

THE PROTECTION CLUSTER INCLUDES SUB-CLUSTERS ON CHILD PROTECTION, GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND MINE ACTION



© Vostok SOS / Destroyed home for older people and people with disabilities, Horlivka, Donetsk NGCA

## PROTECTION CONCERNS

- Civilian casualties:** The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine recorded 27 conflict-related casualties (six persons were killed and 21 injured).
- Mine contamination:** On 3 July, a civilian was injured by a mine explosion while helping the State Emergency Services of Ukraine fight a forest fire in the vicinity of Kolesnykovka (Donetsk, GCA).  
Two boys were injured while playing with hand grenades in Illovaisk and Kirovske (Donetsk NGCA).
- Security:** The security situation remains tense, with an average of 25 security incidents registered daily.  
At least 84 civilian dwellings were damaged or destroyed on the GCA. Sixty of them were damaged as a result of the disposal of explosives by Ukrainian military forces in the vicinity of Zaitseve (Donetsk, GCA).
- Freedom of movement:** On 21 July, EECP Maiorske was closed due to demining activities conducted around the checkpoint.  
On 31 July, EECP Hnutove was closed due to mine explosions near the EECP, as UXOs detonated when they caught fire from the nearby burning grass.
- Isolated settlements:** Since 22 July, a Sloviansk-based transport service provider increased bus fares for residents of Zaitseve, which will impact access to transport and services for about 787 residents of this isolated community.  
Fifty residents of Leonidivka settlement (Donetsk, GCA) do not have access to transport and basic services, including a pharmacy, food store, post office and bank branch. People must walk 2.5 kilometers to the nearest bus stop, which is difficult given that most residents are elderly.
- Access to the healthcare:** 1,200 residents of Starohnativka settlement (Donetsk, GCA) do not have access to medical services. The closest health centre is 15km away and is not accessible by public transport.  
The residents of Zolote settlement (Luhansk, GCA) must pay 400-500 UAH for private bus services to reach the nearest hospitals in Hirske and Popasna.
- Gender-based violence:** During the information sessions on GBV organized by Slavic Heart, women highlighted the absence of shelters in Luhansk oblast and limited number in Donetsk oblast as an acute protection concern, particularly as the police are reluctant to issue emergency restraining orders against perpetrators.
- IDP eviction:** the Kharkiv regional working group on temporary accommodation for IDPs reported that accommodation in the Collective Center, inhabited by 302 IDPs, will not be available after 31 August, due to the unsafe conditions of the facility.

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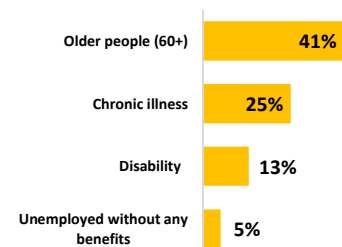
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### Vulnerabilities of people residing in isolated settlements



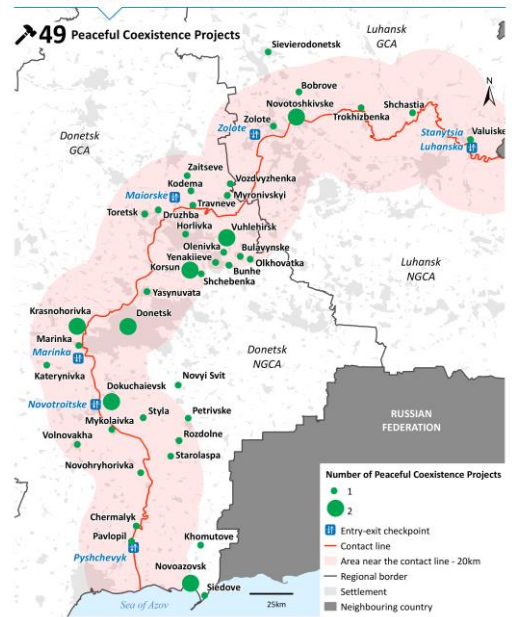
Source: REACH Protection Assessment of isolated settlements in GCA along the contact line, 2019

## ●●●● HIGHLIGHTS

### PROTECTION RESPONSE

- On 18 July, OCHA and UNHCR facilitated the delivery of a humanitarian convoy, with PIN and Medecins du Monde cargo, to Luhansk NGCA. Seven trucks delivered **105 tons of shelter materials and medical equipment** for distribution among health facilities.
- The Halo Trust **cleared over 11.5 hectares of land** near 17 settlements across Donetsk and Luhansk regions. The Halo Trust also provided 112 Mine Risk Education sessions to 6,964 people.
- As part of the **mine/ERW victims assistance** programme, UNICEF, in partnership with DRC, **provided case management support** to nine families with ten children, who are direct victims of mine incidents and three families with children where one of the caregivers was injured in a mine/ERW incident.
- SOS Children's Villages provided long-term **case management support** (which includes psychological, socio-pedagogical, healthcare, recreational, and material support) **for 269 vulnerable families with 555 children** from Stanytsia Luhanska, Starobilsk and Sievierodonetsk (Luhansk, GCA).
- Proliska provided **1,452 protection consultations** focusing on humanitarian aid, including winterization assistance, freedom of movement, personal documentation, access to health services, obtaining of social and pension payments; **300 persons were provided with social accompaniment** to obtain civil documentation, electronic passes to cross the contact line, IDP registration and social payments.
- Stabilization Support Services, through the Radnyky programme, **provided consultations on IDP social protection issues to 597 specialists** of the social protection system, 256 NGOs and 366 IDPs.
- Donbass SOS **provided 2,212 informational and legal consultations** through their hotline (of whom 26% were from NGCA). The main protection concerns included issuance of documents in GCA, access to pension and social payments and crossing the contact line.
- NRC provided **information, counselling and legal assistance to 1,656 people**, out of whom 33% were from NGCA. The main protection concerns included pension payments, acquiring death certificates and inheritance in GCA and burial assistance.
- R2P provided individual **legal assistance to 1,782 persons** and won two court cases related to compensation for non-pecuniary damage for the death of civilians due to the armed conflict. The plaintiffs were awarded compensation of 500,000 UAH and 2 million UAH.
- HelpAge International **delivered home-based care to 3,634 older people** in Donetsk and Luhansk regions (of them 469 persons with disabilities and 399 IDPs), which included psychosocial (PSS) services, informational support, distribution of assistive devices and hygiene kits and training of beneficiaries and their families on establishing of safe spaces.
- Polish Humanitarian Action provided **individual PSS sessions to 946 home-bound older people and group psychosocial support to 1,118 older people** (60+ years old) through five community centers, located in Lastochkyno, Svitlodarsk, Zolote-4, Triokhizbenka and Peredilske.
- UNICEF / UNFPA supported **PSS mobile teams, which provided targeted assistance to 523 GBV survivors (including 69 IDPs)** in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. **Fifty-seven GBV survivors received safe space accommodation** and complex psychosocial support at nine UNFPA-supported shelters.

Peaceful Coexistence Projects under implementation of UNHCR and partners in Donetsk and Luhansk regions in 2019



### ADVOCACY

- On 25 July 2019, NRC, in partnership with UNHCR, organized an expert discussion on the **administrative mechanism for payment of compensation for property damaged or destroyed as a result of hostilities**. The event brought together central and local authorities, judges, as well as national and international organisations.

### TRAININGS/EVENTS

- Slavic Heart conducted **five sessions on prevention of GBV for 79 people** from Volnovakha, Toretsk, Krasnohorivka (Donetsk, GCA), Popasna and Hirske (Luhansk, GCA). During the sessions, the NGO shared information on the work of their mobile teams as well as other organizations. Women shared their challenges of reporting cases of violence to police and called for more awareness raising among service providers as well as the wider population in order to ensure zero tolerance for all forms of gender-based violence.