this into account, the country programme sets out to maximize clarity on what UNICEF seeks to achieve over the medium and longer period in each critical field affecting children while explicitly recognizing the importance of flexibility to respond to changing circumstances. UNICEF’s achievement of such ‘strategic agility’ will require a combination of regular scanning of the political, economic and social environment; flexibility in resource use; and an open collaborative style of leadership. The recent Ukraine Country Programme Evaluation also highlighted the extremely heavy burden of internal UNICEF procedures and reporting to the rest of UNICEF as both a major constraint on effectiveness and having the effect of skewing office attention towards throughput of programme delivery and to the short run.

Slow economic recovery may shift the equation and undermine attention to equity. Downward economic trends combined with the direct costs of the conflict will continue to limit fiscal and political space for social policy. Austerity and numerous conditionalities posed by external funders will continue to pressure welfare systems limiting opportunities for other social sector reforms. UNICEF will position itself not only to monitor these trends but also address these effects making the case for children wherever they are adversely affected.

At a positive level, the programme assumes that decentralization recently launched by the government will allow horizontal and innovative integration of services. UNICEF’s ability to model new combinations of services in partnerships with local authorities is substantively enhanced by this opening up of the enabling environment. If supported effectively, this will allow UNICEF and its partners to boost locally managed services for children and women. This also gives a major opportunity to innovate around strengthening accountability and working with civil society to establish an independent voice for children at the local level.

Security concerns have the effect of making programme delivery much more complex. The conflict has effectively created three zones of the country, with a large number of IDPs distributed across the country, weak and often dysfunctional social fabric in the geographic zones bordering the conflict and a largely unknown situation of children and their well-being in the Non-Governmental Controlled Area. The needs of children are very different across these lines of division, with unprecedented and complex operational modalities in the NGCAs. The possibility of a sudden deterioration of security cannot be ruled out. A breakdown of the current fragile truce may lead to further large scale movements of population. Each part of UNICEF’s programme has been developing strategies that take the reality of these different settings into account. UNICEF will need to continue...
scanning the security setting as a core working method. Non-standard strategies of response may need to be rolled out rapidly.
VISUAL 3. MAJOR ASSUMPTIONS AND RISKS

MAJOR RISKS

- Unpredictability of the conflict in the East will continue negatively affecting the economy and limit the space for multi-year recovery programmes.
- Slow economic recovery and macro-economic instability may shift the attention from equity and limit the fiscal space in major social reforms.
- Political volatility and the weak public governance may slow down the pace of the reforms in social sectors.
- Organizational structure may limit cross-sectoral cooperation and create imbalances.

MAJOR ASSUMPTIONS

- Decentralization will allow to horizontally promote innovative practices of social service delivery.
- A strong call for efficiency gains will trigger the reforms in child related sectors and improve service delivery outcomes.
- Critical mass of development and civil society actors will unlock reforms in child related sectors.
- Civil society groups will keep pushing for the accountability, better equity and improved performance in social sectors.

ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP

PARTNERSHIPS & COORDINATION

SYSTEM BUILDING & MODELING INNOVATION

STRATEGIC INFORMATION, KNOWLEDGE SHARING

By 2022, the rights of every child and youth in Ukraine, especially the most disadvantaged and affected by the conflict, to quality and inclusive social services, caring family and protective and safe environment are progressively realized.
4.2 Ensuring the National Reforms take Children into account.

The strategic objective of the new country programme is to tackle and pre-empt growing inequalities. Helping sustain political will behind the reforms, and accompanying the reforms as they are rolled out is at the heart of this endeavour. Both the internal and external context for Ukrainian reforms, including those primarily aiming at the advancement of child rights, are significantly different from the situation at the time of the Orange Revolution (2004), and the pressures that are driving for change are far greater. A critical factor among these is the demand from Ukrainian society itself, even if a complete vision of the country’s development path is still partial and fragmented.

The strategy recognises that Ukraine is in many ways a ‘late reformer’. This suggests that while the period ahead is likely to be difficult, there is experience that is relevant to Ukraine to draw upon. Comparing outcomes in Ukraine with those of countries that have undergone major system reform in their transition to market economies - such as Poland, Lithuania or some of the new EU member states – will help policy makers and donors to come to grips with actual experience and the essentials of policy reform. Triangular cooperation will be an important part of strategy in themselves. The role of the Regional and European Office will be vital in facilitating such targeted exchange.

One of the lessons from the earlier wave of reforms in Ukraine itself was that reforms could not be taken separately and piecemeal. There were too many unacknowledged linkages between progress in core areas of governance and public administration and between sectors for reform to take hold. This was particularly true for children where lack of progress in one sector blocked it in others. In the coming reform period, ensuring that there is a holistic approach, and reform works together will be vital for their success. UNICEF’s ability to look across sectors and make such connections gives it a special niche and responsibility. Civil society alliances will be the front line of building accountability of public services. Feet need to be kept to the fire.

4.3 Finding the balance between conflict response & development

Achievement of all the Outcomes identified in the Results Framework is predicated on what happens in the conflict in Eastern Ukraine. The conflict is likely to remain the dominant factor at least up until the middle of the new programme.

Three scenarios on the conflict and their implications are considered in Annexe 2: (a) major outright conflict (b) peace efforts succeed and (c) persistence of a protracted and ‘frozen’ low level conflict. For the purpose of the Strategy, the most likely scenario that is adopted is that the conflict will continue as protracted and ‘frozen’ (Scenario c) with continuing tension and occasional flare ups. Barriers for development have included widespread destruction of infrastructure located in the areas affected by armed conflict, taking a severe toll of for example education facilities. The limited access for protection responses in the Non-Government Controlled Areas (NGCA) remains an
outstanding challenge along with the related challenge of obtaining reliable data on the status of children affected by the conflict in such areas.

UNICEF’s mandate implies continuing engagement on both sides of the conflict. Protecting child rights and ensuring rights standards are observed and enforced in the conflict will remain at the centre of UNICEF’s work. Political dialogue between adversarial parties necessarily is time consuming and complex Neutrality and the possibility of mediated contacts around children’s rights will be entry points for such dialogue. Building social cohesion as a contribution to peace-building will become an increasingly important part of UNICEF contribution at both national and more horizontal community levels, building bridges within and among divided groups. Youth will be critical actors and schools will be potential settings for work to promote resilience at the individual level of children themselves and to promote shared values of cohesion and inclusion. Support in WASH is likely to continue to be a critical part of reconstruction and a highly valued resource by communities on both sides of the conflict lines. Working ‘on’ rather that ‘in’ the conflict is likely to influence UNICEF work in all Outcome areas with civil society organizations as intermediaries.

In the medium term, however a new balance between UNICEF’s humanitarian function and more national advocacy and programmatic role in support of national policy for children will need to emerge. Ukraine will be a very different country after the conflict is over. Resource envelopes for UNICEF may also decline. The striking programme learnings that have taken place by UNICEF working at community level in Eastern Ukraine - one of the least well off regions of Ukraine – in education, in child protection, in WASH, in health and nutrition have opened up a series of fresh perspectives for the new country programme. It will be important that these insights (and opportunities) are not lost in the transition back towards more ‘normal’ programming. Conducting this learning rigorously will require a focused effort beyond the more traditional evaluation of humanitarian impact.

A last assumption that needs to be considered relates to the possibility of shifts in donor attention during the programme cycle. The most obvious area where this will be felt relates to the ongoing conflict. Donor fatigue or a change in political dynamics may affect funding flows abruptly. The desire among donors to see more development and less emergency assistance has already begun. This can be turned into an opportunity if the funding is re-channelsed to the building of integrated services for children. This may turn out to be opportunistic programming where UNICEF will be able to manage such transition smoothly, while not abandoning its earlier commitments to recovery.

4.4 Four main ‘Strategic Directions’.

The Theory of Change identifies key strategic directions or that the Country Office must strengthen across all programme areas.

Four main ‘Strategic Directions’ or functions are highlighted in the VISUAL 4. They apply to all programme areas but with particular emphasis on a particular concern or at a given time. Successfully bringing UNICEF assets to bear on priority programme areas will be key to achieving impact.

System approaches to reform. UNICEF will continue to adopt a system approach to reform as the touchstone of its meaningful contribution in the coming years. Small realizable gains at the policy level can have far reaching effect when based on service delivery models that have been tested. This approach has borne fruit in areas such as PMTCT and MARA. UNICEF will continue this approach of being a bridge between modelling service delivery rigorously at the local level and shaping policy at the national level. At the same time, the processes of scaling up will be approached
differently from the past, building in the process design of scaling up right from the earliest stages and rigorously evaluating all such UNICEF programme models from the perspective of potential universal coverage.

As Ukraine moves away from a central model of governance, the country will seek to build local self-governance capacity and apply the principles of subsidiarity and financial self-sufficiency of local self-government\(^\text{15}\), UNICEF will be able to help design integrated services at the municipal and local level. A set of 35 municipalities (out of 170), selected on criteria of poverty incidence, have already been selected by government for such innovation with partners such as the World Bank and the European Union (EU). In all areas, strengthening the institutional capacity of the public administration system will contribute further development of local democracy. Public Finance Management (PFM) and budgeting will be tools to reduce inequality, strengthen accountability and reduce corruption.

At the same time, the risks associated with reform are high. Expectations of society that reforms will deliver quick and far-reaching results may be disappointed. Time horizons for reform inevitably stretch over decades. This includes being ready for further unanticipated negative developments that may lead to further stress on families. System approaches imply long term vision and commitment to accompany partners through the ups and downs of reform. In key areas of child rights where UNICEF is the main or only partner, this will be UNICEF’s comparative advantage. Sharing of experience on ‘what works’/knowledge management come to the fore.

**Strategic Information and Knowledge Sharing.** Each field of UNICEF action will invest in its capacity for strategic information and knowledge sharing and management. Strengthening routine data will be an important part of this drive. Relying on micro surveys will not tell the entire story for children. Mixed strategies will be used combining surveys and administrative data and quantitative and qualitative methods. Short and concise analyses of the data produced regularly will also support advocacy at affordable cost. At the level of outcomes, the MONEE data set was originally designed to capture the impact of reform on children using administrative data\(^\text{16}\). It has particular potential in this coming period of transition in Ukraine. Lessons learned included that policymakers should focus on protecting families from job loss and policies that could prevent spikes in inequality, social exclusion, family breakups, and distress migration.

Such approaches come into focus at this moment in Ukraine’s development pathway. The same approach may be applied by comparing Western and Eastern Ukraine. Back in 2010, a Strategic Review of UNICEF’s work in Ukraine\(^\text{17}\) gave special emphasis to the need to invest in a knowledge management system linked to policy advocacy. That recommendation still rings true.

**Leadership and Advocacy.** The function of leadership and advocacy cuts across both humanitarian response and development, albeit calling for different skills and approaches. UNICEF must secure access at the policy table in all areas of reform that matter to children. This depends on maintaining its credibility as a spokesperson for children and as a bearer of evidence of ‘what works’ for children in settings both in Ukraine and elsewhere. Under leadership and advocacy, the TOC includes high level public advocacy that may take a thematic focus, such as seeking to shift the paradigm in which children with disabilities are viewed. Such advocacy efforts will need to be highly professional and politically nuanced and informed by research and high quality evaluations. Making the linkages

\(^\text{15}\) Following the European Charter of Local Self-Government.

\(^\text{16}\) The early European transition in other CEE/CIS countries was characterized by a severe transformational recession and an acute social and mortality crisis with acute stress experienced by the weakest sections of the population during this period of exceptional instability. See Cornia 2015

\(^\text{17}\) UNICEF Ukraine Strategy Review 2010
across sectors drawing on UNICEF’s major asset as a global organization for children’s rights in all their dimensions (and including in complex conflict settings), requires constant strategizing, strong leadership and repeated intellectual reflection.

There are also areas where there are no or few champions. The ability of UNICEF to speak out when nobody else will do so, and giving ‘voice’ to marginalized children and their families will be one of UNICEFs crucial assets in Ukraine and where communication for social change will be brought to bear.

**Coordination and Partnerships** for UNICEF in Ukraine is more than a strategy; it is a requirement for achieving impact. It is about building strategic alliances around priority issues for children and reaching a critical mass in any given area at a given time. In settings of almost predictable political volatility, such ‘enduring alliances’ can provide continuity and be custodians of vital knowledge. With links to many partners, UNICEF is often in a unique position to provide a holistic view and promote inter-sectoral actions for children.

VISUAL 4 describes the critical partnerships that will accompany each of the Main Outcome areas, at national, development partners and civil society levels. A number of these either singly or together should become allies in the support to reform. Some partners, such as Trade Unions, may be unfamiliar to UNICEF yet are extremely influential in today’s Ukraine and can either block or facilitate the reforms. The Country Programme Evaluation noted that in the past UNICEF tended to be too attached to a few, trusted partners, often national NGOs working at small scale. For the reform agendas, critical partnership will be built with organisations with large funding leverage, such as the World Bank, or major bilateral donors. The European Union will become perhaps the premier development actor in Ukraine by 2022. The EU is not a typical partner. UNICEF needs a special and effective internal strategy in place to maximize the leverage this partnership will bring for children.
VISUAL 4. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHANGE

EARLY YEARS OF HEALTHY LIFE

- MoH; MoOT; Water Donbass; Vodokanal; State epidemiological service
- Regions and municipalities in the East including NGCAs

National partners
- Canada; USAID; ECHO; Germany; SDC

Sub-national partners
- MoE; MoYS; MoOT
- MoE; MoOT; Ombudsman office; Police

Development partners
- WB; Sweden; Austria
- Health through education; Tennergaard; "Volunteer"

Civil society partners
- Health through education; Tennergaard; "Volunteer"

Academia and research partners
- National University of Kyiv-Mohyla academy; Institute of Economy

Mass and social media
- National Medical Academy

Faith based organizations
- JSI

Parliament
- EU; Nordics; Germany

Presidential and PM administrations
- MoSP; MoJ; MoE; MoOT; Ombudsman office; Police

Private sector partners
- Regions and municipalities in the East including NGCAs

Opinion makers
- Associations of Parent of CwDs; Soft tulip; Every child

Trade Unions
- Caritas; Union of cities; IBSER; Office of reform

Volunteers
- WB; UNFPA; UNDP; UNAIDS; CoE; OSCE; Eurostat

Institute of Economy

EMERGING CROSS-SECTOR ACTORS: TROUBLERS, SILENT OBSERVERS OR CHILD ADVOCATES?

- La Strada; Chiriki fund; Coalition of child rights

Academia and research partners
- Academy of Finance; Kyiv School of Economics; Institute of Demography; Institute of Labor; Institute of Economy

Institute of Demography; Institute of Economy

State statistics office; Social sector line ministries

Regions and municipalities in the East including NGCAs

Consolidated municipalities; regions and municipalities in the East

MoSP; MoF; MoRD

WB; IMF; EU; UNDP

UNAIDS; CoE; OSCE; Eurostat

Private sector partners
- Trade Unions
- Volunteers

Presidential and PM administrations
- Parliamentary and PM administrations
4.5 Thematic ‘Outcome Areas’

Challenges and opportunities related to each of the Intermediate Outcomes are elaborated separately as expansions of the main Country Programme TOC (see Section 2). A summary of these strategies is provided below.

Over the next 5 years, UNICEF in Ukraine will focus on five main Outcomes for children.

a) **In Healthy Early years** UNICEF will seek to ensure access to all children of quality universal health services, in particular through re-establishing high levels of immunization coverage. The risks of allowing current immunization coverage to remain at their current extraordinary low levels in Ukraine are very high, calling for urgent action by the government and key partners such as UNICEF. Strategies set out in the TOC include tackling systemic problems surrounding supply of polio vaccines, and strengthening demand for immunization through the rebuilding of trust of medical practitioners and the general public in vaccines for children. A target of 100% immunization coverage is re-set. Success will require sustained high level political advocacy as major private sector interests are involved.

Building on the momentum generated by UNICEF having recently played a critical role in scaling up HIV prevention, care and treatment among children in Ukraine, and in response to the Global Goal of Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission by 2020, UNICEF will make a major effort to reach and provide prevention and treatment to all women who are infected with HIV. This calls for a change in strategy including reaching out to the particular needs of women who inject drugs and their children. The target of the programme component is that Anti Retroviral Therapy (ART) services will reach all HIV infected women. UNICEF will continue to innovate and build on UNICEF’s unique role in working with key ‘difficult to reach’ populations, including young women who inject drugs. The rights of children growing up with HIV will be part of that strategy. UNICEF will also aim to ensure equity for children as part of the coming health reforms, supporting efforts to reduce the high burden of out of pocket health costs falling on families.

b) **In Learning**, UNICEF’s recent experience of providing support in the education sector in eastern Ukraine is triggering a response to children needs of the school system in less advantaged parts of Ukraine. The SDGs are also highlighting gaps in both quality and access for groups of children left out by the current system. Under the broader goal of social cohesion UNDAF pillars 2 and 4, UNICEF engagement will encompass support for broader reforms including child-friendly schools and ‘inclusive education’ for children growing up with disabilities. The ‘safe school’ will be the centre of this engagement and scaled up to 70% of all schools in Ukraine will be violence free. Analysis of equity gaps is leading to plans to support disadvantaged groups of children such as Roma in preschool and with ECD services. Since the conflict in the East is likely to be protracted, UNICEF will support peace-building and tolerance between communities through participation of young people and tackling social norms and behaviours. Close links will be built between Education and Child Protection.
c) **In Protective Environment**, the on-going, protracted conflict is highlighting the fault lines in the current child protection system well beyond the conflict affected areas and have left families extremely vulnerable leading to high risks of children’s safety. UNICEF aims to ensure that by 2022, social care services have increased capacities to better identify and reach the most vulnerable children, young people and families and that the justice system for children has significantly expanded preventative/restorative responses for children in conflict with the law and has strengthened mechanisms for children’s redress. In the field of Early Intervention, innovative programmes of empowerment of parents of children with disabilities will be supported, providing innovative ‘platforms’ for parents to shape services and a critical range of information and services to families. These EI interventions will be scaled up to universal coverage. More challenging but nevertheless critical for the HIV response, services for Most At Risk Adolescents (MARA) will also be scaled up to national level, based on the proven success at city level.

d) **In Social inclusion**, UNICEF will contribute to the progressive reduction of social exclusion and child poverty in Ukraine through equity analysis, promotion of integrated social protection policies, increasing the quality of public investments in children as well as strengthening the ability of sub-national authorities to deliver quality and inclusive social services for children and their families. It will directly contribute to reducing the levels of child poverty as measured by national and EU standards. The government’s decision to decentralize decision making and budgeting to municipalities has opened new possibilities for integrated social services for children at local level. The programme component will support the objectives of other Outcomes utilizing multiple strategies drawn from social inclusion analysis, taking advantage of decentralization and introduction of public finance methodologies, ‘joining up’ UNICEF’s efforts to reduce child poverty.

e) **In Child Rights Monitoring system**, UNICEF will ensure that the system of child rights monitoring is established and functional producing high quality data outcome measures that are used in the formulation of sectoral policies that concern children. The critical data gaps in child rights will be narrowed by exploring multiple entry points such as administrative statistics in the Education sector, health and social protection reform, and U-reports. Working with the Ombudsman system aims to strengthen child rights in Ukraine’s institutional setting, going beyond data into strengthening accountability systems. Making this area of work an Outcome of the Country Programme, signals the fundamental importance of bringing change around gathering and use of data in support of all Outcome areas.

5. **MONITORING OUTPUTS & DEMONSTRATING CONTRIBUTION**

Strengthening monitoring for children will be a key independent outcome of the Country Programme. Focus will be on tracking both Outcomes of the Country Programme as well as broader trends in critical outcomes for children.

Three processes (and accompanying sets of data) will make up Ukraine’s country programme monitoring:
a. Data for planning (and re-planning).

Basic indicators of child wellbeing and survival, service availability and programme coverage will be built up in all sectors. This will aim to strengthen not only its generation but the ‘use of data’. UNICEF will also work closely with other partners in strengthening national capacities for planning for children. This could include regular review of new or emerging data among interested parties including civil society partners for regular assessment of progress towards targets and course correction. Initiatives such as MONEE will be reinvigorated and re-matched against Ukraine likely trajectory of reform. UNICEF will also provide inputs into UNDAF and SDG monitoring through evidence and survey data.

The main innovation however will be in tracking the determinants of inequity and inequalities as they affect children. This implies not only attention to outcomes but also to processes, such as progress in addressing mechanisms of exclusion. By directing analysis to determinants, such tracking will go well beyond descriptions of vulnerable groups. This also implies creating mechanisms where those who are the target of policy have a voice and are heard by policy makers and are involved in decisions affecting their lives. The programme offers a number of exciting settings where such an approach is already underway or possible.

It is planned to organise a 2nd MICS, possibly on a sub national basis using modules tailored to Ukraine. Although expensive, a MICS that allows exploration of equity issues, opening up prevalence of violence in schools and family and reaching children with disabilities will be a major contribution to policy. UNICEF will join in developing the child-related indicators for the SDGs and track these with government partners. The focus on Equity will require a special focus and in some areas call for innovative methods (mix of qualitative and quantitative, including use of U-reports) in order to track change. Monitoring the humanitarian response is already in place but will be regularly revisited for relevance. Real time data and other innovations in data collection (use of IT ‘tablets’ in MICS etc) will be explored and where found most effective scaled up.

Evaluation falls under this heading. A plan for a series of ‘strategic’ evaluations linked to country programme priorities will be formulated. This will include identifying gaps in knowledge that are blocking programme progress. The research agenda to support the programme will centre on major knowledge gaps and be updated regularly joining with national academic centres and external centres of excellence.

b. Monitoring of Programme Outputs

Internally, programme monitoring will track what effect outputs are having on the higher level Outcomes. ‘Indicators of successes have been identified against each Outcome area and for each of the country programme Outputs.

Having an explicit Theory of Change allows much more systematic judgement about UNICEF’s contribution. Some areas may be harder to track contribution (viz. uptake of UNICEF ideas in reform processes). ‘Accountability thresholds’ will be set against each Output as part of the Theory of Change, capturing
which part of the process UNICEF can and will commit itself to. The documentation of these successes will be best captured through maintaining a ‘paper trail’ as recommended by the 2016 Country Programme Evaluation.

Strengthening monitoring capacity of the humanitarian programme will remain high priority.

c. Formal Programme Review

The programme is scheduled to begin in 2018. A Mid Term Review will be scheduled for 2020 with government, involving bilateral and civil society partners. An End of Programme Review will be organized towards the end of 2021 following an Independent Evaluation of the Country Programme in 2020.

6. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

Between 2012 and 2016, the total budget of UNICEF operations in Ukraine increased from almost US $3.5 millions per year to more than US$ 48 million (with $29.5 million allocated to the emergency components) This rapid funding expansion has contributed to the transformation of the UNICEF programme to its present primarily humanitarian focus.

Future resource flows are likely to be highly contingent on the outcome of the conflict. At some point during the new programme period, the volume of resources in the overall envelope available to the country office will shrink back, possibly to levels much closer to those of 2012.

Forecast of resource needs and likely flows are included below (with a range of uncertainty due to fluidity of the present situation). RR is allocated to cover critical staff needs taking into account likelihood of resource mobilization of the different Outcome areas. OR and ORE are estimates based on current budget ceilings from NYHQs.

Table 1. Anticipated distribution of the financial and human resources
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EARLY YEARS OF HEALTHY LIFE</strong></td>
<td>1,100,000</td>
<td>10,000,000</td>
<td>4,000,000</td>
<td>Health and Nutrition specialist (IP); WASH Specialist (IP); Health and Nutrition officer (NOC); Supply assistant (GC)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LEARNING</strong></td>
<td>1,100,000</td>
<td>20,000,000</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
<td>Social cohesion specialist (IP); Education and youth specialist (NOC); Programme assistant (GC)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROTECTIVE ENVIRONMENT</strong></td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
<td>10,000,000</td>
<td>4,000,000</td>
<td>Child Protection specialist (IP); Justice for Children officer (NOB); Programme assistant (GC)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOCIAL INCLUSION</strong></td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
<td>1,700,000</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>Social policy specialist (IP); Social policy officer (NOB)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHILD RIGHTS MONITORING</strong></td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
<td>800,000</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>Child rights and monitoring specialist (NOC); Programme assistant (GC)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EMERGENCY PROGRAMME</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15,000,000</td>
<td>Emergency coordination specialist (IP); WASH (TBD); Education (TBD); Child protection (TBD); Reporting officer (NO); Programme assistants (GC) - TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL**                       | 6,000,000                     | 42,500,000                  | 11,000,000                          |                                  | 24 |
7. EXTERNAL RISKS & RESPONSE

The major risks facing the Country Programme and UNICEF responses were explored in the Theory of Change. Among these, the risk that political uncertainty tied to the conflict undermines political will behind the current reform is the central risk of the programme.

Major risks beyond this include:

7.1 UNICEF’s current organisational structure in Ukraine does not achieve the ‘2 balances’. **UNICEF response:** A frank examination of possible causes. Consideration of a ‘firewall’ between humanitarian and programme groups.

7.2 Equity gaps do not narrow as a result of UNICEF programme interventions. **UNICEF response:** An in-depth re-examination of programme effectiveness and underlying causes of deprivation and vulnerability among children.

7.3 Capacities of civil society partners do not evolve from service delivery to becoming critical drivers around advocacy and policy. **UNICEF response:** To use UNICEF’s convening power to bring synergies between different organizations and facilitate a dialogue on critical issues for children.

7.5 UNICEF human resources are not in place in sufficient depth or timely in order to adequately influence reform process at a high level. **UNICEF response:** Reconsider CO staff profiles at MTR.

7.6 The partnership strategy envisaged does not bear fruit in terms of leveraging results for children. **UNICEF response:** Examination of possible causes. Consider investing further resources in dialogue, liaison and communication with partners.

7.7 The culture of human rights which is being established fails to take root in the country. **UNICEF response:** UNICEF maintains its commitment to equity and child rights monitoring with civil society partners.

7.8 Financial resources (especially OR/ORE) do not meet the estimated needs of the programme. **UNICEF response:** A planned shrinking of the country programme around core priorities to ensure impact on a few critical areas of child rights.
Outcome 1. Healthy Early Years.

The most recent period has seen a growing level of poverty. In this respect, health has become a major source of vulnerability.

A fresh focus on outcomes for children relating to the early years of life brings two areas sharply into focus as ‘unfinished business’ in Ukraine: turning around the critically low levels of immunization coverage and institutionalising Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV infection. A third field of action relates to ensuring equity for children under the coming health reforms and adolescent health as a key entry point. The three are closely connected.

The Outcome in this area is set as ensuring universal coverage of essential services for children. Within this larger field of action UNICEF will intensify promotion of demand and uptake of vaccines with a focus on resolving the procurement bottleneck that has bedevilled recent efforts to replenish vaccines in the primary care system. Coverage with OPV3 will be given highest priority given the global public health risks associated with the current exceptionally low coverage.

In order to help restore high coverage of the immunisation system, UNICEF will seek to ensure public awareness and key partners in the private and public sector are amenable to supporting universal access goal of access to immunization. Experience has shown that in the current context of Ukraine this will require determined and high level political advocacy. It will also involve explicit actions to re-build positive social norms around immunization and trust in public health systems.

The Global Goal of Eliminating Transmission of HIV infections from mothers to children (and its certification by 2020) requires both expansion and consolidation. UNICEF will

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18 See Libanova et al. ‘Social Protection and Social Inclusion in Ukraine’ European Commission
work with partners to ensure full access of Anti Retroviral Therapy (ART) to all women with HIV infection and treatment, together with care, treatment and support for HIV-exposed and infected children. The national PMTCT programme, with strong UNICEF support was able to bring down rates of transmission from 27% in 2000 to 3.9 % in 2013. This was achieved by integrating PMTCT services in antenatal care settings and intensifying outreach to highly marginalised young women who inject drugs. In order to achieve elimination of transmission, such outreach now needs to be institutionalized to reach all those in need with the aim of ensuring universal testing for HIV and the offer of immediate ART for all women found infected, in all health settings. UNICEF and partners will now increasingly need to focus on HIV prevention among most-at-risk populations and reaching all women and children with HIV who need treatment early.

Synergies with UNICEF’s work on MARA clearly offer themselves. Such an increased emphasis on early detection and treatment coincides with a worsening of trends in HIV infection among the most marginalized groups and the handover by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) to national authorities of full responsibility of HIV/AIDS programme funding. Civil society remains critical for response but stronger links need to be forged with national institutions to ensure continuity and comprehensiveness of care. Activism of networks of PLWAs remains strong and will be a focus for UNICEF for the nurturing of major continuing partnerships. Children growing up with HIV call for special attention. Their continued access to holistic care including treatment, access to schooling and ability to grow up leading normal lives will be a separate focus of UNICEF attention.

Whatever is done to strengthen the health system has to have a longer term view of children as a reference. There is very little use of evidence to guide policy making and little consideration of an equity perspective in allocation of resources or tracking outcomes for children. Health continues to be managed within a highly vertical system with centralized decision making. Adolescent health, especially in relation to marginalised groups such as MARA, provides an important point of leverage. UNICEF will seek to ensure that impact on children is a key criteria for decision-making in reform of the health system, and that health is a component part of integrated services being developed at municipality and local levels. UNICEF will also promote linkages.
with the social protection system. UNICEF will also have a critical role in support to monitoring of health SDGs through a new generation MICS and other survey tools.

UNICEF is currently able to draw on unprecedented access to policy makers at highest level in health. This will need to be rapidly put to good effect. The recent establishment for the first time of a National Public Health institute with accountabilities in both monitoring and leading public health programmes is a major opportunity around which new partnerships can be built. Additional reinforcement is needed in strengthening the knowledge and capacities on quality MCH services at the primary care level. This will be addressed through targeted education programmes for health professionals and institutionalising capacity building. The critical assumption for achieving the Outputs identified above is that it is relatively easy to persuade top decision-makers to adopt proven strategies and that they will be implemented.

Girls and women are particularly affected by poor WASH, as are people living with disabilities and in conflict affected areas. Consequently, the WASH programme strategy highlights children’s need for water, sanitation and hygiene to survive and thrive across their life during infancy, as school-aged children and as adolescents, in times of stability and crisis and in urban and rural communities.

Different programming approaches will be applied across the country. WASH support in Eastern Ukraine, where instability and insecurity pose significant access challenges, UNICEF will continue to provide humanitarian assistance and support delivery of essential services. In other parts of the country, WASH programme will support decentralized planning and capacity building among government partners and service providers to improve the quality of WASH services and their sustainability. At all levels, UNICEF will provide technical assistance, generate evidence and advocate for more reliable and equitable government financing of WASH services through strengthening enabling environment; capacity development; decentralised planning and service delivery; partnership; sector coordination; humanitarian assistance.
RESULTS FRAMEWORK FOR HEALTHY EARLY YEARS OUTCOME

THE RIGHT TO HEALTH

By 2022, all children and pregnant women in Ukraine, especially those affected by poverty, adversity and exclusion, progressively utilize quality health services, including in situations of humanitarian crisis

Outcome indicator of success: 100% of coverage rate of DPT3

By 2022, MoH have increased human, technical and financial capacity for the implementation of evidence based, effective and inclusive mother and child health services.

By 2022, primary health care workers apply vaccines and immunization practices to respond to the increased demand of families bringing children for vaccination.

By 2022, all pregnant women especially disadvantaged have increased access to quality PMTCT services provided by health facilities at all levels of the health system.

By 2022, vulnerable children and families have increased access to sustainably managed water and sanitation services at regional and community levels.

Ballpark figures: 1,000,000 per year

Human Resource Profiles: 2 P3/4, 1 NOC, 1 PA, ½ Supply Officer
Outcome 2. All Children Learning

Education is the only social sector that has been included as part of Government’s current priority reforms. The reform of the education sector for the first time by the new government provides an open door for a sector that has remained largely unchanged since the times of the Former Soviet Union. UNDAF pillars 2 & 4 provide an overall framework of social cohesion within which the education sector will be a crucial field of action. Recognising that this is a unique opportunity does not take away from the complexity of the challenge ahead, however.

Geographical inequities in access to education services and especially pre-schools is a fundamental issue in Ukraine. 1.6 thousand Schools (8%) were closed in Ukraine from 2008 to 2013, including 1.3 thousand in rural areas. With demographic change the contingent of students has also decreased by 9%, with an accompanying decline in the student to teacher ratio (dropping from 8.8 to 8.3 in the cities, and from 6 to 5.6 in rural areas), but education quality remains a challenge. In addition, 66% (or 17,813 settlements) of rural settlements in Ukraine do not have pre-school services while having under 6 years old children. Moreover, in 35% of those rural settlements, the closest preschool service is from 5 to 10 kilometres. At the same time 56% of all rural settlements (or 15,008) do not have schools but have a number of 7 to 17 year-old children. In 36% of those settlements, the closest school is in 5 to 10 kilometres.

Although Ukraine has a high rate of education participation among children, there are children with disabilities who are on the margins or left out of mainstream education provision. The recent statistics report 153,547 children with registered disabilities across Ukraine. Comparative statistics give strong grounds to challenge these figures. The number of children 0-9 yrs with a recognised disability has grown (even though the overall child population has decreased). At present, more than 40,000 children with disabilities are in residential institutions. Despite certain steps towards inclusion of children with disabilities, Ukraine is still far away from creating barrier-free and inclusive environment especially at pre-schools and in rural communities.

Dropouts represent another feature of the Ukrainian education system. Problems such as alcohol, drug and other substance abuse lead many teenagers to drop out of school. Conflict-related pressures such as discrimination lead IDP children to either drop out or underachieve. Roma children are often segregated into special schools that set them on a life course trajectory of low achievement.

Despite the absence of official statistics on violence at schools, anecdotal data suggests that violence in schools and especially bulling is widespread representing a major hidden barrier to quality education for both boys and girls.

Engagement at community level in both reconstruction and psycho social rehabilitation and in WASH as part of the emergency response has opened up schooling and learning more generally as a major area of concern and ‘gap’ towards realizing children’s right to education in Ukraine. The ‘education in emergency’ engagement in the conflict setting in the Eastern Ukraine has helped UNICEF to start a constructive dialogue with

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19 State Statistic service – Socio-economic situation is rural settlements of Ukraine, 2014
the Ministry of Education around several critical areas of the education sector. This has also helped to formulate a number of ambitious objectives in the education sector.

Three main components in support of the ‘Learning Outcome’ are set out: in promoting ‘inclusive’ education; in tackling violence in promoting widely the concept of ‘safe schools’; and promoting early childhood development, especially for the young children.

UNICEF will contribute to the national Education Reform process by introducing the concepts, methodologies and tools on conflict-sensitive education, life skills learning, and creation of inclusive, child-centred, participatory schools of equal opportunities for all. It will support rigorous modelling of programme interventions to ensure that school culture is violence-free, conducive to learning, respectful of diversity and where attendance and participation are promoted.

Since the conflict in the East is likely to be protracted, UNICEF will continue supporting peace-building and tolerance between communities through participation of young people and tackling social norms and behaviours. The ‘safe school’ will be the centre of this type of engagement. The dimensions include but not limited to: a) community-guided, school-based policy development, planning and action for safe schools, b) community monitoring and action for children’s safety and participation in education, c) Strengthening capacities for nonviolent conflict resolution, and d) action by children’s and youth groups. UNICEF will focus on building capacity of teachers and education staff, NGOs and parents that would help to build the resilience and coping mechanisms of affected children.

While UNICEF’s engagement in the coming programme period will centre on the safe school concept, it will also encompass a broader agenda, supporting the governments wider education reform and public education system. With an ambitious target of ensuring that by 2022 the education system provides life based, inclusive and violence free education for all, UNICEF will continue focusing on strengthening the educational sub-systems, policies and procedures to provide multiple and alternative pathways for disadvantaged and excluded children, including children with disabilities, with an emphasis on measurable learning outcomes. Working with its partners, UNICEF will support the most recent innovations in the education sector with the potential to rapidly improve education outcomes for marginalized children, such as multilingual education, right-age enrolment, child-centred pedagogy and technology. The programme component will emphasize addressing child centred and inclusive education and tackling discrimination including for Roma children. These will constitute key entry points for more long term system strengthening measures, and act as an important bridge between Education and Child Protection.

Support will also be provided to generate knowledge and data on education disparities and to reinforce government and community capacity to monitor and improve access to and quality of education for all. UNICEF will target its advocacy and capacity building efforts to ensure that all children are learning in Ukraine and the out-of-school rates have decreased and all children affected by conflict attend schools. To this end, supporting administrative statistics through School management information systems (MIS) will be prioritized by the programme.
UNICEF will also aim to ensure that by 2022, children and especially the most disadvantaged will have increased access to quality and inclusive pre-school services. UNICEF’s engagement in the pre-school area will be carried out through a focused analysis of the educational settings in Ukraine and mapping of initiatives of major partners, especially the World Bank that has initiated a broad analysis of the education sector to inform its forthcoming programme. UNICEF will proactively explore opportunities to leverage the future programme of the WB towards inclusive education and expansion of the pre-school programme.

Pre-school component will actively explore the opportunities of the decentralized engagement with newly consolidated municipalities. To address the issue of a widespread absence of pre-schools in extremely small rural settlements, the low cost home based pre-school models will be explored.
RESULTS FRAMEWORK FOR LEARNING OUTCOME

THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION

By 2022, all children and adolescents in Ukraine especially those disadvantaged and affected by the conflict are progressively provided with equal opportunity based learning

Outcome indicator of success: 70% of violence free schools

By 2022, children and especially the most disadvantaged have increased access to quality and inclusive preschools services

By 2022, the education system progressively provides life skills based, inclusive and violence-free education for all.

By 2022, every child affected by conflict including in NGCA is timely enrolled and learning

% of children affected by conflict including in NGCA who's access to education is impeded (target 0%)

% of schools in conflict area including in NGCA with quality sanitation facilities (target 100%)

% of schools that are safe, inclusive and respect diversity

% of schools applying modern, teaching and learning methodologies on life skills based and conflict-sensitive education

% of children aged 3-6 accessing early learning and school readiness programmes

Number of pre-school services with increased learning quality & improved facilities per 10 000 inhabitants

Ballpark figures 2018-2022: $25,000,000 (OR+ORE), $500,000 (RR)

Human Resource Profiles: ECD, Education, Education in Emergency, Youth & Adolescents, C4D
Outcome 3. Protective environment in all settings

The on-going, protracted conflict has highlighted the cracks in the current child protection system well beyond the conflict affected areas and have left families extremely vulnerable leading to high risks of children’s safety. These growing vulnerabilities mandate a strong child protection strategy with prevention and system responses central to its design.

The Government’s new wave of reform has identified social justice, governance and strengthening accountability as three of its pillars. These are at the heart of actions needed to make progress on the reform of the child welfare system. Persuasive and continued marshalling of the evidence illustrating the impact of alternative services and their costing, as well as experience elsewhere of successful reforms of similar child protection systems, will be the basis of high-level advocacy by UNICEF and its civil society partners.

Since its establishment in Ukraine in the late 1990s, UNICEF has made building of a responsive child protection system in Ukraine one of its flagship programme interventions. This trend will continue in this third programme cycle. While general process has been made, significant improvements have not been made for these most vulnerable children. Ukraine has seen an increase in vulnerable families due to the conflict but also to socio-economic factors; in 2015 there were approximately 388,000 children in “crisis families,” of whom only 37% received actual services. The current political and economic situation risks reversing the gains achieved in the HIV response in Ukraine, including for most at-risk adolescents (MARA). If special efforts are not made now to prioritize these areas in the new national reform agenda, these children may never move out of vulnerability.

UNICEF will ensure that by 2022, the justice system for children has increased preventative/ restorative responses and has strengthened mechanisms for children’s redress; social care services has increased capacities to better identify and reach the most vulnerable children, young people and families; and services for MARA are scaled up to national level.

The results of these interventions will be to create protective environments and reduce risks of family separation, with the goal for a 50% reduction of children entering formal care per 100,000 child population by end 2022.

The main principle underlying the approach taken is ‘early’ action wherever possible to prevent the flow of children into formal care and particularly institutional care. A system approach means building enabling environments in local communities that promote planning, financing, and monitoring for child and family-oriented services, and working with sub-national administrations to implement mechanisms that focus on addressing child specific needs and supporting families.

Using decentralization as an entry point to build system responses, UNICEF will work with local specialists on applying effective tools for local planning, budgeting and financing of social care services, defining services based on client needs. Coordinating with local administrations to ensure services are targeted to communities’ needs, UNICEF will also support capacity building of community social workers to establish integrated service approaches to prevent family separation (e.g. family planning & support services, case management, outreach work, and early identification (EI) and
intervention services). UNICEF will use the model of community protection centers developed through the humanitarian response to provide tested and costed approaches for establishing community-based, prevention focused social services. A key step in this work will be to strengthen accountability of the system towards clients.

A key bottleneck to having an integrated child protection system is lack of coordination across sectors (health, education, social protection) and management in responding to specific childcare cases, leading to fragmented decisions focused on sector interests rather than the best interests of the child. Financial flows of funding for social care services versus institutional care also create disincentives for de-institutionalization or development of community-based services. Children’s and families’ lack of access to specialized services and limited or no social care services fail to support families with vulnerabilities to prevent initial child separation, or alternatively to allow for reintegration where separation has already happened.

Sequencing and coordination of reform efforts across sectors to develop an integrated response that holistically addresses the different needs of children and young people is particularly important for a strong social care service system and supporting the interlinked childcare process of deinstitutionalisation. In coordination with civil society partners, line ministries, and the Office of the Presidential Commissioner for Child Rights, UNICEF will continue high-level advocacy for de-institutionalization policies. Moving the reform process at the national level, UNICEF will partner with the World Bank which is taking a lead on development of institutional plans for de-institutionalization. UNICEF will also work in close coordination with the Ministry of Social Policy, which is coordinating the World Bank’s de-institutionalization project.

An accompanying intervention that addresses early vulnerabilities and focuses on building families’ capacity is Early Intervention -- comprehensive, family-oriented support for children from 0 to 4 years with or at risk of having health and/or development delays. Global research has proven the critical role that attachment between the newborn child and its parents especially in the case of a child with special needs and the role caregivers play in developing children’s social and cognitive abilities and particularly in early years. Research also shows that the risk of family breakdown is reduced if parents feel competent and confident in supporting their children’s development.

Frequently, families who give birth to children with special needs or disabilities are significantly affected by the situation, feeling isolated or depressed. In Ukraine, this situation is further complicated by the fact that only limited social services are available to support these families, and medical professionals still frequently advise parents with children having more severe disabilities to place them at birth into institutional care. For vulnerable families the risks become even greater leaving children with few opportunities to maximize their development or subsequently be socially integrated.

In Ukraine, there are now multiple early intervention programmes available, some focusing on targeted and sometimes intensive programmes for individual children, others have ‘lighter touch’ and working through children’s centres, child development centres and other community resources. Early intervention (EI) and parent advocacy is developing in a particularly challenging environment, with a political environment and considerable financial pressures on families. Although Ukraine has a strong emerging disability rights movement as well as emergence of an incipient parent advocacy movement., social norms are exclusionary towards children and families with special needs and active discrimination against people with disabilities is still observed.

National Platform for Early Intervention established in
In the new programme, UNICEF will continue its work on new service development, but will also design outreach programmes with CSO partners and line ministries that prepare community professionals to identify children’s needs for early intervention services and establish referral pathways to services developed. In a context where medical professionals are dominant and rarely listen to the views of ordinary people, UNICEF will mobilize and empower parents, establishing innovative forums that bring together not only parent and carer representatives but also public service representatives to plan, prioritise and evaluate local initiatives. At the same time, UNICEF will also conduct a strong communication component to modify attitudes among professionals and shifting the wider norms in the community around disability.

In tandem with the development of EI services, UNICEF will work with national and regional authorities to establish a model for transformation of baby homes into alternative family-based services, collaborating with partners to “gatekeep” funding sources currently funding baby homes to re-think service development for young children and families.

In justice for children, progress has been made with a 43% decrease in the number of children registered and those convicted. Yet, as the same time, children’s rights continue to be violated at several points throughout the justice system, and there has been an alarming decrease in the number of children in already limited prevention programmes.

As in social care, coordination among sectors is a key bottleneck in ensuring justice for children, where failure to coordinate by agencies such a law enforcement, the judicial system and social protection, results in children not receiving restorative interventions that could stop children from repeat offenses and often increased risky behaviour. Limited or no access to services in the form of diversion or probation reduce opportunities for children to learn positive responses that could create long-term change in their behaviours. Likewise, children facing vulnerabilities need to have access to justice for redress, which is currently extremely limited. Lastly, existing social norms blaming children in conflict with the law and often their families for their own fate advance more punitive responses. Professionals working with children in contact with the law as well as the general community need to be exposed more systematically to human rights-based thinking and approaches and the value and impact for everyone in having restorative approaches.

Over the five-year programme period, UNICEF will support Ukraine to establish a justice system for children that has increased preventative and restorative responses with strengthened mechanisms for children’s redress. In the area of restorative justice, UNICEF will focus on developing service innovations in diversion, working to establish inter-sectoral coordination between sectors such as social workers and police/courts. UNICEF will also conduct high-level advocacy on probation measures, in collaboration with Canadians partners who have taken a lead in developing service responses in this area.

UNICEF will continue to foster its partnership with the ombudsperson institution. Recent changes in the leadership of the Office of Human Rights Ombudsperson (HRO) have brought new advocacy and monitoring capacities for human rights, including child rights. The approval of the National Prevention Mechanism within the ombudsperson structure enhanced the platform for discussing justice issues for children and particularly monitoring of child institutions such as prisons and pre-trial detention facilities. These advances will be strengthened to establish a broader redress mechanism that challenge discriminatory practices and restore entitlements for
children and their families.

The key risk is the danger of justice for children and the reform process not being a political priority, which could then translate into limited, or no funding or human resources directed to a justice response. To mitigate this potential risk, UNICEF’s advocacy will be aligned to incorporate the key stakeholders to gain “ownership” of the process. At the same time, UNICEF will look to join with other key “influential” partners such as the EU in their new strategic programme to advocate for child-friendly justice responses.

Universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support for such populations is far from achieved. Coverage varies across regions with major gaps in rural areas. Despite efforts to sensitize service providers, most MARA still encounter difficulties and stigma in accessing and using existing services. While the overall numbers of IDUs may be declining, the number of MARA may in contrast increasing among younger age groups with injecting drug use. The number of adolescents on the streets is also reported as increasing.

UNICEF’s recent work with MARA has been critical for the response to the HIV epidemic in Ukraine. While overall numbers of new HIV infections in Ukraine is stabilizing, the epidemic continues to rage in sub-group populations. Targeted HIV prevention and harm reduction programmes for key populations have been significantly scaled up through the Global Fund (GFATM) and other international donors.

UNICEF has been instrumental in ensuring that highly vulnerable young people were part of that programme focus, and that services became tailored to the needs of vulnerable groups such as young people who use drugs, adolescent boys and young men who have sex with men, and young people on the street, many of whom sell sex. Such young people often experience multiple vulnerabilities making service provision much more challenging. While overall increases in the number of MARA accessing HTC services and received their results in the last 2 years was modest (5%), these numbers increased 200% among adolescents living and working on the streets, and 44% among adolescents injecting drugs.

The challenge ahead is scaling up to the national level and enabling all most at-risk adolescents with access to quality services.

In the coming programme period, UNICEF will scale up the current service coverage to reach 100% MARA, while also expanding outreach to vulnerable adolescents caught up in the justice system or in institutional care. While successful in reaching MARA groups, outreach developed is still not well linked to the national system or institutional ownership of interventions by government itself. A new feature of UNICEF’s strategy towards MARA will be building robust linkages with mainstream child protection services, reducing vulnerabilities and strengthening preventive HIV services. UNICEF will also ensure social protection reform reaches out to and serves MARA.

A strategic information system to guide the expansion of services for MARA will be built with civil society partners. While not straightforward, monitoring access to quality services through U-report and other means will be expanded as part of strengthening knowledge management. To help create and sustain an enabling environment for interventions with such high-risk groups, UNICEF will help design and promote strategies to combat stereotypes and pre-conceived attitudes towards MARA in society and among service providers. Key linkages with Child Protection and Justice systems will be strengthened.
Data collection and monitoring on key child rights issues continue to be challenges that will need to be addressed over the new programme cycle. Ukraine’s current conflict crisis has underscored the weaknesses in its child protection mechanisms. Throughout the months of unrest, there have been systematic failures to monitor the situation of children, to coordinate amongst responsible agencies to provide support, and to protect the rights of children in interactions with the justice system. New approaches to child protection have also emerged that now need to be institutionalised and taken to scale.
RESULTS FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROTECTIVE ENVIRONMENT OUTCOME

THE RIGHT TO GROW UP WITH PARENTAL CARE AND FREE FROM VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION

By 2022, all vulnerable children and young people in Ukraine progressively uphold their rights through integrated and family-oriented child protection system and increased access to protective community based services

Outcome indicator of success: 50% reduction of children entering formal care

By 2022, most at-risk adolescents have full access to (integrated services) health and social services in all of Ukraine.

By 2022, early intervention service model is tested and costed, enabling full access to EI services for young children (0-4 years) and their families in at least 10 regions throughout Ukraine.

By 2022, the justice system for children has increased preventative and restorative responses with strengthened mechanisms for children’s redress.

By 2022, sub-national administrations are increasingly establishing mechanisms that focus on addressing child specific needs and supporting families

% of at-risk adolescents in targeted regions who have access to specialized health and social services

% of public expenditures for early intervention services in total social expenditures

% of restorative responses by the justice system in total number of cases involving children.

% of families in difficult life circumstances benefiting from family breakdown prevention-oriented minimum family support packages

By 2022, sub-national administrations are increasingly establishing mechanisms that focus on addressing child specific needs and supporting families

% of most at-risk adolescents in targeted regions who have access to (integrated services) health and social services

% of public expenditures for early intervention services in total social expenditures

% of restorative responses by the justice system in total number of cases involving children.

% of families in difficult life circumstances benefiting from family breakdown prevention-oriented minimum family support packages

Ballpark figures 2018-2022:: $20-25 million USD (RR, OR, ORE - at least next three years)

Human Resource Profiles: CP staff (Including at least one officer in each field office); Youth & Adolescent Specialist, close coordination with Education and Social Policy colleagues
Outcome 4. Social Inclusion and Macro level policy

The Social Inclusion programme consists of four interlinked subcomponents: child poverty data and analysis; social protection; local governance and decentralization; and public finance for children. All of the four are extremely cross-sectoral. Out of the four sub components only Social Protection is represented as a social sector itself.

The Social Inclusion Outcome will contribute to the progressive reduction of social exclusion and child poverty in Ukraine. This will be through the advancement of evidence based equity analysis, promotion of the integrated social protection policies, increasing the quality of public investments in children as well as strengthening the ability of sub-national authorities to deliver quality and inclusive social services for children and their families.

The quality and validity of child poverty data will be a particular area for UNICEF’s attention. UNICEF will gradually explore the mechanisms how to progressively ensure that the trends of child-poverty and exclusion directly inform and influence the design of national and sub-national policies including but not limited the responses from Social protection system. A critical milestone in this direction will be creation of a direct link between child poverty trends and major policies on cash transfers, the setting up of social standards including a minimum basket for families as well as income distribution policies.

In the absence of a holistic social protection system, emerging and new challenges, such as growing child poverty, reintegration of internally displaced families, social consequences of labor migration and the widespread lack of social cohesion will remain burning topics for decades leading to further polarization of the Ukrainian society. Social inclusion efforts needs to center on children, with measurable progress towards reduction of child poverty at the national level.

The focus of the Social protection component will be on supporting the national reforms of social protection system at national and sub-national levels by strengthening the effectiveness of cash based instruments for the most vulnerable children and families and introducing a universal system of integrated social protection. One of the largest absorbers of state budget the social protection system is not leading to desired results because of their lack of consistency, the various measures taken to reform the social protection system have not produced the expected results in terms of reducing inequalities and creating decent employment opportunities, despite the efforts made so far in this direction. Plans for social protection reform supported by the WB currently tend to focus on pension reform and better ‘targeting’ of transfers. Children need to be an explicit focus of the reform that takes into account cross generational support and maintaining where possible universal access.

The ongoing administrative-territorial reform as well as long-term commitment of the World Bank creates an extremely favorable environment for the enhancement of solidarity, subsidiarity and service integration of Social protection through the introduction and promotion of the European model of Integrated Social Protection. Sectors which have already begun to be decentralized include social protection paving the way for other sectors to follow.

<table>
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<th>Major Opportunities</th>
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<tr>
<td>World Bank support to Reform of Social Protection ( $ 100 millions) and commits to continue supporting the sector</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ongoing De-centralization reform creates a favourable environment for building an Integrated Social Protection for children</td>
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Mobilizing a critical mass of development and civil society partners in support of the integrated social protection reform is an absolute prerequisite to get the critical traction for the reforms of social protection. In addition to the World Bank, UNICEF will actively mobilize other important partners such as the European commission and other sister UN agencies to support the initiative. The inter-sectoral coordination at policy and service level with the ministry of social policy, regional development, finance and other social sector line ministries is another prerequisite that will be promoted by UNICEF.

Public Finance for Children component of Social Inclusion outcome will aim at achieving greater transparency, efficiency, equity and adequacy of public investments in children. Considering that in the forthcoming years, the economic prospects of Ukraine will remain weak, the efforts aimed at increasing the efficiency of public spending and particularly in social sectors will get additional impetus. To that end, UNICEF will invest in the generation of the most reliable and critical data on children financing including regular tracking of child-focused public expenditures will inform and influence policy making across all tiers and sectors of governance.

The improvements of PFM discipline such as mid-term financial planning in social sectors will be the entry points for working with partner line ministries and support the results of other outcome areas. UNICEF will gradually expand the application of proper diagnostic tools such as child-focused public expenditure measurement, cost-efficiency, cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit that can help to advocate for greater investments in children across sectors. Costing of child-focused services will be a further critical dimension especially to support child protection and education components. For all the mentioned interventions, strategic cooperation with the Ministry of Finance and the World Bank will be essential prerequisites of success.

Decentralization of major social services will remain as a key Government policy that will be accompanied by the administrative-territorial reform that implies consolidation of municipalities. At present, decentralization represents a significant challenge but can become a unique opportunity for the promotion of child-friendly environment at local level including in conflict-affected areas. UNICEF also assumes that, if supported, the newly consolidated municipalities are well positioned to proactively take on board a number of innovations aimed at creation of child friendly environment and the expansion of inclusive service delivery.

The dedication of the Decentralization and Local governance component will be at supporting sub-national authorities to improve the quality, inclusiveness and outreach of service delivery that is aimed at the most disadvantaged categories of children through integrated and result oriented participatory planning and budgeting. At the same time, UNICEF in Ukraine will prioritize the introduction of the interim legal safeguards across social sectors to mitigate possible loses while transitioning towards decentralized service delivery. The issue of effectiveness inter-governmental fiscal transfers to reduce territorial disparities in provision of social services will be a prioritized dimension for Local Governance component. The programme will also explore opportunities of cooperation with the Union of Ukrainian cities and recently established territorial development fund to boost the establishment of new child focused initiatives at local level with focus on alternative care and specialized services for children with disabilities. In the above areas UNICEF will be playing a lead role in UNDAF Governance pillar along with UNDP.
RESULTS FRAMEWORK FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION OUTCOME

THE RIGHTS TO AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

By 2022, social exclusion and child poverty of children in Ukraine is reduced through evidence driven and integrated social protection policies, efficient financial allocations and equitable local service provision

50% of families with children lifted out from poverty

By 2022, social protection system effectively identifies and proactively responds to the income poverty and social vulnerability of children through monetary instruments and integrated services

% of families with children living in extreme poverty receiving state cash assistance

% of consolidated municipalities that established a system of integrated social protection

By 2022, public finance management and local governance systems increase the adequacy, efficiency and equity in allocation and delivery of resources to the most disadvantaged children

% of budget expenditures primarily directed to the most disadvantaged children and their agents

% of rural municipalities with the reduced territorial disparities in access to key child focused services

Ballpark figures: 2018-2022; RR 600 000; OR (1 500 000)

Human Resource Profiles: (Social policy specialist’ Social policy officer)
Outcome 5. Monitoring of Children’s Rights and Outcomes for Children

A system and culture of monitoring outcomes for children that influence and divert policies towards pro-children objectives does not yet exist in Ukraine and needs to be established almost from scratch. Delays in carrying out a new Census and the almost complete absence of data on child violence or reliable figures of children with disabilities speak for themselves. The goal of this Outcome will be cross cutting with the ultimate aim to ensure that a system of child rights monitoring is established and functional by 2022 and produces high quality data around outcome measures that are used in the formulation of sectoral policies relating to children.

In Ukraine, the official statistical function, including generation of major data that concern children is traditionally spread between the State Statistical Service under the Ministry of Economy and the Institute of Demography. This institutional setting has proved restrictive but at times opens up unexpected opportunities.

As a general trend, the analytical products produced by the Statistical Office including those related to children are partially used by the primary recipients i.e. sector Ministries. On the other hand, the real needs of social sectors are not always part of the statistical research commissioned by the State Statistical Service. Quality and reliability of the data collected by the Statistical service including the data on child poverty are particular areas of concern. Externally supported programmes in the area of national statistics are extremely fragmented, ad hoc and lacking the broader coordination among supporting agencies.

A key normative challenge in the area of statistical data relates to the legal clauses that prevent state statistical service to provide micro-data to development partners for further analysis. The issue is well beyond child related data and needs to be addressed by the development partners including UN agencies.

The current reform agenda in the area of Statistics is aimed at strengthening the system of administrative statistics to be managed by the respective national ministries and agencies. It is also planned that the field/regional representation of the state statistical service will be significantly reduced in the coming years. On the other hand, as part of the European integration process, the state statistical service is gradually transitioning towards statistical standards and procedures established by Eurostat. This opens new possibilities of collaboration on children and data at the European level, including adoption of the latest version of household surveys that capture dimensions of social inclusion including for children.

Establishment of the sound child rights monitoring system will be a major challenge as it assumes significant transformations of the work of the state statistical service but also the one of line ministries. The process will include both technical assistance and require significant advocacy efforts as the independency of the child rights monitoring system requires positioning above the levels of line ministries.

While concentrating on the long-term investment - establishment of the system, UNICEF will ensure that critical data gaps on child rights are addressed through a well established analytical instruments such as MICS, MODA, DHS among others. At the same time the programme component will prioritise the establishment and

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major Opportunities</th>
<th>National Human Rights Action Plan approved August 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Preparation of 2nd National Report to CRC Committee in 2017</td>
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</table>
strengthening of administrative data systems of sectoral line ministries such as school management information system.

The decision whether to undertake a second MICS in Ukraine will be critical. Rather than a repeat of the first MICS, a new MICS will be designed with modules of particular relevance to Ukraine, including disabilities and violence against children. As a large country, investment in MICS will be considerable, and careful methodological preparation will be needed given the weak statistical foundations at different levels.

A critical task for the Child Rights Monitoring component will be the establishing a sound system of tracking the situation of children in the non-government controlled area (NGCAs) in the “no access” post conflict environment. This will require an in-depth analysis of the international experience of addressing the data gaps on child rights in the similar contexts. For this particular dimension, the programme will also explore alternative methods of data collection and analysis through civil society and other possible channels.

This programme area will particularly emphasize the work with Child Ombudsman and with the Ombudssystem more broadly with the aim of creating a sound mechanism of data collection, analysis and aggregation of child complaints through Ombudsman system to trigger necessary legal and policy changes across sectors and tiers of the Government. Accountabilities of duty bearers will also be systematically examined and strengthened.

The last Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2012 set out a series of recommendations most of which are remain valid. The preparation of a new Ukraine country report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2017 and for CEDAW represents a unique opportunity to manifest the critical areas of child rights discrimination and manifestation that the country programme will take full advantage of with partners in civil society. The need for gender mainstreaming has been singled out as a key area of attention by the CRC committee. This will feature strongly in the Gender Review in Ukraine and CEDAW report scheduled for 2017.

The further promotion of the innovative child rights monitoring instruments such as use of U-Reports will be prioritized by the programme. The programme component will initiate deliberate actions aimed at scaling up U-report initiative nationally. At the same time, the dedicated programme actions will be initiated to promote a horizontal expansion of the U-report at sub-national level using the opportunities of the ongoing decentralization reform.

The programme component will gradually explore the most recent innovations in data analytics such as ‘Big Data’ to enrich the grounds of child rights in Ukraine.

Across the programmatic dimensions, the CRM programme component will generate effective partnerships and synergies with civil society and development counterparts to both strengthen the analytical capacity of statistical system to generate quality data on child rights. Potential partners in this area include UNFPA, Council of Europe, USAID, the World bank and European commission.
**RESULTS FRAMEWORK FOR CHILD RIGHTS MONITORING OUTCOME**

**STRONGER MECHANISMS OF ACCOUNTABILITY**

By 2022, rights of all children in Ukraine are effectively monitored in all settings and clear mechanisms of accountability are established through a child rights monitoring system.

Outcome indicator of success: All the major reforms in social sectors are informed by the disaggregated child rights data.

- By 2022, the child rights monitoring system is established at national level informing major social policies and increasing accountabilities of duty bearers.

- By 2022, major national and sub-national counterparts of UNICEF have increased the volume, quality and disaggregation of the administrative data systems on children.

Ballpark figures 2018-2022: $25,000,000 (OR+ORE), $500,000 (RR)

Human Resource Profiles: Child Rights Monitoring Specialist, Planning Specialist
ANNEXES

Annexe 1. Trends latest situation of children

*Figure 1.1 GDP 2001–2015, percentage of 2000 level*

*Legend (left to right)*
- World; EU; Developing economies; CIS; Ukraine

*Source: State Statistics Service of Ukraine.*

*GDP growth, %*

*Legend (left to right)*
- World; EU; Developing economies; CIS; Ukraine

*Source: IMF World Economic Outlook, October 2014; * - forecast*
Proportion of households that spend more than 60% of their cumulative costs on food – total (left panel) and by deciles (right panel)
Poverty of households (% of households of relevant group) by various criteria and the number of children.

- Could not provide sufficient nutrition, or income was only enough to buy food
- Poverty by relative criterion (75% of median expenditures)
- Extreme poverty by relative criterion (60% of median expenditures)
- Proportion of expenditures on food exceeding 60%

Green – No children; Red – One child; Grey – 2 children; Orange – 3 children; Blue – 4+ children
**Figure 2.6.1** Officially registered new cases of HIV among Ukrainian citizens, 2002–2014

Source: State Statistics Service of Ukraine/MoH Ukrainian Centre for Socially Dangerous Disease Control.

**Figure 2.6.2** Mode of HIV transmission among newly registered cases of HIV, including the rate of mother-to-child HIV transmission (percentage), 2005–2014

Source: State Statistics Service of Ukraine/MoH Ukrainian Centre for Socially Dangerous Disease Control.

**Figure 2.6.5** Incidence of TB/HIV co-infection (per 100,000 population), 1999–2014

Source: State Statistics Service of Ukraine and MoH Ukrainian Centre for Socially Dangerous Disease Control.

* Official statistical data on incidence of TB/HIV co-infection were introduced in Ukraine in 1999 according to form No. 08.
Educational facilities in the conflict affected area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>o.w. IDP Children</th>
<th>Teachers</th>
<th># of Education Facilities</th>
<th># of Damaged Education Facilities</th>
<th># of Rehabilitated Education Facilities</th>
<th># of Education Facilities in need of rehabilitation</th>
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<td>274,884</td>
<td>16,087</td>
<td>33,238</td>
<td>1,725</td>
<td>91</td>
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<td>11,333</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>4,754</td>
<td>9,500</td>
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<td>259</td>
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<td><strong>NGCA All</strong></td>
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<td>485</td>
<td>213</td>
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<td>5,935</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td><strong>Luhansa</strong></td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>11,675</td>
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<td>3,686</td>
<td>336</td>
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<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td>576,792</td>
<td>16,087</td>
<td>62,708</td>
<td>3,414</td>
<td>746</td>
<td>432</td>
<td>84</td>
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</table>

Number children including conflict affected who live in 5 Eastern Oblasts
Monthly Household expenditure that indicates that families don’t have enough money to procure education supplies to meet children’s needs (REACH assessment)

Comparison of average wages and pensions with minimum wage and subsistence level.

Benefits / subsidies per household, UAH per month, by decile groups

Legend
- Blue – Minimum wage, UAH
- Grey – Subsistence level, UAH
- Red – Average wage, UAH
- Orange – Average pension, UAH

Legend:
- All
  - Green – Cash
  - Yellow – Non-cash

Source: HLSS, Q2 of 2014 (the State Statistics Service publication)

Average size of subsidy, UAH

Payments to public utility companies funded from subsidies, UAH million

Expenditures on communal and utility subsidies.

Legend: months from January through December
Source: The State Statistics Service

The number of families receiving communal and utility subsidies, thousand
Annexe 2. Humanitarian Action in Eastern Ukraine - 3 scenarios

**October 2016**

In 1991, Ukraine signed and ratified the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC) and thereby made a number of commitments to improve the wellbeing of children. Additional Protocol I, the CRC and its Optional Protocol provide for the protection of children during armed conflict.

During 2016, UNICEF Field Offices have been made more operational and are now fully staffed. This presence in the field (including in Kramatorsk from where the UN system response will be coordinated) remains a cornerstone of UNICEF ability to deliver results for children in the conflict affected areas and beyond. Strengthening both internal and external coordination will be particularly important as UNICEF moves from humanitarian to longer term recovery and its more national based policy work resumes.

Given the continuing uncertainty of the political/conflict setting in Eastern Ukraine, three distinct scenarios for the evolution of the programme context are presented below.

1. **Scenario One – Escalation/intensification of conflict**

This scenario ranks as probably the least likely to happen in the next 18 months. In this scenario, life-saving interventions for children would be the first priority and the advocacy and communication...
part would need to react immediately advocating for safety and security of children. UNICEF would need to seek support from EMOPS with staffing skilled to respond to a full-scale war situation.

**UNICEF action and strategy:**

**L3 Emergency declared.**

- The country programme is suspended and all resources and efforts directed to expanded emergency response.
- Large donor appeal.
- Rapid deployment of international emergency experts to support the Country team and field offices.
- UNICEF presence is expanded (either through monitors and/or additional field offices) if there is a significant increase in displacement.
- Advocacy with national and international stakeholders to protect civilians, especially children; Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict is established.
- Strong communication and advocacy strategy is required, including proper staffing.

Estimated budget for this Scenario is very difficult and depends on the scale of the conflict, the Minimum requirement would be $40m per year just for humanitarian assistance, covering the basic needs of affected children).

2. **Scenario Two – Peace breaks out**

Based on the present political and security situation, UNICEF is ranking this scenario as not very likely to happen in the next 18 months. In this case, the NGCA might gain a high level of independence, the present borders between oblasts might change and pockets of settlements might end up with unclear governance. Informal military groups might continue to be active, especially from both sides along what we currently refer to as the ‘contact line’. If some sort of peace agreement is signed, the authorities will cease to be ‘de-facto’ authorities/NGCA, but probably will be authorities of two newly emerged oblasts and elections will be organized. The interest of the donors will probably be high from the beginning ending with a rapid phase out of the humanitarian support and moving to recovery and development programming.

**UNICEF action and strategy:**

- Access to NGCAs and large expansion of child-focused humanitarian response in Donetsk and Luhansk GCA and NGCAs.
- Large donor appeal for funds is directed to programming in the NGCAs.
- UNICEF initiates a rapid needs assessment to create more evidence-based programming.
- All children and families have access to basic supplies and services (health care, education, WASH); programming in the NGCA is resumed; UNICEF activities contribute to people’s resilience and help prevent them using negative coping mechanisms.
- Demining activities are initiated, accompanied by a massive life-saving MRE campaign.
- UNICEF provides support and capacity building to authorities and other stakeholders in the east respond more effectively to the humanitarian/early recovery/recovery situation.
- UNICEF and its partners establish a mechanism to monitor children’s rights in the areas that are now controlled by the ‘de-facto’ authorities.
- UNICEF establishes cooperation with the new local authorities and acts as a leader in social cohesion efforts.
- UNICEF supports national and local level partners in establishing a mechanism for transparent and accountable humanitarian response and management of resources.
Estimated budget for this scenario over coming year/18 months,: $60-80m for the humanitarian/early recovery programme.

3. Scenario Three – Status quo – frozen conflict

This scenario is seen as the most likely to happen in the next 18 months. UNICEF’s role in humanitarian response evolves to include recovery and development aspects, as well as further strengthening its advocacy role. Furthermore, UNICEF is taking a lead role in peacebuilding efforts – a range of measures that address the dynamics, causes and consequences of the conflict and aim to prevent escalation of the conflict and promote peacebuilding.

Reaching the most vulnerable children in the NGCA remains a very challenging issue, as access to the NGCA continues to be very limited. Taking into consideration the fluidity of the political situation in the NGCA, there might be a situation where UNICEF is temporarily or permanently denied access and needs to officially pull out. To reduce the risk of not being able to provide humanitarian support to the most vulnerable children, it is of key importance to continue working with local NGOs and expand official and unofficial networks of experts, women groups and activists. The focus of the present work should be to develop trust among the families and children and ensure that UNICEF is seen as a neutral, child-focused organization, delivering supplies and programmes of high importance to children and their families. The possibilities of innovative approaches and Internet-based programmes for children and youth engagement need to be further explored and applied. Implementation through local civil society organizations registered in the NGCA (UN, International and local organizations) and very low visibility continues to apply the Do no harm principle for our partners.

The national staff could continue working from home and support children in remote areas.

UNICEF action and strategy:

- UNICEF (together with other key stakeholders) advocates with national state authorities and other relevant parties to define the status of what is currently considered NGCA (Minsk mechanism).
- The response will continue with a focus on improving management and coordination capacity of state and non-state actors.
- UNICEF conducts a rigorous needs assessment of conflict-affected communities and IDPs to obtain gender and age-disaggregated data and improve its humanitarian/early recovery and development programming, fundraising and advocacy.
- UNICEF improves reporting, monitoring and evaluation systems to better plan, report on, monitor and evaluate its humanitarian and development programme.
- UNICEF strengthens its advocacy efforts in the following areas:
  o Humanitarian access to the NGCA
  o Freedom of movement for civilians (between the NGCA and GCA)
  o Demilitarization and depolitization of the school curriculum
  o Creation of a state coordination mechanism on demining and mine risk education (MRE)
- UNICEF leads peacebuilding and social cohesion enhancement efforts, capitalizing on its relationship with state and non-state actors.
- Within the framework of current decentralization efforts, UNICEF supports state partners in establishing a mechanism for transparent and accountable management of the humanitarian response and resources on the regional and local levels.
- In the context of decentralization, UNICEF helps invest into conflict-sensitive, child-friendly and equitable social protection systems (healthcare, education, child protection systems).

Estimated budget for the humanitarian assistance under this Scenario: $25m per year
Annexe 3. Note on WASH

While UNICEF Ukraine did not have a WASH programme prior to the conflict has rapidly scaled up to ensure the fulfilment of the CCC including recognized leadership in the cluster/sector. In addition to the humanitarian response, the WASH programme has also started engaging in the rehabilitation process in the Mariupol area of Donetsk Oblast. While the need to continuing delivering on the CCC will continue as long as the conflict continues it also provides opportunities for the future.

The conflict in Eastern Ukraine resulted in civilian displacement and serious damages to the infrastructure limiting access of almost 3 million people in the conflict zone to the basic social services. Over 1.3 million people (approximately 300,000 children) are estimated to have limited access to safe drinking 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. Much of this 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. 21

The conflict in the East of Ukraine also amplified problems with water and sanitation service provision that already existed at the national level, stressing the vulnerability and critical situation of the sector22. There is an urgent call to reform and modernize the sector. 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, 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.

Water quality is frequently an issue with reported 4.6 million citizens receiving drinking water that does not meet national drinking water standards, putting many Ukrainians at risk. About 70% of cities receive water of acceptable quality as per Ukrainian standards, leaving 30% behind. In 30-50% of cities and towns water quality can be improved by implementation of asset rehabilitation programme. About 10-15% 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. The rural population tends to use pit latrine with slab (almost 60%) while urban population is mainly connected to a centralised wastewater system. The overall urban systems, including sewerage pipes, collectors and treatment plants are in poor condition. The

21 According to estimates (REACH, 2015), 58% of the treatment plants in conflict affected areas lack water treatment chemicals, 35% suffered damages to the pressure pumps and 29% to the control systems, 19% of the intake pumps are non-functional.

22 The most serious challenges of water and sanitation sector include, but not limited to absence of sound, efficient and consistent national policy in the sector; lack of strategic development and long-term planning; ineffective water management; ageing networks without proper operation and maintenance (about 50% of all assets need replacement); poor service levels in terms of quality, safety and reliability of services; inefficient resource allocations directed mainly to day-to-day operations/emergency repairs.
average age of treatment plant is 25 years. Almost 40% of sewerage networks and pumping stations require rehabilitation or replacement.

Government capability to formulate, finance, manage and maintain water and sanitation sector remains weak. 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. 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.

For the first time since UNICEF began delivering water to children in the 1970s, the reason UNICEF engages in WASH is changing. The purpose behind our engagement has always been in support of health outcomes. At the same time it is to be considered that, with the decline in communicable disease mortality and the increase in non-communicable disease mortality largely caused by a deteriorating environment globally the UNICEF Strategic Framework for 2018-2022 is moving WASH from the Health Goal Area to a new Goal Area – All Children Live in a Secure Environment.

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.
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