

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



©Alexander Ermochenko for REUTERS / People clean their balcony at a residential block damaged by shelling, Donetsk region

PROTECTION CONCERNS

- Civilian casualties:** The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine recorded 12 conflict-related casualties (2 persons killed and 10 persons injured). A 9 year-old boy was injured by an explosion of a hand grenade in Solntseve, Donetsk NGCA. Due to the injury, he had to have four fingers amputated.
- Security:** After the ceasefire announced on 21 July 2019, the number of ceasefire violations continue to increase. During 30 September – 27 October, OSCE SMM recorded 33 200 ceasefire violations, including 6 800 explosions, which is 1.5 times more than in September and 4 times more than in August. On 28 October, an elevated “yellow” security alert regime has been introduced. On 29 October, Ukrainian government troops and the armed groups of NGCA started a reciprocal disengagement near the town of Zolote in Luhansk region. Military personnel have taken up position close to the settlements Roty, Myronivka and Krynychne (Donetsk GCA), exposing civilians to security risks.
- Freedom of movement:** On 19 October, an older man died at Stanytsia Luhanska checkpoint due to health complications. On 11 October, movement through Stanytsia Luhanska EECF was suspended due to a bomb threat; civilians were evacuated from the checkpoint. No explosive objects were found.
- Access to housing, land and property rights:** The residents of Mykolaivka, Hranitne and Starohnativka (Donetsk GCA) are requested by the State Tax Service to pay taxes for agricultural land which they cannot access due to military presence and mine contamination.
- Isolated settlements:** The only bus service between Muratove-Kapytonove-Sievierodonetsk (Luhansk GCA) stopped running due to poor road conditions. Around 900 residents of the villages, which are located in the 5-20km area from the contact line, have been left without transport access to larger settlements where basic services are available. The residents of Mykolaivka and Serebrianka villages (Donetsk GCA), where 250 and 300 people of working age live, do not have access to livelihood opportunities due to poor transport connection to the neighboring towns.
- Access to livelihoods:** The workers of the coal mine Pervomaiskugol in the vicinity of Zolote (Luhansk GCA) have not been paid their salaries since July 2019. People are struggling to meet their basic needs as job opportunities in the region are limited.

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IDPs residing in Collective Centers have their housing:

27.2% damaged

10.3% destroyed

7.4% looted

1.1% confiscated

10% of IDPs have no information about their housing



Source: NGO Right to Protection

HIGHLIGHTS

PROTECTION RESPONSE

- On 17 October, NGO Proliska, with the support of UNHCR, **launched a second electric car to support people crossing the contact line** at Stanytsia Luhanska pedestrian checkpoint. The car transports people from the damaged bridge to the GCA side of the checkpoint, easing an 800-meters walk for elderly, people with disabilities, pregnant women and small children.
- Donbass SOS, in partnership with IOM and UNDP, **designed a mobile application “Tvoe pravo” (“Your Right”), which provides legal support** to IDPs and conflict-affected people, including those who reside in NGCA, by giving access to up-to-date legislation, answers to frequently asked questions, and template forms.
- The HALO Trust conducted a second land release to the Ukrainian authorities, handing over 8 areas cleared from mine and UXO contamination with the total area of 71 ha to the Donetsk regional administration. Around 24,000 people living in nearby settlements can use the land safely. Most of the released lands are agricultural and will be used for growing crops.
- Save the Children conducted **Mine Risk Education sessions covering 2 109 children and 167 adults** from six settlements of Luhansk region.
- UNICEF / UNFPA **provided targeted assistance to 538 GBV survivors (including 99 IDPs)** in Donetsk and Luhansk regions through psychosocial support mobile teams.
- IOM, through partner organizations, **provided PSS consultations for 570 persons** (including 106 children). The most frequent types of requests were related to family conflicts (divorce, new family roles, parents-children relations), emotional instability, anxiety, substance abuse, sleep disorders, suicidal behavior, and negative coping techniques.



Proliska electrocars at Stanytsia Luhanska checkpoint

ADVOCACY

- On 1 October, Stabilization Support Services presented a **study ‘Conflict-affected children in Ukraine’** and conducted a **public discussion** with the representatives of the key ministries on how to improve the system of protection of at least 200,000 children directly and indirectly affected by the conflict.
- On 1 October, UNICEF and DRC-DDG conducted an advocacy event in Kyiv “I Want to Have a Future: **Children and Families in Eastern Ukraine Affected by Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War**”. During the event were presented the results of the **Child Mine Victim Needs Assessment** conducted in September-December 2018.
- On 11 October, during a meeting with the Parliamentary Committee on social policy, a group of civil society organizations, including Right to Protection, Donbas SOS and Stabilization Support Services, **presented the new draft law on pension payments**, developed by the NGO Right to Protection. The draft law provides for the resumption of pension payment for residents of NGCA and simplification of the procedure of pension payment to IDPs.
- On 11 October, the Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Technical Working Group submitted to the Ministry of Veterans, TOT and IDPs **joint recommendations to the draft decree on the administrative procedure for compensation for housing damaged/destroyed** as a result of hostilities.
- On 18 October, NGO Right to Protection, in partnership with UNHCR, presented the report **‘Protracted temporality: how IDPs live in collective centres’** and held a discussion with the central and local authorities on sustainable housing solutions.

TRAININGS/EVENTS

- OHCHR delivered a **training session on torture, conflict-related sexual violence, arbitrary detention and HLP rights for 28 persons** who will be deployed as the officers of Civil-Military Cooperation Unit (CIMIC) in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- Terre des Hommes **involved 40 youth leaders from Donetsk region in capacity building project YouCreate** teaching children to lead their peers in art projects to address challenges of their communities.

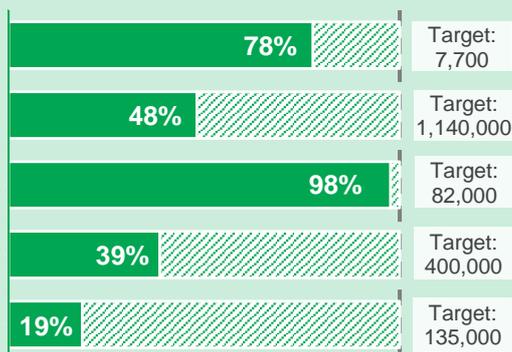
KEY FIGURES ON THE PROTECTION RESPONSE IN 2019



3.1M

People in need

of protection monitoring missions conducted and recorded



1.3M

People targeted

of persons receiving information



0.89M

People reached

of persons receiving Mine Risk Education through MRE awareness sessions



77

Partners

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

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