

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



PROTECTION CONCERNS

- **Civilian casualties:** OHCHR recorded 61 conflict-related civilian casualties. This is a 32 per cent increase compared with April 2018.
- **Security situation:** A significant increase of hostilities affecting more than 20 settlements on both sides of the contact line resulted in damage to over 192 civilian houses and flats, 6 educational and healthcare facilities¹ and disruption of electricity, water and gas supply.
- **Settlements along the contact line:** The village of Chyhari (Pivdenne) (Donetsk GCA) has come under daily shelling, resulting in disruption of electricity, 56 houses damaged and 11 burned down. Military command applied a 'red regime' prohibiting humanitarian access to the settlement and use of private vehicles. Out of approximately 180 residents, 70 people moved to Toretsk and about 70 have reportedly left for Horlivka. Approximately 30 people remain in the village.
- **Freedom of movement:** Due to escalation of hostilities, there was restriction on movement for humanitarian actors by Joint Forces Operation command and partners reported denial of access to settlements, including: Chyhari, Pisky, Opytne, Verknuyotoretske, Vodiane, Nevelske, Kamyanka and Tonenke (all GCA). This resulted in delays of humanitarian assistance to isolated populations for almost one month.
On 5 May, EECP Hnutove came under fire and, two private vehicles and several administrative premises were damaged. Almost 400 civilians were waiting to cross at the time. On 22 May, the non-government controlled part of EECP Stanytsia Luhanska came under fire. Civilian population living in conflict-affected areas reported additional checks when passing internal checkpoints, leading to delays in movement.
- **Child protection:** On 22 May, 28 children were relocated from the Center for Psychosocial Rehabilitation in Toretsk (Donetsk GCA), after the building was damaged by shelling, to the Center for Social Rehabilitation in Lyman (Donetsk GCA).
- **IDPs and returnees:** According to IOM's [latest NMS Report](#), the well-being of IDPs has worsened compared to December 2017. IDPs rely heavily on government financial support, which is the second most frequently mentioned source of income, and which is often suspended due to different verification procedures.

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61 casualties in May 2018,
the **highest** number
in the **last 12 months**

 **12** killed

 **49** injured

 **41%** of casualties
in May result from
**mine and ERW related
incidents**

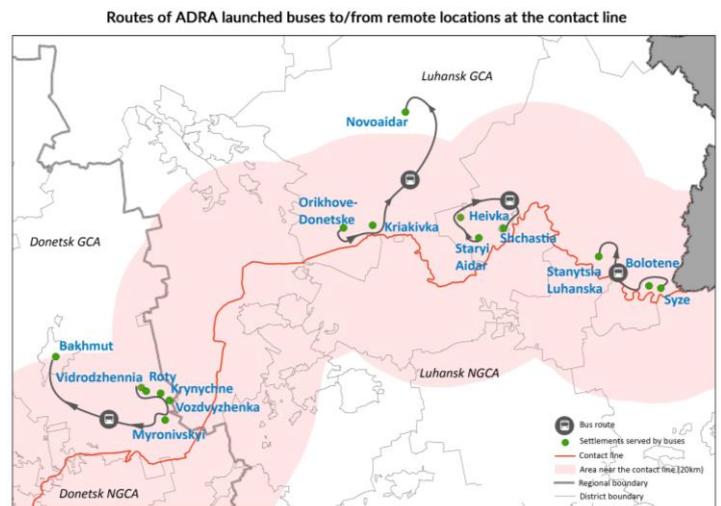
Source: OHCHR

¹ According to monitoring activities conducted by NGO Proliska

●●●● HIGHLIGHTS

PROTECTION RESPONSE

- NGO Proliska provided **assistance to people displaced due to heavy shelling from Chyhari (Pivdenne) to Toretsk (Donetsk GCA)**: 3 families (10 people) were provided transportation from zero checkpoint, 25 families were assisted with IDP registration and targeted assistance and 20 families received UNHCR NFI kits.
- Protection Cluster partner in Donetsk NGCA provided **psychosocial support to 1,751 older people, including individual PSS to 190 people** out of whom 64% were over 70 years old.
- Protection Cluster partner in Donetsk NGCA provided **protection counselling and information support to 950 persons**, including pensioners, IDPs, and returnees.
- NRC provided **legal assistance and counselling to 1,310 people**, out of whom **38.4% were from NGCA**. The number of queries concerning registration of births/deaths in NGCA increased in May to 350 (82%) compared to 771 in the period January – April, 1,700 in 2017, 679 in 2016 and only 49 in 2015 and constituted 53% of all civil documentation cases.
- Save the Children opened a **community center in Krasnohorivka (Donetsk GCA)**, where 73 children received support services through recreational activities.
- Polish Humanitarian Action provided **multipurpose cash grants to 242 vulnerable IDP families (562 individuals)** in Avdiivka, Yasynuvatskiy and Bakhmutskiy rayon of Donetsk region and in Zaporizhzhia region.
- ADRA launched **four transportation routes** connecting the most remote settlements along the contact line in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. The bus routes operate at no charge to the public.
- In May, **national 24/7 hotline for GBV survivors received 1,685 calls**. Survivors reported 994 cases of gender-based violence and received informational, psychological and legal consultations.
- UNHCR funded renovations of a **shelter for GBV survivors in Vinnitsya**, which was opened in May on the basis of the first integrated psycho-social services center in Vinnitsya region. It will be able to accommodate 30 people.



ADVOCACY

- On 16 May, Right to Protection organized a round table presenting its [analysis of Supreme Court decision in the model case on the suspension of pensions to IDPs](#). The Court ruled in favor of the pensioner, who was represented by R2P, stating that the suspension of pensions to IDPs as stipulated by the Resolution No. 365 is contrary to the provisions of the Law and obliged the Pension Fund to pay the outstanding amount to the pensioner.
- On 17 May, HelpAge International organized a presentation of the report [‘Missing Millions: How Older People With Disabilities are Excluded from Humanitarian Response’](#) in Kyiv and Slovyansk, which was attended by 45 participants.
- The Protection Cluster prepared a **Statement on the Occasion of the EU – Ukraine Human Rights Dialogue**, which took place on 31 May in Brussels, highlighting a number of key protection issues: (1) mitigation of civilian casualties and remedy and reparation to victims; (2) access to civil status documentation, including birth and death certificates; (3) unimpeded and non-discriminatory access to pensions; (4) protection of land, housing and property rights for the conflict-affected population, including the right to compensation for destroyed and damaged property; (5) freedom of movement; (6) voting rights for internally displaced persons.

TRAININGS/EVENTS

- On 15 May, DRC conducted a **training on ensuring children's rights in situations of armed conflict** for 25 officers of the Military Institute of Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University.
- On 29 May, NRC jointly with the Regional Centre of Free Secondary Legal Aid, conducted a **training on secondary legal assistance to IDPs** for 26 attorneys and legal officers of free secondary legal aid centers in Dnipro.
- Crimea SOS organized **two trainings on social entrepreneurship and advocacy** for 15 participants from 12 IDP communities from Ivano-Frankivsk, Kyiv, Lviv, Poltava, Sumy, Volyn and Zakarpattya regions.