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PROTECTION CONCERNS

- Security situation:** In March 2017, OHCHR recorded 70 conflict-related civilian casualties: 16 killed and 54 injured. Since the adoption of the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements on 12 February 2015, OHCHR has recorded 1,493 civilian casualties: 367 deaths and 1,126 injuries.
- The security situation deteriorated along the contact line. A woman suffered shrapnel injuries to the leg and chest in Naberezhne during shelling on March 17; on March 22, a woman was admitted to hospital in Donetsk city with shrapnel injuries and on March 23, a woman was wounded by a bullet in "DPR"- controlled Kruta Balka.
- On March 20, a collective center, Dzherelo, in Pushcha-Voditsa near Kiev, where 168 IDPs from NGCA and Crimea currently reside was attacked by unknown assailants with shots fired, knocked out windows and damaged the electricity supply to the centre. One woman was hospitalized as a result of the attack.
- Access to social benefits and pensions:** Pensioners were notified by SMS message that they needed to physically present themselves at Oschadbank before April 3 for verification purposes, in order to continue receiving their pension payments. This resulted in long queues at Oschadbank branches, with people having to queue for extensive periods of time. In Konstantynivka, people had to wait up to three days. On March 13, a 64-year-old IDP died while waiting in a queue at Oshchadbank in Sievierodonetsk and three people have been hospitalized while queuing at Oschadbank in Volnovakha. In addition, the Security Service of Ukraine gave the DoSP and Pension Fund lists of people whose absence in the GCA exceeded 60 days, so that they can suspend their payments.
- Freedom of Movement:** The requirement for pensioners to present themselves physically at Oschadbank branches also resulted in an increase of people travelling between NGCA and GCA, leading to long queues at checkpoints. As a result, people who had travelled to GCA were left overnight without accommodation, including at checkpoints, as it was impossible to finish verification in one day, given the long queues.
- Humanitarian Access:** On March 1, the Cabinet of Ministers introduced Resolution no.99 "Movement of Goods in ATO Zone" which states that only humanitarian cargo may be transported across the contact line.
- Access to basic services:** In response to the ongoing railway blockade between GCA and NGCA, the de facto authorities in self-proclaimed "Donetsk People's Republic" and "Lugansk People's Republic" "nationalized" enterprises that were located in NGCA, but registered in GCA. Companies had to re-register themselves with the "DPR" and "LPR" authorities within 72 hours. As a result, many companies, including mobile network providers Ukrtelecom and LifeCell, terminated their activities in NGCA. This may lead to increased unemployment in NGCA, which can in turn trigger further displacement.

PROTECTION CLUSTER CONTACTS

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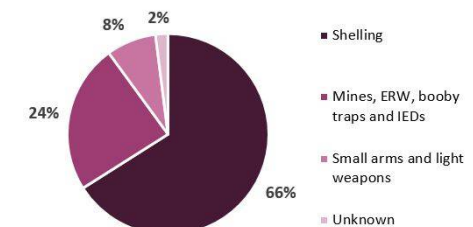
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Civilian casualties in Ukraine in 2017
by type of weapon/incident



Source: OHCHR

HIGHLIGHTS

PROTECTION RESPONSE

- UNHCR provided four cabins to the State Border Guard Service at Novotroitske checkpoint in order to improve the checkpoint capacity and reduce waiting time for civilians crossing the contact line.
- On March 22, DRC, with implementing partner Mariupol Youth Union, opened a youth center in Mariupol, which will provide life-skills training, seminars, social events and access to psychosocial support.
- GBV Sub Cluster partners opened **two shelters for GBV survivors**. One shelter located in Berdiansk, Zaporizhzhia region, will provide a safe space, psychosocial and legal assistance, as well as case management; another one in Brovary, Kyiv region, will serve as a full-time shelter and provide psychosocial support to female IDPs.
- Ten emergency sexual and reproductive health service delivery points were opened by UNFPA at existing health care facilities in Donetsk and Luhansk (GCA) to provide 24/7 confidential, free-of-charge access to **quality sexual and reproductive health care for women and girls**, including GBV survivors.
- UNHCR and Crimea SOS opened a **rehabilitation center for IDPs with disabilities and demobilized ATO soldiers in Vinnytsa** as a part of community based protection initiative that will benefit approximately 700 people.

ADVOCACY

- The parliamentary platform 'Future of Donbass,' together with OSCE, Council of Europe, DonbasSOS and NGO Foundation.101 organized a roundtable on freedom of movement. A [package of recommendations](#) to improve the functioning of check points between the GCA and NGCA was developed and subsequently submitted to Parliament.
- On March 27, Crimea SOS, jointly with UNHCR, organized a round table with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Border Guard Service and Ministry of TOT and IDPs and NGOs to discuss issues related to the **crossing of the administrative border with the Autonomous Republic of Crimea**.
- The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine published its [17th report on the human rights situation in Ukraine](#). The report describes how, in villages located in 'no man's land' between checkpoints, several hundreds of people are isolated and deprived of basic necessities with no access to ambulance services; the nearest grocery store a seven-kilometre walk away; children crossing the contact line and walking up to three kilometres to school.
- UNFPA and the East European Institute for Reproductive Health held an advocacy event on 'Strengthening Multi-Sectoral Response to GBV in Ukraine', which was attended by representatives of state authorities, UN agencies and the donor community.
- On March 30, NRC organized a round table on "Notary Certification of Transactions and Inheritance Issues Concerning Property Located in NGCA" which took place in Kramatorsk. The roundtable discussed issues related to the transfer and registration of property located in NGCA as well as issues related to inheritance of property located in NGCA.

TRAININGS/EVENTS

- NRC held a training on 'International Standards of Protection of the Rights and Freedoms of IDPs and Conflict-Affected Population' in Kreminna on 16-17 March for **25 employees** of the Main Territorial Department of Justice in Lugansk oblast.
- In March, DRC provided training of trainers on PSS for **52 teachers** in schools along the contact line of Donetsk Region. The PSS program "I know. I can. I do" is a 12-session module focusing on improving well-being of children in the context of conflict.
- March 3, the Protection Cluster organized an Information Management workshop for **18 persons from 15 member-organizations**, to strengthen knowledge about the Protection Cluster's information products and tools, including the 5W and the online dashboard.
- On March 20, UNHCR organized a one-day workshop with Roma mediators on lessons learned from working with Roma IDPs in 2016, which allowed to develop the action plan on strengthening their work at the individual and community level in 2017.

KEY FIGURES ON PROTECTION RESPONSE



2.9 M

People in Need



2.1 M

People Targeted



258,958

People reached (Jan-Mar 2017)



72

Partners

USEFUL LINKS

[Humanitarian Response](#)

[Protection Cluster Dashboard](#)

[Legal Aid Directory Map](#)

* Partners with completed, ongoing or suspended activities

PROGRESS ON 2017 HRP INDICATORS, Q1 (All Partners)

