

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



PROTECTION CONCERNS

- **Security situation:** OHCHR recorded 30 cases of civilian casualties in eastern Ukraine – a two-fold decrease compared to October. Five people were killed and twenty injured, mainly by shelling from artillery systems or mines (19) or explosive remnants of war and booby traps (9).

- **Freedom of Movement:** On 10 November, people waiting at the Stanytsia Luhanska checkpoint came under shelling. In addition to the frequent shelling, freezing conditions make this checkpoint particularly perilous, as the wooden bridge at the checkpoint is covered in ice, extremely slippery and impossible to cross for elderly persons, persons with disabilities and those with babies in strollers.

Changes to the Temporary Order have increased the limit on personal cargo allowed through the 'contact line' from 50 to 75 kg per person. In addition, persons with disabilities, those over 70 years of age, pregnant women, parents/care givers with children under 3 years and people in emergency situations (e.g., suffering from serious illness) will be given priority when crossing the contact line.

Humanitarian Access: an international NGO working in Donetsk NGCA had their accreditation revoked. The NGO's warehouse, containing humanitarian aid, was sealed and international staff were ordered to leave the NGCA within 24 hours. The NGO was one of only two international organisations accredited in Donetsk NGCA.

- **Access to basic services:** The town of Toretsk, with a population of 80,000, was left without water for one week from 23 November, when the water pipe was damaged by shelling. Schools and kindergartens had to be closed due to lack of water and in some districts of the city the heating was disrupted. In NGCA, Yasynuvata, with a pre-conflict population of over 30,000, was cut off from water for two days due to damage to the Donetsk Filtering Station as a result of shelling.

- **Social benefits and pensions:** The Ministry of Finance contracted a private debt collection company to undertake verification of IDPs receiving social benefits and pensions. Protection Cluster partners expressed concern about this breach of privacy, which led to IDPs being subjected to intrusive phone calls by the private company, asking them to provide personal data. Following intervention by the Ombudsperson, this verification was stopped.

- The Government of Ukraine proposed amendments to [Resolution 637](#), which would shorten from six to three months the time between physical verifications of IDP pensioners who do not possess electronic pension card, placing an additional burden on pensioners, particularly those with disabilities, or who have difficulty with mobility, who would need to physically present themselves to at a bank branch for verification.

- **Registration:** the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic 'DPR' published Order № 393 of 16 November, which determines the procedure for registration of IDPs. IDPs are defined as owners of destroyed houses, civilians living along the contact line, people from GCA Ukraine, including foreigners and stateless people, who fled from GCA due to political reasons, and members of the DPR military and their families. In a positive development, the Order states that collective centers can now serve as a place for registration ("propiska").

PROTECTION CLUSTER CONTACTS

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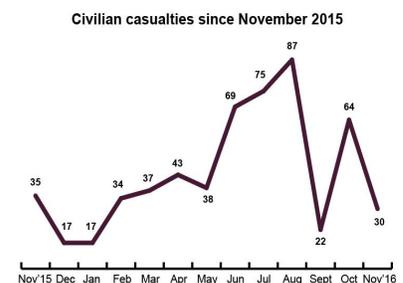
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Civilian casualties in November 2016

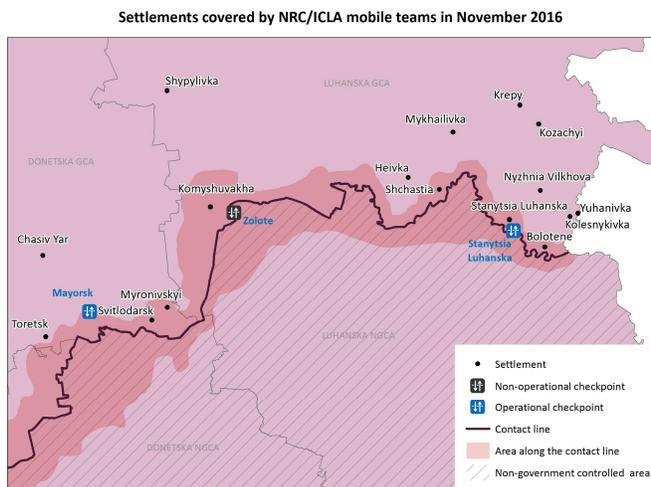
5 killed: 4 men, 1 woman
25 injured: 20 men, 5 women

Source: OHCHR

HIGHLIGHTS

PROTECTION RESPONSE

- The [referral directory on psychosocial assistance for GBV survivors](#) is available as an interactive map and PDF file. **The referral directory** covers five eastern regions of Ukraine (Donetsk and Luhansk (GCA), Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia) and provides information on availability of the following services for GBV survivors: psychological first aid, mid/long-term psychosocial assistance, livelihoods, shelter/safe space, and work with perpetrators.
- The **GBV Working Groups**, comprising representatives from healthcare, social, law enforcement and NGO sectors have been launched under the Regional Coordination Councils in Dnipropetrovsk and Donetsk (GCA) regions of Ukraine. The newly established structures provide a forum for coordination of GBV prevention and response.
- UNHCR completed **five community projects** benefitting 750 IDPs and members of the local community. The projects include improving conditions in several collective centers, repairs at a geriatric facility that received evicted IDPs with disabilities, improving sports facilities at local schools, as well as raising awareness of GBV issues within local communities.
- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) reached 2,390 beneficiaries in November through its **mobile individual counseling and legal assistance programme**. Women comprised 67% of beneficiaries.



ADVOCACY

- **UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi visited Ukraine from 21-24 November.** The High Commissioner met with the President and the Prime Minister of Ukraine and visited villages near Sloviansk, Luhansk and Donetsk, which were heavily damaged by shelling and fighting. He also crossed through the Mayorsk checkpoint where he expressed concern at the two kilometer long queues where people had spent the night in freezing temperatures. He appealed to all parties to the conflict to improve freedom of movement and to allow humanitarian aid to reach hundreds of thousands of people displaced in government and non-government controlled areas.
- The Ministry for IDPs and Temporary Occupied Territories, with the support of the Council of Europe, has established **the Interagency Working Group on Improving National Legislation on the Protection of the Human Rights of IDPs** to review IDP legislation. The working group brings together representatives from the Ministry, other executive bodies, MPs, International Organizations and NGOs. It is divided into five thematic sub-groups: 1) Improving the legal situation of IDPs and functions of state authorities and local self-government regarding IDPs; 2) Confirmation of civil documents and agreements, recognition of legal facts; 3) Protection of social and economic rights of IDPs; 4) Improving access to education; 5) Housing, restitution, compensation for property loss.
- On 25 November, UNFPA organized several public outreach events to mark the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women** and the **16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence**. The Independence Monument at the Maidan Nezalezhnosti Square in Kyiv was lit in orange, and the event was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Social Policy, the UN, Members of Parliament and Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health. In Kramatorsk and Severodonetsk, the 16 Days of Activism campaign was kicked off with opening of thematic murals dedicated to raising awareness about GBV and domestic violence.
- Right to Protection (R2P) published a [report on the effectiveness of the Unified Information Database of Internally Displaced Persons](#).

TRAININGS/EVENTS

- OHCHR organized a one-day **training on the Human Rights Based Approach** in preparation for the United Nations Development Assistance Framework of Ukraine (UNDAF), which included a presentation on the Human Rights Based Approach, its link to Human Rights Up Front, Sustainable Development Goals and revised UNDAF guidelines.
- UNHCR organized a **training on the main principles of working with LGBTI IDPs in Ukraine**, which has led to the establishment of a referral pathway.
- DRC, in partnership with NRC and the NGO Forum, conducted two **trainings on Housing, Land and Property Rights** in Sviatohirsk, which covered the international and national HLP rights framework; ECHR and national courts practices; HLP challenges faced by IDPs and conflict-affected people in Ukraine; as well as a roadmap for finding durable solutions for ensuring HLP rights in Ukraine.
- **The Age and Disability Technical Working Group** provided trainings on inclusion of age and disability for UNICEF and its WASH implementing partners in Mariupol – ADRA, Caritas and Mariupol Youth Union.
- R2P conducted **a series of trainings for NGOs dealing with IDP protection** in Kharkiv, Dnipro and Mariupol. In Zaporizhzhia, R2P trained department for social protection caseworkers on how to use the Unified Information Database of Internally Displaced Persons.