

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



© NRC/ People are forced to queue for hours in the heat, with inadequate water and sanitary facilities to cross the contact line

●●●● PROTECTION CONCERNS

- **Civilian casualties:** In July-August OHCHR recorded 26 conflict-related civilian casualties (4 killed and 22 injured). Contamination of agricultural lands by mines and UXOs led to four casualties among agricultural workers.

- **Freedom of movement:** Crossing conditions combined with extreme heat and inadequate sanitary facilities remained a major challenge for civilians. During July-August four deaths of older people due to health problems were reported at Mayorsk and Stanytsia Luhanska checkpoints.

On 23 August, a passport control facility at Mayorsk was hit, allegedly by sniper fire; as a result, operation of the checkpoint was suspended, with civilians and personnel evacuated. During 29-30 August, Novotroitske checkpoint was closed due to a fire in the adjacent fields that caused explosion of UXOs and mines.

- **Settlements along the contact line:** Partners reported restricted access to Novoaleksandrivka, Spirne, Pisky and Chyhari settlements, with use of private vehicles prohibited, as well as absence of electricity and other services, a high military presence in residential areas and use of civilian property by the military.

- **Access to pensions:** Pension arrears are not paid to IDPs after reinstatement of suspended pension payments. This is due to amendments to the Cabinet of Ministers Resolution № 335 stating that pension arrears will be paid only after the adoption of a special procedure, as well as due to lack of funding for payment of pension arrears.

- **Access to identity documents:** People residing in NGCA are required to provide three witnesses to confirm their identity when applying for a Ukrainian passport. Orphans from NGCA face particular challenges, as they cannot travel unaccompanied and have more difficulties to identify people willing to travel with them to GCA as witnesses.

- **HLP rights on NGCA:** Partners report cases of implementation of the Decree No. 7-37 of 31 May 2016, adopted in Donetsk NGCA 'On Court Enforcement Proceedings', stating that if debts for utilities exceed RUB 20,000, the case may be referred to the court, which may decide to recover the debt through expropriation of property. After the court decision, the person has 7 days to pay the debt and appeal against the decision. If the debt exceeds RUB 24,000, the person's right to travel to GCA may be restricted.
- **Collective Centers:** 73 IDPs residing in 'Parus' recreational facility in Berdiansk, Zaporizhzhia region, are at risk of eviction as they are unable to cover the increased cost of rent.

PROTECTION CLUSTER CONTACTS

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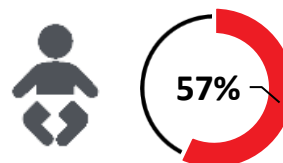
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*An estimated **57%** of children born in Donetsk and Luhansk NGCA **do not have a birth certificate** issued by the Government of Ukraine.*

Source: Briefing Note on Birth Registration, UN Ukraine, August 2018

●●●● HIGHLIGHTS

PROTECTION RESPONSE

- HelpAge International provided assistance to **1,809 older people** through Community Safe Spaces in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, which promote inter-generational activities to challenge age discrimination, reduce isolation of older people, and strengthen community cohesion.
- SOS Children’s Villages Ukraine **reached 605 children** through case management and individual support in Stanytsia Luhanska, Starobilsk, Sievierodonetsk and **provided 1,636 children with NFIs and food packages** in villages along the contact line in Luhansk region (GCA).
- NGO Proliska **accompanied and assisted 328 persons**, among them 98 IDPs and 170 older persons, with issues related to suspension of pensions and social benefits, access to basic services and documentation, freedom of movement.
- UNFPA psychosocial support mobile teams provided **targeted assistance in 2,893 GBV cases**. 101 GBV survivors received safe space accommodation and complex psychosocial assistance at 7 UNFPA-supported shelters.
- NRC provided **legal assistance, counseling and training to 2,463 people**, out of whom **41% were from NGCA**. Legal Aid Centres in Severodonetsk, Stanytsia Luhanska and Kramatorsk received 1,499 visitors and 999 hotline calls with most questions related to access to pensions (31.46%), civil and identity documentation (22.39%) and HLP (13.85%).
- Protection Cluster partners in Donetsk NGCA provided **individual protection counseling to 1,059 persons**, including IDPs, pensioners and returnees and group counselling to 93 persons. Issues requiring assistance included permits for crossing of the contact line, HLP and accommodation, humanitarian assistance, and social payments in NGCA.
- UNHCR provided **individual protection assistance to 162 households** in Donetsk NGCA.

ADVOCACY

- In July, UN Agencies updated the UN Briefing Notes on [Freedom of Movement](#), [Pensions](#) and [Birth Registration](#), outlining possible amendments to the legal framework which could mitigate the impact of the conflict and foster social cohesion.
- Following the **deterioration of the humanitarian and human rights situation in Chyhari** (Pivdenne, Donetsk GCA) OCHA, UNHCR and OHCHR sent a letter to JFO Command with recommendations on **strengthening the protection of civilians**.
- On 15 August in Kramatorsk DRC/DDG held a round table on **‘Mine Risk Education in GCA and NGCA for youth at risk of landmines and other ERWs’** dedicated to the launch of the UNICEF funded project.
- On 28-31 August Radnyk Program funded by the Stabilization Support Service facilitated a monitoring visit of the Parliamentary Committee on Social Policy, Employment and Pensions to Kramatorsk as part of advocacy efforts to connect decision makers and the affected population.

TRAININGS/EVENTS

- NRC organized a training on **secondary legal assistance to internally displaced people: legal framework and judicial practice**, jointly with the Regional Centre of Free Secondary Legal Aid, in Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts.
- HelpAge International conducted a **training on Minimum Standards for Age and Disability Inclusion** into humanitarian action for 12 participants in Severodonetsk.
- Danish Demining Group (DDG) conducted two trainings for 24 employees of the State Emergency Services (SES) on **‘Explosive Ordnance Disposal, level 3’** and on **‘Non-Technical Survey’** to support humanitarian demining efforts of SES through the provision of training, equipment and ongoing support of demining teams in the field.
- DRC conducted a training of trainers on **ensuring children's rights in situations of armed conflict** for 16 sergeants-instructors of the Training Centre for Sergeants.
- OHCHR delivered a **session on freedom of movement and housing, land and property rights** to approximately 32 military officers (including three women) who will be deployed to eastern Ukraine as part of a civil-military cooperation unit.

KEY FIGURES ON THE PROTECTION RESPONSE IN 2018



3.3M
People in need

of protection monitoring missions conducted and recorded



1.3M
People targeted

of persons receiving Mine Risk Education through MRE awareness sessions



0.7M
People reached

of persons receiving information



89
Partners

women, men, boys and girls with access to essential services

USEFUL LINKS

- [Humanitarian Response](#)
- [2018 Protection Cluster Dashboard](#)
- [Legal Aid Directory Map](#)

of women, men, boys and girls supported through peace-building or social cohesions projects, community-based activities

PROGRESS ON INDICATORS (Reached HRP)

