



© Evgeny Kaplin / Shelling of Krasnohorivka

## PROTECTION CONCERNS

- **Security situation:** In May 2017, OHCHR recorded 60 conflict-related civilian casualties: 8 killed and 52 injured. Civilians are unable to conduct agricultural activities in areas along the contact line due to mine contamination. In Donetsk NGCA, 2 civilians were injured as a result of UXO explosion while conducting farming activities in villages Nyzhnya Kryinka and Kozatske.

On May 28, Mariiivskiy District Hospital, located in Krasnohorivka (Donetsk GCA) was damaged by shelling and at least 12 patients had to be transferred to a different medical facility or sent home. The hospital serves more than 70,000 people.

- **Child protection:** On May 17, a sports school in Mariinka (Donetsk GCA) was shelled and 140 children were evacuated. On May 28, Krasnohorivka secondary school was damaged due to shelling. On May 30, the premises of a children's summer camp in the village of Zelenyi Hai (Donetsk region, GCA) sustained damages due to shelling.

In Donetsk NGCA, 78 children from Signalne village have to walk 4 km to the nearest school and kindergarten as there is no bus connection between villages. Children are exposed to security risks due to the ongoing fighting in the area and because of the possible presence of UXOs along the road.

- **Access to mental health care and psychosocial support :** The study '[Hidden burdens of conflict: Mental health issues and access to services among IDPs in Ukraine](#)', conducted by International Alert found a high prevalence of mental disorders, including PTSD (32%), depression (22%) and anxiety (17%) among IDPs, particularly women.

- **Freedom of Movement:** Over 1 million crossings were recorded along the contact line in May - the highest number since 2015. This represents a 38% increase compared to the same period of 2016.

**Movement between Donetsk and Luhansk NGCA:** In May, there were reported cases of single mothers with children not being allowed to cross to Luhansk NGCA from Donetsk NGCA, as they did not have a power of attorney from the child's father authorizing the child's travel. This further impedes freedom of movement for single parents who may not know the whereabouts of the child's other parent, or where the child's absent parent may be living in another location and may be unable or unwilling to provide a power of attorney.

**Donetsk NGCA:** Following the requirement for registration of all vehicles with the 'State Traffic Inspectorate' in Donetsk NGCA, as of May 1, there are compulsory fines imposed on drivers without a 'DPR' number plate. Residents of NGCA are concerned about the possible implications of registering with the 'DPR Traffic Inspectorate' and having DPR number plates, when travelling within GCA.

- **Access to social benefits and pensions:** During May 2017, the Security Service, in cooperation with the Department for Social Protection, continued to conduct verification of IDP residences. Additional verifications, which are based on Security Service lists, and which include almost 200, 000 people, are ongoing. Additionally, Oshchadbank is sharing lists of IDPs who have not turned up for the bank's physical verification, with the Department for Social Protection. These ongoing verifications are discriminatory, subject IDPs to stress and anxiety, and deprive many of payments for months on end, while they wait for verification or reinstatement.

- **Access to basic services:** Access to safe water remains extremely challenging in NGCA, particularly in Pervomaisk, Luhansk NGCA, where de facto authorities announced an emergency situation and started water trucking. In Donetsk NGCA, villages Yasne, Olenivka, Signalne do not have access to the main water system supply since August 2016 due to the damaged pipeline, and inability for repairs due to ongoing fighting. Most people buy potable water for drinking and cooking purposes, but many, including pensioners, cannot afford this. As a result, people boil unclean water for drinking, and wash their clothes in rainwater and streams, which poses health risks.

### PROTECTION CLUSTER CONTACTS

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# 74%



**IDPs did not received mental healthcare they required over the last 12 months**

Source: 'Hidden burdens of conflict: Mental health issues and access to services among IDPs in Ukraine' by International Alert

## HIGHLIGHTS

### PROTECTION RESPONSE

- UNHCR implemented three community-based projects in NGCA: 1) installation of a sports ground in Yasynuvata; 2) installation of a sports ground in Kyivskyi district of Donetsk city; 3) interior repairs of a local school in Yakovlivka village in Yasynuvata district.
- A Protection Cluster partner is implementing five projects in conflict-affected districts of Donetsk region that are focused on **repair activities** of the following: two libraries, a music hall, two kindergartens (Petrovskoe, Starobesheve district and Makiivka), a hospital and two schools (one in Torez and one Donetsk), and installation of a sports ground in Shakhtarsk.
- A Protection Cluster partner based in NGCA assisted four GBV survivors with legal assistance and psycho-social support.
- NGO Crimea SOS developed a [guide on access to healthcare for IDPs](#) residing in Kyiv.
- In May, a **court case regarding compensation for property damage** was decided in favor of the resident of the village Tonenke, Donetsk GCA. After 5 months of litigation, the court ordered the Ukrainian Government and the State Treasury Service to pay 826,000 UAH to the claimant. More details about the case can be found in the [analysis by NGO "Right to protection"](#), which brought the case before the court. This is a first instance court decision by Druzhkivka city court, and it is expected that the government will appeal.



Sports ground for children in Yasynuvata

### ADVOCACY

- On May 12, IOM presented the results of the ["National Monitoring System of the Situation with Internally Displaced Persons in Ukraine"](#), which provides information on IDP trends and movement intentions, employment and livelihood of IDPs, IDP access to social services and assistance needs. One of the findings shows that the number of IDPs reporting discrimination has doubled in March 2017 as compared to September 2016 (18% and 9% respectively).
- UNHCR and OHCHR jointly prepared a **background note on pensions for IDPs and NGCA** residents, which provides a legal analysis of the existing normative framework, and contains a suggested mechanism for payment of pensions in NGCA.
- UNHCR shared with the Ministry of TOT and IDPs its analysis of the 'Law On Temporarily Occupied Territories'.
- On May 16, the NGOs Centre for Civil Liberties, Coalition Justice for Peace in Donbas, Human Rights Agenda and the project Zero Impunity organized a round table on **'Sexual Violence during Armed Conflict in Donbas: Taboo on Justice'**. The event included 50 representatives of international organizations, government agencies and civil society organizations.

### TRAININGS/EVENTS

- In Sievierodonetsk, Kramatorsk and Dnipro, UNFPA and CoE jointly organized a series of **workshops on GBV** for organizations and service providers working with IDPs and affected communities in Luhansk, Donetsk and Dnipropetrovsk regions. These workshops were attended by 110 representatives of local administrations, social services, police, forensic service, national and international NGOs, and free legal aid services.
- On 17 May, HRMMU delivered the **session on the UN Human Rights Mechanisms** at a training of 21 civil society monitors of the National Preventive Mechanism. Particular focus was made on preventing and addressing torture.
- In May, a Protection Cluster partner in NGCA organized three **trainings on prevention and response to GBV** for 57 persons.
- On May 23, the Protection Cluster organized an **Information Management workshop** in NGCA, aiming at reinforcing Protection Cluster partners' knowledge about the Cluster's role, Information Products and tools, including the 5W and the online dashboard. 26 persons from 11 organizations, participated in the event.
- On May 23, PIN conducted a **training on child protection minimum standards** in Svyatohirsk for protection partners operating child friendly spaces.
- Save the Children organized a **stress management training** for 14 teachers of schools # 1, 3 and 4 in Slovyansk.
- On May 25, NRC jointly with the Department of Justice of Luhansk oblast, organized a seminar "Access to justice: practical aspects of protection of social rights of IDPs and conflict affected population" in Sievierodonetsk. Among participants were legal officers of territorial bodies of ministries and other central executive authorities, public enterprises, institutions and organizations.