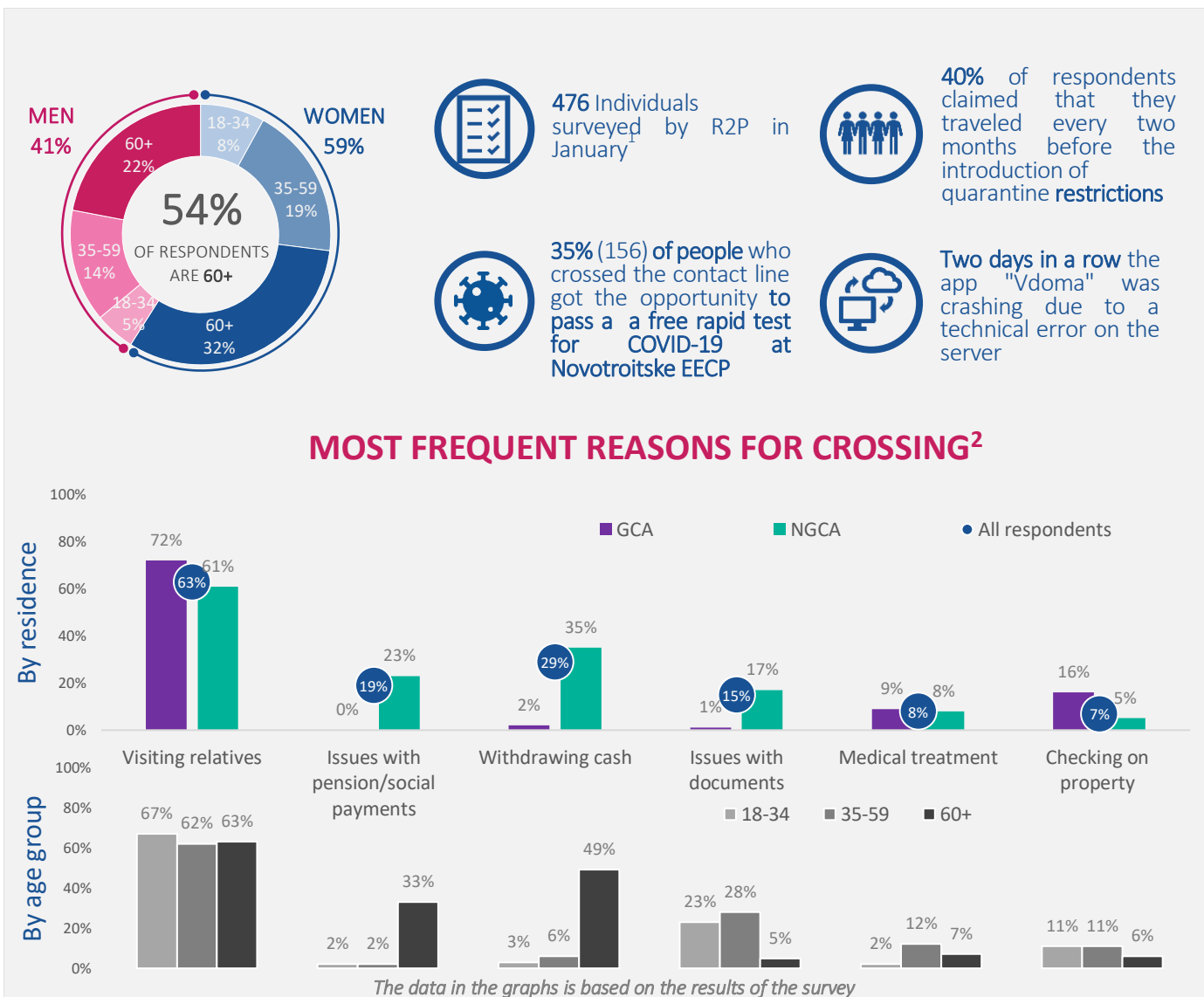


# CROSSING THE CONTACT LINE: January 2021 Snapshot

More statistical data is available on the Eastern Ukraine Checkpoint Monitoring Online Dashboard: <https://www.unhcr.org/ua/en/eecp-monitoring-2021>

- During the month, **crossing the contact line remained possible only through two EECPs**: Novotroitske in Donetsk Oblast and Stanytsia Luhanska in Luhanska Oblast, at a level considerably below the pre-COVID period. **The number of people** crossing the contact line **decreased** in January compared to December by 43 percent due to winter holidays: 27,480 and 48,000 respectively.
- On 5 January, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted changes to the Resolution №1236, according to which **it is allowed to test persons** arriving from NGCA for COVID-19 **not only by PCR, but also by using a rapid antigen test**. Donetsk and Luhanska Regional State Administrations were instructed to ensure the functioning of necessary testing points at EECPs. The rapid test will be free of charge for Ukrainian citizens. The tests were purchased at the expense of the state budget, the Ministry of Health signed an order on the distribution of 1.8 million tests. In case of a negative result, the data is automatically displayed in “Vdoma” app and the person is released from self-isolation. **As of the end of January, 156 people took advantage of the opportunity to pass a rapid test for COVID-19 at Novotroitske EECP**. Meanwhile, Stanytsia Luhanska EECP was not provided with rapid tests, therefore people crossing the contact line in the GCA direction at Stanytsia Luhanska EECP had to pay for passing PCR test in two private laboratories located at the EECP.
- Out of those surveyed for 83 percent cash withdrawal was the main type of service they used at Stanytsia Luhanska EECP.
- Of those respondents who were concerned about any issues, the majority of them cited on possible issues with a permit as the main reason for their concern. This may be caused by the fact that people faced with a complex procedure of document submission as at Novotroitske EECP. Besides, 30 percent of those respondents claimed the lack of physical distance as a reason of their concern.
- During the month of January, **3,695 vulnerable elderly persons were provided with transport support at Stanytsia Luhanska EECP** by the NGO “Proliska” e-vehicle.



<sup>1</sup>The findings of the monitoring should not be directly extrapolated to the entire population.

<sup>2</sup>Percentage calculated within each group (NGCA/GCA or age groups)

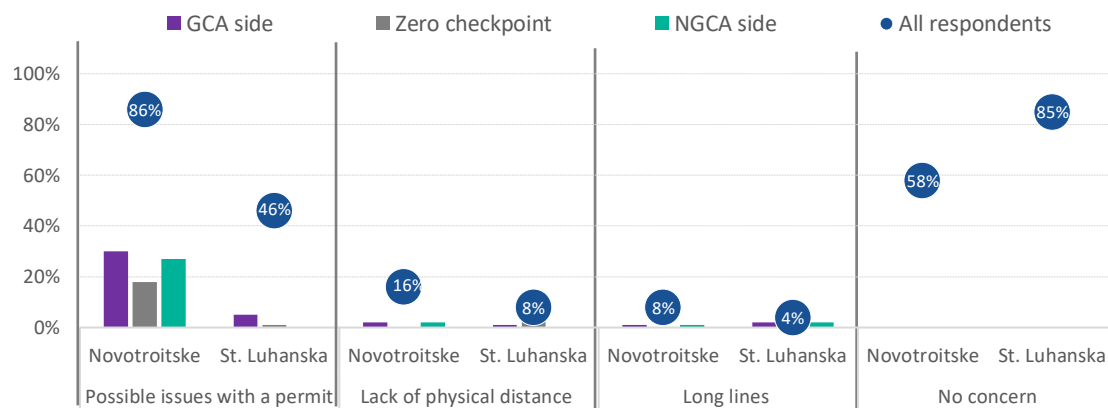
\*(N)GCA – (non-)government-controlled areas

EECP – entry-exit checkpoint

NGO - non-government organization

PCR - Polymerase chain reaction

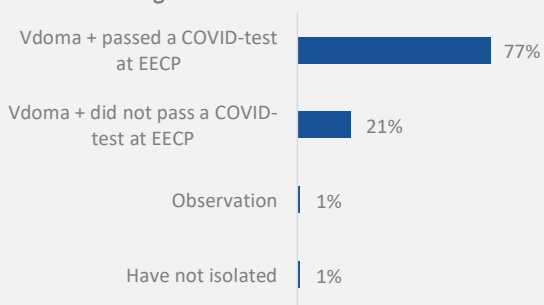
## MAIN CONCERNS WHILE CROSSING



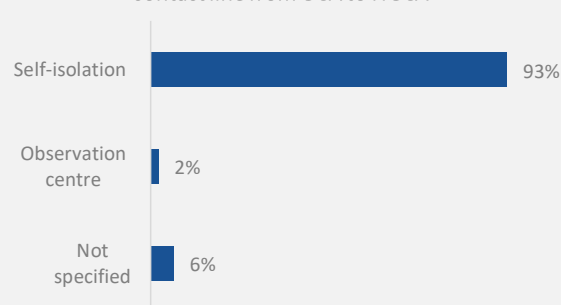
## COVID-19 SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

The data presented in these graphs relate to the respondent's previous experience of crossing the contact line

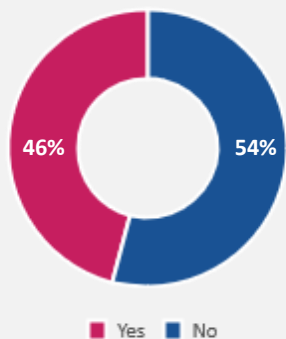
Options for compulsory isolation after crossing the contact line from NGCA to GCA



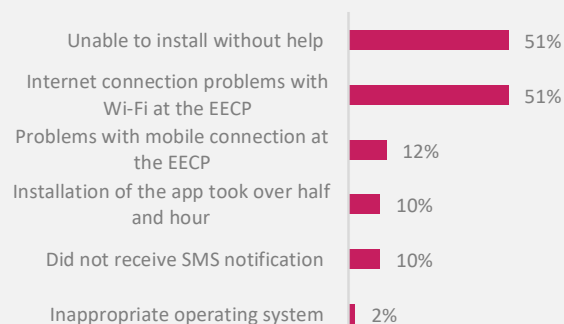
Options for isolation after crossing the contact line from GCA to NGCA



Difficulties while installing "Vdoma" app



Types of difficulties while installing "Vdoma" app\*



\*Respondents could indicate several options

The data in the graphs is based on the results of the survey

## DONETSKA OBLAST

In January, about 451 people were authorized to cross to the GCA at the Novotroitske EECP and about 517 people crossed the contact line to NGCA. Novotroitske EECP remained the only EECP in Donetsk Oblast where it was possible to cross the contact line based on lists established by de-facto authorities in NGCA. The process of crossing was the same as in the previous month: people need to be placed on a list, compiled by de-facto authorities in NGCA. It entails a complex procedure of document submission.

## LUHANSKA OBLAST

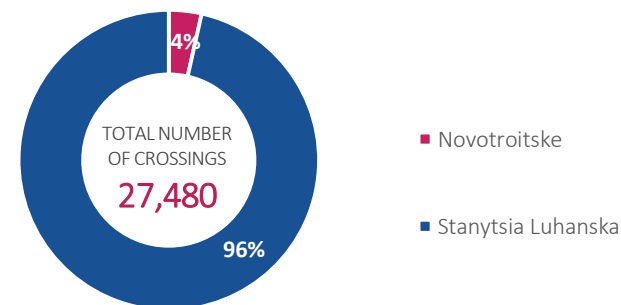
In January, about 14,000 people crossed the contact line to GCA and about 13,000 people to NGCA at Stanytsia Luhanska EECP. To prevent people from being stuck in the zero checkpoint, SBGS was checking NGCA residence registration of people crossing to the NGCA side, which de facto authorities require for entering the NGCA.

## COVID-19 SPECIFIC OBSERVATIONS

- People had problems with running of the app "Vdoma". All problems were the same as before: poor network coverage at EECPs and inability to receive activation message due to a server error. Besides, R2P assisted about 500 persons with installing the "Vdoma" app.
- In Donetsk Oblast, people who do not have the ability to install the app "Vdoma", have to go to the observation point in Hostre settlement in Donetsk Oblast. Thus, in January, 27 (6%) people were sent to the observation point, all of them either had inappropriate phone or no phone at all.
- The situation with observation in Luhanska oblast: there are no vacant places in observation points. Thus, in case if person did not manage to install the app, s/he is not allowed to cross the contact line to GCA, and has to return to NGCA.

## NUMBER OF CROSSINGS IN JANUARY<sup>3</sup>

The total number of crossings in January 2021 represents only 2,7 percent of the total numbers of crossings recorded in January 2020.



<sup>3</sup>General statistics on crossings are available at the UNHCR dashboard visualizing data from the State Border Guard Service. <https://goo.gl/TZbU8c>