

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



© E. Kaplin, unexploded mines found in the village of Bakhmutka (located at the contact line) 100 m from private houses

PROTECTION CONCERNS

- **Security situation:** In June 2017, OHCHR recorded 65 conflict-related civilian casualties: 12 killed and 53 injured. In June, mine related incidents accounted for over quarter of civilian casualties.

On 11-12 June, the village of Olhynka (Volnovasky Rayon, 10 km from the contact line) was affected by fighting, with 13 residential houses damaged. Allegedly, the area was shelled because of military personnel stationed in the village.

- **Freedom of movement:** On June 21, OSCE SMM observed additional damage to the bridge at Stanytsia Luhanska checkpoint, with people falling as a result. A First Aid service is available only from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. With 10,000 people crossing the checkpoint every day, waiting long hours while exposed to the heat, these conditions are dangerous. One death was recorded at this checkpoint in June.

On June 8, due to the escalation of hostilities in some parts of Donetsk region, the ATO center introduced [certain restrictions](#) as per the law 'On counteracting terrorism'. In particular, civilians are not allowed to drive on "non-registered" roads, are required to have identity documents when they are outside between 22:00 and 5:00, are not allowed to go to forests and river banks in the vicinity of strategic objects such as dams or electric power plants.

- **Mine contamination:** It is reported that many families living along the contact line cannot formalize the status of a low-income family because they own land plots. However, these lands are often contaminated by mines and, therefore, are not bringing any income.

- **Access to housing:** People in Krasnohorivka (Mariinsky district) and Olhynka (Volnovasky district) continue living in damaged houses because they do not have alternative accommodation.

As of the middle of June, 22 IDP families in Pavlohrad and 12 families in Kryvy Rih are at risk of eviction from collective centres due to debts or closure of collective centres.

In Zaporizhzhia, IDPs are starting to move out from modular settlements due to deteriorating living conditions such as leaking roofs and electricity blackouts. The use of modular houses should be limited to three years and this is coming to an end soon. Currently, 353 IDPs continue living there, while 17 have already moved out.

For many IDPs it is impossible in practice to receive a subsidy for utilities due to the refusal of the vast majority of landlords to conclude official lease agreements.

- **Access to social benefits and pensions:** According to protection cluster partner monitoring, there are queues at the departments of Pension Fund and DoSP, resulting in difficulties to obtain pensions and social payments. Additional verification of IDPs according to the Security Service lists and the Oschadbank lead to delays in receiving social benefits and pensions.

- **IDP registration:** People displaced within the same administrative district in Mariinka report that local DoSP offices refused to register them as IDPs, contrary to the provisions of the law "On Ensuring Rights and Freedoms of IDPs".

Local residents and IDPs in Mariinka report that banks are requesting the payment of accrued fines and penalties for loans, even though the Law "On Temporary Measures for the Period of ATO" exempts people residing in the areas where ATO is conducted from fines for not returning the loans on time.

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MINE AND ERW CONTAMINATION



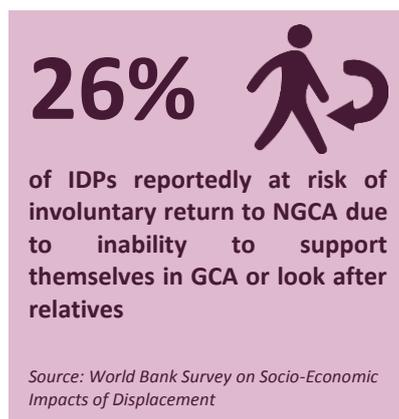
Over **7,000 sq.km**
contaminated by mines
and ERWs

Source: Mine Action Sub-cluster – June 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

PROTECTION RESPONSE

- Protection Cluster partner in NGCA is implementing three community-based projects aimed at improvement and creation of safe conditions at the local community centre in Guselshchikovo village, Novoazovsk District and two kindergartens (in Yasynuvata town and Samoilove village).
- In June a **court case regarding compensation for property damage** was decided in favor of 61-year old IDP woman, whose house was destroyed due to shelling, wounding her husband, who later died. Selidove city court granted compensation for 2.1 million UAH. More details are available in the [analysis by NGO "Right to Protection"](#). This is a first instance court decision, and it is expected that the government will appeal.
- DRC, jointly with Mariupol Youth Union, **supported 1,297 youth** (770 girls, 527 boys) with activities at three youth centers in Kramatorsk, Mariupol and Slovyansk.
- DRC **opened an outdoor playgrounds for children** in Kodema, Ugledar and Myrne, Donetsk Region.
- In June, the NRC ICLA programme reached 1,509 beneficiaries. NRC Legal Aid centers in Sievierodonetsk, Kramatorsk and Stanytsia Luhanska received 319 visitors and 286 hotline calls.
- During January-June 2017, the National Hotline for GBV survivors received 15,512 calls (10% of calls from Donetsk and Lugansk oblasts, including NGCA). Survivors reported 4,138 GBV cases, 40% of which attributed to sexual and physical violence.
- In June R2P prepared an **Information note on subsidies for utilities** for IDPs and conflict affected population explaining relevant procedures.



ADVOCACY

- On 7 June, UNHCR participated in Parliamentary **hearings on Pension Reform**, where it expressed concern regarding access to pensions for residents of NGCA, and suggested a mechanism under which NGCA residents would be able to receive their pensions in GCA.
- On June 8, DRC organized a round table in Kyiv on **"Joining Efforts in the Protection of Children's Rights in Armed Conflict"** in order to draw attention to Ukraine's obligations to implement recommendations of the UN Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol.
- On June 8, R2P and Donbas SOS organized a press conference to discuss gaps in the existing legislation that lead to discrimination of IDPs in accessing social benefits.
- On June 12, R2P, Crimea SOS and Vostok SOS held a round table **"Determining the Legal Status of Certain Locations of Donetsk, Luhansk Oblasts and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea"** during which the authors of three draft laws on temporarily occupied territories presented their legislative initiatives. The event was a part of ongoing advocacy for ensuring that draft legislation defining NGCA and Crimea as occupied territories takes into account human rights concerns regarding freedom of movement, access to social benefits and pensions, delivering humanitarian assistance, and does not hamper future reintegration of these areas.
- On June 20, UNHCR jointly with NGO Crimea SOS prepared the publication of the translation into Ukrainian of the [UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement](#).
- On June 22, HRMMU met with the Ministry of Defense to discuss **HLP issues in conflict-affected areas**. HRMMU raised challenges that civilians face due to military occupation of their property and its usage for military bases, looting, as well as contamination of private agricultural lands with UXOs and mines.
- NGO "Proliska" advocated for **inclusion of certain settlements from ATO zone into 1085 decree** and in June, Donetsk city administration has agreed to include 26 settlements out of 69 suggested by the NGO.
- Protection Cluster has translated the IASC Guidance Note on **"Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations in the Humanitarian Programme Cycle"** into [Ukrainian](#) and [Russian](#) in order to facilitate use by national humanitarian actors.

TRAININGS/EVENTS

- NRC carried out a training, in Sievierodonetsk on **"Providing primary legal aid for IDPs and conflict affected population in Eastern Ukraine by local authorities along the contact line"** for 20 heads of local and state executive authorities in Stanytsia Luhanska rayon.
- In June DRC/DDG facilitated a workshop for Ministry of TOT and IDPs about **Georgian experience of housing programme, housing and property restitution and national-level coordination mechanisms**.
- On June 16-17, NRC jointly with the Bar Association of Odessa Region conducted a training on **"Legal assistance to IDPs: legal framework and judicial practice"** for 25 attorneys from Kyiv, Odessa, Cherkasy, Kherson, Poltava and Chornomorsk.
- On June 20, DRC/DDG conducted a **training on mine education** for 34 project assistants and volunteers of HelpAge in Lysychansk.
- NGO "Gorenie" conducted two **workshops on socio-legal challenges faced by IDPs** for 45 people among the staff of State Employment Centre, Center for Social Services for Family, Children and Youth and other representatives of state institutions in Dnipro.
- On June 24-25, Crimea SOS organized a seminar on developing fundraising proposals for community projects in Sumy for 22 active IDPs and local activists from 7 regions of Ukraine.
- On June 29th, UNFPA jointly with GIZ conducted a **training on identification, referral and care of GBV survivors** for 38 PSS service providers, health care specialists, policemen and shelter specialists in Kharkiv.