

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



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PROTECTION CONCERNS

- There were **91 cases of civilian casualties** recorded by OHCHR in the conflict zone of eastern Ukraine, the highest since August 2015. The usage of heavy weapons, which should have been withdrawn from the contact line in accordance with the Minsk agreements and subsequent ceasefire arrangements, **was reported on a daily basis**. In addition to this, intense exchanges of fire from small arms and light weapons, including fire by snipers, further endangered the civilian population.
- De-facto authorities in Donetsk non-government controlled area (NGCA) **excluded IDPs from the list of groups entitled to receive humanitarian assistance**, further exacerbating their vulnerability, given that civilians living in the conflict-affected area are deprived of protection, access to basic services and humanitarian aid, with their freedom of movement severely hampered. The categories of people entitled to receive humanitarian aid are persons with disabilities, families with many children, children up to three years old and caregivers for people with mental disabilities.
- The **suspension of social benefits and pensions to IDPs** remains a key protection concern, since some 300,000 people, including pensioners residing in NGCA, have not been able to have their payments reinstated since February 2016.
- The primary concern of **people crossing the contact line** in August were the long queues, according to a survey conducted by the NGO "Foundation.101".
- The NRC information, counselling and legal assistance project received an increased number of requests for assistance with legal counselling concerning **documentation needed for crossing the checkpoints**, particularly for children who need to obtain their first passport, without which they cannot cross the contact line.
- 88%** of older people and people with disabilities residing in the government controlled areas of Lugansk **have limited access to medical services**, according to a vulnerability assessment conducted by HelpAge International, which included 1,272 IDPs and local residents.
- A GBV needs assessment commissioned by UNFPA identified access to **life-saving information and shelters for GBV survivors, correctional programs for perpetrators**, as well as the **empowerment of community-based organizations working with women**, as key needs for communities living along the contact line.
- On 10 August 2016, the Deputy Minister of Temporary Occupied Territories and IDPs, UNHCR, OHCHR, NGO '10 Kvitnia' and the Deputy Governor of Odessa region visited the KuaIlnyk sanatorium to assess the situation of **370 IDPs with disabilities who are facing eviction**. The situation is urgent as no suitable accommodation has been identified. 10 Kvitnia, UNHCR's implementing partner, started individual case management. As of 1 October 2016, the sanatorium administration plans to cut off all utilities (water, dump waters, electricity, heating) to the premises where IDPs live and, as of 1 November, it intends to close the building for restoration.
- Checkpoints at the administrative boundary with Crimea** were closed on several occasions, which resulted in **long queues of thousands of people** crossing to and from Crimea. Two out of the three checkpoints between the administrative boundary with Crimea require installation of basic shading and sanitary facilities.

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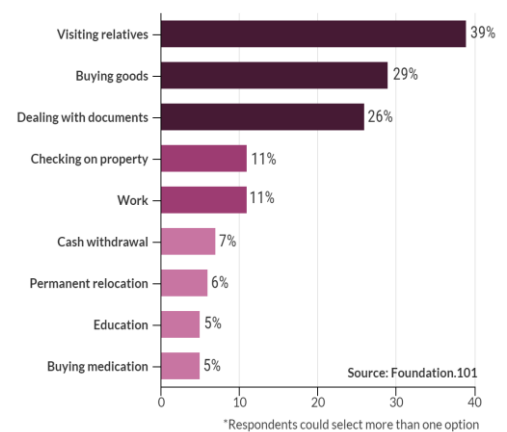
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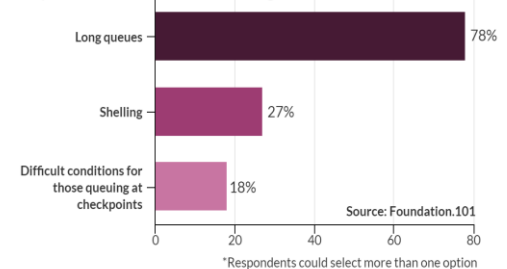
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Reasons for crossing the contact line by civilians*



Key concerns of civilians crossing the contact line*



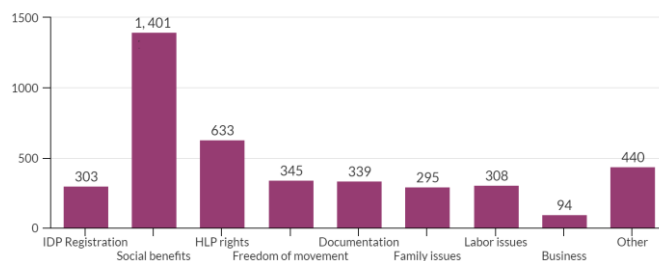
HIGHLIGHTS

PROTECTION RESPONSE

- The Protection Cluster developed a [map](#) showing **mobile teams providing free legal assistance** by region.
- Protection Cluster partners provided assistive devices and sanitary items to 1,400 elderly persons in Donetsk city and suburbs (NGCA).
- The NRC information, counselling and legal assistance team provided **legal counselling to IDPs at Zaytsevo checkpoint**. Key concerns related to documentation, in particular birth/death registration, pension payments and HLP rights. IDPs were reluctant to provide personal data, as they feared that this will be shared with the Department of Social Protection or pension funds and may lead to suspension of benefits and other payments.
- The UNFPA/UFPH mobile teams providing outreach **psychosocial assistance** in five eastern regions of Ukraine received more than 8,000 reports of GBV. IDPs constitute 29% of people requesting assistance. Registration of survivors is done using GBV IMS global tools, revealing prevalence of psychological (51%) and physical violence (27%) as the most reported cases, with women representing 88% of GBV survivors.
- UNHCR through its implementing partners **repaired a bomb shelter** in Petrovskiy district of Donetsk (NGCA), which provides safety to 30 adults and children.
- During the summer months, mine action partners focused on **mine risk education activities**, in particular, in summer camps, kindergartens and villages in the areas along the contact line. Swiss Foundation for Mine Action reached out to 23,000 beneficiaries. State Emergency Service worked with UNICEF and the Ministry of Education to incorporate MRE into the school curriculum in Donetsk and Luhansk Regions.
- DRC has produced the following **publications**: Communication strategy for state social services in the Donetsk Oblast. Q&A handbook for state social services. **Training module for state social services** on international and national standards, policy, legislation, and practice in working with IDPs and conflict affected population. Self-study workbook and **training guide for services providers on stress-management**, communication skills and burnout prevention.

IDP legal assistance needs

Legal assistance provided by NGO "Gorenje"



ADVOCACY

- Protection Cluster partners sent a letter to the government asking that it amend legislation regulating the procedures for reinstatement and receipt of social benefits and payments so as to make it easier for IDPs to access these benefits.
- DRC prepared a briefing note on current practices in national courts regarding compensation for damaged and destroyed property available [here](#).

TRAININGS/EVENTS

- DRC organized a **training on HLP rights** for humanitarian actors, which discussed HLP rights under international law, national and regional remedies for HLP rights violations and global good practices and lessons learnt on realization of HLP rights.
- UNHCR provided **training for Roma mediators** on identifying protection needs of Roma IDPs in Central and Western Ukraine, conducting individual and community work and referring cases to protection partners.
- **The Age and Disability Technical Working Group** provided training on inclusive programming to protection monitors of the NGO "Right to Protection" in Sloviansk and Dnipro and to IMC staff in Mariupol. The training covered disaggregating sex, age and disability data; communication skills for communication with older people and people with disabilities within protection programmes.
- The Council of Europe Project "**Strengthening the Human Rights Protection of Internally Displaced Persons in Ukraine**" organized two trainings in Dnipro and Glibovka, Kyiv Region to build the capacity of NGOs working with IDPs in local communities.

KEY FIGURES



3,1 M
People in Need



2,5 M
People Targeted



1,043,846
People reached (Jan-Aug 2016)



119
Partners including **8** in NGCA

KEY DOCUMENTS

Protection Cluster Strategy [ENG](#) | [UKR](#)
 July 2016 3W Map [ENG](#)
 Legal Aid Directory [ENG](#) | [UKR](#) | [RU](#)
 Peacebuilding and Reconciliation Note [ENG](#) | [UKR](#) | [RU](#)

USEFUL LINKS

[Humanitarian Response](#)
[Global Protection Cluster](#)
[Legal Aid Directory Map](#)