

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



© Right to Protection / People queuing at the checkpoint in Mariinka, Donetsk GCA

## PROTECTION CONCERNS

- **Civilian casualties:** In November, OHCHR recorded 8 conflict-related civilian casualties (2 killed and 6 injured) with the majority of casualties due to shelling, small arms and light weapons fire.
- **Mine contamination:** On November 19, a CIMIC staff was injured due to the detonation of an explosive object in Pisky village (Donetsk GCA).
- **Security Situation:** On November 26, Parliament approved implementation of Martial Law for 30 days in ten oblasts of Ukraine. The Martial Law provides for possible limitation of civil and political rights, including the right to property, privacy of correspondence, freedom of movement, expression and assembly.
- **Settlements along the contact line:** An increase in hostilities was reported near Pivdenne (Donetsk GCA) and in Zolote-4 (Luhansk GCA), as the military positions of the parties to the conflict moved closer towards each other.
- **Displacement continues** from Hutir Vilnyi of Zolote-4. More than 90 people lived in the area before the parties to the conflict moved their positions into the settlement in September-October 2018. Now, only 20 people remain in the area, living under constant shelling.
- **Child Protection:** National media [reported](#) that adolescents from a foster home were engaged in digging trenches in Mariupol as part of an effort to contribute to defense activities following escalation in the Azov Sea.
- **Older people:** The number of social workers assisting older people who do not have any family support in Donetsk NGCA is very low. In November, two elderly men who had been abandoned without proper care and assistance were found dead in their apartments in the districts of Donetsk and Makiivka near the contact line.
- **Access to basic services:** A man attempted to commit suicide due to the lack of access to health services in Nevelske village, Yasynovatskyi raion (Donetsk GCA).
- **Freedom of movement:** On November 2, Joint Forces Operation Command introduced a decision restricting transfer of goods across the contact line to once per day. This may significantly reduce access to markets for the residents of NGCA.

On November 22, operations were suspended for one hour at the 'Marinka' checkpoint when an UXO was identified nearby. During this time, 15 cars and 80-100 pedestrians travelling from NGCA had to wait between the checkpoints.

On November 28, a 66-year old man travelling from NGCA died at the Stanytsia Luhanska checkpoint.

### PROTECTION CLUSTER CONTACTS

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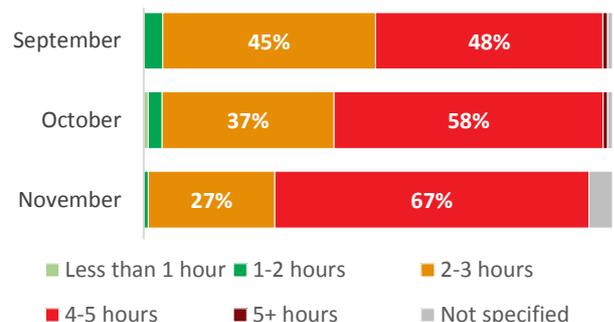
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### Duration of Eastern Ukraine Checkpoint Crossings



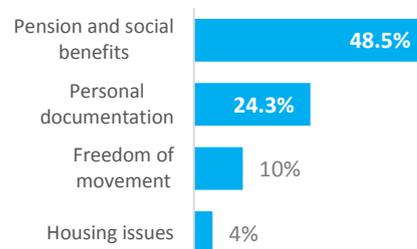
Source: [R2P-UNHCR Checkpoint Monitoring report, November 2018](#)

## HIGHLIGHTS

### PROTECTION RESPONSE

- Protection Cluster partners in NGCA have established **cross-contact line** cooperation with partners providing legal assistance to people whose pensions were suspended in GCA, and are working together to ensure referral and representation of cases in courts. Currently organizations are working on over 20 cases.
- Protection Cluster partners in NGCA provided individual protection counseling to 971 persons, including 53 returnees and provided **individual protection assistance to 79 people**.
- Donbas-SOS **hotline provided protection counselling to 2,478 people** registering 3,368 requests for information, of them 22% calling from NGCA and 68% are female.
- DRC-DDG conducted **137 MRE sessions** for 873 people at Stanytsia-Luhanska and 1,916 people at Mayorske checkpoints.
- FSD, in cooperation with Proliska, conducted **6 mine risk education sessions for 188 people** in community centers of Stanytsia Luhanska, Schastia, Zolote (Luhansk GCA) and in Hranitne and Selidove (Donetsk GCA).
- HelpAge International provided **home-based care to 3,391 people** with disabilities and older people with limited mobility in Donetsk and Luhansk oblast. Of these, **2,032 people were provided with NFIs**: canes, walking frames, crutches, toilet seats.
- Proliska provided **individual psychosocial assistance to 128 people**, of which 10% were children and 36% - older people.
- Polish Humanitarian Aid provided **group psychosocial support to 137 adolescents** (61 boys and 76 girls) in Bakhmutskiy and Kostyantynivskiy rayons of Donetsk oblast.
- VostokSOS reached **127 children through child friendly spaces** in settlements of Luhansk GCA: Petropavlivka, Pischane, Peredilske, Voytove, Hirske, Novoaidar, Novopskov, and Kreminna.
- Save the Children **reached 225 children and 199 adults through static and mobile PSS activities**. 46 children received emergency cash-assistance, 38 cases on child protection were resolved and closed and 185 cases are still being supported. Issues raised include domestic violence and child abuse, neglected children and severely conflict-affected children and youth.
- UNFPA/UNICEF psychosocial support mobile teams provided **assistance to 546 GBV survivors**, including 92 IDPs. 46 GBV survivors received safe space accommodation and complex psychosocial support at 7 UNFPA-supported shelters.
- La Strada received **1,624 calls to the national 24/7 hotline for GBV survivors**. Survivors calling for psychological, legal and information support reported 873 cases, of which 36% are attributed to sexual and physical violence.

#### Donbas-SOS Hotline's requests: Main Protection Issues



Source: [Donbas-SOS Hotline Statistics, November 2018](#)

### ADVOCACY

- UNHCR, OHCHR, Group of Influence, Right to Protection, Donbas SOS and Vostok SOS provided another round of comments to the draft Cabinet of Ministers Resolution regulating the **movement of individuals and transfer of goods across the contact line** during the meeting of the Working Group chaired by the Ministry of Defence. Protection Cluster partners emphasized that the Resolution should supersede all existing regulations and should enter into force together with the list of prohibited goods.
- Stabilization Support Services organized an **international conference on access to pensions for IDPs** in Kyiv. Speakers highlighted the root causes of the problem and the acute impact on the conflict-affected population.

### TRAININGS/EVENTS

- OHCHR, HelpAge International and Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, organized a **training on the Protection of Rights of Persons with Disabilities affected by the conflict** for approximately 50 participants. The main issues emphasized by people with disabilities were lack of understanding of their specific needs and insufficient response by national and local authorities. Access to remedy and reparations to civilians injured due to hostilities, as well as to families of persons who have been killed, remain largely unmet.
- UNHCR and Slavic Heart conducted an **awareness raising session on GBV** in Toretsk and Maiorsk for 21 representatives of local NGOs, local authorities, local social services, state border guard service and hospitals staff.
- Child Protection sub-cluster conducted **two trainings on child protection in emergencies** in Kramatorsk and Kyiv for 31 representatives of humanitarian organizations and local authorities.
- Terre des Hommes Ukraine conducted **three PSS sessions for 55 educational specialists** in Mariupol and Severodonetsk and **five sessions on positive parenting for 54 caregivers** in: Mariupol, Volnovakha, Mariinka, Nikolsk and Mangush (Donetsk GCA).
- DRC conducted **training on ensuring children's rights in situations of armed conflict for 13 CIMIC officers**, including those who will work within the 15km area along the contact line in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.