

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



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PROTECTION CONCERNS

- **Security situation:** In November 2017, OHCHR recorded 25 conflict-related civilian casualties: 5 people killed and 20 injured. **68% of all civilian casualties are mine-related.**
- **Mine Action:** On November 5, one child was reportedly killed and two more injured due to an unexploded ordinance detonation at a school in Staromykhailivka (Donetsk region, NGCA). On November 16, pupils were evacuated from a school in Kremenivka (Donetsk region, GCA), as an unexploded ordinance was found in the school yard.
- **Freedom of movement:** According to Protection Cluster partner monitoring, the main road has been blocked by military in the village of Novohryhorivka (Donetsk region, GCA), so that civilians must use an unpaved path and cross a river, which only has a small, basic bridge.
- **House, Land & Property:** According to Protection Cluster partner monitoring, 20 houses in Verkhnyotoretske (Donetsk region, GCA) have been occupied by the Armed Forces of Ukraine since 2015. As a result, 15 families who cannot return to their property are forced to rent houses in the same town.
HRMMU reported an imminent risk of eviction of IDPs from a collective centre in Korostyshiv (Zhytomyr Region). The electricity had been cut, leaving **188 people, including 88 children and many persons with disabilities**, without power, water and heating.

- **Access to social benefits and pensions:** In multiple locations, queues of IDP pensioners trying to restore pensions after 6 months of suspension remain very long. For example, in Pokrovsk, IDPs register in queues 2 weeks before the scheduled appointment and in Mariupol IDP pensioners have to wait 3 weeks for an appointment.

- **Access to essential services:** On November 3-5, the Donetsk Filter Station, which supplies **water** to 345,000 people on both sides of the contact line, was shelled at least three times. As a result, the back-up chlorine pipeline of the station was damaged by the shrapnel. This is alarming, as damage to the main pipe would cause leakage of poisonous chlorine gas into the environment.

On November 21, due to weather conditions, some **2,600 households in 21 locations** of Luhanska region (GCA) were left **without electricity**. Moreover, on 23 November, an additional 21,000 households in 63 settlements were left without electricity. According to the Luhansk Energy Association, due to lack of financial resources, it would take days to restore the damaged infrastructure.

Settlements of Yasynuvatsky rayon and Avdiivka (Donetsk region, GCA) remain without centralized **gas** as the pipe supplying gas from NGCA was damaged in summer 2017. Regional authorities allocated funds for construction of the new line supplying gas from GCA. The repair works are still ongoing.

- **Social cohesion:** According to [IOM's National Monitoring Survey](#), as of September 2017, 15 % of IDPs stated that they experienced discrimination (compared to 10% in June 2017). Perceptions of discrimination noted by IDPs concerned housing (65%), employment (28%), and healthcare (26%).

PROTECTION CLUSTER CONTACTS

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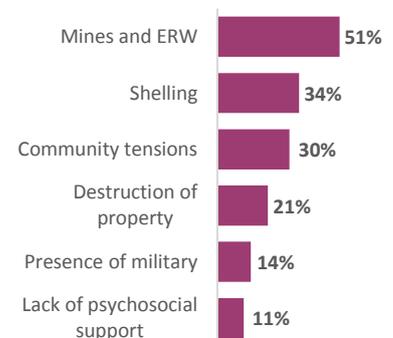
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Most reported protection concerns*

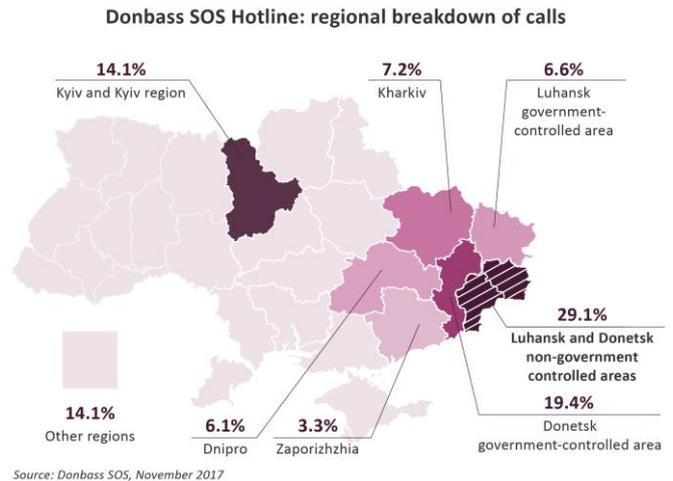


* Percentages of key informants interviewed
Source: REACH Situation Overview: Area Based Assessment in GCA within 5km of the Contact Line

HIGHLIGHTS

PROTECTION RESPONSE

- In November, a Protection Cluster partner in NGCA provided **psychosocial support to elderly beneficiaries, with 44 mobile groups operating** in Makiivka, Torez, Khartsizsk, Snizhne, and Kirovske.
- In November, UNHCR partner in NGCA provided **social services support to 1,531 persons**, including 735 persons that approached for the first time (mostly IDPs, returnees and people living along the contact line) through a one-stop shop centre and mobile teams' visits, group and individual consultations, PSS therapy sessions, capacity building workshops, and thematic events.
- During November, Donbass SOS **hotline received 2,990 calls, the majority (29%) coming from NGCA**. The main queries included access to pensions and social benefits, IDP documentation, checkpoint pass system and accommodation.
- NRC provided **counselling and legal assistance** to 400 beneficiaries from NGCA. The most frequently asked questions were related to suspension of pensions, death and birth certificates, restoration of passports and electronic passes.
- In November, UNHCR, together with the local authorities **opened a shelter** for GBV survivors in Mariupol, which has the capacity to receive 10 persons for up to 90 days.
- Proliska implemented **four community-based projects** in Donetsk GCA that include installation of equipment for water wells and improving conditions in one hospital and two schools.
- Save the Children established a **case management unit** in Druzhkivka (Donetsk region GCA), which provided 81 child with individual support and PSS. The work of the unit is closely coordinated with the network of state centres of social services for children, youth and families.
- Crimea SOS **distributed winter clothes and shoes to more than 1000 IDPs**. The most vulnerable were **assisted with purchase of heaters, wood, boilers** and other items for heating.



ADVOCACY

- On November 22, the ACCESS Consortium (PIN, ACF, MDM, ACTED/REACH) organized a **conference “Ukraine: A Forgotten Humanitarian Crisis in Europe?”** in Berlin, to encourage the international community to do more to meet the humanitarian needs of the conflict-affected people in Ukraine. Participants included representatives of the German and French MFA, representatives of the Embassies of Ukraine, Russian Federation, as well as of the 9 EU member states, over 30 humanitarian organizations working in Ukraine, donors and media.
- The Humanitarian Country Team, together with the Ministry for the Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs, launched the [2018 Humanitarian Response Plan for Ukraine](#) appealing for \$187 million to address the needs of 2.3 million of the most vulnerable people out of an estimated 3.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance.
- On November 28, NRC organized a panel discussion **“HLP rights of internally displaced and conflict-affected communities in eastern Ukraine”** to assess the progress made in protection of HLP rights of conflict-affected people over the past two years.
- IOM released its [7th round of the National Monitoring Survey on the situation of internally displaced persons in Ukraine](#). The survey shows that there is an increase in the number of IDPs returning to the NGCA. Thus, 16% of respondents surveyed, stated they returned to their original place of residence. Over half of the IDPs returning are over the age of 60, and 61% rely on a pension as their main source of income. The survey indicates that the most vulnerable IDPs cannot afford to remain in areas of displacement, as they are unable to find employment or afford to pay for accommodation and are compelled to return to NGCA.



TRAININGS/EVENTS

- In November, HRMMU delivered two **training sessions on prevention of arbitrary and unlawful detention, torture and conflict-related sexual violence**, as well as on freedom of movement and HLP rights for military personnel who will be deployed to the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) area as civil-military coordination unit.
- In November PAH conducted three trainings **“Support for social contacts as a means of recovery”** for 23 social workers in Bakhmut territorial center for the provision of social services.
- Protection Cluster delivered a training in Kramatorsk on **protection mainstreaming for non-protection actors** who work closely with IDPs and the conflict-affected population, which was attended by 18 participants from 8 organizations.
- On November 24, NRC jointly with Volodymyr Dahl East Ukrainian National University conducted a training on **“Legal assistance for IDPs and conflict-affected population: judicial practice and legal framework”** for 33 students and mentors working at the University Legal Clinic.
- On November 30, PAH organized a **training on violence prevention**, in the framework of “16 days against violence”, for 17 teenagers in Chasiv Yar School.