

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 32 conflict-related casualties (two persons were killed and 30 injured). This is the **highest number of civilian casualties during the last 12 month**. Two persons were killed and five injured as a result of mines and ERW incidents.

Child casualties: In Horlivka (Donetsk NGCA), a 16-year-old boy was injured due to an explosion of an unidentified object and a 14-year-old girl was injured by shelling. A 9-year-old girl was injured as a result of shooting in Marinka.

- **Security:** An intensification of hostilities was reported near a wide range of settlements along the contact line. Between May and June 2019, the average number of registered security incidents increased from twelve to thirty-five cases per day.

At least 83 houses and multi-story buildings were damaged on both sides of the contact line. On 4 June, a mosque located in Donetsk (NGCA) came under shelling during religious celebrations devoted to Eid al-Fitr. Some 70 people were forced to seek shelter in a cellar. No casualties were reported.

- **Freedom of movement:** In June, three people died due to health complications while crossing the contact line through Stanytsia Luhanska and Horlivka checkpoints. On 17 June, twenty-five vehicles with three children were stuck between Verkhnohshyrokovske (formerly Oktiabr) (NGCA) and Hnutove checkpoints (GCA) as they entered '0' checkpoint area buffer zone through Verkhnohshyrokovske checkpoint when Hnutove was closed. Hnutove checkpoint resumed its work to allow people to cross the contact line.
- **Mine contamination:** Mine fields on the outskirts of Lobachevo and Lopaskyne villages, which are located near the contact line (Luhansk GCA), are not properly marked. Mine safety signs are self-made and difficult-to-read.
- **IDP registration:** A family of three IDPs, who were displaced within Bakhmutka settlement (Luhansk GCA), after their house was occupied by the military in early 2019, was refused IDP registration by the Bakhmut Department of Social Protection, without being given a reason for this.
- **Land Taxation:** Communities living in Novotroitske, Halytsynivka, Mykolaivka, Starohnativka, Pavlopil and Hranitne continue to pay taxes for agricultural lands which they cannot use due to mine contamination, military use or restrictions on access imposed by the Joint Forces Operation.
- **Isolated settlements:** More than 500 residents of Plotyna village (Luhansk GCA) do not have access to basic services, including pharmacies and ATMs, due to a lack of public transport. In order to get to the nearest rayon center, Stanytsia Luhanska, people have to pay 600 UAH for private transport.
- **Access to basic services:** Since May, about 15,000 residents of Novhorodske, Sukha Balka, Nelipivka, Petrivka and part of Shcherbynivka) have been cut off from the water supply due to electricity debts of the "Voda Donbasu" water company.

PROTECTION CLUSTER CONTACTS

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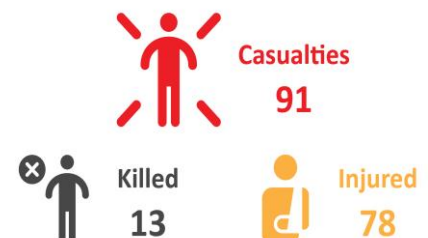
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Civilian casualties in January-June 2019

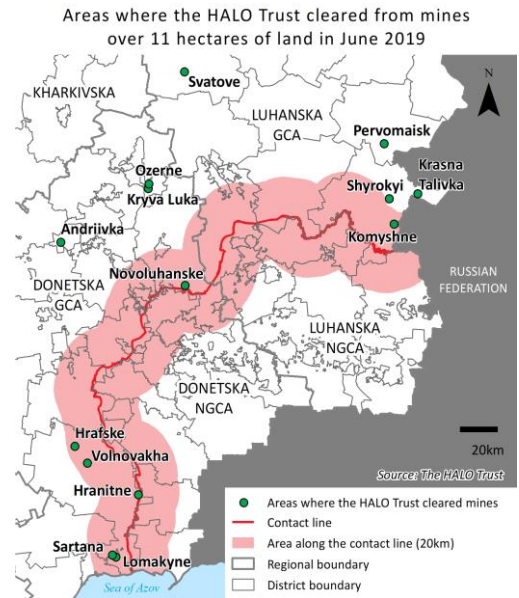


Source: The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine

HIGHLIGHTS

PROTECTION RESPONSE

- Protection Cluster partners in NGCA provided protection counseling and assistance to 388 local residents. Assistance included support for older people in completing and submitting application forms to agencies, referring to relevant institutions to claim social benefits, assisting with civil registration, providing information on HLP rights, and restoration of documents.
- Proliska provided 911 protection consultations focusing on humanitarian aid, including winterization assistance, freedom of movement, personal documentation, access to health services, obtaining of social and pension payments; 220 persons were provided with social accompaniment mostly in obtaining personal documentation and electronic passes to cross the contact line, IDP registration and social payments.
- NRC provided information, counselling, legal assistance, and training to 1,460 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 54 persons in its offices in Mariupol, Pokrovsk, Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv.
- Right to Protection provided individual legal assistance to 1,643 persons with 111 successfully finalized court cases. One case on the restriction of physical access to property in the NGCA has been submitted to the European Court of Human Rights.
- Halo Trust cleared from mines over 11 hectares of land near 14 settlements in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- UNHCR partner in NGCA launched thematic community groups on Facebook and V Kontakte social networks where group members share GBV-related information and information on free consultations of a psychologist, lawyer and access to shelter (in case of SGBV survivors). The group covers Donetsk, Yasynuvata, Horlivka and Makiivka.



ADVOCACY

- On 25 June, DRC-DDG held a roundtable on “Implementation of Countering Bullying: features and procedure. Enforcement and judiciary components” in Kramatorsk. The discussion aimed to improve understanding of the system of countering bullying in Ukraine and empower participants to effectively develop programs for supporting the conflict-affected population.
- NRC held meetings with the Ministry of Social Policy, Ministry for Temporary Occupied Territories and IDPs and National Statistics Service to discuss the problematic areas in the displacement-related information management as well as key protection concerns for IDPs and barriers for the sustainable integration of IDPs into host communities.

TRAININGS/EVENTS

- OHCHR conducted a presentation on conflict-related sexual violence for 33 representatives from governmental entities, international partners and civil society and people who will be deployed as Civil-Military Cooperation Unit officers to Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- On 26 June, Right to Protection, in cooperation with UNHCR, provided a seminar on "Practical aspects of ensuring social rights of internally displaced persons" for 16 representatives of Free Legal Aid Centers from South Donetsk region.
- Terre des Hommes conducted four PSS sessions and two trainings on Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action for 114 local education and protection specialists in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- DRC-DDG protection team provided training activities on inclusion for school teachers, students, and representatives of communities from Donetsk region. A total of 62 children, 83 schoolteachers and 33 representatives of communities participated in the sessions.
- Save the Children held two community events in Krasnogorivka (Donetsk GCA) for 36 children. Events were devoted to Children's Day with a focus on the topic “Consultations on mine risk”.
- HALO Trust conducted 72 Mine Risk Education (MRE) sessions reaching 5,422 people across 11 settlements in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Due to school holidays, the teams focused on summer camps with children coming from the buffer zone.
- UNHCR partners in NGCA conducted three GBV awareness sessions for thirty people from conflict-affected territories.