

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



Check point "Zaytseve". People are queuing to cross
Photo: Foundation 101

PROTECTION CONCERNS

- During the reporting period, despite a reduction in hostilities, the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine continued to significantly affect people residing in the conflict zone and all their human rights. In November increasing skirmishes occurred along the contact line, including with the use of artillery systems. In November 2015 the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) recorded 35 civilian casualties in the conflict zone: eight killed and 27 injured. Two men were killed by shelling and one – in a road incident with a military vehicle in the conflict zone; all other were killed by Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). 89 % of the injuries (24 of 27) were due to ERW and IEDs (including four boys aged 15, 14, 13 and 11 who detonated a hand grenade).
- The situation at the checkpoints remains concerning with civilians waiting in line for hours. On 20 November, 2 persons died at different checkpoints for health reasons (Zaytseve and Stanytsia Luhanska). The following factors need to urgently be addressed: increased access to medical assistance; make the waiting time more bearable; need to procure tents or pre-fabs where people can keep warm; need for heating; furniture to allow particularly vulnerable individuals to rest; need for functioning toilets accessible for persons who are movement impaired; access to drinking water, availability of first aid trained staff. Furthermore security remains a major concern, especially related to ERW risks and possible shelling near checkpoints and crossings.
- The Child Protection Sub cluster is concerned by the lack of cooperation between State services and NGOs. This recurrent issue is raised during the Sub Cluster meetings. NGOs are not knowledgeable about the correct process to access State services and can therefore not advise their clients on the appropriate procedures. State services on the other hand, are not familiar with the work of NGOs and therefore do not benefit from the extra resources they can offer. In an effort to bridge this gap the Child Protection Sub Cluster in Zaporizhzhia organized a round table on 23 November to start mapping out referral pathways between different actors.
- In November NRC presented the Executive Summary of the Report on Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Rights for Displaced and Conflict - affected communities in Eastern Ukraine. The key protection concerns identified in this research are: contradictory legal and policy framework; lack of sufficient housing; possibility of losing property in NGCA; military occupation of civilian property and mine/UXO contamination of farmland; lack of security of tenure for IDPs in rented accommodation; and lack of access to legal services.
- GBV remains largely hidden and not a properly recognized issue among authorities and general public. This was confirmed by participants of the recent round-table discussions organized by UNFPA/Ukrainian Women's Fund in Kharkiv, Kramatorsk and Severodonetsk. Gaps in understanding of GBV and its manifestations and possible implications, as well as the gap in awareness about available services for survivors of GBV represent particularly high risk in the situation of armed conflict in Ukraine.

Contacts:

Christine Goyer, Protection Cluster Coordinator, goyer@unhcr.org,
Tel: +38 050 382 5014

Claire Whelan, Protection Cluster Coordinator, cwhelan@ohchr.org,
Tel: +38 050 382 5277

Annette Lyth, Child Protection Sub Cluster Coordinator, alyth@unicef.org,
Tel: + 38 050 3805181

Ekaterina Kristesashvili, GBV Sub Cluster Coordinator, kristesashvili@unfpa.org,
Tel: +38 095 134 2820

Kunal Dhar, Mine action Sub Cluster co-lead, kunal.dhar@undp.org,
Tel: +38 050 332 1091

Edward Crowther, Mine action Sub Cluster co-lead, edward.crowther@drc-ukraine.org,
Tel: +380 63 793 4120

Key Documents:

Protection Cluster Strategy

Protection Cluster 3W

Guidance on evacuation

Update on IDP registration

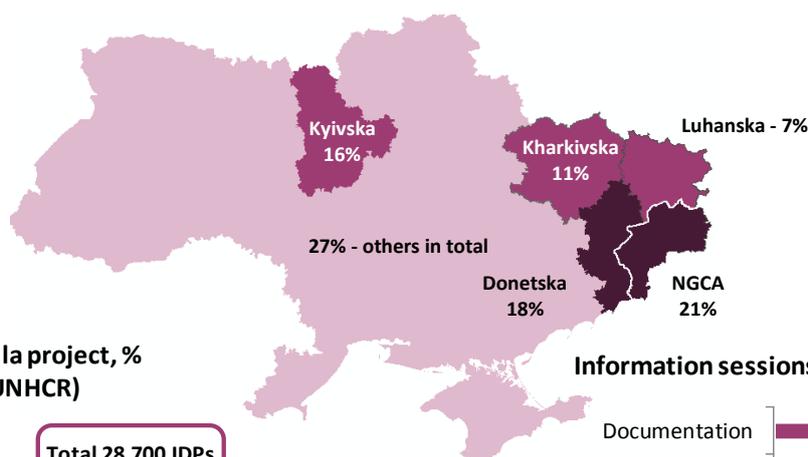
Advocacy note on Right to Freedom of Movement

Guidance note on protection & prioritizing vulnerable persons
Guidance note on persons with disabilities

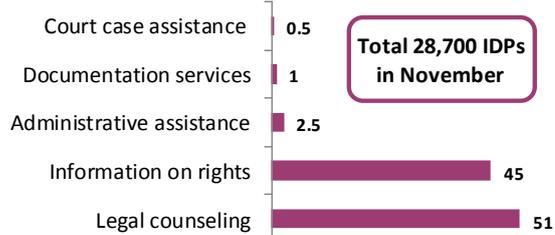
HRP 2016: a Gender and Protection lens for all actors

HRP 2016: For Cluster Coordinators and Vetting committees: a Gender and Protection lens

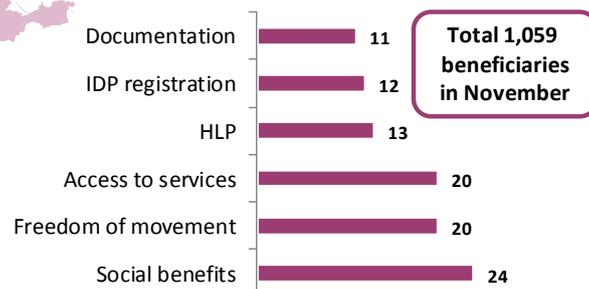
Origin of calls received by Donbass SOS hotline in November



Legal aid, Umbrella project, % (R2P, DRC, UNHCR)



Information sessions, % (NRC ICLA)



HIGHLIGHTS

- The President of Ukraine didn't sign the Law "On amendments to certain laws of Ukraine on reinforcing guarantees of adherence of the rights and freedoms of internally displaced persons" (draft law No. 2166) as the amendments to the IDP Law do not: (1) assign the state body responsible for verification of fact of an IDP absence at the place of residence and its movements within Ukraine and (2) establish verification mechanism for long term IDP absence at the place of residence. On 26 November, the President returned the Law No. 2166 to the Parliament requesting MPs to review the above mentioned gaps.
- The Protection Cluster developed its operational response plan for the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), which includes key activities, priority areas and targeted population. The Protection Cluster received 61 protection projects submitted by local and international NGOs and UN agencies under the HRP. 39 projects were approved by the Protection Cluster vetting committee for further consideration by donors to fund the selected projects.
- On the 10th November the Child Protection Sub Cluster organized a workshop to contextualize the global Child Protection Minimum Standards to the Ukrainian context. Participants chose seven among the 26 global standards that were deemed most relevant in Ukraine. Each standard was then elaborated in terms of relevance for Ukraine, key activities that should be undertaken by who and when, and indicators to measure progress. Among the participants there was staff of the Ministry of Social Policy, the Ombudsman and international and national NGOs. This event marks the launch of a rollout of the minimum standards. Next step is a training of trainers at the beginning of December which will be followed by a series of trainings of front line responders in strategic areas.
- The Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union (UHHRU) opened public reception offices in Mariupol, Krasnoarmiisk and Kryvyi Rih to provide legal assistance to IDPs. The UHHRU is also planning to hold on-site consultations in various locations along the contact line, such as Dobropillia, Dymytrove, Selydove, Horniak, Novhorodske and Rodynske. UHHRU provided practical advice to people who lost property in the conflict area as well as recommendations how to receive compensation for damaged or destroyed property.
- The HLP Working Group chaired by NRC met on 25 November to discuss HLP rights of IDPs and conflict affected communities. Guidance for shelter actors is being developed as well as next steps to document and tackle HLP rights violations (risk of eviction, security tenure etc).
- On 27 November an IDP Hub was opened in Kherson under the community-based initiative program funded by UNHCR and implemented by Crimea SOS. The Hub is composed of four NGOs and will serve as a one-stop shop service where IDPs can get comprehensive assistance e.g. legal, psychological, humanitarian, as well as trainings on skills upgrading and development activities for children.
- NGO "Crimea-SOS" with support of the Embassy of the Czech Republic launched an interactive map, which includes 179 cases of human rights violations in Crimea including kidnapping, unlawful detention and execution of violence against certain groups of population. The map systemizes the facts of violation reported by media and human right organizations.
- 21 mobile teams deployed in the end of October by the UNFPA/Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health in 20 locations of the conflict affected eastern Ukraine provided psychosocial assistance to 1050 GBV survivors out of which 85% are women and/including 20% children, 4% of persons with disabilities and 7% of elderly (60+). Registration of survivors has been done using the GBV IMS global tools revealing prevalence of physical (42%) and psychological violence (40%) as the most reported cases in Ukraine. Only 20% of survivors agreed on referrals to other GBV response services.
- The Ukrainian Women's Fund launched a large-scale GBV information and awareness raising campaign in eastern regions of Ukraine. A series of dedicated press-conferences, round-tables and targeted training workshops for journalists took place in Kramatorsk, Severodonetsk, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia and Dnipropetrovsk to sensitize regional and national media on covering cases of GBV as well as raise general awareness of the issue.
- The OSCE SMM will concentrate its efforts on facilitating mine action in grey areas along the contact line and NGCA. SMM will support access to allow demining and clearance activities to further enable repair works to essential infrastructure on both sides of line of conflict.