

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



PROTECTION CONCERNS

- Civilian casualties:** In May, the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine recorded 12 conflict-related casualties (two persons were killed and ten injured). There were three casualties **as a result of mines and ERWs**. Two persons were killed in Velyka Novosilka and Viroliubivka (Donetsk GCA) and one was injured in Pervomaisk (Luhansk, NGCA).
- Security:** The security situation remains tense, with hostilities reported near a wide range of settlements along the contact line. At least 70 buildings, one school, a sewage station and a private vehicle were damaged on both sides of the contact line. Increased hostilities were reported near Novhorodske and Novotoshivske (GCA) and near Donetsk, Horlivka and Novoazovsk (NGCA). On 6 May, a school in Troitske (Luhansk GCA) was shelled. Children were evacuated to a part of the building without windows, as the basement was destroyed in 2015-2017. Classes resumed on 13 May.
- Freedom of movement:** Three civilians died due to health complications at Marinka and Mayorske checkpoints. On 5 May, a civilian was injured by small-arms fire while driving between Novotroitske (GCA) and Olenivka (NGCA) checkpoints. On 18 May, a man was wounded in the grey zone near Hnutove checkpoint (GCA). Due to high temperatures, the number of people fainting at Stanytsia Luhanska checkpoint increased to 7-10 persons per day. First aid is not provided at Hnutove checkpoint. The only assistance available is a military medical car that can transport people to a medical facility in Talakivka village, 5 km from the checkpoint. On 23 May, over 70 school graduates from NGCA were not permitted by de facto authorities to cross the contact line through Oktiabr and Olenivka checkpoints to participate in entrance examinations for tertiary study in Ukraine.
- Access to HLP rights:** IDPs continue to live in approximately 20 summer cottage cooperatives near Schastya, Stanytsia Luhanska (Luhansk GCA) and Krasnohorivka (Donetsk GCA), which often do not have a gas supply, heating, access to regular transportation and medical care. Between 10 to 600 people are living in each summer cottage cooperative.
- Access to basic services:** Due to electricity debts of "Voda Donbasu", water has been cut off to about 20,000 residents of Kostiantynivskiy raion since 23 May, and to 90,000 residents of Bakhmut and nearby settlements (including 31 kindergartens and 23 medical institutions) since 25 May.
- Isolated settlements:** There is no regular transport connection between Stanytsia Luhanska and isolated settlements Teple, Krepky, Nyzhniy Minchenok and Verhniy Minchenok. The residents of these settlements in order to access services have to pay from 300 to 900 UAH to get to the rayon center, which is 30-60 km away.

PROTECTION CLUSTER CONTACTS

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Access to healthcare at EECPs

St.Luhanska: 7:00-18:30 / ICRC, SES, CO IMA

Mayorske: 8:30-15:30 / PUI

Marinka: 8:30-15:30 / PUI

Novotroitske: 8:45-15:20 / PUI

Hnutove: Military medical car

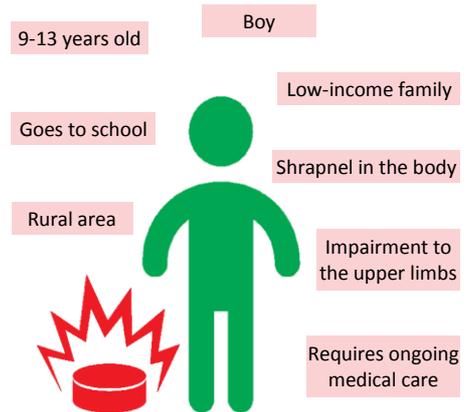
Source: R2P, Assessment of conditions at EECPs across the contact line

HIGHLIGHTS

PROTECTION RESPONSE

- Protection Cluster **partners in NGCA provided protection counseling and assistance to 705 local residents**. Assistance included support for older people in completing and submitting application forms to agencies to receive social benefits, referring to relevant institutions to claim social benefits, assisting with civil registration, providing information on HLP rights, and restoration of documents.
- A UNHCR partner in NGCA completed **one peaceful co-existence project**, which included replacement of windows in school No.2 in conflict-affected Novoazovsk town (Donetsk NGCA).
- Proliska **provided social accompaniment to 340 persons** (including 161 IDPs) which included assistance in obtaining personal documentation (passports, birth certificates, tax codes), restoration of pensions, registration of disability, transportation of people with disabilities and vulnerable population from the isolated settlements without transport connection.
- NRC provided **information, counselling and legal assistance to 1,631 beneficiaries** (27% from NGCA). Legal Aid Centres in Severodonetsk, Stanytsia Luhanska, Kurakhove and Kramatorsk received 557 visitors and 652 hotline calls.
- R2P met with the representatives of the Border Guard unit in Luhansk region and **agreed on the 'green route' at Stanytsia Luhanska checkpoint** to facilitate moving of school graduates from NGCA travelling to GCA to pass external independent testing to enter universities.
- DRC is providing **support to 13 families of mine/ERW direct victims** (nine families with child mine/ERW survivors, and four families with children where at least one caregiver suffered as a result of mine/ERW incident).
- UNICEF provided **support to 1,592 children and caregivers** affected by the conflict (including GBV survivors and people injured as a result of mine/ERW accidents). Services included individual and group psychosocial support, case management and awareness raising activities on child protection issues and MRE.
- HelpAge International **supported 3,414 older people (of them 252 people with disabilities and 456 IDPs) through twelve 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.
- On 26 May, UNHCR jointly with Slavic Heart, conducted a working session for over 20 police officers from Marinskyi Raion police (Donetsk GCA) on strengthening gender sensitivity as well as briefing on their new roles in **prevention and response to domestic violence** according to newly adopted legislation.
- UNFPA psychosocial support mobile teams provided **targeted assistance to 411 GBV survivors** (including 71 IDPs) in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

Profile of Mine/ERW child survivor



Source: DRC/UNICEF, Child Mine/ERW Victims Need Assessment

ADVOCACY

- As a part of the **Child Mine Victim Assessment**, DRC, with the support of the Ombudsman's Office, developed a list of recommendations, which was sent to key ministries and the State Emergency Service.
- R2P and partner organizations appealed to the Head of the Central Election Commission proposing amendments to the **procedure for the temporary change of place of voting**. One of the proposals was accepted and the CEC amended Resolution 893 "On Provisional Change in Electoral Place without Changing Its Electoral Address." As a result, there is no more need to submit documents justifying the reason for temporarily changing the place of voting without changing the election address.

TRAININGS/EVENTS

- OHCHR conducted a **training for 16 people who will be deployed as Civil-Military Cooperation** Unit officers to Donetsk and Luhansk regions. The training focused on the prevention of arbitrary detention, torture, conflict-related sexual violence, and socio-economic and HLP rights, freedom of movement, as well as the protection of civilians.
- IOM conducted a three-day training sessions for 228 persons (including IDPs, veterans, members of their families and people with disabilities) from ten community support groups. The training aimed at helping participants **to develop individual social cohesion plan** to solve the problems identified by the communities (improper social infrastructure, low level of cooperation with local authorities, ecological problems, safety issues). The plans will be implemented throughout the project.
- Slavic Heart conducted **19 informational sessions on GBV for 127 representatives of local authorities and educational specialists** from Toretsk, Kostiantynivka, Avdiivka, and Marinka.
- Terre des Hommes held **two forums in Svyatogirsk for 57 educational specialists** from Stanytsia Luhanska, Novoaidarsk and Popasna, where participants could discuss psychosocial support as part of the child protection response at educational institutions of Lugansk region.