

THE PROTECTION CLUSTER INCLUDES SUB-CLUSTERS ON CHILD PROTECTION, GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND MINE ACTION



PROTECTION CONCERNS

- **Security situation:** In March 2018, OHCHR recorded **18 conflict-related civilian casualties:** 5 people killed and 13 injured; **15 of the civilian casualties are caused by ERW and mine-related incidents.**

- **Freedom of movement:** On March 23, one civilian reportedly died due to a heart attack while crossing the contact line on the NGCA side of Hnutove checkpoint. On March 27, a 60 year old man suffered a heart attack while crossing the checkpoint in Marinka.

Settlements along the contact line: On March 4, the road connecting Travneve and Hladosove villages with Semyhiria (GCA) was officially opened. However, access to Holmivskiyi village (NGCA) is prohibited.

- **HLP rights:** Military occupation of civilian houses remains a key protection concern. Out of seven confirmed houses occupied by the military in Mariinskyi rayon, only in one case are utility costs covered by military personnel.

Collective centers: Living conditions are deteriorating in Sviati Hory collective center, which hosts 250 IDPs: there is no hot water, some people live in the basement, which is infested with mice, and sanitary conditions are sub-standard. At the same time, price of rent has recently doubled.

- **Access to basic services:** Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster issued the [Food Security & Socio-Economic Trend Analysis](#) that found **continued food insecurity trends in both GCA and NGCA** and a clear correlation between **food insecurity, vulnerability and socio-economic trends**. In GCA the share of households with poor and borderline levels of food consumption (inadequate consumption levels) has increased to 20.9% in February 2018, up from 17.8% in June 2017.

- **Access to social benefits and pensions:** In Popasna (Luhansk GCA) Oshadbank conducts physical verification of persons with limited mobility at their residence only within the city limit due to security restrictions. People with limited mobility residing in Popasna district have to come in person to the bank for physical verification; otherwise, their benefits will be suspended.

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Food Consumption Score (FCS) Dynamics in GCA (%)



Source: Food Security Cluster

●●●● HIGHLIGHTS

PROTECTION RESPONSE

- HelpAge International supported **2,013 older people**, including 135 people with disabilities and 511 IDPs through 17 community safe centers (645 persons in Donetsk and 1,368 in Luhansk oblast).
- NRC Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance (ICLA) project **reached 1684 beneficiaries** through hotline, mobile teams, legal aid centers in Kramatorsk, Severodonetsk and Stanytsia Luhanska and Mariinka and Mayorske checkpoints.
- Protection Cluster partner provided **psychosocial support to 932 older people in Donetsk NGCA** through individual sessions and mobile group visits.
- Protection Cluster partner in Donetsk NGCA provided **protection counselling and information support to 289 persons**, including 192 pensioners, 6 IDPs, and 48 returnees.
- UNHCR provided **individual protection assistance to 90 people** in conflict-affected districts of Boikivske (Telmanove), Chystiakove (Torez), Donetsk city, Horlivka, Kalmiuske (Komsomolske) Novoazovsk, and Yasynuvatskiy district of Donetsk NGCA.
- Save the Children in cooperation with the local partner organization **reached 70 children** through case management approach in Donetsk NGCA, which includes a component of emergency NFI or cash support.
- **The National 24/7 Hotline for GBV survivors** received **1,889 calls in March 2018**. Survivors reaching the hotline for informational, psychological and legal consultations reported totally **1,008 GBV cases**, of which 39% attributed to sexual and physical violence.
- **25 GBV survivors**, 15 women and 10 children, **were provided with safe space accommodation** and PSS at UNFPA-supported shelters in Kharkiv, Kryvyi Rih, Berdiansk, Mariupol and Krasnopavlivka (Kharkiv region).

ICLA Programme - March 2018



1,684 Beneficiaries



68.2% Female



31.8% Male

20% residing in NGCA

Source: Norwegian Refugee Council

ADVOCACY

- On March 19, HRMMU launched its [21st Quarterly Report on the Human Rights Situation in Ukraine](#), covering the period from 16 December 2017 to 16 February 2018. The report stresses the need for a comprehensive policy to guarantee the right to remedy and reparation for all civilian victims of the conflict regardless of their place of residence or the affiliation of the perpetrator.
- UNHCR takes part in the working group at the Ministry of TOT and IDPs, elaborating a mechanism that would allow the implementation of the provision of the law on 're-integration' that exempts birth and death related documents from the general rule of non-recognition of documents issued by de-facto authorities at NGCA. It will pave the ground for the administrative procedure of issuance of Ukrainian birth/death certificates. A joint suggestion of OHCHR and UNHCR on ensuring access to administrative procedure for residents of Crimea was adopted by the group.
- NRC and DRC/DDG organized **a round table on the Law of Ukraine 'On particular aspects of public policy aimed at safeguarding state sovereignty of Ukraine over the temporary occupied territory of Donetsk and Luhansk regions'** and its potential impact on human rights and humanitarian access in particular areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- On March 26, **Protection Cluster held a meeting with Special Adviser to the HC/RC on Displacement, Professor Walter Kaelin, and cluster partners** to discuss the draft Action Plan for the Strategy on IDP Integration and Durable Solutions. The key concerns highlighted by partners included the need for more meaningful involvement of civil society in the policy making process and that implementing the Action Plan would be challenging, given that there was no budgetary allocation for the implementation of the Plan.

TRAININGS/EVENTS

- HelpAge International conducted two **trainings on 'Minimum Standards for Age and Disability Inclusion in Humanitarian Action'** for 25 NGO staff members and representatives of MinTOT in Sloviansk and Severodonetsk.
- NRC conducted a training for 21 attorneys and legal officers of Free Secondary Legal Aid Centers of Donetsk region on **'Secondary Legal Assistance to IDPs: compensation for destroyed and damaged housing during the conflict'**.