

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



## PROTECTION CONCERNS

- Civilian casualties:** In April, the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine recorded 13 conflict-related civilian casualties (1 killed and 12 injured). Five persons were injured by small arms and seven were injured by mines and ERW. One person was killed due to a mine/ERW explosion in NGCA.
  - Mine contamination:** On 5 April, two civilians were injured by the detonation of an unknown explosive device in Verkhnotoetske (Donetsk GCA). On 6 April, one civilian was injured due to the explosion of a hand grenade in Fedorivka (Donetsk, GCA). On 12 April, one civilian was injured while attempting to dismantle an artillery shell in his house in Dmytrivka (Luhansk GCA). On 9 April, one worker of the State Emergency Service was killed and two were injured by an explosion of an unknown device while demining near a water pipe of the pumping station, in the vicinity of Zaitseve (Donetsk GCA).
  - Security:** The security situation remains tense, with hostilities reported near a wide range of settlements along the contact line. At least 95 buildings, hospital and infrastructure facilities were damaged on both sides of the contact line.
  - Freedom of movement:** On 5 April, the territory between Mariinka (GCA) and Oleksandrivka (NGCA) checkpoints came under sniper fire. All civilians were evacuated. One representative of the State Border Guard Service and one of the Ukrainian Armed Forces were injured. The checkpoint was closed until 10 April.
- In April, five civilians died due to health complications while crossing the contact line through Mariinka, Novotroitske, Mayorske and Stanytsia Luhanska checkpoints. The total number of civilians who have died at the checkpoints in 2019 is 25. On 25 April, some 150 civilians at Stanytsia Luhanska checkpoint requested medical assistance (30 of them fainted) while waiting in the queue to cross.
- Access to HLP rights:** The residents of Starohnativka and Mykolaivka (Donetsk GCA) are required to pay land taxes on their agricultural land, although it cannot be cultivated due to mine contamination.
  - Child protection:** Ukrainian Armed Forces occupied a former kindergarten near a school in Druzhba village (Donetsk GCA), bringing with them military equipment. Sixteen children from Zolote-3, Zolote-4 and Katerynivka (Luhansk GCA) did not obtain tax codes due to financial cost and distance to travel to the rayon center. As a result, their parents cannot conclude declarations with doctors for children to receive pediatric care.
  - Access to basic services:** Since 2 April, about 12,000 residents of Novhorodske (Donetsk GCA) have been cut off from the water supply. The local authorities do not have the funds to construct wells to provide an alternative water supply. Luhansk Electric Association cut off the electricity supply to three settlements that do not have gas - Rozkvit, Syze, Bolotene and partially to Stanytsia Luhanska, due to the electricity debts accrued at the time when military personnel was living in the houses.

### PROTECTION CLUSTER CONTACTS

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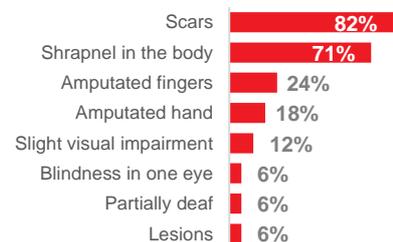
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### Physical impact of mine/ERW incidents on children victims



Source: DRC-DDG/UNICEF Child Mine/ERW Victim Needs Assessment (Sept-Dec 2018)

## HIGHLIGHTS

### PROTECTION RESPONSE

- Protection Cluster **partners in NGCA provided protection counseling and assistance to 605 local residents**. Assistance included support for older people in completing and submitting application forms to agencies, referring to relevant institutions to claim social benefits, assisting with civil registration, providing information on HLP rights, and restoration of documents.
- R2P **provided legal assistance to 1,280 persons and secondary legal assistance to 90 people**. R2P successfully finalized 178 cases (128 in first instance, 53 in appellate courts and two in the Supreme Court); 141 people were referred to free legal aid centers.
- UNHCR **has revamped its hotline** to ensure enhanced support and feedback to persons of concerns, in line with its commitment to Accountability of Affected Population. The hotline will be administrated by Donbas SOS, and will allow for outreach to people residing in NGCA.
- Swiss Foundation for Demining (FSD) conducted **21 MRE sessions and covered 1,221 beneficiaries**. DRC-DDG demining teams **cleared almost one million square meters of land**, which can be cultivated now.
- Adolescents participants of the PAH/UNICEF project **organized 24 community events for 327 children** of the same age residing in the 15km area along the contact line in Bakhmutskiy and Kostyantiniivskiy rayons. The topics for the events were based on the children`s requests, such as ecology, prevention of bullying, and drug abuse prevention.
- Terre Des Hommes **conducted two forums for 68 educational specialists** from Donetsk GCA, devoted to the exchange of experience, reflection and supervision on PSS, as part of the child protection infrastructure at educational institutions.
- HelpAge International **supported 3,327 older people** (of them **251 people with disabilities** and **435 IDPs**) through six Community Safe Spaces (CSS) in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. CSS strengthen the capacity of local peer networks, creating community cohesion and support for the integration of IDPs into host communities.
- Thirty three GBV survivors received **safe space accommodation and complex psychosocial support** at eight UNFPA-supported shelters.

### ADVOCACY

- On 4 April, Mine Action Sub-Cluster, with the support of Protection Cluster, organized activities for the **International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance** in Kyiv, Severodonetsk and Mariupol. The UN Resident Coordinator, key ministries and donors gave speeches at the opening ceremony in Kyiv. The event activities included a photo exhibition, demonstration of mine clearance equipment, mine clearance and mine risk education sessions for adults and children.
- UNICEF, together with DRC-DDG, held two round tables in Kramatorsk and Severodonetsk to present the findings from the **Child Mine/ERW Victim Needs Assessment**, which will be presented in May.
- On 15 April, the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine jointly with UNHCR, UNICEF and OCHA, briefed diplomatic missions in Kyiv about the **UN Social Cohesion campaign**. The campaign aims to restore and strengthen ties between various social groups in Ukraine, with a specific focus on the human rights of the conflict-affected population.
- NRC held consultations with local authorities of Luhansk and Donetsk regions to discuss **compensation for property damaged or destroyed as a result of hostilities**. The consultations identified existing gaps in the legal framework and in its practical implementation in both court and out-of-court procedures.
- The Group of Influence launched an advocacy campaign, with the involvement of ten rayon and regional councils, to include [the draft law #6240](#) in the agenda of the Parliament. The draft law grants IDPs and other mobile categories of citizens **the right to participate in local government elections** without changing their place of registration.

### TRAININGS/EVENTS

- On 10 April, the Protection Cluster held a **training on Accountability to the Affected Population** in Donetsk (NGCA). The training covered core humanitarian standards on accountability, accountability throughout the humanitarian project cycle, and setting up effective complaint mechanisms.
- Slavic Heart conducted five **trainings on sexual and gender-based violence** in Volnovakha, Mariinka, Avdiivka, Pervomayske and Netaivka (Donetsk GCA), which were attended by 62 residents and representatives of local authorities.

### KEY FIGURES ON THE PROTECTION RESPONSE IN 2019

