

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 5 conflict-related casualties (1 person killed and 4 injured).
- **Security:** On 18 February, there was intense shelling near a number of settlements along the contact line, including Zolote, Novotoskivske, Orikhove, Krymske, Khutor Vilnyii, Marinka and Krasnohorivka. During the shelling, 25 children from a school in Triohizbenka were evacuated to a bomb shelter.
11 families with children in Orikhove expressed their wish to move out of the settlement due to constant shelling, but cannot afford to relocate without financial assistance.
- **Freedom of movement:** In 2020, at least three older men died due to ill health while crossing the contact line at the EEPCs and an old woman died as a result of a car accident near the Mayorske EECP.
People continue to face problems when crossing the contact line even after they have paid their debts as their name remains on the debtor's registry. Those who are not able to pay their debts remain stranded in GCA and are left in a dire situation, separated from their families, without a place to live and with no income to cover their debts.
- **Housing, land and property rights:** In three villages, Novoselivka-2, Kamianka and Nevelske, military personnel moved into 8 empty houses without the consent of the owners.
- **Access to essential services:** Due to lack of respect for the window of silence/ceasefire to repair water pipes near the contact line, about 2,000 residents of Krasnohorivka did not have access to water between 17-27 February and about 48,000 residents of Toretsk city and nearby villages between 12-23 February.
- **Mental health:** Following the resumption of heavy shelling on 18 February, partners reported a 70% increase in requests from schools for psychosocial support for children.
- **Access to pensions:** On 5 February, Parliament considered [Draft Law 2083-d](#) on delinking pensions from IDP registration and voted to return the draft for revision. The Finance Ministry opposed the draft law on the grounds that it would put too large a burden on Ukraine's budget.

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92% of people surveyed in February at the contact line indicated NGCA as their current place of residence

Most frequent reasons for crossing:



68%
Recovering a pension



41%
Withdrawing cash

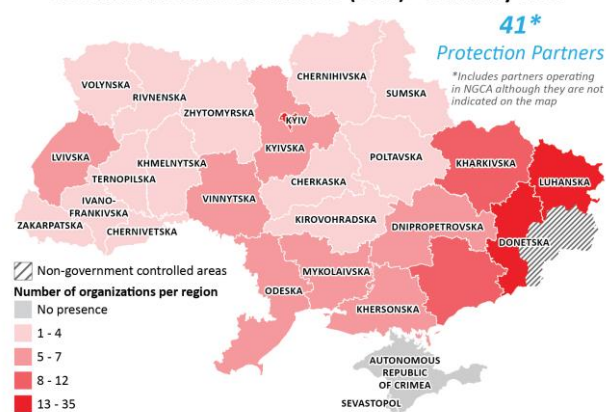
Sources: NGO R2P, UNHCR

●●●● HIGHLIGHTS

PROTECTION RESPONSE

- UNHCR provided **19 mobile cases** to the regional branches of the Department of Social Policy in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Each case contains laptop, printer, scanner, webcam and other equipment **to support the provision of social services** to conflict-affected persons living along the contact line.
- NGO Right to Protection provided legal assistance to **10 persons who were not permitted to cross the contact line** due to unpaid debts. In one case, R2P filed a court case that resulted in a ruling in favour of the beneficiary and the person's name was removed from the debtor's registry.
- Save the Children **conducted EORE sessions for 810 children and 53 adults from Donetsk GCA** (Novoluhanske, Myronivskyi, Avdiivka, Maksymilianivka, Halytsynivka, Zoriane, Krasnohorivka).
- HelpAge International **provided home-based care for older people and people with limited mobility** from 40 settlements located within 5km from the contact line. During the home visits, people received psychosocial support, non-food items and referral services.
- Polish Humanitarian Action **renovated a community center for older people in Novoluhanske** (Donetsk GCA).
- People in Need **supported three child-friendly spaces in NGCA** in Krasnodon, Rovenki and Slovianoserbsk. The spaces were equipped with furniture, game kits, and office supplies, allowing conflict-affected children to play, socialize, learn and develop.
- IOM delivered **awareness-raising sessions on human trafficking for 202 persons**, including people living in 13 settlements located within 5km zone from the contact line in Donetsk region.

Protection Cluster, Operational Presence, Government Controlled Areas (GCA) - February 2020



Operational Presence Map: <https://bit.ly/2Jd8QYn>

ADVOCACY

- On 6 February, Protection Cluster partners, including NGO Right to Protection, OHCHR, UNHCR, NRC, and NGO Airlight participated in the first meeting of the thematic working group **on compensation for property damaged or destroyed as a result of the conflict** held under the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights. During the meeting, organizations **presented their proposals regarding the draft law on compensation for property damaged or destroyed as a result of the conflict**.
- On 25-26 February, NRC jointly with MinVetToT, **held two focus groups on compensation for housing destroyed as a result of the conflict, in Kurakhove and Avdiivka**. Members of the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights, local authorities and people from Mariinka raion who lost housing as a result of hostilities participated in the discussions.
- Following advocacy efforts of the NGO Proliska, as of 27 February, **ambulance crews were positioned at Stanytsia Luhanska, Maiorske and Hnutove checkpoints**.

TRAININGS/EVENTS

- On 20-21 February, UNFPA organized an **International Forum "Ukraine is on Track for Combating Domestic and Gender-Based Violence"**. During the forum, key achievements in building a system for an effective response to domestic violence were presented, as well as priority actions that the Government of Ukraine plans to take to prevent and counter any form of domestic violence.
- The HALO Trust started a **training course for the State Emergency Service of Ukraine on non-technical surveying, EORE, demining methods and explosive ordnance disposal**.
- On 21 February, NGO The Tenth of April organized a **forum in Odessa on social cohesion and the integration of refugees and IDPs into host communities**. Participants developed a strategic plan for 2020 to strengthen community capacity and advocate for housing solutions for IDPs.