

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



PROTECTION CONCERNS

- In October 2015, the ceasefire in eastern Ukraine continued to be adhered to in general, though isolated exchanges of fire between Ukrainian armed forces and the armed groups – mostly from small arms and light weapons – were reported almost on a daily basis.
- HRMMU/OHCHR recorded 38 civilian casualties (ten killed and 28 injured) in the conflict zone during October. In total, since mid-April 2014 until 31 October 2015, at least 8,529 people (including Ukrainian armed forces, civilians and members of the armed groups) have been killed, and at least 17,974 injured in the conflict zone of eastern Ukraine. This is an OHCHR conservative estimate based on available data.
- Access of international humanitarian organizations remains very limited in NGCA and particularly affects protection activities, which most remain suspended.
- Pedestrian passage through Stanychno-Luhans'ke was opened on 27 October. In addition to the 3 existing official corridors in Donetsk oblast, it is the first corridor in Luhans'k oblast under the provision on Temporary Order.
- The queues at check points continue to be very long, creating protection concerns especially with the dropping temperatures. Of particular concern is the high number of children who are more sensitive to the cold. It has been reported that only very small children (0-1 years) are prioritized in the queues as the number of children is too high to prioritize them all. There is a need in tents and heaters at check points, in addition to the importance of allowing public transportation.
- Mine risk around the check points and along the contact line remains a severe concern with continuous reports of injuries and deaths. 89 per cent of casualties in October were caused by Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) (80 per cent of those killed and 93 per cent of those injured) as per OHCHR monitoring. The long waiting time creates particular problems for families with young children who grow impatient while waiting and want to run around outside of the safe area.
- GBV sub cluster local partners report an increase in the number of sex workers along the contact line in places with high military concentration. The far-reaching psychological implications, as well as life-threatening health implications of survival sex are a growing concern given the high HIV/AIDS infection rates in Ukraine, particularly in conflict-affected cities such as Donetsk.
- IDPs in Ukraine were deprived of the right to vote during local elections held on 25 October. Only two IDPs from Crimea challenged this prohibition in the court and were entitled to vote. However, only one of them managed to take advantage of this decision, since the second received a copy of the decision after the election day.
- The Ukraine Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) decided that the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) will promote a concept of a 'Protection Lens' to ensure protection issues are mainstreamed in all projects submitted by partners in the HRP (especially non-Protection projects). A specific guidance note was developed to help partners in the design of their projects together with the GenCap Inter Agency Advisor ("Gender and Protection Lens for all the Actors").

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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

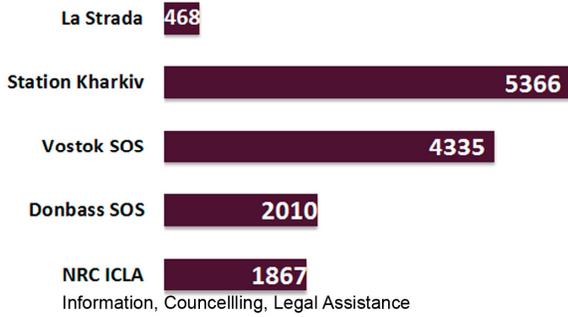
Guidance note on protection & prioritizing vulnerable persons
Guidance note on persons with disabilities

HRP 2016: a Gender and Protection lens for all actors

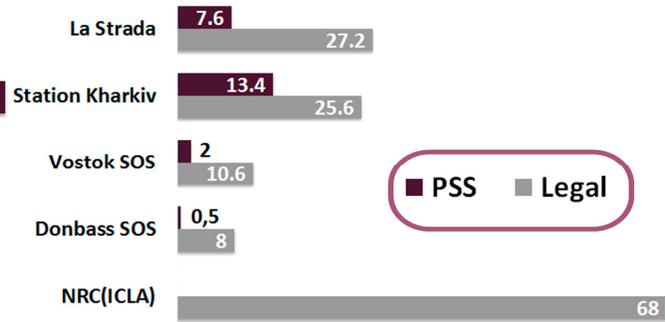
HRP 2016: For Cluster Coordinators and Vetting committees: a Gender and Protection lens

Total requests for assistance*

* Many calls come from NGCA



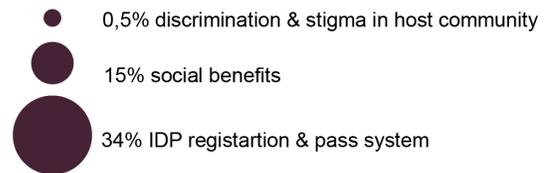
Consultations by type (%)



The majority of the callers are women



Top 3 legal requests (Donbass SOS, %)



Hotlines: available protection assistance



PIN 24/7

La Strada

Donbas SOS

Vostok SOS



PSS consultations



Legal consultations



Information

HIGHLIGHTS

- On the 16 October 2015, HRMMU/OHCHR attended the court hearing held in the High Administrative Court of Kyiv regarding the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine request to cancel the decisions of the first and second instance court that acknowledged the Resolution No. 595 of the Cabinet of Ministers (in the part which stopped payment of pensions to the people living in the areas controlled by armed groups) was illegal and obliged the Cabinet to resume the payments. Resolution 595 (in the part which stopped payments of pensions and social benefits to people living in the areas controlled by armed groups) was once again recognized illegal and the Government was obliged to resume payments. This has yet to take place.
- State services, local and international NGOs met to discuss key protection issues related to freedom of movement; the situation at check points along contact line including the queues at these check points and mine risks at Logistic centers. Concrete proposals such as the opening of new transport corridors, increasing staffing, opening of more check points, demining activities, increasing operating times of checkpoints were made to the authorities to improve the situation and decrease the waiting lines.
- In late October, 21 mobile teams providing psychosocial outreach to GBV survivors started to operate with the support of UNFPA/Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health. Most vulnerable groups in Donetsk, Kharkiv, Lugansk, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhka oblasts are targeted for on-site PSS assistance. In addition 97 social workers from selected state and non-state PSS service providers in the same regions were trained on emotional support during October.
- The referral cards for the survivors of GBV are currently available for the 5 conflict affected regions (GCA), and are being continuously upgraded with the assistance of the GBV sub-cluster partners in the field.
- UNHCR Kyiv is implementing community-based response program (CBR) through its partners covering Central and Western Ukraine. At the end of October, 31 grants were approved for IDP initiatives through Crimea SOS in Kyiv, Lviv and Kherson, out of which 18 were implemented. Projects are aimed at providing psychological and legal assistance; children sports and development activities; IDP awareness raising campaigns; activities aimed at peaceful coexistence and at maintenance of cultural identity; educational activities (trainings, schools, excursions) overcoming discrimination and building tolerance between IDPs and the hosting community.
- The Ministry of Social Policy's Centre for Services in Children's Affairs Zaporizhka requested legal support in dealing with certain complex cases of IDP children and the Child Protection sub-cluster was able to link them up with two Sub Cluster partners who have started their work with the Centre.
- Crimea SOS identified 3 out of 4 projects in Kyiv, Lviv and Kherson aimed at: 1) capacity building of school psychologists in work with IDP children in Kyiv and Kyiv oblast; 2) establishment of IDP hub in Kherson that will join the efforts of several NGOs under one roof to provide assistance to IDPs; and 3) psychological support to elderly IDPs.