

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



PROTECTION CONCERNS

- Security situation:** In October 2017, OHCHR recorded 24 conflict-related civilian casualties: 5 killed and 19 injured. In October, mine-related incidents accounted for almost 67% of civilian casualties.
- Mine Action:** On October 16, a man was injured by a tripwire mine explosion in NGCA near Mayorsk checkpoint, while trying to cross the contact line outside of the designated area. On October 16, another civilian was injured by the detonation of a tripwire mine near Zaytseve (Donetsk region, GCA). In October, one civilian was injured when his farming tractor hit an unknown explosive object in Slovianoserbsk (Luhansk region, NGCA).
- Freedom of movement:** People were not able to obtain or extended electronic permits for crossing of the contact line for several weeks in October, as the electronic database of the Security Service of Ukraine was under maintenance.
- Child protection:** Children in a number of settlements along the contact line continue having limited access to education. 350 children have not been able to attend school in October in Ocheretyne village (Donetsk region, GCA), as repairs of the school have not been completed. A school in Kurdyumivka of Toretsk City Council is at risk of closure due to a policy of merging smaller schools. Free school buses are only available for larger schools. In the absence of school buses from Kurdyumivka to Toretsk, pupils will have to travel to school by train, which will not only significantly increase their travel time, but also put a financial strain on their families who now need to pay for train tickets.
- Access to social benefits and pensions:** An increasing number of IDP pensioners who registered their place of residence in GCA face suspension of their pension payments, as regional pension funds require them to obtain or renew their IDP registration. Thus, in Mariupol, 20 lawsuits have been filed to challenge these restrictions on access to pensions.
- Access to essential services:** Due to ongoing hostilities, electricity supply to the village Verkhnyotoretske (Donetsk region, GCA) located along the contact line remains cut off since September 2017. Most of the residents cannot afford to buy generators. The situation contributes to the deterioration of the humanitarian situation and creates risks of displacement from the village. Tens of thousands of civilians in Donetsk (GCA and NGCA) had access to safe piped water interrupted on multiple occasions due to damage of the water filtering stations or power lines by shelling. See timeline below:

PROTECTION CLUSTER CONTACTS

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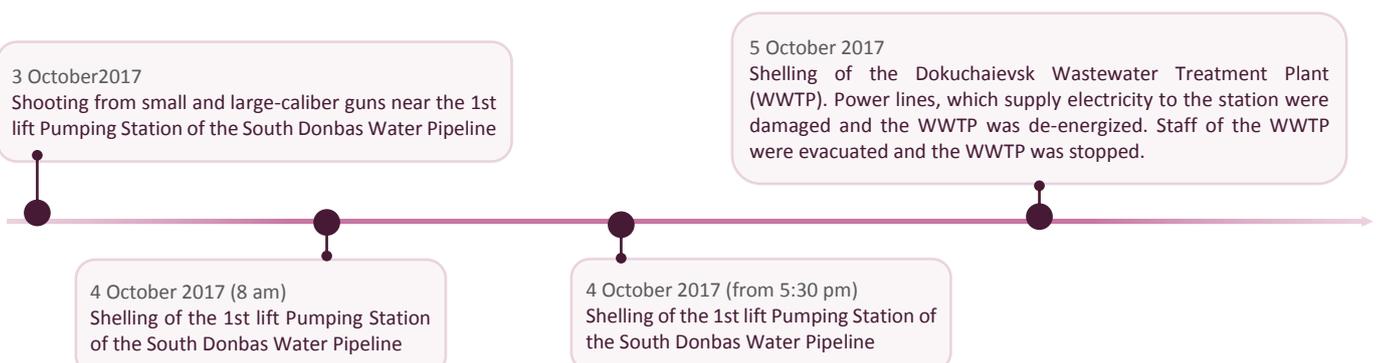
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HIGHLIGHTS

PROTECTION RESPONSE

- Protection Cluster partner in Donetsk NGCA **distributed 15 NFI sets** in Donetsk city, Spartak and Kruta Balka villages, assisting 45 individuals.
- UNHCR implementing partner in Donetsk NGCA **provided legal counselling to 466 individuals through a 'one-stop shop' centre, call centre, mobile team visits, and skype calls** on a range of legal issues. These included HLP rights, IDP registration, documentation, resumption of pensions payment in GCA, renewal of lost documents in GCA and issue of new documents in NGCA (death, birth, marriage and divorce certificates) and applications for permits to cross the contact line.
- Protection Cluster partner in Donetsk NGCA **provided psycho-social support to elderly beneficiaries** via 43 mobile groups, in Makiivka, Torez, Khartsizsk, Snizhne, Kirovske.
- HelpAge distributed **1,100 diapers to immobile beneficiaries** (556 in Donetsk region and 544 in Lugansk region); as well as **1,000 blankets** (380 Donetsk region and 620 Lugansk region) and **136 hygiene kits**.
- In October **450 children participated in the activities of PIN's Child Friendly Spaces** located in Avdiivka and Kostyantynivskiy, Yasynuvatskiy, Bakhmutskiy districts.
- NRC ICLA **reached 1,392 beneficiaries**: 364 persons received information; 887 beneficiaries received counselling; 94 legal assistance; and 47 beneficiaries participated in NRC training sessions. NRC Legal Aid Centers in Sievierodonetsk, Kramatorsk and Stanytsia Luhanska received 396 visitors and 495 hotline calls.
- DRC **assisted 15 beneficiaries to obtain documentation** that is necessary for heavy repairs and construction of new houses.
- NGO 'Proliska' **continues to support two hospices for the elderly** in Chasiv Yar (Donetsk GCA) and Skybyn (Kyiv region), hosting 11 and 32 conflict-affected people and IDPs. In October, three more older people were assisted to move from Mayorsk to the hospice in Chasiv Yar for the winter period, due to harsh conditions in their homes, which were damaged by shelling.

ADVOCACY

- Protection Cluster partners provided recommendations to the draft [Strategy on integration of IDPs and implementing long-term solutions to internal displacement for the period till 2020](#) published by the Ministry for Temporary Occupied Territories and IDPs in October. The strategy focuses on solving major systemic problems hampering integration of IDPs, implementing long-term solutions to internal displacement and ensuring protection of IDPs taking into account with the interests of host communities.
- On October 5, DRC/DDG organized an **HLP Rights Fair in Kyiv** to. DRC prepared and presented **twenty HLP Briefing Notes** on five thematic areas. Over 100 participants attended the event, including representatives of local authorities from Avdiivka, Berdyansk, Kramatorsk, Mariinka, Mariupol, Sloviansk, Volnovakha, and Zaytseve (Donetsk oblast) and Lysychansk and Severodonetsk (Luhansk oblast).
- On October 11, HRMMU and UNCHR **held an advocacy meeting** with the Deputy Head of the Pension Fund and Deputy Director of the Department of Pension Provision **to seek solutions for payment of pensions to residents of NGCA** and to discuss the Pension Fund's stance on relevant draft legislation and payment of pensions to IDPs registered in GCA.
- On October 13, HRMMU participated in a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Justice and NGOs **to discuss issues relating to birth and death registrations, inheritance and other types of property title transfers**. It was recommended to create a working group at the Ministry of Justice that would propose legislative amendments to address these issues.
- ACCESS Consortium (PIN, ACF, MdM and ACTED/REACH) organized a **breakfast briefing** in Kyiv for 21 diplomats and donors **to promote joint efforts towards lifting restrictions on movement of goods and people across the contact line**.

TRAININGS/EVENTS

- On October 17-18, NRC **delivered a training** in Sviatohirsk "**Access to Justice: Challenges in Realization of Rights of IDPs and Conflict-Affected People**" for 20 judges from Luhansk, Donetsk oblasts and Kyiv.
- Polish Humanitarian Action implementing partner "Child Smile" conducted **two trainings on psycho-social support** in Yakovlivka village (Donetsk region, GCA): a training on "teambuilding for teaching staff" for 16 secondary school teachers on October 17 and a training on "body-oriented therapy" for 9 kindergarten teachers on October 24.
- HelpAge International conducted **trainings on socialization for older people** for volunteers and peer-to-peer groups members in Mariupol (24 persons), Novotroitske (22 persons), Mariinka (10 persons), Avdiivka (25 persons).

KEY FIGURES ON PROTECTION RESPONSE



USEFUL LINKS

[Humanitarian Response](#)
[Protection Cluster Dashboard](#)
[Legal Aid Directory Map](#)

*Partners with completed, ongoing or suspended activities

PROGRESS ON 2017 HRP INDICATORS, Q3 (All Partners)

