

CROSSING THE LINE OF CONTACT: February 2019 Snapshot

More statistical data are available on the Eastern Ukraine Checkpoint Monitoring Online Dashboard – <https://goo.gl/Ab1qXs>

960 000 CROSSINGS

HIGHLIGHTS

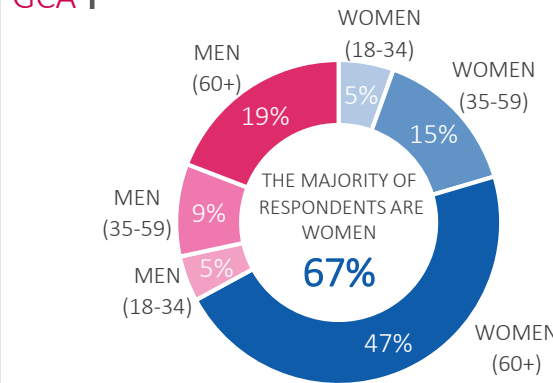
- **Six people died** in a road accident near Marinka EECP on February 5, and an elderly man died due to health issues at Stanytsia Luhanska EECP on February 25.
- The **crossing process accelerated** in comparison to the previous month at all EECPs except Hnutove (due to the temporary reconstruction inconveniences).
- By the end of February **SBGS staff converted to the new database – E-inspector** – that includes information on debts, stolen cars etc.
- **This change and increased capacity of the checkpoints in the NGCA** caused some queues at the “0” checkpoint and in the GCA by the end of the month.
- **46 persons were stuck in the buffer zone** on February 14 at Maiorske as the NGCA side allowed them to pass towards the GCA although the GCA EECP had already closed. Later in the evening the GCA EECP resumed functioning to let them pass.
- **Electric disruptions** at Stanytsia Luhanska EECP caused temporary suspension in the work of Oschadbank mobile office and ATM, while control booths functioned due to generator power.
- **Work has begun to eliminate problems with toilets and leaking roofs** at Marinka EECP. Public utility company “Promin” will also clean the EECP territory and toilets.
- Donetsk regional geological enterprise “Donetskegeologiya” started drilling a **new water well** to ensure water supply to Marinka EECP.

CURRENT PLACE OF RESIDENCE



2041

individuals were surveyed by R2P monitors in February¹



66%

of all respondents were over 60 years old



71%

of all respondents cross the contact line bimonthly

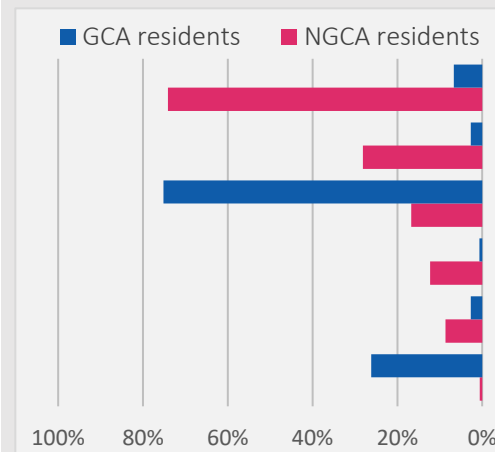


77%

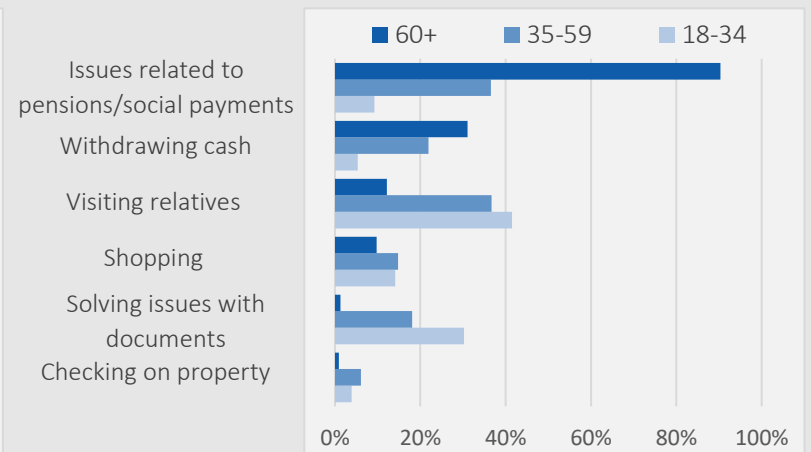
of all respondents were never displaced due to the conflict

MOST FREQUENT REASONS FOR CROSSING

BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE



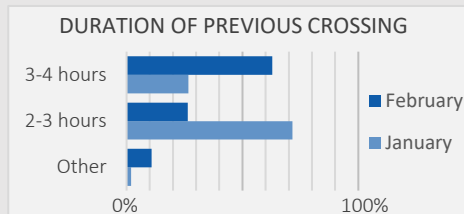
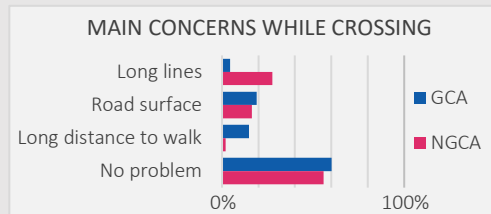
BY AGE



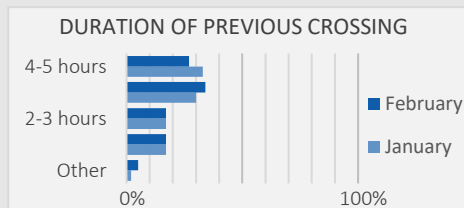
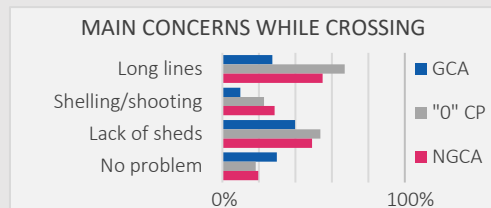
¹The findings of the monitoring should not be generalized to all persons crossing checkpoints in eastern Ukraine.

CONCERNS AND DURATION OF CROSSING

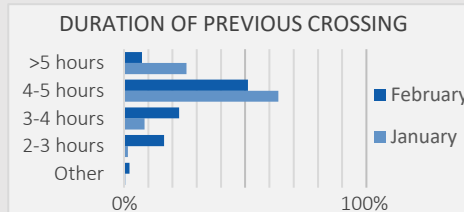
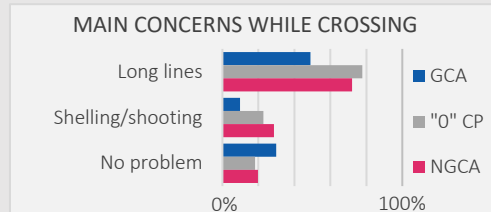
HNUTOVE



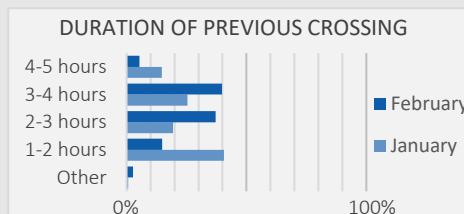
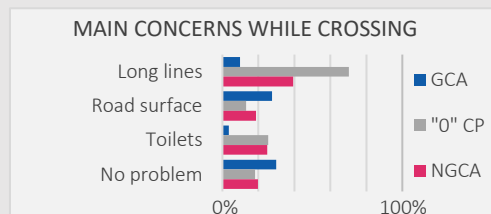
MAIORSKE



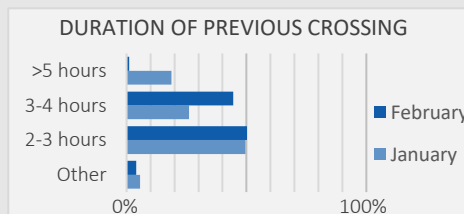
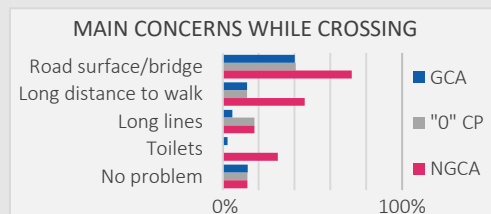
MARINKA



NOVOTROITSKE



STANYTSIA LUHANSKA



ACCESS TO INFORMATION

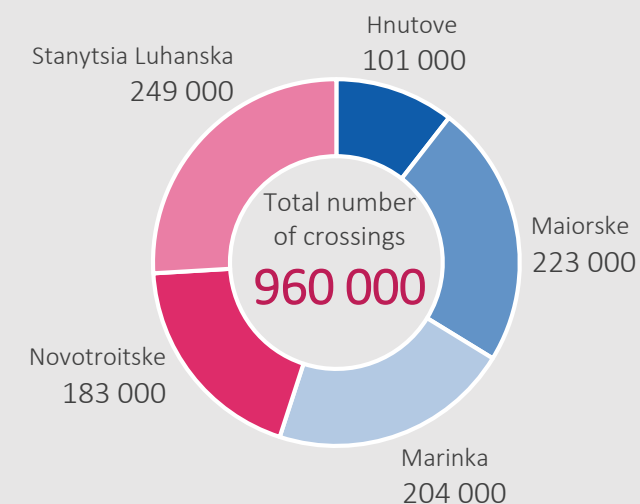
- 69% of all respondents were not aware of any mechanism for raising complaints regarding the functioning of governmental authorities and/or NGOs.
- Respondents at Novotroitske EEC mostly requested contacts for raising complaints (19%) and direction signs (18%).
- 32% at Maiorske EEC complained about the absence of bus schedule.
- 42% of respondents at Stanytsia Luhanska lacked information about the services available at the EEC.
- 25% of respondents at Marinka EEC were confused due to the lack of direction signs.

ABUSE OF POWER

3 individuals raised their concerns regarding abuse of power. People often feel intimidated about articulating such complaints, so the level of such concern is most likely understated.

- An 80-year-old woman reported that an SBGS serviceman at Marinka EEC acted disrespectfully and tried to stop her from passing the EEC after she asked to take away his dog.
- An elderly woman at Marinka EEC complained about disrespectful demeanor of the checkpoint staff in the NGCA.
- A woman of middle age at Maiorske EEC reported that NGCA checkpoints staff were threatening her.

NUMBER OF CROSSINGS²



The number of crossings decreased by **19 000** in comparison to the previous month. In February 2018 the line of contact was crossed **943 000** times.

²General statistics on crossings are available at the UNHCR dashboard visualizing data from the State Border Guard Service. <https://goo.gl/TZbU8c>