

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



Inhabitants of Government Controlled Vodyane town, Donetsk oblast wrote on the fence "People are living here!"  
Photo: Vostok SOS

## PROTECTION CONCERNS

- During the period of 1–31 December 2015, the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) recorded at least 15 civilian casualties in the conflict zone of eastern Ukraine: seven killed and eight injured. HRMMU investigates reports of civilian casualties by consulting a broad range of sources and types of information that are evaluated for their credibility and reliability. All killed were adults: four women and three men. A woman was killed by shelling; a woman and two men were killed by ERW; two women were killed from small arms; and exact cause of death of one man is unknown. Of eight injured: seven were adults (a woman and six men), and one was a boy. Except for one man injured from small arms, all others were injured by ERW including a boy aged 15 who tripped on antipersonnel landmine near the city of Luhansk.
- In December the Protection Cluster represented by OHCHR and UNHCR as well as the Mine Action sub-cluster represented by DDG participated in a joint humanitarian assessment of the current situation of the check-points along the contact line. The queues have not gotten shorter - civilians are amassed at the checkpoints for a long period of time including overnight. With recent reports of intensified shelling around all of these settlements, it becomes increasingly dangerous for civilians. Most of the check points are not properly equipped with appropriate protective shelter in case of shelling. Major gaps in information provision remain and the overall conditions for waiting are still poor, despite the installation of heating tents by State Emergency Service. However, these tents are usually far from the queues, making them impractical for persons with special needs.
- On 16 December, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted resolution No. 1035, which restricts the delivery of goods and services to and from Crimea, with exceptions made for personal belongings or food. The restrictions do not apply to electricity, selected commodities and humanitarian aid. The resolution comes into effect as of 16 January 2016 and will legalize the ongoing civil blockade of Crimea and could lead to a worsening humanitarian situation, with increased food and medicine prices already being observed as a result of the civil blockade.
- On 8 December, a group of MPs registered at the Parliament a Draft Law No. 3593 'On Temporary Occupied Territory of Ukraine'. The draft law confirms some existing provisions under Ukrainian legislation, but also introduces some new aspects, some of which raise human rights concerns; including the responsibility for protection of life, health and preservation of property and social support, non-recognition of documents issued by *de facto authorities* and termination of essential services, e.g. water and electricity supply.
- Limited access to the conflict-affected areas prevents full-scale mine-action activities. Mine Action Sub Cluster is concerned about difficulties in reaching agreement with both sides across the contact line to allow humanitarian actors to undertake MRE and other mine-action activities. On-going hostilities pose risks for carrying out demining activities.
- Legal assistance remains as a serious gap in preventing and responding to GBV in Ukraine. Proper funding, knowledge and willingness from the side of key actors specializing on legal aid are needed to deliver quality services to GBV survivors.

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## Key Documents:

Protection Cluster Strategy

Protection Cluster 3W

Guidance on evacuation

Update on IDP registration

Advocacy note on Right to Freedom of Movement

Guidance note on protection & prioritizing vulnerable persons  
Guidance note on persons with disabilities

HRP 2016: a Gender and Protection lens for all actors

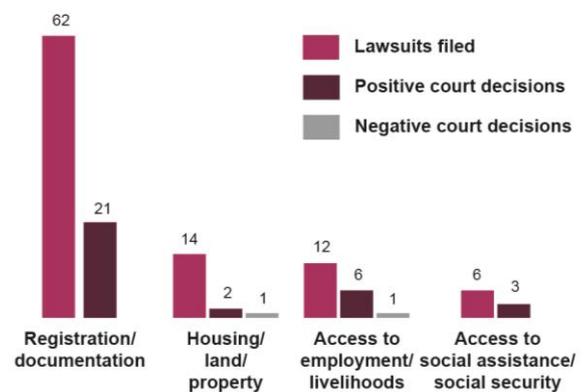
HRP 2016: For Cluster Coordinators and Vetting committees: a Gender and Protection lens

HLP Factsheet

## HIGHLIGHTS

- On 25 December, the Ukrainian Parliament adopted Law no. № 921-VIII introducing improvements to a number of important protection aspects. The Law brings IDP legislation in line with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. Amongst other things, the law simplifies the procedure for IDP registration, and strengthens guarantees of IDP rights, including voluntary return and integration. IDPs can avoid discontinuation of pensions, social benefits, or other types of assistance/services due to termination of certificate's validity period.
- The Cabinet of Ministers adopted on the 16th of December the "Complex State Programme on the Support, Social Adaptation and reintegration of citizens of Ukraine, who moved from temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine and NGCA to other regions of Ukraine for the period till 2017". It is welcomed that the Programme invites civil society actors to be part of the implementation of the plan and also that it raises some key human rights issues of IDPs including the right to life, right to freedom of movement, right to protection against unemployment, right to work. It also touches upon HLP rights and address the rights of most vulnerable groups in Ukraine. However, no additional funds are allocated to this programme and the practical implementation is still unclear.
- On 18 December, the Cabinet of Ministers' Resolution no. 1014 came into effect. The resolution amends resolution no. 505 on the provision of financial assistance to IDPs and makes it easier for unaccompanied IDP children to receive state financial assistance. Other adults who may be accompanying the IDP child (e.g., grandparents, adult siblings, step-parents) can apply for assistance. The amendment also allows temporary caregivers such as distant relatives or neighbors to apply for assistance on behalf of the child, when there is a notarized application from the parents.
- On 3-4 December, UNHCR Ukraine together with Kharkiv National University organized a Civil Society Forum "Community and Us: Acting Together" in Kharkiv. The leading Ukrainian and international NGOs as well as local authorities met to discuss the challenges and responses to working with IDPs; participated in workshop sessions facilitated by CBOs, NGOs and other experts in areas aimed at CBO capacity building and worked out recommendations which will aim at strengthening partnerships, formulating key advocacy messages and identifying key areas of urgent humanitarian and longer term response.
- A first meeting of Technical Working Group on Ageing and Disability was held and chaired by Help Age International on 2 December to discuss the terms of reference, scope of the working group and to identify immediate priorities. The working group under the umbrella of the Protection Cluster aims at mainstreaming integration of needs of vulnerable groups in the planning and implementation of the programs. Some cluster/sector specific recommendations will be identified to ensure their integration in clusters strategy. Additionally a secondary data review will be conducted to develop Oblast level profiles reflecting age, gender and disability.
- HelpAge International has completed during the month of December an update on the protection issues faced predominantly by older people. Family separation has emerged as one of the top priorities in addition to denial, obstruction, lack of or unequal/discriminatory access to basic services such as food and health.
- On 22 December 2015, NRC organised in Kyiv the first in a series of public debates on normative framework for compensation for damaged/destroyed housing during the conflict in eastern Ukraine. The representatives of local and international NGOs, UN agencies and Government focused on the discussion of a draft proposal for State subventions to Luhansk, Kharkiv and Donetsk oblasts for compensation to individuals of damages/destroyed housing caused by the conflict.
- In December the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU)/OHCHR released its 12<sup>th</sup> quarterly public report covering the period from 16<sup>th</sup> August to 15<sup>th</sup> November. Despite reduction in hostilities, human rights violations continue on both sides of the contact line.
- The Child Protection Sub Cluster visited Konstantinovska close to the contact line. Due to its proximity to the NGCA there is a big stream of persons from that area who come to arrange their Ukrainian documents. There are however very few services available for these persons and the Child Protection Sub Cluster therefore discussed with the members about the possibility to establish drop in child friendly spaces where children from the NGCA would be able to get support while their parents run their errands.
- Training on Child protection in emergency was delivered by the CP Sub Cluster in Severodonetsk and Kramatorsk. Each training had appr. 40 participants from local authorities and NGOs.
- UNFPA and Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health provided technical support to Regional, City and District Centers for Social Services and allocated sub-grants for 18 NGOs in Donetsk, Luhansk, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kharkiv regions to strengthen services for GBV survivors including IDPs.
- IMC informed about its latest GBV Rapid Assessment conducted in Kharkiv and Donetsk regions (GCA and NGCA) in September. Issues found to have destabilizing effect on community safety and potential prevalence of GBV have been grouped in the following 4 categories: presence of active and former combatants, restricted mobility of women/girls, commercial sexual exploitation and lack of confidence in public services and systems, that required complex intervention targeting better protection of survivors and prevention of risks.
- On 10 December, UNHCR jointly with NGO "Foundation of good deeds", Kyiv Regional Administration and representatives of the Irpen city Mayor office opened an IDP Community Center in Irpen city, Kyiv region. The center will become an open space for IDPs to receive legal, social, psychosocial assistance. Several community based organizations have joined the center with their programs for IDP children and elderly. The Community Center is open to initiatives from IDPs and host community aimed at raising awareness about IDP rights, facilitating integration and social cohesion.
- NGO "Hope" funded by USAID opened a coordination Center for IDPs on 17 December in Rubezhnoe town (Luhansk oblast, GCA). IDPs will be provided with legal, psychological, humanitarian assistance. The Centre that works as one stop shop will involve other NGOs to provide services to IDPs.

### Quantitative data on court interventions as of Dec 31, 2015 (UNHCR)



### UNFPA/UFPH psychosocial support mobile teams (November - December 2015)

