

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 four conflict-related casualties (two persons were injured by shelling and two persons were killed as a result of a mine/ERW incident). On 3 August, a man was wounded by firearms as a result of a conflict with soldiers in Avdiivka.
- Security:** After the ceasefire announced on 21 July 2019 and decrease of security incidents that immediately followed, the number of security incidents gradually increased. During 29 July – 11 August, OSCE SMM recorded 2,700 ceasefire violations, while between 12 – 25 August, this number reached 5,400.
- Freedom of movement:** On 7 August, an 83 year old man died at Maiorske EECF while going to GCA to visit an Oshchadbank.

On 28 August, Maiorske EECF was closed for an hour due to a red alert. During this time people traveling from NGCA were not allowed to cross the checkpoint so that they could take cover in case of shelling.

The entry and exit to Lopaskyne and Lobacheve settlements (Luhansk, GCA) were blocked following rotation of military personnel. As a result, ambulances, police, employees of the Pension Fund and humanitarian organizations were not allowed to access the settlements. Local residents were restricted in their movement in and out of the villages.
- Access to basic services:** On 30 August, NGCA authorities in Donetsk announced an increase in utility bills for local residents by 30% for housing and waste disposal costs, 57% for cold water supply and 57% for sewerage.
- Access to pensions:** More than 100 older people from Starohnativka, Hranitne and Chermalyk (Donetsk GCA) who reached retirement age, cannot receive their pension payments, as they cannot confirm their employment history in NGCA. This number is set to increase as more and more displaced people from NGCA reach pensionable age.
- Access to documentation:** The Department of State migration service in Stanytsya-Luhanska and Novoaydar (Luhansk GCA) requires IDPs to apply for personal documentation to provide additional documents, which are not required by legislation.
- New cases of displacement:** According to Protection Cluster partner monitoring, the number of IDPs in Valentynivka (Donetsk GCA) has increased in 2019, from 16 in January to 27 in August as people have moved from NGCA to the settlement where they own summer houses.
- IDP eviction:** There is a threat of eviction of around 40 IDPs from a collective center in Rzhishchiv (Kyiv region) due to unpaid debts for communal services. The administration has threatened to cut off the electricity and water supplies and subsequently to evict IDPs.

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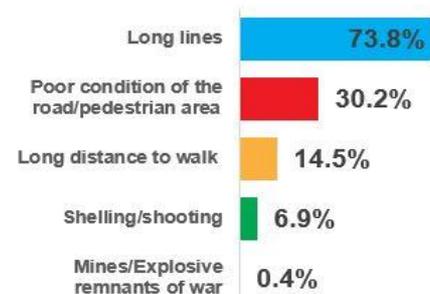
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Main concerns while crossing the contact line:



Source: Right to Protection

HIGHLIGHTS

PROTECTION RESPONSE

- On 16 August, UNHCR and Proliska **launched a free electric bus at Stanytsia Luhanska checkpoint to transport people with limited mobility** from the entry to “zero” checkpoint. The bus works on a daily basis from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m and transports around 400 persons per day.
- **The HALO Trust conducted the first land release** to the Ukrainian authorities, handing over 11 cleared areas with 66 hectares to the Luhansk regional administration. Almost 4,000 people living in the nearby settlements can use the land safely. The HALO Trust **cleared another 15 hectares of land in Donetsk and Luhansk regions** and identified, mapped and marked four new hazardous areas.
- Four new families with adults or children injured by mine/ERWs were identified and **received individual case management support within the mine/ERW victims assistance programme**, lead by UNICEF and DRC-DDG.
- DRC-DDG provided **individual legal assistance to 744 conflict-affected people**. Of these, 65% are residents of NGCA and 17% living near the contact line, 73% of those who received legal services aged over 50.
- NRC **provided information, counseling, legal assistance, and training to 1,751 people**, out of whom 26% were from NGCA. The main protection concerns included pension payments, acquiring death certificates, inheritance in GCA. UHHRU with the support of NRC provided legal services for 69 persons in its offices in Mariupol, Pokrovsk, Dnipro, Zaporizhzhya, Kharkiv.
- Donbass SOS **provided 2,023 informational and legal consultations through its hotline**. The main protection concerns included issuance of documents in GCA, access to pension and social payments and crossing the contact line.
- Stabilization Support Services, through the Radnyky programme, **provided consultations on IDP social protection issues to 778 specialists** of the social protection system and 407 IDPs (of them 40% older people and 11% people with disabilities).
- UNHCR **partners in NGCA provided protection counseling and assistance to 292 local residents**. Assistance included support for older people in completing and submitting application forms to agencies, referrals to relevant institutions to claim social benefits, assisting with civil registration, providing information on HLP rights, and restoration of documents.
- Protection Cluster partner in NGCA **assisted four survivors of domestic violence with information support, legal and psychosocial counseling**. Two were hosted in the shelter for GBV survivors in Donetsk city.



Proliska, electric vehicle transporting people at Stanytsia Luhanska checkpoint. © UNHCR Ukraine

ADVOCACY

- On 30 August, as a part of Ukraine’s **reporting process under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights** in Geneva, NRC Ukraine reported about the restrictions on freedom of movement in the conflict zone and lack of access to birth registration by residents of NGCA.
- **A bus connection between isolated settlement Kryakivka and the nearest settlements in Luhansk region was renewed** as a result of advocacy efforts by Right to Protection with the local authorities. Earlier, the bus connection was suspended due to poor road conditions.

TRAININGS/EVENTS

- IOM conducted three-day **community development training sessions for 520 people from 24 communities**. The trainings helped community support group members to analyze problems existing in their communities, find possible solutions at a community level and develop social cohesion plans, which will be implemented by group members within the project.
- Slavic Heart conducted **five sessions on prevention of GBV for 75 women** from Volnovakha, Toretsk, Mariinka (Donetsk, GCA), and Vilhova (Luhansk, GCA). The NGO shared information on the positive changes in Ukrainian legislation related to the protection of the victims of gender-based violence.
- Terre Des Hommes provided **training on positive parenting training to 25 caregivers**, training on PSS for youth to 20 adolescents and organized activities for 30 children and adolescents within Summer training camp for Youth.
- IMC conducted **MHPSS sessions for 53 people** from in Pionerske and Hranitne (Donetsk GCA), which covered the topics of dealing with emotions, childrens’ rights and sex and gender, GBV, healthy and unhealthy relationship. Positive parenting sessions were conducted for 39 women from Chermalyk, Olginka, Orlovsk and Starohnativka.
- The Halo Trust provided **Mine Risk Education sessions to 7,000 people** and transferred more than 30,000 MRE materials including leaflets, posters and stickers to police departments in Donetsk and Luhansk for further dissemination.