

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 recorded three conflict-related casualties, all a result of mines/ERWs.
- **Mines/ERW:** In January-November 2020, OHCHR recorded 70 casualties caused by mines/ERWs, compared with 58 for the same period last year.
- **Security:** The number of security incidents continues to grow. In November, INSO recorded 424 security incidents, which is 13% more than in the previous month.
- **COVID-19:** More than 13,000 new cases were registered in Donetsk and Luhansk GCA (over [32,000 in total](#)); 4,151 new cases were registered by the de-facto authorities in NGCA (12,611 in total).
- **Freedom of movement:** On 10 November, the JFO resumed operation of all five EECPs on the GCA side. In addition, two new EECPs were opened near Zolote and Shchastia on the GCA side but not on the NGCA side. Only the EECPs in Stanytsia Luhanska and Novotroitske are open on both the GCA and NGCA side.
- **Access to pensions and social payments:** In Stanytsia Luhanska, the Pension Fund, Department for Social Protection and Oshchadbank refuse to receive IDPs who cannot show that they have completed self-isolation in the mobile application 'Diya' or who do not have a COVID-19 negative PCR test, while this requirement is not applicable for local residents.

The NGO Right to Protection recorded at least 50 IDPs in south Donetsk region who had their IDP certificates cancelled after notification by owners of housing where IDPs were registered. The decision was made without informing IDPs. Consequently, the Pension Fund cancelled pension payments to these IDP pensioners.

- **HLP rights:** In November, the Compensation Committees in Donetsk and Luhansk regions reviewed 38 requests for compensation for destroyed housing, of which 37 were approved, with compensation to be paid by the end of the year. This is the first time that the government will provide compensation for housing destroyed during the conflict.
- **Access to basic services:** Protection Cluster partners reported two cases of fire resulting from the usage of unsafe heating devices in Novotoshkivske and Verkhnotoretske, which are cut off from gas heating.

Due to poor road conditions, mobile grocery stores ceased visiting isolated settlement Pylypchatyne (Donetsk GCA), leaving 24 older people without access to food and basic items.

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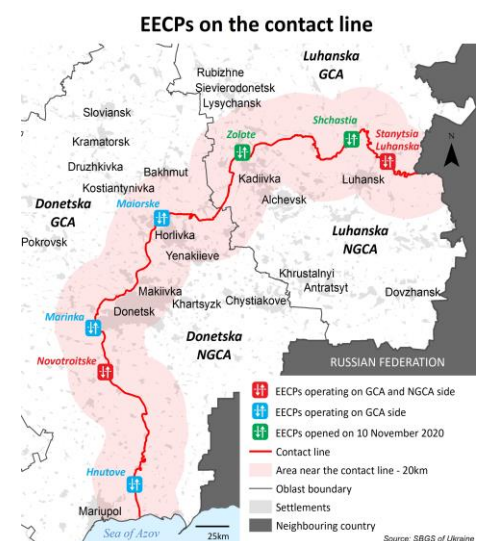
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HIGHLIGHTS

PROTECTION RESPONSE

- The HALO Trust **cleared 14 hectares of land** near 15 settlements in Donetsk and Luhansk regions and **conducted Explosive Ordnance Risk Education sessions for 6,721 children and teachers**.
- NGO Proliska **restored and cleaned eight wells** in Zaitseve and Kodema, providing access to potable water to 1,730 residents.
- HelpAge International community volunteers **provided home-based care to 1,100 older people with limited mobility**. People also received 3 months supply of PPE kits with 50 pairs of nitrile gloves, masks and sanitizers.
- Danish Refugee Council **provided individual protection assistance to 15 families (71 persons)**, improving access to education and living conditions. This includes the purchase of laptops for children for distance learning, boilers, washing machines, and refrigerators.
- UNHCR **provided individual protection assistance to 184 IDPs** affected by COVID-19 in central, western and southern Ukraine.
- NGO Right to Protection **provided 1,367 protection consultations to 1,319 persons (of them 46% residents of NGCA) at EECs**. The majority of consultations were related to quarantine restrictions.
- NGO Donbas SOS **provided 1,341 consultations**, with 27% of requests related to access to pensions and social payments, 35% to freedom of movement and 24% to obtaining civil documentation.
- The HALO Trust **cleared 14 hectares of land** near 15 settlements in Donetsk and Luhansk regions and **conducted Explosive Ordnance Risk Education sessions for 6,721 children and teachers** in schools near the contact line.
- PIN, jointly with NGOs Child Smile and Equilibrium, **provided 537 psychosocial consultations to 1,341 persons** residing along the contact line. PIN conducted consultations, focus group discussions and awareness-raising sessions on social cohesion and access to humanitarian aid for almost 1,100 local community members.
- Save the Children with NGO Istok conducted **Life Skills and Resilience and HEART (Healing and Education through the Arts)** programme activities for 178 children from schools in Starohnativka, Chermalyk, and Talakivka.
- SOS Children's Villages **provided PSS consultations for over 100 children** and their parents in Luhansk region.
- Terre Des Hommes, supported by UNICEF, **conducted PSS activities for 315 children** in Donetsk region.
- The Ukrainian Foundation of Public Health **conducted 2,886 online and phone consultations** for people residing in Donetsk and Luhansk regions; 47% of consultations related to domestic violence, 20% to PSS requests, 11% to COVID-19-related issues, 6% to out-of-family violence and 1% to bullying.
- UNFPA supported **the opening of a shelter for GBV survivors** in Myrnograd (Donetsk GCA). Up to 10 persons with 4 children can stay in the shelter for up to 3 months and receive comprehensive psychosocial support.

ADVOCACY

- As a part of the **global campaign '16 Days of Activism against GBV'**, UNFPA supported **creative initiatives** in the cities of Donetsk region calling for prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls. These initiatives included thematic flashmob 'Break the Circle', information sessions and trainings.
- NGO Right to Protection jointly with Donbas SOS and Stabilization Support Services, **published an appeal to the Parliamentary Budget Committee to provide funding for the two housing programs for IDPs** in the 2021 State Budget – 'Affordable Housing' and 'Preferential housing loans for IDPs and ATO veterans'.
- The Norwegian Refugee Council, in cooperation with Luhansk Regional Administration and methodological support from the Joint IDP Profiling Service, finalized the **Profiling of the IDP Situation in Luhansk region** that **provides data to support the development of durable solutions for IDPs**.

TRAININGS/EVENTS

- Norwegian Refugee Council **conducted four online information sessions** for 131 persons focusing on freedom of movement across the contact line, inheritance of land plots, and monthly-targeted assistance for IDPs.
- Polish Humanitarian Action, supported by UNICEF, **conducted trainings on social inclusion for 99 community workers** and trainings on positive parenting for 98 caregivers.

