

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



© R2P, residents of Lysychansk (Luhansk province, GCA) blocking the main road in order to protest about water cuts in the region

PROTECTION CONCERNS

- **Security situation:** In July 2017, OHCHR recorded 49 conflict-related civilian casualties: 42 killed and 9 injured.

On July 7, two explosions occurred in the central square of Luhansk city (NGCA) killing one and injuring five people.

- **Mine Contamination:** Concerns over anticipated increase in mine/UXO accidents are higher at this time of year, due to agricultural activities and larger volume of movement of people for recreational as well as hunting and foraging activities.

On July 7, one civilian was killed and one injured due to a mine explosion in Zhovanka village, close to Mayorsk EECP. On July 15, two civilians were reportedly killed in Raivka (Luhansk region, NGCA) because of a trip-wire explosion near Siverskyi Donets river. On July 17, two people were injured when a tractor detonated an explosive device in a field in Hnutove (Donetsk region, GCA).

- **Freedom of movement:** On July 16, one civilian sustained a bullet wound while crossing the contact line at Mariinka EECP. On July 21, one person died from a heart attack while crossing the Stanytsia Luhanska EECP.

According to protection monitoring by Protection Cluster partners, the crossing conditions at the Mayorsk EECP have deteriorated significantly due to the hot weather. There is no shelter or tents that provide shade to people who are crossing from NGCA to GCA. There have been reports of people losing consciousness while waiting to cross the contact line, as well as elderly people in need of medical assistance.

- **Access to social benefits and pensions:** As a result of amendments to the CabMin Decree #505, the number of IDPs entitled to targeted financial assistance has been further restricted, as IDPs registered in Donetsk and Luhansk regions GCA, will no longer be entitled to receive targeted financial assistance.

According to Protection Cluster partner monitoring, there are over 50 cases, mainly in Avdiivka and Krasnohorivka, where people displaced within the same settlement are not able to register as IDPs and, as a result, cannot receive IDP benefits. As these people were displaced because their houses were damaged or destroyed, without access to IDP benefits, they cannot afford to rent accommodation.

- **Access to basic services:** In addition to electricity cuts by the Luhansk Energy Association (LEO) on July 11, some parts of Luhansk GCA started to experience water supply shortages, resulting in some 60,000 households and 30 healthcare and educational facilities losing access to safe water. On July 18, residents of Lysychansk (Luhansk province, GCA) blocked the main road of the town to protest against water shortages (see photo above).

On July 26, Ukraine stopped providing electricity supplies to Donetsk NGCA. Currently, the electricity needs of NGCA are covered by Starobeshivska and Zuyivska thermal power plants, other producers in NGCA and the Russian Federation.

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Over **4,700** children lived in settlements shelled **at least twice a week** during the last three months of 2016.

Source: "The children of the contact line in east Ukraine", UNICEF, June 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

PROTECTION RESPONSE

- DRC supported civil society to establish a **PSS community centre** in Novomykhailivka village, located along the contact line. This space will help to restore community cohesion, unite the local population, and thus improve the community's well-being through a number of PSS activities for children and adults.
- In Novogrygorivka village (located directly on the contact line), DRC supported a **community-based project**, which aims to empower, strengthen, and develop community capacity for those living in close proximity to the conflict.
- DDG delivered **mine risk education sessions** for 3,278 people (2,089 children and 1,189 adults), mostly in Kremynskiy, Mariupolskiy, Marinskyi, Popasnianskiy, Novoaidarskiy, Stanychno-Luhanskiy rayons.
- Proliska implemented **7 community-based projects** in Donetsk GCA that are focused on **improving conditions** in the following community spaces: two kindergartens, a library, a school, a veteran association centre and two sport schools.
- A Protection Cluster partner is implementing **5 community-based projects** in Donetsk region (NGCA) to rehabilitate a school, an outpatient centre, a kindergarten, a hostel and a hospital.
- HelpAge interviewed 5,246 people (3,891 women, including 326 with disabilities; 1,327 men, including 201 with disabilities and 473 IDPs) in 89 locations in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts for selection into new projects – **Home Based Care and Safe Community Spaces**.

ADVOCACY

- NRC released a [case study](#) on "Social housing solutions for IDPs and conflict affected population: comparative analysis of Bakhmut, Slovyansk and Kramatorsk projects" and a [briefing note](#) on "People in Eastern Ukraine: Without Housing and Compensation".
- On July 10, DRC conducted a **roundtable discussion on "Access to Justice and Advocacy"** focusing on the payment of housing assistance for temporarily unemployed IDPs; restoration of passports for IDPs, and penalties for entrepreneurs registered in NGCA.
- R2P shared with the Oschadbank central office its [report](#) on "**Monitoring of physical identification of IDP pensioners**" together with recommendations on how the bank can improve the physical identification procedure for pensioners.
- As a result of the joint efforts of the working group on access to pensions, draft Law #6692 was registered with Parliament on 12 July. The **draft law enables access to pensions for residents of NGCA** without the need to register as IDPs in GCA and ensures that the three-year statute of limitation is not applicable to conflict and disaster affected populations.
- R2P organized a meeting with State Migration Service (SMS) to discuss the **problems that IDPs and residents from NGCA and Crimea face during the identification procedure** when applying to the State Migration Service for identity documents or international passports or updating photos in their documents and passports.

TRAININGS/EVENTS

- DDG conducted **training for 12 deminers**, with the support of ECHO. In early August, these deminers will start clearance of confirmed hazardous areas of Luhansk region.
- On July 12, DRC provided a training with the National Military University on "**Securing children's rights during military conflict**" for 28 students of the National Defense University of Ukraine. The training focused on international principles and national legislation related to the protection of the rights of children during military conflict.
- On July 27, NRC carried out a training in Shchastya on "**The standards of IHL; national legislation protecting the rights of IDPs and population affected in the conflict in Eastern Ukraine**" for 25 representatives of local and international NGOs. Another training was conducted in Sievierodonetsk on "**Access to justice: judicial practice and legislation on protection rights of IDPs and conflict affected population**" for 22 legal officers of territorial bodies of ministries and other central executive authorities, public enterprises, institutions and organizations.
- On July 27, R2P and Caritas conducted a seminar in Lozova (Kharkiv region) on **human trafficking risks**, for 40 IDPs and local residents.
- Crimea SOS conducted a **capacity building training** in Lazurne, Kherson region, for 16 IDPs.
- On 24-28 July, DRC organized a **workshop in Georgia on durable housing solutions**, for representatives from the Ukrainian Ministry of TOT and IDPs.

KEY FIGURES ON PROTECTION RESPONSE

(as per Mid-Year Review)



3.3 M

People in Need



1.85 M

People Targeted



454,324

People reached (Jan-June 2017)



85 Partners*

USEFUL LINKS

[Humanitarian Response](#)

[Protection Cluster Dashboard](#)

[Legal Aid Directory Map](#)

*Partners with completed, ongoing or suspended activities

PROGRESS ON 2017 HRP INDICATORS, Q2 (All Partners)

Human Rights and
Protection Monitoring

43%

Target: **6,600**
visits conducted

Provision of Legal
Aid/Counselling

43%

Target: **112,500**
persons receiving
legal aid

Awareness raising and
Information Dissemination

14%

Target: **960,000**
persons receiving
information

Provision of essential services
and individual assistance

60%

Target: **310,500**
persons accessing
services/assistance

Support to Durable
Solutions

56%

Target: **80,000**
persons supported