

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



PROTECTION CONCERNS

- Civilian casualties:** In June OHCHR recorded 38 conflict-related civilian casualties, with 84% resulting from shelling or small arms and light weapons fire (SALW). Despite a 37.7% decrease in the total number of casualties compared with May, casualties resulting from shelling or SALW fire remain at the same level.
- Security situation:** 16 dwellings (10 flats, 6 houses) and 2 non-residential buildings were damaged in Novotoshkivka, Chyhari, Verhniotoretske, Pisky, Chermalyk, Vodiane, Zolote 4 (GCA).
- Freedom of movement:** On 27 June, an 80 year old man died due to a heart attack while waiting in a queue to cross the **Mayorsk checkpoint**. Having to queue for lengthy periods of time in the heat has led to health concerns for people waiting to cross the contact line. Partners report that about 30 people per day request medical assistance at **the Stanytsia Luhanska checkpoint**. Access to Chyhari and Pisky (Donetsk GCA), Lopaskine and Lobachove (Luhansk GCA) villages, that have been classified as 'restricted' by the Joint Forces Operations, is allowed only for people who have documents confirming their residence in the settlement. Residents have also been asked to provide written permission and/or IDP certificate from local military commanders to access their homes.
- Restrictions on humanitarian access:** Intense military hostilities continued in Chyhary (Pivdenne, Donetsk GCA). Humanitarian access was restricted and ambulances refused to come to the village on several occasions due to security risks. Humanitarian access was restricted to Pishchane (Luhansk GCA). All 47 residents are IDPs and do not receive IDP assistance, there is no shop in the settlement, no public transport and the nearest hospital is 12 km away.
- Access to psychosocial support:** Protection partners report acute needs for psychosocial assistance for conflict-affected populations residing in the areas along the contact line, particularly for adults. In NGCA, a protection partner reported a 40.6% increase in requests for psychosocial assistance in June compared with the previous month, which is linked to the ongoing unstable security situation (shelling) and the deteriorating economic environment.
- Child Protection:** Children living along the contact are not able to access psychosocial programs because their parents cannot afford the cost of travel to locations where this is provided.

PROTECTION CLUSTER CONTACTS

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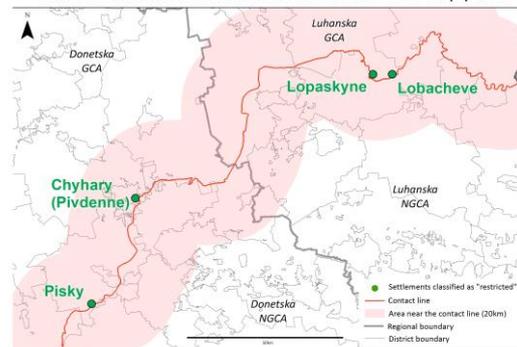
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Settlement with restrictions on freedom of movement for the civilian population

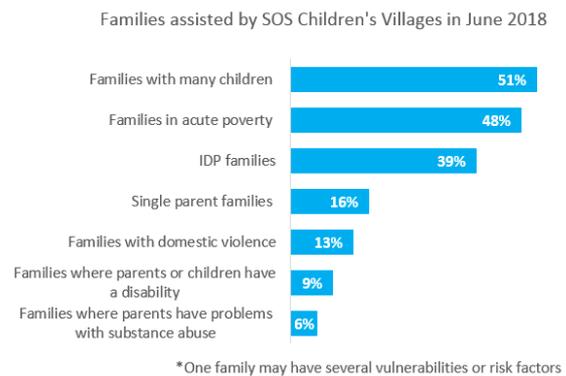


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HIGHLIGHTS

PROTECTION RESPONSE

- SOS Children's Villages **reached 607 children** through case management and individual support in Stanytsia Luhanska, Starobilsk, Sievierodonetsk in Luhansk oblast.
- NRC provided **legal assistance and counseling to 1,294 people**, out of whom **41% were from NGCA**. Legal Aid Centers in Severodonetsk, Stanytsia Luhanska and Kramatorsk received 780 visitors and 541 hotline calls. Mobile teams provided assistance in Donetsk GCA, Luhansk GCA and Mayorsk and Stanitsa Luhanska checkpoints.
- Polish Humanitarian Action provided **multipurpose cash grants to 229 vulnerable IDP families** (522 individuals) in Zaporizhzhia region and in Avdiivka, Bakhmut, Yasynuvatskiy and Bakhmutskiy rayons of Donetsk region.
- ADRA launched three **transportation routes** connecting the most remote settlements along the contact line in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, in addition to the four routes launched in May. The bus routes operate at no charge to the public and 300 people used the transportation service during the past month.
- In June, UNFPA/UFPH psychosocial support mobile teams provided targeted assistance to 760 GBV survivors, including 103 IDPs, in conflict-affected Donetsk and Luhansk regions. **51 GBV survivors were provided with safe space accommodation** and comprehensive psychosocial support at seven UNFPA-supported shelters in Berdiansk, Kharkiv, Krasnopavlivka, Kryvyi Rih, Mariupol, Sloviansk and Vinnytsia.
- Protection Cluster partners in Donetsk NGCA provided **individual protection counseling and information support to 855 persons**, including pensioners, IDPs, and returnees and group counselling to 205 persons. Support provided included preparation of documents for Ukrainian passports and permits for crossing of the contact line, counselling on labour rights, administrative procedures, accommodation related issues, humanitarian assistance, as well as social payments and documents in NGCA (death, birth, marriage and divorce certificates).



ADVOCACY

- On June 6, the [UN Security Council issued a statement](#) calling on the parties to the conflict in Ukraine to recommit to the 2015 peace agreement and expressed its grave concern about the recent deterioration of the security situation in eastern Ukraine and its severe impact on the civilian population. The Security Council emphasized the need for scaling up efforts to alleviate suffering of the civilian population affected by the conflict.
- On June 13, NRC, DRC and UNHCR organized a **Round Table on the Law of Ukraine № 2268**, 'On Ensuring State Sovereignty over Temporary Occupied Territories in Donetsk and Luhansk Regions'. Participants discussed the main challenges posed by the new law – establishment of security zones, freedom of movement, personal documentation, HLP issues and pensions – and possible solutions to identified problems at the local and national level.
- On June 20, the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine launched its [22nd Quarterly Report on the Human Rights Situation in Ukraine](#), covering the period from 16 February to 15 May 2018. The report highlights the increase in civilian casualties by 9 % compared to the previous period.
- The ACCESS Consortium provided a briefing to EU Member States' Political Counsellors on the humanitarian situation in the NGCA. The briefing emphasized the depleted socio-economic situation, exacerbated humanitarian needs, need for support for continuous access to the area along the contact line in NGCA and GCA, and called for further engagement of EU with the Government of Ukraine to ensure that rights of all citizens are respected.

TRAININGS/EVENTS

- NRC organized three trainings for 68 staff and associated attorneys of State Secondary Legal Aid Centers of Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts.
- On June 21, **OHCHR delivered a session on prevention of arbitrary and unlawful detention**, torture and conflict-related sexual violence, as well as on freedom of movement and HLP rights, to 20 military officers (including four women) who will be deployed to eastern Ukraine as a part of civil-military cooperation units.