

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



© Proliska / Road to Opytne village, Donetsk GCA

### PROTECTION CONCERNS

- **Civilian casualties:** OHCHR recorded 4 conflict-related civilian casualties (1 killed and 3 injured) in January and 9 casualties (2 killed and 7 injured) in December. From 1 January to 31 December 2018, OHCHR recorded 279 conflict-related civilian casualties (55 killed and 224 injured), which is a 53.8% decrease compared to 2017. 65% of casualties were recorded in NGCA. **Mine and ERW related incidents accounted for 43% of casualties.**

It is estimated that in 2018 **at least 50 civilians have either been killed or injured** due to security incidents and/or serious health complications while crossing the contact line.

- **Mine contamination:** One State Emergency Services worker was injured in 'no man's land' near Marinka (Donetks GCA) during demining activities.
- **Freedom of movement:** On 6 December, 44 people, including children and people with disabilities, were allowed to proceed to the so-called 'no man's land' from NGCA just before closure of the 'Maiorske' checkpoint and as a result were trapped in the dangerous area between checkpoints.

In January, **at least 8 older people died** due serious health complications while crossing the 'contact line' at Stanytsia Luhanska and Mayorske/Horlivka checkpoints.

- **Protection of Civilians:** On 29 December, the JFO Commander signed an order to establish the **Working Group for Collection and Consolidation of Information on Injuries and Deaths of the Civilian Population at the Civilian Casualty Mitigation Team**. The Working Group will collect information on civilian casualties resulting from hostilities and provide recommendations to the JFO command on civilian casualty mitigation.
- **Housing, land and property rights:** Protection partners report new cases of use of previously displaced civilian property by the military in Katerynivka (Luhansk GCA) and Kodema, Zaitseve, Bakhmutka and Pavlopil (Donetsk GCA).
- **Settlements along the contact line:** Residents of Syze and Bolotenne (Luhansk GCA) could not leave the settlements for two weeks to access schools, hospitals, stores and pharmacies, as the roads were blocked due to heavy snowfall and local authorities had no resources to clear them.
- **Access to basic services:** During 16-21 December and 12-14 January, 40,000 people in Toretsk and nearby settlements (Donetsk GCA) remained without water when the 'Horlivka-Toretsk' pipeline was damaged by fighting.
- **Access to pensions:** In January, four people had their pension payments suspended again in Hladosivska St. of Holmivskyi settlement, which is controlled by Ukrainian authorities since 2017, but is still considered to be NGCA; therefore residents are required to register as IDPs to receive their pensions and are subject to verifications procedures. As they never crossed the contact line, pensions are suspended automatically.

#### PROTECTION CLUSTER CONTACTS

**Anna Rich**, Protection Cluster Coordinator, [rich@unhcr.org](mailto:rich@unhcr.org)

**Kateryna Martynenko**, Child Protection Sub-Cluster Coordinator, [kmartynenko@unicef.org](mailto:kmartynenko@unicef.org)

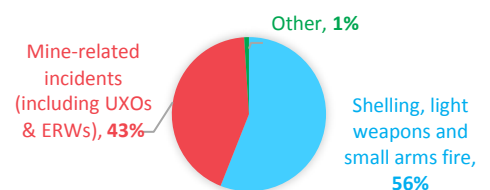
**Olena Kochemyrovska**, GBV Sub Cluster Coordinator, [kochemyrovska@unfpa.org](mailto:kochemyrovska@unfpa.org)


**Martin Oubrecht**, Mine Action Sub Cluster Coordinator, [martin.oubrecht@undp.org](mailto:martin.oubrecht@undp.org)

**Mykhailo Verych**, Age and Disability TWG Coordinator, [mykhailo.verych@helpage.org](mailto:mykhailo.verych@helpage.org)

**Volodymyr Khorbaladze**, Housing, Land and Property TWG acting Coordinator, [volodymyr.khorbaladze@nrc.no](mailto:volodymyr.khorbaladze@nrc.no)

#### Civilian casualties in 2018



 **65%** of casualties recorded in NGCA

Source: OHCHR

## HIGHLIGHTS

### PROTECTION RESPONSE

- In December, Protection Cluster partners implemented **6 peaceful coexistence projects in Donetsk NGCA** that included repairs of a community center in Rozsypne, musical studio in Khartsyzsk, center for people with disabilities in Donetsk, social services center and school in Yasynuvata and provision of equipment for association of people with disabilities in Khartsyzsk.
- In January, Protection Cluster partners in NGCA provided **individual protection counseling to 561 persons**, including 34 returnees and conducted three awareness raising sessions on GBV for 28 participants.
- Donbas-SOS **hotline provided protection counselling to 1,987 people**, registering 2,543 requests for information, of them 19% were calling from NGCA and 75% were female.
- Proliska provided **individual protection assistance to 350 people** to obtain documentation (passport, birth certificate, tax code, etc.), pass the checkpoints to cross the contact line, confirm disability and organize medical tests and provided transportation to people in isolated villages to ensure access to state services and reinstatement of pensions and social benefits.
- HelpAge International provided **home-based care to 3,603 people** with disabilities and older people with limited mobility and supported 3,041 people through community safe spaces in Donetsk and Luhansk oblast.
- Polish Humanitarian Aid provided **group psychosocial support to 522 older people in community centers and individual PSS to 465 home bound older people** in Svitlodarsk, Lastochkino, Zolote-4, Peredilske, Krymske and Triokhizbenka.
- DRC-DDG conducted **142 MRE sessions** for 3,287 people at Stanytsia-Luhanska, Mayorske and Mariinka checkpoints.
- DRC-DDG, supported by UNICEF, assisted **12 children mine/ERW survivors** (11 boys, 1 girl) through case management and targeted individual assistance. Families are provided financial assistance to cover travel costs for caregivers and children when specialized medical treatment is needed in Kyiv, assistance with rehabilitation from mine incident, assistance with restoring living conditions following the explosion and legal assistance to obtain the status of a child who suffered due to the armed conflict.
- Save the Children **developed a protocol for social workers on suicide prevention among children and adolescents**, which provides referral mechanism and outlines four steps for social workers when there are no opportunities for referral.
- Terre des Hommes and Volodymyr Dal East-Ukrainian National University opened a Fabrication Laboratory – a space with digital equipment, 3D printers, laser cutters and embroidery machine – to engage youth in social interactions and develop their skills.
- UNFPA/UNICEF psychosocial support mobile teams provided **assistance to 1,092 GBV survivors**, including 160 IDPs. 113 GBV survivors received safe space accommodation and complex psychosocial support at 7 UNFPA-supported shelters.
- La Strada received **3,292 calls to the national 24/7 hotline for GBV survivors**. Survivors calling for psychological, legal and information support reported 1,981 cases, of which 43% are attributed to sexual and physical violence.
- NGO Group of Influence launched a wide information campaign informing IDPs on their voting rights and procedures for temporary change of their voting address. In January, almost 7,000 people changed their voting address so that they could vote.

### ADVOCACY

- On 5 December, UNHCR organized in Kramatorsk a **Community-Based Forum on response to GBV in the context of forced displacement** as part of the 16 Days of Activism against GBV. The Forum gathered IDP representatives, national authorities and humanitarian actors, who shared lessons learnt, good practices and developed recommendations for response in eastern Ukraine.
- On 17 December, OHCHR published its [24th Quarterly Report on the human right situation in Ukraine covering the period from 16 August to 15 November 2018](#). The report highlights how lack of security is aggravated by disrupted access to services such as water and heating and by discriminatory policies, such as disproportionate restrictions on freedom of movement, continued practice of linking access to a pension with IDP registration and absence of compensation mechanisms.
- On 11 January the [Law 'On Amendments to Criminal and Criminal Procedural Codes of Ukraine following Ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence'](#) came into force. GBV Sub Cluster partners contributed to the development and advocated for adoption of the law, which promotes international standards in the field, criminalizes domestic violence and enhances legal protection of survivors and prosecution of perpetrators.
- On 17 January, following Protection Cluster partners advocacy, the Parliamentary Committee for Legal Policy and the Judiciary reviewed the [Draft Law No. 6240 on Amendments to Certain Laws \(Regarding Electoral Rights of IDPs and Other Internally Mobile Citizens\)](#) and recommended the Parliament to put the draft to vote and pass the bill in the first reading.
- On 22 January, the President of Ukraine signed the [Mine Action Law](#), which includes definition of humanitarian demining, legal basis and main components of demining activities and outlines the procedure for establishing of national mine action authority.

### TRAININGS/EVENTS

- HelpAge International organized a **training on minimum standards for age and disability inclusion** for 25 staff members of humanitarian organizations in Severodonetsk.
- NRC organized and a 'Pro Bono' Legal Clinic organized a **training on civil documentation for persons who were born or who died in NGCA** for 32 students and lecturers of the law department at East Ukrainian National University in Severodonetsk.