

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



© OSCE SMM, Older men and women crossing destroyed bridge in Stanytsia Luhanska

PROTECTION CONCERNS

- Security situation:** The level of hostilities increased significantly over the past month. OHCHR recorded 66 cases of civilian casualties in eastern Ukraine – three times more than in September 2016. Three people were killed and five (including children) injured in Makiivka, Donetsk non government-controlled areas (NGCA) as a result of heavy shelling on October 27.
- Freedom of Movement:** Zaitseve checkpoint was relocated to Mayorsk, bringing it only a few hundred meters from the contact line. This further endangers the lives of civilians crossing the checkpoint as shelling and shooting take place regularly in this area. On October 20, there was sniper shooting near the checkpoint, which was also targeted by small arms fire and automatic grenade launchers. On October 27, the checkpoint was closed due to shelling. Setting up facilities and maintenance of latrines and other amenities is impossible in the new location.
- Access to basic services:** Water and electricity supply to hundreds of people in the Mariupol area was temporarily interrupted due to damages from shelling. The water supply for up to one million people in non-government controlled areas of Luhansk was cut or severely curtailed for one week after the privately-owned electricity company in GCA cut supply due to unpaid debts from the NGCA side.
- Forced evictions of IDPs with disabilities:** about 300 IDPs with disabilities who were living in a sanatorium in Odessa, were forcibly evicted, with utilities such as heating and electricity being cut off. Some relocated to the Sviati Gori collective centre in Sviatohirsk, while others returned to non-government controlled areas of Ukraine. Similar threats of eviction have been reported by IDPs living in collective centers in Central and Western Ukraine, such as Sentatia, Kustanayska, Zhytomir, Soty and Dherelo. Currently 527 IDPs are facing imminent eviction throughout Ukraine.
- Social benefits and pensions:** A parliamentary hearing on the verification of social benefits (including pensions) took place on October 19. The Ministry of Finance plans to continue this verification in 2017 for some 21 million beneficiaries of social payments. The Ombudsperson has stated that this verification is against Ukrainian law.
- IDP Registration:** 73% of IDPs residing in Schastie and Stanichno-Luhanskiy rayon are not registered as IDPs according to a [HelpAge survey](#) conducted in Luhansk oblast GCA and along the contact line, suggesting that access to IDP registration in these areas is significantly hindered.
- Child Protection:** The State Migration Service in Luhansk and northern Donetsk oblasts is not issuing passports to children over 14 years, because existing regulations have not been harmonized with recent legal amendments. In addition, they do not have the necessary equipment for the issuance of passports.
- Gender-Based Violence:** According to UNFPA/UFPH, the number of GBV cases reported by IDP GBV survivors is low (only 37% out of 2,658 IDP GBV survivors), out of which the majority are women (88%).

PROTECTION CLUSTER CONTACTS

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Forced Evictions of IDPs in Kuyalnik, Odessa Region



Percentage of respondents who travelled to the contact line by car, but could not cross due to long queues*

20%



*Out of 2,677 persons interviewed at the entry/exit checkpoints "Mayorsk", "Novotroitske", "Marinka", "Hnutove" and "Stanytsia Luganska". Source: NGO "Foundation.101".

HIGHLIGHTS

PROTECTION RESPONSE

- UNHCR and People In Need (PIN) are implementing 17 community-based projects in Donetsk NGCA, which facilitate access to health care, primary and secondary education, livelihoods, and provide support to communities and people with specific needs. 10,706 people benefitted from services provided through these projects.
- UNFPA, through the Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health (UFPH), has deployed five mobile teams, in addition to 21 existing mobile teams, providing psychosocial support to people residing in areas close to the contact line of Donetsk and Lugansk regions.
- UNHCR, together with partners, are addressing threats of eviction in collective centers by **advocating at the central level for development of strategic solutions and on the local level by working with local authorities to find solutions for individual IDP families.** Between August - October, Desyate Kvitnya and CrimeaSOS undertook individual case management work at six collective centers, covering 222 people. IDPs residing in collective centers are provided with legal assistance; psycho-social support; transportation for IDPs with specific needs moving out of the centers, and “go and see” visits to proposed alternative housing.
- During the third quarter of 2016, Danish Refugee Council (DRC) provided legal assistance in 15 oblasts to 8,166 beneficiaries. Over two thirds of those seeking legal assistance are women. The largest number of consultations - **36%** - related to the **payments of social benefits and pensions**, while **20%** of consultations related to **housing, land and property (HLP) issues.**
- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) reached 2,259 beneficiaries through its mobile individual counseling and legal assistance (ICLA) programme. Women comprised **66%** of beneficiaries and **24.5% are resident in NGCA.**

ADVOCACY

- UNHCR, Right to Protection (R2P), CrimeaSOS, VostokSOS and DRC issued a [joint statement](#) expressing concern about the draft ‘Law on Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine’. The draft law seeks to regulate the autonomous republic of Crimea and the NGCA of Donetsk and Luhansk. Protection partners are concerned that the draft law will further isolate these areas, rejects Ukraine’s responsibility for human rights violations occurring on these territories, and undermines the possibility of reconciliation.
- The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted [Resolution 2133](#) calling on the Ukrainian government to **reduce the administrative difficulty faced by residents of Crimea and NGCA of Donetsk and Lugansk in accessing pensions and social benefits** and by facilitating access to justice by equipping and staffing courts in government-controlled areas, to which jurisdiction for the non-controlled areas has been transferred.
- Protection Cluster conducted a protection monitoring mission to Sviati Gori collective center in Sviatohirsk, where IDPs with disabilities who had been evicted from a sanatorium in Odessa had been relocated. Despite authorities’ promises for a free and dignified relocation, the IDPs were made to pay for transportation, leaving them with no resources. Moreover, conditions at the collective center in Sviatohirsk are inadequate, with no heating or elevator, no place to store food and insufficient hot water. Numerous partners responded to the Protection Cluster request for assistance for the IDPs.

TRAININGS/EVENTS/VISITS

- The Age and Disability Technical Working Group** provided trainings on inclusive programming to Donbas SOS operators, telephone hotline operators in Kyiv, as well as for People in Need in Sloviansk. The trainings covered 82 staff of the two organizations.
- The Council of Europe Project “Strengthening the Human Rights Protection of Internally Displaced Persons in Ukraine” facilitated the visit of the local Heads of Departments of Social Protection of Luhansk region to Vinnytsia to share their experiences about provision of social services to IDPs, and in particular the implementation of electronic document management.
- UNFPA organized a workshop on “Integrated approach to GBV for multi-sectorial teams” for state authorities working in Donetsk and Luhansk Regions (GCA). The workshop was attended by representatives of social protection, family and youth, healthcare departments, National Police, forensic service, centres for free secondary legal aid, centres of social services for family, children and youth.
- The NGO “Unity for the Future” provided training on minimum standards for child protection in emergencies to twenty participants, including parliamentarians, teachers and government representatives in Zaporizhzhia.

KEY FIGURES



3,1 M

People in Need



2,5 M

People Targeted



789,765

People reached (Jan-Oct 2016)



116

Partners* including 9 in NGCA

KEY DOCUMENTS

Protection Cluster Strategy [ENG](#) | [UKR](#)

July 2016 3W Map [ENG](#)

Legal Aid Directory [ENG](#) | [UKR](#) | [RU](#)

Peacebuilding and Reconciliation Note

[ENG](#) | [UKR](#) | [RU](#)

USEFUL LINKS

[Humanitarian Response](#)

[Global Protection Cluster](#)

[Legal Aid Directory Map](#)

*Partners with completed, ongoing or suspended activities