Protection Cluster
Ukraine

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

Photo: UNHCR Ukraine

PROTECTION CONCERNS

▪ Civilians living in the buffer zone near the contact line and within the non-government controlled areas continuing to live under shelling and direct conflict are from a protection perspective among the most vulnerable. Protection cluster partners report that these civilians are in dire need of humanitarian assistance and protection.

▪ The near 1.3 Million IDPs are in need of various forms of assistance, and from a protection perspective the challenges related to registration and assistance to individuals at risk is a key concern. Weekly data received on 21 May from Ministry of Social Policy indicated a total of 1,299,770 registered IDPs. Re-registration is performed inconsistently from office to office and from region to region with long queues reported and staff overstretched.

▪ Following months of shelling and conflict, the need of psychosocial support is high, above all in Luhansk and Donetsk and particularly for children still exposed to violence.

▪ There is a need to set up multi-sectorial coordination, protection and prevention system to response to gender-based violence, including access to legal, health and social-psychological care services for survivors of GBV.

▪ Lack of attention to and funding for mine action activities lead to injuries and death. There is a need for a greater emphasis on addressing this from all parties to the conflict and to ensure funding for mine action agencies and NGOs.

Contacts:

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

Claire Whelan, Protection Cluster Coordinator, whelan1@un.org, Tel: +38 050 382 5277

Inigo Torres, Child Protection Sub Cluster Coordinator, itorres@unicef.org, Tel: +38 050 355 0956

Ekaterina Kristesashvili, GBV sub cluster Coordinator,kristesashvili@unfpa.org

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

Vanja Sikirica, Mine action sub cluster co-lead**,** vanja.sikirica@drc-ukraine.org.

Key Documents:

Protection Cluster Strategy
Protection Cluster 3W
Key Advocacy Messages

HIGHLIGHTS

- Protection Cluster partners continuously monitored and reported on the protection situation in both Government Controlled Areas (GCA) and Non-Government Controlled Areas (NGCA). This information is used to ensure appropriate advocacy and response to needs and prioritization of the most vulnerable and informs the response of other humanitarian actors.

- An increase and consolidation of presence among protection cluster partners at the field and central level has taken place and is central for community-based protection and outreach in GCA and NGCA. Activities include protection training, capacity building, response through referral, counseling, direct interventions with authorities and self-proclaimed 'authorities' and local advocacy. Strong focus articulated in legal information, access to social benefit and humanitarian assistance and services.

- Since January 2015, child protection partners have provided psychosocial support to 31,250 children through a network of community support.

- A children's hotline operated and supported by child protection partners has received 12,922 total calls. Of those, 56.1 % were from girls and 43.9 % from boys. All callers received support and referrals when needed.

- GBV sub-cluster partners launched actions to build capacity of state actors - local police officers - in provision of services and upholding rights and referral mechanisms.

- GBV sub-cluster partners produced various information materials to raise awareness on GBV and to assist people to cope with psychological issues caused by the crisis. This includes GBV referral card for Kharkiv region – an easy guide for locally available legal, health and socio-psychological services.

- The development of Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) on inter-sectorial cooperation and referral to ensure prevention and response to GBV has been initiated in Kharkiv and Dnipropetrovsk regions.

Photo: UNHCR Ukraine

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