

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 32 conflict-related casualties (4 persons killed and 28 injured), which is almost three times more than in the previous month. Six children (five girls and one boy) were injured by shelling in NGCA: in Zolote-5 (Luhansk), in Oleksandrivka and Sakhanka (Donetsk).
- Security:** An escalation of hostilities was observed near settlements along the contact line. According to INSO, the number of security incidents increased to 692, which is 39 more than in the previous month.
- COVID-19:** 210 cases of COVID-19 were registered in Donetsk and Luhansk GCA, which is double than in April; 944 cases were registered by de-facto authorities in Donetsk and Luhansk NGCA, which is four times more than in April.
- Freedom of movement:** As the checkpoints separating GCA and NGCA remained closed due to COVID-19 restrictions throughout May, partners recorded at least four crossing attempts outside the official checkpoints, leading to security incidents: a woman was injured after triggering a landmine; a 16-year old boy was injured by the military as he approached their positions and two men from NGCA were detained by border guards.
- Protection of civilians:** Military actors moved into the premises of a kindergarten in Muratove (Luhansk GCA). The kindergarten is located near a school and military presence may put the security of school children at risk.
- Older people:** An [assessment](#) of older people living near the contact line in GCA found that 85% of older people experience psychosocial problems related to the conflict; 71% of older people reported they have limited (90%) or no (10%) access to safe drinking water; 82% of older people (72% women) stated that they had to decrease their food intake during the last 6 months.
- Access to healthcare:** [Monitoring of healthcare facilities](#) in Luhansk region found that hospitals continue to have low Covid-19 testing capacity and lack PPEs. Medicine for COVID-19 is expensive, and those that cannot afford it must undergo treatment without the necessary medication.

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44% increase in calls was received by a GBV hotline in May 2020 compared to March 2020

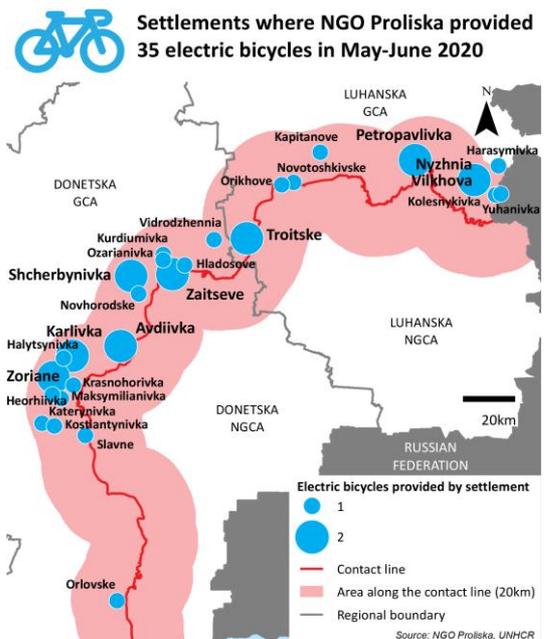


Source: NGO La Strada Ukraine

●●● HIGHLIGHTS

PROTECTION RESPONSE

- UNHCR, jointly with its partner NGO, **provided sewing machines, materials and filtering elements to territorial social service centers** in Donetsk NGCA so they can produce face masks for 2,760 older people living along the contact line.
- NGO Proliska **provided electric bikes to community leaders, post office, medical and social workers** in 27 settlements along the contact line to improve access to services for local residents.
- ADRA **resumed transportation services for residents of isolated settlements** in Syze, Bolotenne, Lobacheve, Krymske, Chermalyk, Lebedynske, Pavlopil and Berdianske, enabling access to state services which are only available in larger towns.
- HelpAge International community volunteers **provided home-based care to 2,051 older people with limited mobility**. During the visits, people received psycho-social support, non-food items and referral services.
- Triangle Generation Humanitaire, through community-based volunteers, provided **home-based care to 221 older people and people with disabilities** living in isolated settlements.



- The Ukrainian Red Cross Society **distributed PPEs to 6,055 persons and delivered grocery kits to 2,677 persons** in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- UNICEF **distributed PPEs to 261 vulnerable families with 775 children**, including 53 families with 61 children who had returned from boarding schools following closure due to COVID-19; 1,200 liters of hand sanitizer was delivered to 12 communities in Luhansk and Donetsk regions.
- The Danish Refugee Council **resumed reception in its offices in Mariupol and Sloviansk** and provided individual legal consultations to 149 persons.
- The HALO Trust **cleared 45 hectares of land and removed 52 landmines/ERWs** near 13 settlements in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- Five UNFPA-supported daycare crisis centers **provided assistance to 276 GBV survivors** through psychosocial support, primary legal aid and referral services.
- From January-May 2020, IOM identified and **provided reintegration assistance to 43 victims of human trafficking** in Donetsk region.

ADVOCACY

- On 5 May, the NGO Right to Protection presented **draft law #1115 on compensation for civilian casualties** to the Parliamentary Committee. The revised draft law includes contributions from Protection Cluster partners.
- On 8 May, Matilda Bogner, Head of the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, **released a [statement expressing concern about the increase in civilian casualties](#)** in the conflict zone of eastern Ukraine, and reminding all parties to the conflict of their obligation to abide by international humanitarian law.
- On 22 May, UNICEF issued a **[press-release highlighting an increase in child casualties and damages to educational facilities](#)** in the conflict area as a result of an upsurge in shelling.

TRAININGS/EVENTS

- The Norwegian Refugee Council conducted **remote group information sessions for 300 representatives** of academia, employment centers and NGOs on labour relations, entrepreneurship, social and pension payments, freedom of movement, birth and death registration and HLP issues in the context of COVID-19.
- Save the Children, jointly with partner NGOs, conducted **two online trainings on building the capacity of children with special educational needs** for 49 educational specialists from Kramatorsk and Severodonetsk.
- NGO Slavic Heart conducted **12 sessions on GBV prevention** for 107 persons. Participants discussed the mechanisms for GBV prevention under the national legislative framework.