Situation overview

Since March 2014, the conflict in Eastern Ukraine has claimed thousands of lives and has led to 1.6 million people being displaced. As stated in the UN OCHA Report, over 2,540 civilians have been killed and thousands more injured. Some 600,000 people, including 100,000 children, live within 10-km of a 457-km contact line, where there is daily shelling, armed clashes and extreme levels of mine contamination.

Currently, tens of thousands of children live in areas where the sound of shootings and bombs is a part of their reality. Many children find it difficult to cope with this situation and suffer from stress and anxiety.

According to UNICEF, for the past five years, the Contact Line has been ground zero in a war that separates Government Controlled Areas and Non-Government Controlled Areas, and affects over 700,000 school children, adolescents and teachers in over 3,500 educational facilities. Since January 2017, 58 education facilities have been damaged and 65 schools have been closed in this area.

Our projects:

- child protection: psychosocial support
- child protection: youth livelihood

Highlights

In 2018, Tdh Ukraine reached 8,492 children from Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Tdh equipped 113 schools with sport and IT equipment, furniture, stationary, games, books in order to make them more child-friendly.

In December, Tdh launched the first FabLab (Fabrication laboratory) dedicated to youth and children in Ukraine (Luhansk region).

Results in numbers (July – December 2018)

- 4,919 children and youth have benefited from protection services and psychological support raising the total number to 8,492;
- 113 educational institutions took part in our projects;
- 163 local education and protection specialists improved their knowledge and practices through our continuous training;
- 1,049 parents and children received cash grant assistance.

What we do in Ukraine

Having a coordination office in Kyiv, Tdh is active in Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts (regions) on the government-controlled area through Severodonetsk and Mariupol field offices, supporting the victims of the armed conflict.

Tdh provides psychosocial support and creates child-friendly spaces for them. We train local professionals to carry out psychosocial activities that help children reduce feelings of fear, isolation and depression, and to build confidence and a positive outlook on life.

Updates on Tdh activities

Since July 2018, Tdh Ukraine reached 4,919 children from Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Children benefited from the quality psychosocial support, they played games designed to develop collaboration and social skills, and had sportive activities that develop physical abilities.
Cash grant support: Between June and August, Tdh conducted a series of visits to homes and schools located within 15 km from the contact line. The purpose of the visits was to talk to families and identify the ones in need of cash assistance for daily food, medicine, clothes, shelter, heating, baby food and other. Based on criteria such as very low income, serious financial difficulties caused by the conflict, loss of home and livelihoods and family member in bad health conditions, 1,049 children and parents were received cash assistance. The financial aid consisted of four rounds of 860 UAH (approx. 27 EUR) for each person in the family or household. The cash grants and psychosocial support are provided within the project Ukraine Joint Response IV (UkSR IV), consisting of partner organizations Dorcas Aid International Ukraine, Terre des hommes and SOS Children’s Villages.

Trainings: During July-December 2018, Tdh conducted 15 PSS sessions in Donetsk and Luhansk regions reaching 163 local education and protection specialists. On these trainings specialists improved their knowledge in child protection, learned new psychosocial games to play with children in schools and met with each other. In the same time, Tdh in cooperation with the UNICEF organized 3 Community events for youth in Luhansk region and 10 Positive Parenting sessions under UkSR IV project for parents whose children attending schools where Tdh implements its activities.

Support for child-friendly spaces: Tdh provided two rounds of delivery in eastern Ukraine. The first was in September when each of 113 educational institutions (schools, CAFAs and lyceums) received stationary, table games, books, sport equipment, furniture and tablet. The second delivery was in December to the same educational units and consisted of IT equipment (computer, portative board, projector etc.). Now thousands of children, of whom many hear regularly the sounds of shelling, have a place where they can enjoy safe, user-friendly space and collaborative games. A place where they can read a book, play with an animator or just communicate with friends.

On December 14, Terre des hommes and the Volodymyr Dal East-Ukrainian National University launched the first FabLab (Fabrication Laboratory) in Luhansk region, as part of the “Ukraine Joint Response IV” project, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This is a workshop with digital fabrication equipment, such as 3D printers, laser cutter, embroidery, etc. The FabLab is located in Severodonetsk, on the premises of the University, and is open to students, school groups, and any interested person. In this innovative environment of creation, children and youth affected by the conflict will work together, develop their skills and materialize their own ideas in almost any field, from education to art and science. Tdh initiated the FabLab in Severodonetsk in order to give children and youth the opportunity to access modern technology and to develop their social and professional skills in a creative environment.

We are happy and proud to inaugurate the first FabLab in Luhansk region. The children and teenagers in this region have less opportunities to engage in social interactions and the conflict is reducing their mobility and development opportunities. We are grateful to the Volodymyr Dal University for providing the space and committing to maintain the FabLab functioning while ensuring access for the public. This modern facility for education and creativity will welcome youth from the entire region. Tdh will support teenagers from outside the city of Severodonetsk to visit the FabLab and initiate their projects,” Ionut Raita, Director of Tdh Ukraine.

We thank
Our donors and partners:
- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNICEF
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Swiss Solidarity, Medicor Foundation, Terre des Hommes Netherlands, Dorcas Aid International, SOS Children’s Villages.

Our state partners:

8,492 children and youth received psychosocial support in 2018

277 teachers trained by Tdh carried out over 2,000 psychosocial sessions in 2018

113 child friendly spaces equipped with new materials/equipment to deliver psychosocial activities in 2018

Terre des hommes (Tdh) is the leading Swiss organisation for children’s aid. Through our health, protection and emergency relief programmes, we provide assistance to over three million children and their families in more than 45 countries each year.

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