

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



©Anastasia Taylor-Lind / Older people from NGCA queuing to collect their pensions in GCA frontline town Kurakhove

PROTECTION CONCERNS

- Civilian casualties:** The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine recorded 21 conflict-related casualties (two persons were killed and 19 persons were injured).
- Security:** The number of ceasefire violations significantly increased and during 26 August – 29 September. OSCE SMM recorded 21,500 ceasefire violations, which is 2.7 times higher compared to the period of 29 July – 25 August.

At least 8 houses in Kodema and 8 houses in Mykolayivka (Donetsk, GCA) were damaged as a result of the destruction of mines and UXOs by the State Emergency Service, who use explosives to blow these up as a way of mine and UXO decontamination.

After plans for military disengagement were announced by the government, residents of settlements near the contact line have expressed concern about security and law and order, should the military leave. They are also concerned about access to services if the situation triggers the displacement of professionals as a result of perceived insecurity.
- Freedom of movement:** On 19 September, an 81 year old woman died at the Novotroitske checkpoint while queuing at the Oshchadbank mobile branch.

The curfew in Donetsk NGCA has been extended by one hour for the period of 1 October 2019 - 31 May 2020 (from 23:00 to 05:00).
- Access to pensions:** The Pension Fund of Ukraine is withholding a part of the pensions of older people in Schastie and Svitlodarsk, who have debts for heating, based on court decisions stating that they were liable for these debts. However, people were not notified that the energy company had commenced proceedings against them and that they had lost these cases.
- Access to medical services:** 598 children from Zolote, Katerynivka and Orihove (Luhansk GCA) do not have access to pediatric services as a local health facility cannot find a paediatrician. Parents with children have to travel to Hirske (6-10 kilometers away) for pediatric consultation.
- Isolated settlements:** 455 residents of Plotyna village, including 68 children and 180 older people, do not have access to public transportation. In order to get to the rayon center and access basic services, including pharmacy and ATMs, people have to pay 600 UAH to private transport service providers.
- Access to water:** People in Putilino village (Luhansk GCA) have restricted access to potable and technical water. People are using water from a well, but this has a decreasing water reserve.

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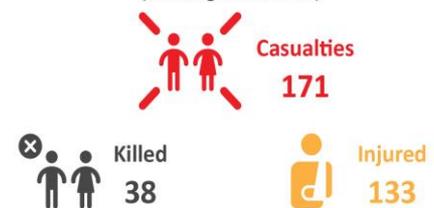
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Child casualties as a result of mine contamination (starting from 2014)



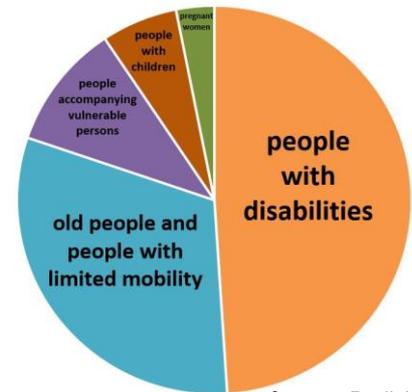
Source: OHCHR

HIGHLIGHTS

PROTECTION RESPONSE

- A free electrocar at Stanytsia Luhanska checkpoint, run by NGO Proliska, transported **2 940 people with limited mobility, from the entrance of the checkpoint to the “zero” checkpoint and back.**
- DRC-DDG provided **legal counselling to 921 persons** in nine regions and at Mayorske, Marinka, Nobotroitske checkpoints.
- Save the Children **provided psycho-social support to 292 children (121 boys and 171 girls)** and provided individual case management support to 50 children in Marinskyi raion (Donetsk GCA) and Popasniansky raion (Luhansk GCA), of whom 24 children received emergency cash-assistance.
- UNHCR partners in Donetsk NGCA provided **individual protection assistance (in kind) to 247 people** and **individual case management support to 37 persons.**
- NGO Slavic Heart opened **a youth IT-HUB in Sviatohirsk** at its Family Support Center. The hub provides equal opportunities for boys and girls to improve computer skills and learn IT specialities and targets 200 children, including IDPs and children with disabilities.
- Six new families with adults or children injured by mines/ERWs were identified and received individual case management support within the **mine/ERW victims assistance programme**, led by UNICEF and DRC-DDG.
- The HALO Trust **cleared a total of 16.5 hectares of land** from mine/UXOs and reached 10,000 people through 230 Mine Risk Education sessions in 14 settlements.
- **178 GBV survivors** were provided comprehensive **psychosocial support and primary legal aid** at five daycare crisis centres supported by UNFPA. **Another 35 GBV survivors received safe space accommodation** and comprehensive psychosocial support at nine UNFPA-supported shelters.
- NGO Proliska provided **individual psychological support for 78 persons from the conflict zone as a part of the pro-longed psychological support programme.** The main concerns were related to depression, suicidal thoughts, anxiety, panic attacks and PTSD.
- **UNICEF mobile teams provided PSS first aid and the referral services to 375 GBV survivors**, including 47 children affected by violence (31 girls and 16 boys).

People using electrocar services at Stanytsia Luhanska checkpoint:



Source: Proliska

ADVOCACY

- Following the inclusion of the Ministry of IDPs and Temporarily Occupied Territories in the Ministry of Veterans, which raised concerns that IDP and humanitarian issues would not be prioritized by the new ministry, a **group of civil society organizations including R2P, Donbass SOS, Vostok SOS, Crimea SOS, Ukraine Helsinki Group, Group of Influence, Zmina and others met with the Minister of Veterans, TOT and IDPs** and presented a list of key humanitarian issues and provided analysis, proposals and recommendations.
- The R2P Advocacy Coordinator was appointed **as advisor to the Parliamentary Committee on human rights, de-occupation and reintegration of temporarily occupied territories** and contributed to the development of the Regulation on the Expert Council to ensure participation of NGOs in the work of the Committee. She recommended thematic hearings on the risk of statelessness, freedom of movement, compensation and social rights of IDPs.
- On 17 September, DonbassSOS held a **roundtable on 'Armed conflict on the East of Ukraine: damage caused to housing and civilian population'**. During which DonbassSOS presented a road map for the creation of a damaged housing register and the Ombudsman office presented proposals for a technical assessment of destroyed housing.
- On 28 September, NRC held a **roundtable on compensation for housing damaged or destroyed as a result of armed conflict.** Participants discussed legal regimes applicable to receiving compensation for damaged housing and litigation processes on national and international levels. Based on the discussions, NRC will draft an advocacy document.

TRAININGS/EVENTS

- DRC-DDG provided **training sessions on the implementation of anti-bullying legislation** for 52 representatives of local authorities from settlements along the contact line and Donetsk Institute of Postgraduate Pedagogical Education.
- The Mariupol Youth Union conducted a **training on working with socially isolated youth** for 18 specialists of social centers, libraries and vocational schools from Mariupol, Mangush, Sartana and Nikolske (Donetsk GCA).
- Save the Children **conducted a three-day training on "Protecting excluded children"** for 20 representatives of community centers, case management and teaching staff living along the contact line.
- **UNHCR, jointly with the NGOs Crimea SOS and the Tenth of April, conducted two information sessions on GBV and HIV prevention** in Poltava and Kherson, for 54 students from 10 Universities and 28 representatives of 12 IDP communities, raising awareness about human rights, gender, types of sexual and gender-based violence, the recent changes in regulations and main approaches for provision of assistance to GBV and domestic violence survivors.