

CROSSING THE CONTACT LINE: December 2021 EECP Survey Snapshot

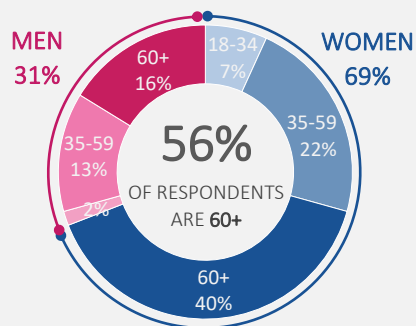
More statistical data is available on the Eastern Ukraine Checkpoint Monitoring Online Dashboard: <https://www.unhcr.org/ua/en/eeep-monitoring-2021>

In 2021, only two of seven Entry-Exit Checkpoints (EECPs) were open on both sides on the contact line: Novotroitske, in Donetsk Oblast, two days a week and Stanytsia Luhanska, in Luhansk Oblast, seven days a week. The number of crossings in 2021 was at a level considerably below the pre-COVID period. In December 2021, the number of crossings at **Novotroitske EECP** was 3,163, which is only 1,3 per cent of that in December 2019. The same can be deduced from the number of crossings at **Stanytsia Luhanska EECP** where the number was 55,010 in December 2021, which is 16,7 per cent of that in December 2019. COVID-19 preventative measures are cited by the de facto authorities as their reason to keep the other EECPs closed.

On 29 December, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine eliminated the requirement to install the Vdoma location-aware app and self-isolation for people crossing EECPs to GCA. This also means that isolation in a state-run observation facility is no longer obligatory as it was for people who could not install the Vdoma app. However, restrictions on crossing EECPs on the NGCA side are still being applied.

Infrastructure rehabilitation works began at **Novotroitske EECP**: a new module to support pedestrian crossings is already operational and another should arrive soon. Recently, infrastructure improvements at **Stanytsia Luhanska EECP** were completed, including the installation of new modules and delivery of required equipment, and baggage scanners. In addition, a new administrative service centre will be built at **Marinka EECP**.

Since November, people who want to cross the contact line have been unable to register at the Security Service of Ukraine (SSU) website. Only already existing accounts are able to make submissions. This problematic situation for people crossing the contact line reinforces the urgency of the request **R2P** sent on 30 December 2021 to the CMU to amend order № 815 by revoking the requirement to obtain a permit to cross the contact line as excessively restrictive and hence unconstitutional.



UNHCR, with its partner **R2P**, has been monitoring EECPs since 2016. With **Proliska**, UNHCR has also provided support to people crossing (information and transportation) since 2018.



On 29 December, the obligation to install **Vdoma app** for people crossing EECPs to GCA was **eliminated**.

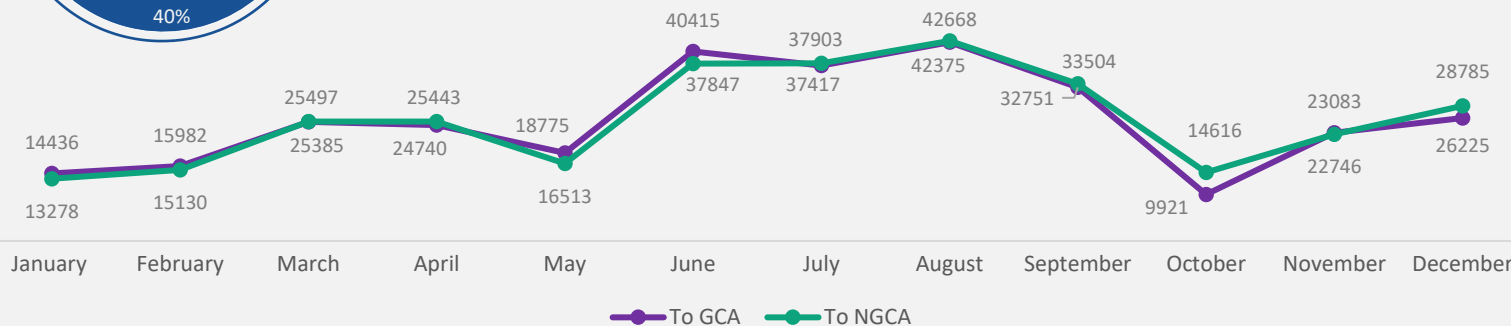


In December, 10,291 older persons in a situation of vulnerability were transported across the Stanytsia Luhanska EECP on an electric cart provided by the NGO **Proliska**.

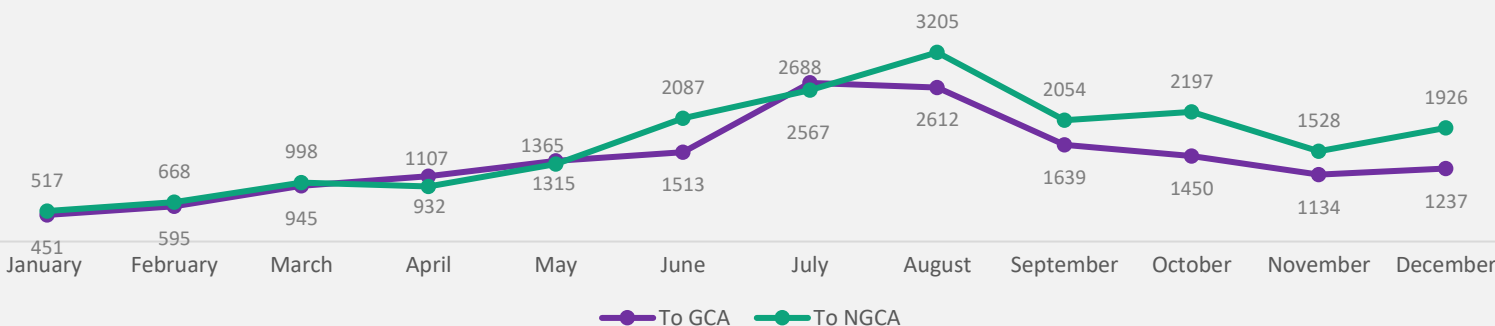


R2P facilitated **263** requests for crossing through the fast-track procedure and assisted about **1,430** persons with installing Vdoma app.

Number of crossings at Stanytsia Luhanska EECP in 2021 (by direction)



Number of crossings at Novotroitske EECP in 2021 (by direction)



(N)GCA – (non-)government-controlled areas
SBGS – State Border Guard Service

IBCP – International/interstate border crossing point
SSU – Security Service of Ukraine

EECP – entry-exit checkpoint
CMU – The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine

NGO – non-government organization

UNHCR is grateful for the critical financial support provided by donors who have contributed to the Ukraine operation, as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programs with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

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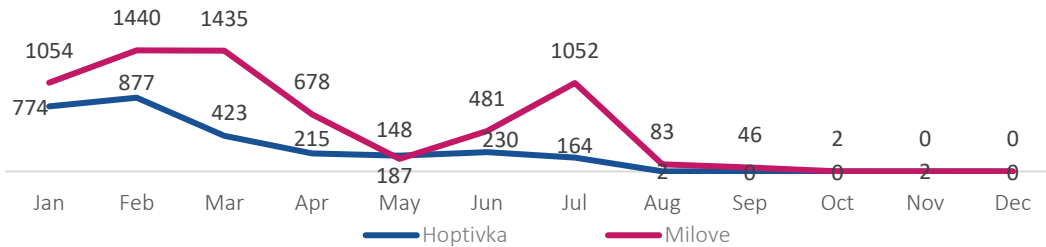


GOING AROUND THE CONTACT LINE:

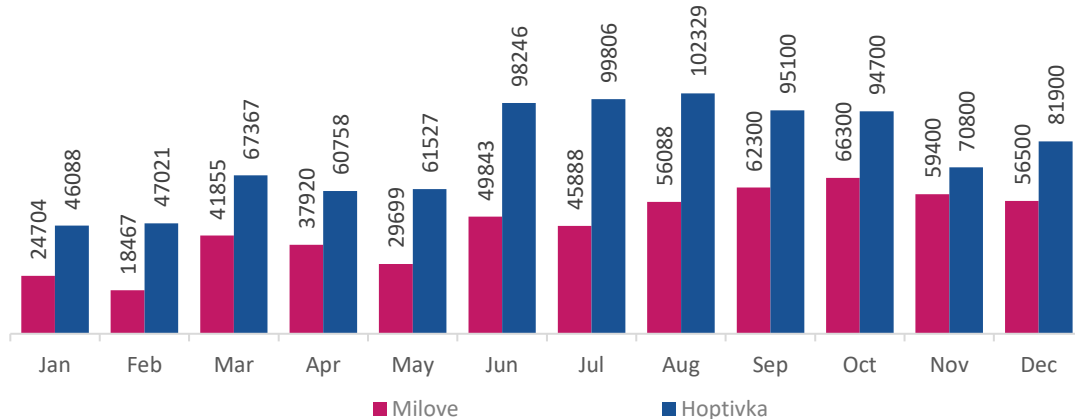
December 2021 IBCP Survey Snapshot

- In December, most respondents at **Milove** and **Hoptivka IBCPs** were residents of Donetsk NGCA (48%) compared to the number of residents of Luhansk NGCA (24%). The remaining 28% were residents of Donetsk and Luhansk GCA and other Ukraine oblasts. According to SBGS statistics, the number of crossings at **Milove IBCP** in 2021 doubled compared to 2020, whilst at **Hoptivka IBCP** the situation remained the same. Thus, the number of crossings at **Milove IBCP** was **277,000** in 2020, against **548,964** in 2021. At **Hoptivka IBCP**, **960,880** crossings were recorded in 2020, against **925,705** in 2021.
- Installation of the Vdoma app is no longer required for people crossing through EECs, however, it still remains a requirement for those crossing through IBCPs. The lack of free COVID-19 tests at both IBCPs makes the process of crossing more complicated. Thus, in December, at **Milove IBCP**, **39 people** were sent for observation. Most were older persons, who could neither install the Vdoma app nor afford COVID-19 tests.
- On 21 December, **UNHCR** successfully finalized rehabilitation works at **Milove IBCP** to enhance the safety and dignity of crossing and reception conditions. The project was launched thanks to cooperation between **UNHCR** Ukraine and the Luhansk Region Civil Military Administration. The project will improve the reception conditions at **Milove IBCP** to enhance the safety and dignity of the people crossing.

Fines imposed at Milove and Hoptivka IBCPs



Number of crossings at Milove and Hoptivka IBCPs (citizens of Ukraine only)*



*Statistics on the number of crossings and fines were obtained from the State Border Guard Service

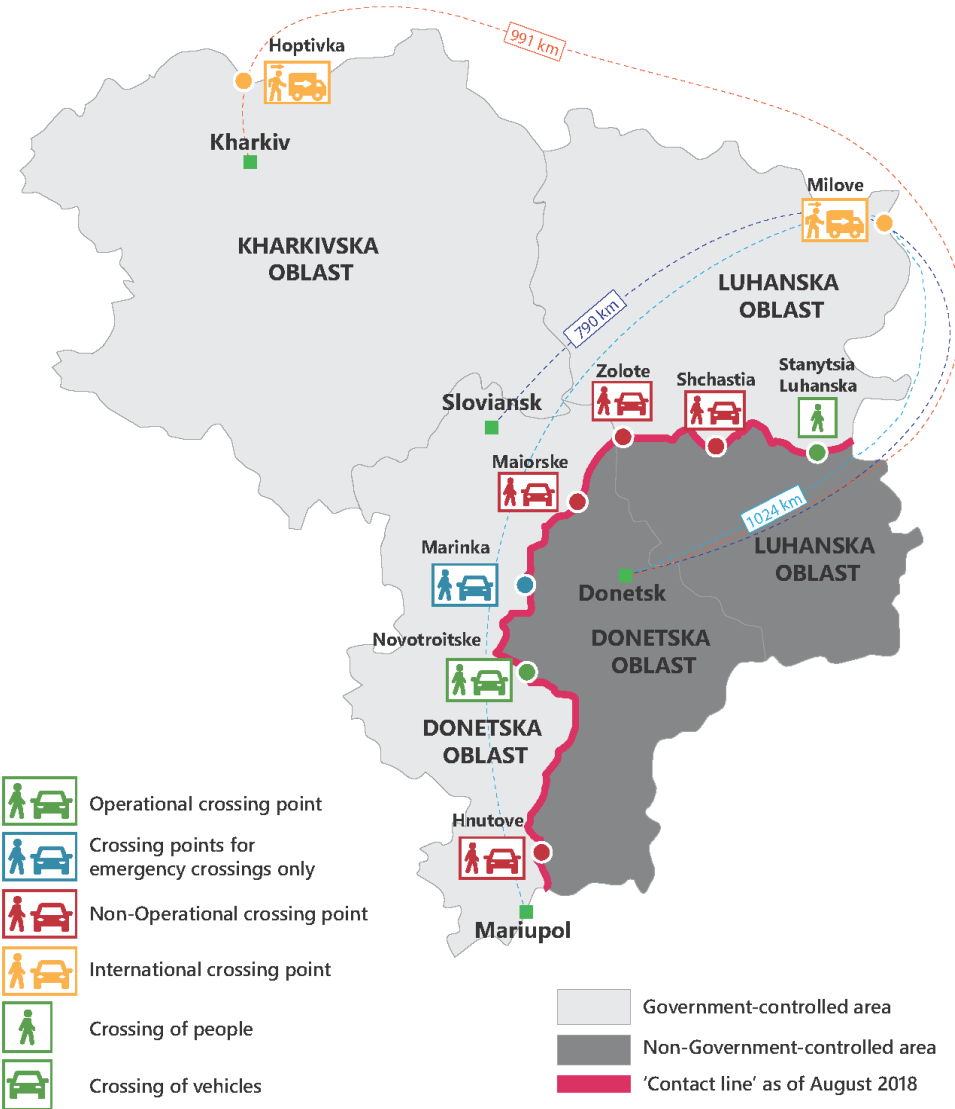


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Individuals surveyed in December at the IBCPs



Since August, the number of fines imposed at Milove and Hoptivka IBCPs have plummeted.



- Operational crossing point
- Crossing points for emergency crossings only
- Non-Operational crossing point
- International crossing point
- Crossing of people
- Crossing of vehicles

- Government-controlled area
- Non-Government-controlled area
- 'Contact line' as of August 2018