

PROTECTION MONITORING REPORT

of settlements along the contact line related to COVID-19

Data updated 27 March and shared with Oblast Authorities for their planning

Introduction: If it were to spread to areas along the contact line, COVID-19 could have a **devastating impact**. The population in isolated settlements along the contact line includes a **large proportion of older persons** (41 per cent) who suffer from the additional stress imposed by the armed conflict. Additionally, the infrastructure for prevention of the COVID-19 (such as plentiful clean water for hygiene) and response (medical facilities) has been weakened by the conflict. UNHCR's partner organization **Proliska** has a network of community workers who live in settlements along the contact line. They have compiled initial information about preparedness levels and the impact of quarantine measures in 119 settlements in a geographic area approximately five kilometers along the contact line in government-controlled areas of eastern Ukraine. Below are some of the **challenges** identified.

Risk Factor: In 23 settlements, persons have returned to their village from abroad during the last month. Most were among the large group of migrants (e.g. workers, students) who returned to Ukraine after the outbreak of the pandemic. In 11 of these settlements, there is information that the returnees have self-isolated. In three settlements, the returnees have not self-isolated, and in nine there is no information about whether returnees have self-isolated.

CONTACT
LINE
STATS

119

Settlements

242,761

Persons



ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION

- In 71 settlements, **public transport** has stopped due to the quarantine, and in 11 settlements, public transport has reduced its level of service.
- Of the 71 settlements where residents have lost **access to public transportation**, 24 do not have food shops, and in two of these villages, the mobile food shops have also stopped their services due to the quarantine.
- Of the 71 villages where residents have lost access to public transportation, 34 do not have **pharmacies**.



ACCESS TO FOOD

- 54 settlements have **no food shops**.
- 28 settlements used to receive visits from mobile food shops, but five settlements **no longer receive visits** from the mobile food shops due to the quarantine.
- 39 settlements report having received food distributed by the Government or humanitarian organizations.



ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER

- 16 settlements (all in Donetsk oblast) **do not have sufficient clean water** for residents to maintain hygiene. This problem existed before the pandemic and quarantine. The consequences are now more dire: if residents cannot practice good hygiene, the virus may spread more rapidly.



ACCESS TO MEDICAL SERVICES

- There is **no ambulance service** in 17 settlements; in an additional 10 settlements, ambulances will come only **during daytime**.
- Only 49 settlements have their own **medical services**. Residents of 21 settlements normally receive medical services in a neighboring settlement, but 11 of these have lost access to public transportation.
- 57 settlements do not have a pharmacy. Residents of 29 settlements rely on a pharmacy in a neighboring settlement, but 13 of these settlements have lost access to public transport.

Priorities for the Response

- **Food delivery:** A regular food supply needs to reach the residents of these villages. Mobile grocery stores can be reinstated, or food deliveries made by local persons wearing personal protection equipment.
- **Medical services:** Since many residents cannot reach medical services, the services will have to reach them. The provision of health services must be mobile, which means that health departments need both personnel and transport.
- **Medicine:** Without public transportation, many people will not be able to reach pharmacies to fill their regular prescriptions. A mobile pharmacy service would be useful. In the short term, community support from NGOs, neighbors and volunteers can fill the gap.
- **Water:** Clean water must be made available in all villages.

Please note: Proliska is continuously updating this data on a weekly basis, and UNHCR will provide more detailed analysis, including mapping. If humanitarian actors require data to plan assistance activities, please contact Hugo Reichenberger, External Relations Officer, with your request, email: REICHENB@unhcr.org