

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



© Volodymyr Shuvayev / Elderly woman standing near coal bunkers in Novotoshkivske, Luhansk GCA

PROTECTION CONCERNS

- **Civilian casualties:** The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine recorded 15 conflict-related casualties (2 persons died and 13 were injured). The number of casualties increased from three in December to 12 in January.
- **Security:** On 18 December, a 57-year old man was killed by small arms fire in Marinka (Donetsk GCA). A 12-year old boy was injured by an explosion of an unidentified object in Miusinsk (Luhansk NGCA).

The State Security Service uncovered an illegal ammunition depot on the outskirts of Shchastia town (Luhansk GCA), which contained grenades, electric detonators and weapons cartridges.

Partners reported an increase of checks of identity documents in Donetsk NGCA. People without identity documents issued by the de-facto authorities have been detained for several hours.

- **Access to livelihoods:** Stray animals continue to pose a danger to people and livestock in settlements close to the contact line. On 14 January, stray dogs in Krymske (Luhansk GCA) attacked chickens provided to a local family as part of a livelihoods project, leaving the family without access to livelihoods.
- **Freedom of movement:** During December 2019 – January 2020, three men died due to health complications at Stanytsia Luhanska checkpoint and one woman died at Horlivka checkpoint (Donetsk, NGCA).

Due to [Amendments to the Resolution №815 on crossing the contact line](#) people who are restricted from crossing of state border are also not allowed to cross the contact line to NGCA. Partners identified 33 cases when people returning to NGCA were not allowed to cross the contact line as they were included in the debtor's registry in GCA, based on their credit debts, debts for utilities, or child alimony. Some people have no financial resources to fulfill their obligations, as well as to stay in GCA. In other cases, people have paid their debts but remain on the registry, because the mechanism for updating this information is not well defined.

- **Housing, land and property rights:** The owners of housing damaged in Pisky village (Donetsk GCA), which includes 400 apartments in multi-storey buildings, 296 private houses, 67 houses for 4 owners and 1 dormitory with 100 apartments, cannot receive documents of acts of damages, which are needed for compensation, as the commission responsible for issuing the documentation refuses to come to the settlement due to security reasons.
- **Access to essential services:** During the reporting period, Protection Cluster partners identified five cases of fire ignition resulting from the usage of unsafe heating devices in settlements along the contact line, which are cut off from gas heating. On 20 January, firefighters could not come to extinguish a fire in a residential building in Hladosove village, as one of the roads was blocked due to security reasons and another road was mined. On 17 January, a firefighting truck came under shelling on the way to Chermalyk village, which is located near the contact line.

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At least 5 settlements along the contact line lack local authority



•Vodiane •Severne •Pisky
•Opytne •Novooleksandrivka

Source: NGO Proliska

●●●● HIGHLIGHTS

PROTECTION RESPONSE

- UNHCR **repaired a local health centre in Novyi Svit village in Donetsk NGCA**, with more than 9,000 residents. The walls of the building were structurally repaired. Today, the health centre receives around 125 patients a day.
- Proliska assisted residents of Opytne (Donetsk GCA), whose **housing was damaged as a result of hostilities, to receive 21 acts of damages**, which are necessary to claim compensation. In addition, Proliska, jointly with Zolote Civil Military Administration and CIMIC Popasna, assisted to reach an agreement between the electric company and military personnel living in civilian housing in Katerynivka village (Luhansk GCA) about payment of electricity bills.
- In December – January, the HALO Trust **cleared 40 hectares of land previously contaminated with mines and explosive remnants of war**, near 13 settlements in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- In December, Save the Children provided **EORE (Explosive Ordnance Risk Education) sessions for 1 065 children and 46 adults** from Toretsk and Krasnohorivka.
- In December – January, Caritas Ukraine reached 1,756 children and 340 caregivers through activities in Child Friendly Spaces in 16 settlements, located along the contact line, which included **62 sessions on positive parenting and 17 events dedicated to St.Nicolas Day**.
- In December-January, nine UNFPA-supported shelters provided safe space accommodation and complex psychosocial support for 80 GBV survivors, and five UNFPA-supported daycare crisis centres provided complex **psychosocial support, primary legal aid and referral for over 190 GBV survivors**.
- In January 2020, UNICEF mobile teams provided **PSS first aid and the referral services to 226 GBV survivors including 21 children** affected by violence.
- Polish Humanitarian Action **established a new Community Center for older people in Zalizne** (Donetsk GCA) and conducted 18 open community events (small concerts devoted to winter holidays) in the settlements located along the contact line.

ADVOCACY

- Following advocacy efforts of the NGO Right to Protection, UNHCR and OHCHR **on 29 January, the Cabinet of Ministries of Ukraine adopted amendments to [Resolution №815 on crossing the contact line](#)**. The amendments allow minors aged 14-16 to cross the contact line from GCA to NGCA without passports and only with a birth certificate until 1 May 2020.
- On 19 December, following advocacy efforts of national and international organizations, including NGO Group of Influence, Opora, IFES, Donbas SOS, Crimea SOS, Vostok SOS and Right to Protection, **the Parliament of Ukraine adopted draft law №6240 allowing IDPs to vote** in national and local elections based on their real place of residence.
- Following proposal of the Ministry of Veterans and TOT, Stabilization Support Service prepared **a concept note fo the establishment of a national center for documenting human rights violations in the Temporarily Occupied Territories** which was endorsed by the Interagency Working Group on the Problems of Donetsk and Luhansk regions. The Center will focus on addressing violations of international humanitarian law in NGCA.

TRAININGS/EVENTS

- IOM, through implementing partners, **conducted trainings on countering human trafficking for 115 representatives** of vocational schools, employment centres, NGOs and youth leaders from Donetsk region.
- In January, the Danish Refugee Council, with the support of UNICEF, conducted trainings for 24 teachers of primary and secondary school from Donetsk and Luhansk regions on **Conflict Sensitive Education and Disaster Risk Reduction**.
- In December-January, the NGO Slavic Heart **conducted 8 sessions on GBV prevention for 157 persons** living in settlements located along the contact line. During the sessions women informed about GBV risks associated with military presence and highlighted the need to conduct awareness-raising sessions among military personnel.

KEY FIGURES ON THE PROTECTION RESPONSE IN 2019

