

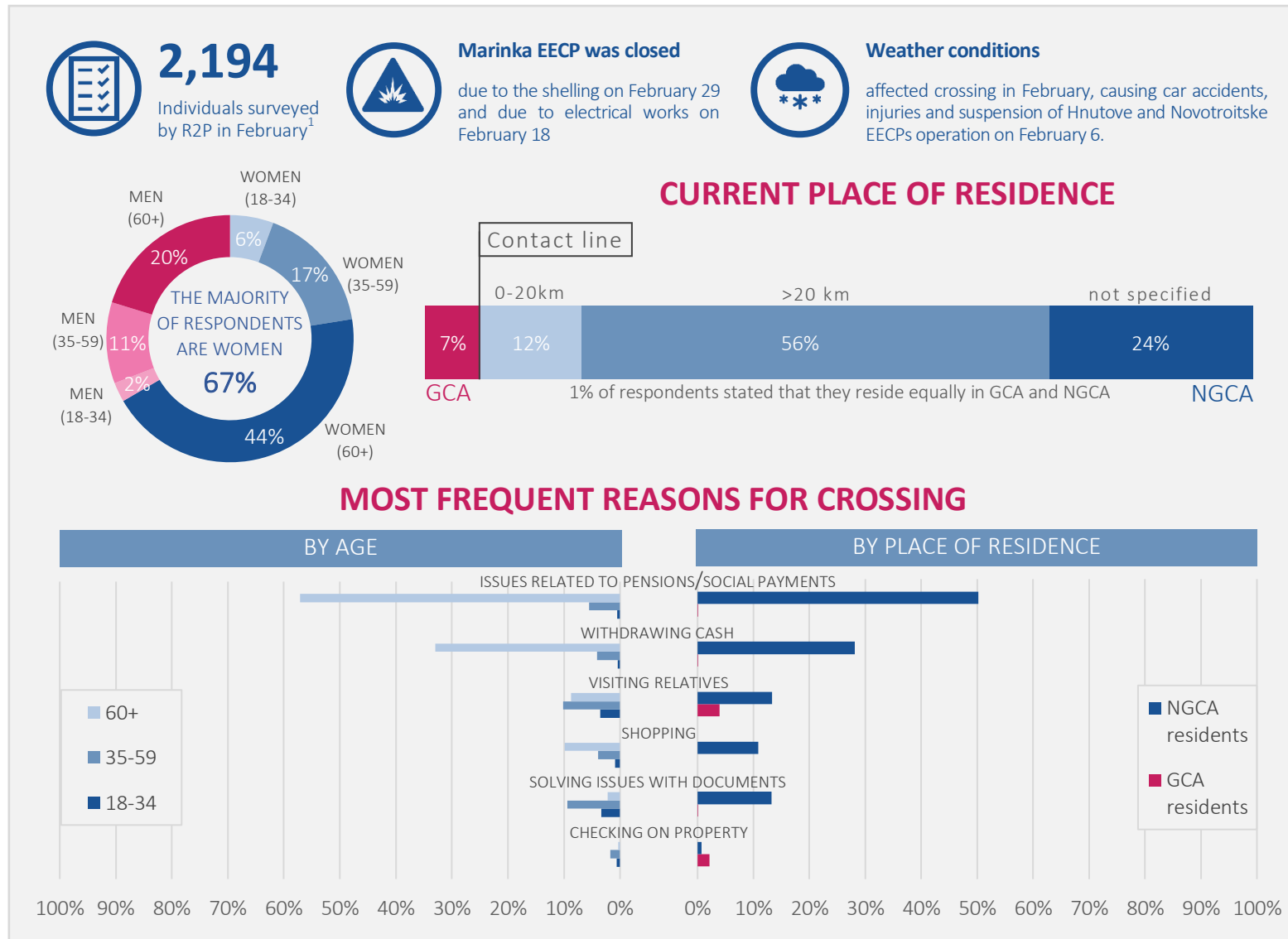
CROSSING THE CONTACT LINE:

February 2020 Snapshot

- Long lines in NGCA were mentioned a lot more often among concerns: the share increased from 20% in January to 46% in February. This might be due to the smaller capacity of NGCA checkpoints.
- Weather conditions significantly affected the condition of the road surface at Hnutove, Marinka and Novotroitske EECPs, both in GCA and NGCA. The share of respondents who indicated it among their concerns soared from 3% in January to 22%.
- Conditions in the newly constructed bomb shelter at Marinka EECP are concerning: the ceiling is leaking, there are no doors and places to seat. R2P community workers raised this issue to the head of the motor transport utility enterprise.
- According to the amendments to the CMU Resolution, children between the ages of 14 to 16 who do not have a passport of Ukrainian citizen can cross the contact line to NGCA with a birth certificate. Before that they had to pass through the police identification process and file an act of acceptance. Even though the crossing in the opposite direction is not regulated by the Resolution, such children are allowed to cross the contact line with birth certificates as well.
- During the month of January, 23,507 vulnerable elderly persons were provided with transportation support at Stanytsia Luhanska EECP by NGO "Proliska" electric vehicle. According to the monitoring observations, the estimated number of civilians transported by the bus, provided by Luhansk Oblast Administration, was around 125,000.

¹The findings of the monitoring should not be directly extrapolated onto the entire population of NGCA residents and IDPs as not all of them are travelling through the contact line.

More statistical data is available on the Eastern Ukraine Checkpoint Monitoring Online Dashboard – <https://www.unhcr.org/ua/en/eecp-monitoring-2020>



*(N)GCA – (non-)government-controlled areas

EECP – entry-exit checkpoint

CG – Coordination Group

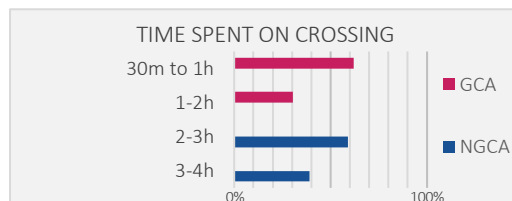
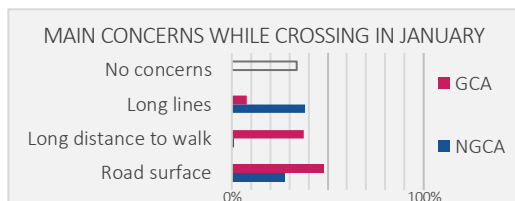
SES – State Emergency Service

SBGS – State Border Guard Service

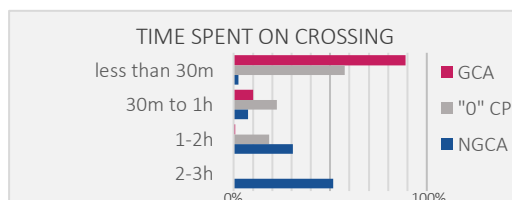
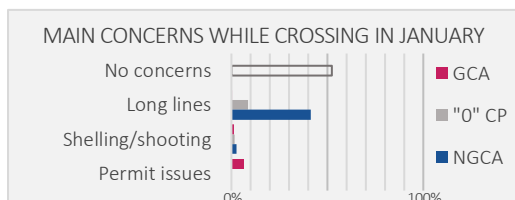
UNHCR and the NGO Right to Protection (R2P) are grateful for the generous support provided by donors, including the European Union's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO); the Governments of Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom (DFID), the United States of America (PRM) as well as private citizens who are contributing funds through different UNHCR private associations such as España con ACNUR of Spain and the UNO Flüchtlingshilfe of Germany.

CONCERNS AND DURATION OF CROSSING

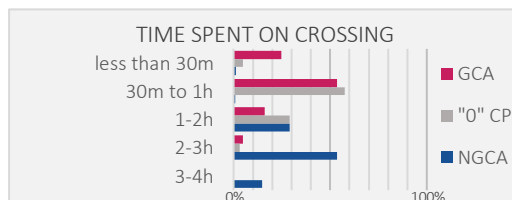
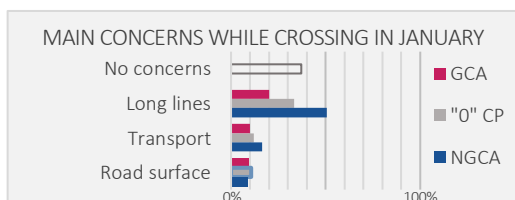
HNUTOVE



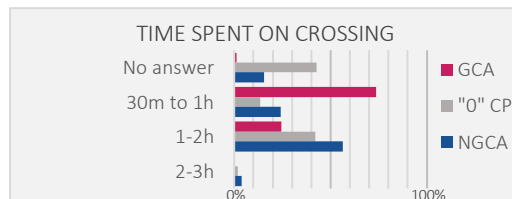
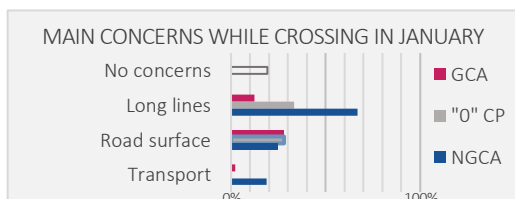
MAIORSKE



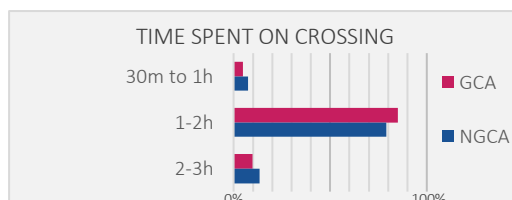
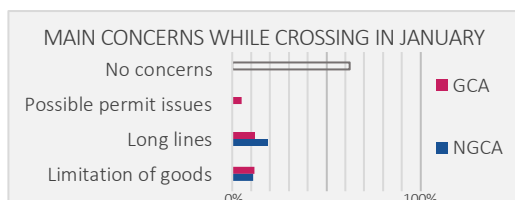
MARINKA



NOVOTROITSKE



STANYTSIA LUHANSKA



INCIDENTS AND OBSERVATIONS AT EECPS

- A man of 80 years old died at Marinka EECP on February 24. The preliminary cause of death was cardiac arrest.
- Civilians at Maiorske EECP reported that SBGS servicemen at "zero" checkpoint did not allow people get on the public bus until commercial cars were full. Such incidents were observed on February 17, 18, and 19 and were solved when bus drivers complained to the EECP chief officer.
- Marinka (on February 8) and Maiorske (on February 13) EECPs had to postpone operation by 30 minutes as people arrived from NGCA after working hours.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

- The lowest number of the respondents who stated that their information needs were satisfied was observed at Novotroitske EECP (57%).
- Contacts for complaints (17%), information about available social aid programs (12%), bus schedules (12%) and information about services available at the EECP (6%) were the most frequently indicated information needs at Novotroitske EECP.

WAITING CONDITIONS

- The hygienic condition of toilets at Marinka EECP remained a relevant issue until the renovation of the sanitation system started on February 24. A similar issue was observed at Novotroitske EECP: sewage pits were overfilled, and wastewater flowed into the neighbouring fields.
- Weather changes had an impact on the respondents concerns with waiting conditions. The share of people concerned about the lack of sheds and seats significantly increased, especially at Marinka and Novotroitske EECPs. However, the level of concerns about Maiorske GCA checkpoints remained low: only four individuals expressed concerns about waiting conditions there.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- Due to the threat of spread of COVID-19, SBGS servicemen began to carry out temperature screening at all five checkpoints as of February 27.
- All persons who cross the contact line through EECPs undergo the examination and temperature scanning.

*SBGS serviceman uses a remote-sensing thermometer for screening body temperature.



Joint Forces Operation,
27 February, 2020

Retrieved from:
<https://www.facebook.com/pressjfo.news/>