

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 10 conflict-related casualties (3 persons killed and 7 injured).
- **COVID-19:** 101 cases of COVID-19 were registered in Donetsk region and Luhansk GCA; 225 cases were registered by de facto authorities in Donetsk and Luhansk NGCA.
- **Freedom of movement:** The checkpoints across the contact line separating GCA and NGCA remain closed, with only a few crossings permitted on an exceptional basis. Over 23 people were stranded at Stanytsia Luhanska checkpoint, and over 25 at Maiorsk, with no accommodation or means to support themselves financially until they can return to NGCA.
- **Isolated settlements:** To prevent the transmission of COVID-19, the military blocked access to settlements Staromarivka, Staryi Aidar, Opytne and Pischane, leaving local residents without access to grocery shops, pharmacies, health facilities and other essential services.
- **Access to basic services:** Lack of access to hygiene items and water is a key protection issue in eastern Ukraine, especially in isolated settlements. At least 15 settlements in Luhansk NGCA were affected by cuts to the water supply in April and at least 14 settlements in Donetsk GCA did not have access to clean water or any water at all, risking the creation of unsanitary conditions and putting people at heightened risk of transmission of Covid-19.
- **Access to mobile networks:** People living along the contact line do not have a stable mobile network and cannot replenish their mobile phone cards due to the suspension of transportation, leaving them cut off from access to healthcare and other services in case of emergency.
- **GBV:** Quarantine restrictions related to Covid-19 have heightened the risk of gender-based violence, with 5 shelters run by UNFPA reporting at least 37% increase in requests for assistance.
- **MHPSS:** A survey of women living near the contact line conducted by Slavic Heart found that 84.3% of women reported that their psychological health deteriorated significantly as a result of quarantine restrictions.
- **Amendments to the 2020 state budget:** Following the adoption of the [Law No.553](#) on the reallocation of funds of the state budget for the COVID-19 response, the funding for the Ministry of Reintegration of TOT was cut by 35%. Financing allocated for mine action, IDP housing programs, and compensation for destroyed or damaged property [will be reduced as well](#).

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In 119 monitored localities along  
the contact line in GCA,  
many have little or no mobile coverage:



**28** localities in Luhansk region

**33** localities in Donetsk region

Source: UNHCR, NGO Proliska

## ●●●● HIGHLIGHTS

### PROTECTION RESPONSE

- Following agreement between UNHCR and Vodafone Ukraine, **2,489 people** living along the contact line were provided **with free mobile phone credit**, allowing them to stay connected without further depleting their limited resources. UNHCR has also installed amplifiers to strengthen the telephone connectivity in three communities.
- NGO Right to Protection **provided legal counselling** to 770 persons; 57% of legal sessions were related to COVID-19, which is three times more than in March.
- NRC reached 244 beneficiaries through **information, counselling and legal assistance**. Of these, 24% were from NGCA.
- NGO Donbas SOS provided **informational and legal phone consultations to 1,928 persons**. The number of requests from IDPs for humanitarian aid, including food, increased 2.7 times compared to February 2020.
- HelpAge International community volunteers **provided home-based care for 581 older people with limited mobility**. During the visits, people received psycho-social support, non-food items and referral services.
- Triangle Generation Humanitaire **provided home-based care to 221 older people and people with disabilities** living in six isolated settlements.
- The Ukrainian Red Cross Society **delivered 1,397 grocery kits and 12,573 PPEs** to people living in Donetsk and Luhansk GCA.
- UNICEF delivered individual **protection items** to 509 community-based social workers from 12 communities, including 345 social workers and 66 community management staff.
- People in Need **opened a child-friendly space in Toretsk** and provided NFIs to the Toretsk Social Services Centre for Family, Children and Youth, which provides psychosocial support to the local population.
- As part of the COVID-19 response, Save the Children, jointly with NGO Avalyst, delivered **antiseptic, masks, cleaning liquids and water boilers to schools** in Zolote, Vrubiivka, Novotoshkivka and Toretsk.
- Terre Des Hommes conducted 4 online workshops for 37 adolescents and 10 educational specialists on critical thinking and children's rights in a democratic society.
- SOS Children's Villages provided long-term case management support services which include psychological, **socio-pedagogical, healthcare, recreational, and financial support, to 326 families** with 750 children from Sievierodonetsk, Starobilsk and Stanytsia Luhanska.
- UNFPA **doubled the number of available spaces** in its Kherson GBV shelter from 6 to 12 in order to meet increased demand for safe accommodation.



### ADVOCACY

- Geneva Call launched a campaign on the protection of healthcare during COVID-19 pandemic, **highlighting the dangers medical workers face in eastern Ukraine** and how they are protected under international humanitarian law.
- On April 6, NRC, on behalf of the Compensation Task Force, which includes OHCHR, UNHCR, NGO Right to Protection, DRC, DonbasSOS, IOM, OSCE and Council of Europe, submitted recommendations to the **draft amendments to Resolution № 947** on the administrative mechanism for compensation for housing damaged or destroyed as a result of the conflict to the Ministry of Reintegration and Temporarily Occupied Territories.
- Following advocacy efforts of the NGO Proliska, **access to isolated settlements**, Staromariivka Pishchane, Staryi Aidar and Opytne were reopened, facilitating the freedom of movement of the local population.
- OHCHR issued a guidance note on [Human Rights during the time of COVID-19](#), as well as guidance on [COVID-19 and Women's Human Rights](#).

### TRAININGS/EVENTS

- Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health conducted six online webinars on the **'Rights of survivors of domestic violence and available domestic violence services'** for 187 representatives of the police, local authorities and service-providers from Pryvillya, Toretsk, Svatovo, Novoaidar, Volnovakha, and Komyshevakha.