

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



OHCHR/ A. Hetman / Check of personal belongings at Mayorsk checkpoint

PROTECTION CONCERNS

- **Civilian casualties:** In March, the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine recorded 13 conflict-related civilian casualties (4 killed and 9 injured). This is an 8% increase compared to February. Overall, mine and ERW-related incidents accounted for 38% of casualties.

- **Mine contamination:** During March, two civilians were killed when a hand grenade detonated in Makariv Yar and Pervomaisk (Luhansk, NGCA). Another two people were injured by explosive ordinances in Pervomaisk and Luhansk (Luhansk, NGCA).

On 22 March, a hand grenade and an unexploded ordinance were found near schools №95 and №92 in Donetsk. The UXOs were deactivated by the local emergency service.

On 19 March, a UXO exploded in Luhansk. A private vehicle and five apartments were damaged due to this incident. No casualties were reported.

Security: The security situation remains tense, with hostilities reported near a wide range of settlements along the contact line. At least 91 buildings and a private vehicle were damaged on both sides of the contact line.

Freedom of movement: During the month, four civilians died crossing the contact line through Novotroitske, Maiorske, and Stanytsia Luhanska checkpoints (GCA side).

The State Security Service of Ukraine began issuing termless electronic passes for crossing checkpoints. This is a positive development, which will mean that civilians crossing the contact line will no longer need to reapply for passes each year.

On 24 March, Luhansk civil-military administration opened Zolote checkpoint (Luhansk GCA) on a unilateral basis. As of 25 March, no civilians or private vehicles crossed the contact line as Luhansk de-facto authorities did not provide security guarantees to ensure the full operation of this checkpoint.

On 26 March, Novotroitske checkpoint (GCA side) came under shelling. No civilian casualties or damage was reported.

During March, the workers of water and electricity utility companies came under shelling 5 times, with no casualties reported.

- **Access to HLP rights:** Three cases of threat of eviction of IDPs were reported in Collective Centers “Svitjaz”(Lutsk city), “Metro”(Letki village, Kyiv region), and “Soty” (Kyiv city). The reasons for possible eviction include change of the center’s owner, interruption of electricity supply and problems with rental agreements.
- **Access to civil documentation:** Residents of Shchastia (Luhansk GCA) have to travel to Novoaidar (40 km) to receive birth and death certificates and other documents, as the head of the newly-formed local civil-military administration was not appointed.
- **Access to health care:** Stanytsia-Luhanska district hospital lacks medical staff, including a gynecologist, anesthetist, podiatrists and speech therapist. There is no maternity ward in the hospital. Patients must travel to Bilivodsk (70 km) or to Lysychansk in order to receive medical treatment.

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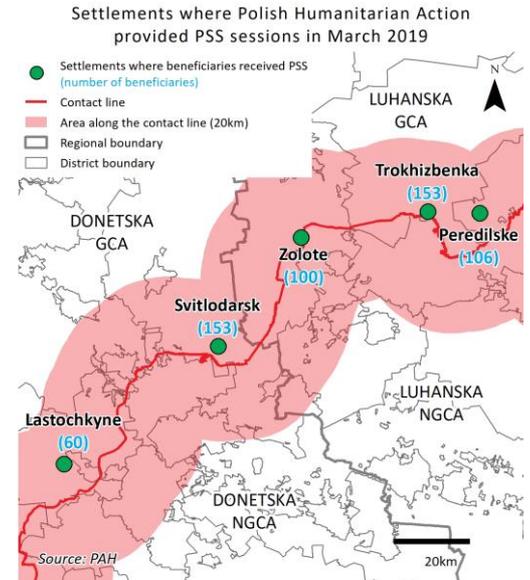
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HIGHLIGHTS

PROTECTION RESPONSE

- UNHCR and Proliska completed **two peaceful coexistence projects** in Luhansk GCA, which include repairs of a first-aid center in Sotenne village and repairs of a leisure/educational center in Pshenychny village.
- The Norwegian Refugee Council **reached 1,640 beneficiaries (of these 26% from NGCA)** through information, counselling, legal assistance, and trainings. The main protection concerns include: pension issues and pension arrears, acquiring death certificates, electronic passes, inheritance in GCA, subsidies.
- R2P **provided individual legal assistance to 1,598 persons** and secondary legal assistance to 70 persons. Over half of cases concerned access to social benefits/pensions. Aside from this, key issues were civil documentation, access to adequate housing and HLP; right to participate in public affairs, and freedom of movement.
- HelpAge International **supported 3,258 older people (of them 245 people with disabilities and 404 IDPs)** through six **Community Safe Spaces** in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. The Community Safe Spaces strengthen the capacity of local peer networks, creating community cohesion and support for the integration of IDPs into host communities.
- Proliska conducted **43 awareness-raising sessions** for 462 residents of settlements along the contact line. The topics related to freedom of movement, GBV, participation of IDPs in budget formation, and access to humanitarian aid.
- SOS Children's Villages **provided long-term social support** (which includes psychological, socio-pedagogical, healthcare, recreational, and material support) for 170 vulnerable families from Severodonetsk and Starobelsk
- PAH provided **PSS sessions for 572 people (including 118 home bound older people)** in Lastochkino, Svitlodarsk (Donetsk GCA), Zolote-4, Tryokhizbenka, Peredilske (Luhansk GCA).
- Save the Children provided **psychosocial support for children and their families** (88 children and 11 adults) through static community center in Krasnogorivka and outreach activities in Marinskyi rayon (Donetsk GCA).
- In March, UNFPA/UNICEF psychosocial support mobile teams **provided targeted assistance to 524 GBV survivors**, including 58 IDPs, in conflict-affected Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Forty-five GBV survivors received temporary safe space accommodation and complex psychosocial support at eight UNFPA-supported shelters.
- DRC **re-equipped the only medical facility** in Teple village (Luhansk GCA). The project included installing a boiler and new heating system to rehabilitate sewage system, and to install a washbasin. The community allocated additional funds for cosmetic repairs.



ADVOCACY

- The Protection Cluster released the 2019 update of the [Advocacy Note on Mine Action in Ukraine](#). The note describes the impact of mine contamination on the civilian population, outlines recent legislative developments, and sets out recommendations for national authorities, donors and humanitarian actors.
- NRC Ukraine undertook two advocacy missions to Paris/Strasbourg and Brussels to update stakeholders, including the MFA of France, committees and advisors of the CoE, the European Council and the European Commission, on recent developments in Ukraine and key protection concerns related to the conflict-affected population.
- On 7 March, OHCHR delivered a statement about the “Situation of Crimean Tatars in Crimea” in a session of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) in Paris. The focus was on human rights/IHL violations on the peninsula and their impact on Crimean Tatars.
- Proliska, Right to Protection, and other NGOs signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Ombudsman’s Office. Under the Memorandum, the Ombudsman’s Office will assign representatives to work with NGOs on key protection issues.
- On 12 March, OHCHR released a report on the human rights situation in Ukraine, covering 16 November 2018 to 15 February 2019. Key issues highlighted include arbitrary and prolonged detention, systemic use of torture and ill-treatment, lack of access to justice, as well as impunity.

TRAININGS/EVENTS

- On 21 March, the Ministry of Social Policy held a discussion of the strategy of joint actions on prevention and combating domestic violence and GBV. Participants discussed technical assistance to the government in forming and implementing state policy on response to GBV.
- Between 22 and 27 March, OHCHR conducted a training session for lawyers of the Odesa Regional Bar Association on the practice of automatic pre-trial detention of individuals charged in relation to the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine.
- PAH provided a two-day training on grant writing for five community initiative teams from Toretsk, Zalizne, Novhorodske, Shcherbynivka and Novoluhanske (Donetsk GCA).