

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



PROTECTION CONCERNS

- **Civilian casualties:** The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine recorded 19 conflict-related casualties (2 persons killed and 17 injured). This is an increase, equal to the total number of casualties recorded over the preceding five months.
- **Covid-19:** Thirty six percent of people living in conflict-affected areas, and 41% living in isolated settlements along the contact line, are older people, with most having pre-existing health conditions. They are at heightened risk of infection and often have limited access to basic hygiene items, clean water, food and health services.
- **Freedom of movement:** As of March 16, the government began introducing restrictions for crossing of the contact line, and as of March 22, the checkpoints between GCA and NGCA were closed on both sides. This left people stranded on either side of the contact line, often with no place to stay, and at risk of family separation.
- **Access to pensions:** Due to the closure of checkpoints, people residing in NGCA cannot access pensions and social payments in GCA, leaving them at risk of destitution and unable to pay for food or medicines.
- **Access to essential services:** As of March 12, the suspension of public transport in GCA has left many people living close to the contact line without access to grocery stores, pharmacies, medical facilities, banking and other services. At the same time, people living in NGCA cannot cross the contact line to access medication and services available in GCA.
- **Access to civil documentation:** Due to the closure of the contact line, people are unable to travel to GCA to obtain civil documentation for births, deaths and marriages. In particular, this leaves children born in NGCA at increased risk of statelessness.
- **Access to education:** Only 60% of children living along the contact line in GCA have access to computers and the internet for distance learning introduced by the government.
- **Access to healthcare:** According to an [assessment of medical facilities in conflict-affected areas in Luhansk GCA](#) there is a shortage of medical staff; PPE, including respirators and masks; thermometers and COVID-19 testing kits, as well as limited capacity to hospitalize people infected with Covid-19.

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In **119** monitored settlements
located along the contact line:



2,395 persons have restricted access to basic food products due to unavailability of mobile groceries and/or public transport limitations



74 settlements do not have pharmacies



78 settlements do not have their own medical services



107 settlements do not have access to public transportation, a **66%** increase in comparison with prior to the quarantine

Sources: NGO Proliska / UNHCR

HIGHLIGHTS

PROTECTION RESPONSE

- Ukrainian Red Cross Society, jointly with the Ministry of Health, Ombudspersons' Office and partner organizations, launched an informational campaign on **raising awareness about COVID-19 to inform people about self-protecting measures and coping with stress**. URCS distributed 728 500 leaflets, 100 000 stickers, 200 000 posters and produced [4 videos for children](#).
- UNHCR installed **200 WHO COVID-19 prevention posters** in 150 villages near the contact line and **supported 14 communities** to produce face masks for themselves, people with specific needs and local healthcare institutions.
- Stabilization Support Services, through the Radnyky programme, provided **1,004 phone and online consultations on access to social and administrative services during quarantine**; 12% of beneficiaries were older people.
- Danish Refugee Council provided **legal assistance to 324 persons**; 40% of requests related to the restriction of movement across the contact line. DRC launched legal assistance through **two Telegram channels with 15,000 subscribers**.
- NGO Right to Protection provided 1,028 legal consultations; due to restrictions following the outbreak of COVID-19, the number of **requests related to crossing the contact line increased from 9% in February to 25% in March**.
- NGO Proliska provided **social accompaniment for 114 people, who had not been permitted to cross the contact line due to restrictions related to COVID-19**. People were provided with food, essential items and places to stay.
- HelpAge International **provided home-based care for 2,061 older people and people with limited mobility** from 40 settlements located within 5km from the contact line. During the home visits, people received psychosocial support, non-food items, assistive devices and diapers. Community workers were provided with personal protective equipment to minimize the risk of infecting beneficiaries.
- Polish Humanitarian Action **delivered food, hygiene items and other essential goods to 209 people** living along the contact line in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. PAH also distributed 1,500 informational leaflets, prepared by UNICEF, on self-protecting measures during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Save the Children provided **PSS support to more than 30 children** in a Community Center in Krasnohorivka and **distributed masks and antiseptic** to parents and children. Save the Children, jointly with the NGO Slavic Heart, distributed 208 hygiene kits in 12 settlements in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- SOS Children's Villages **provided PSS support to 1,000 persons through webinars** on coping with stress.
- People in Need and NGO Child Smile mobile teams of psychologists provided **PSS support for 599 persons and conducted 9 awareness-raising sessions for 164 persons** from Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Mobile teams also provided remote counseling via a hotline, by telephone and Skype, reaching more than 744 people.
- UNICEF mobile teams provided **PSS first aid and referral services for 352 GBV survivors**, including children affected by violence; 150 persons benefitted from activities to reduce violence.
- NGO Ukrainian Frontiers, jointly with partner organizations, coordinated **kits with food and hygiene items** to distribute to IDPs living in Kharkiv region.

ADVOCACY

- On 16-17 March, Protection Cluster partners, including UNHCR, OHCHR, NGO Right to Protection and NGO Zmina negotiated with the newly-created Ministry of Reintegration of TOT and Ministry of Education **to prevent the eviction of students registered in NGCA from dormitories** for the period of quarantine.

TRAININGS/EVENTS

- NGO Istok conducted a **training on making face masks for 29 children and 4 teachers** in Myrne and conducted PSS workshops for 56 teachers from Chermalyk, Krasnohorivka, Hranitne, Myrne and Novotroitske.
- NGO Slavic Heart **provided online consultations on the prevention of GBV and PSS support** for 63 women from Donetsk and Luhansk regions

