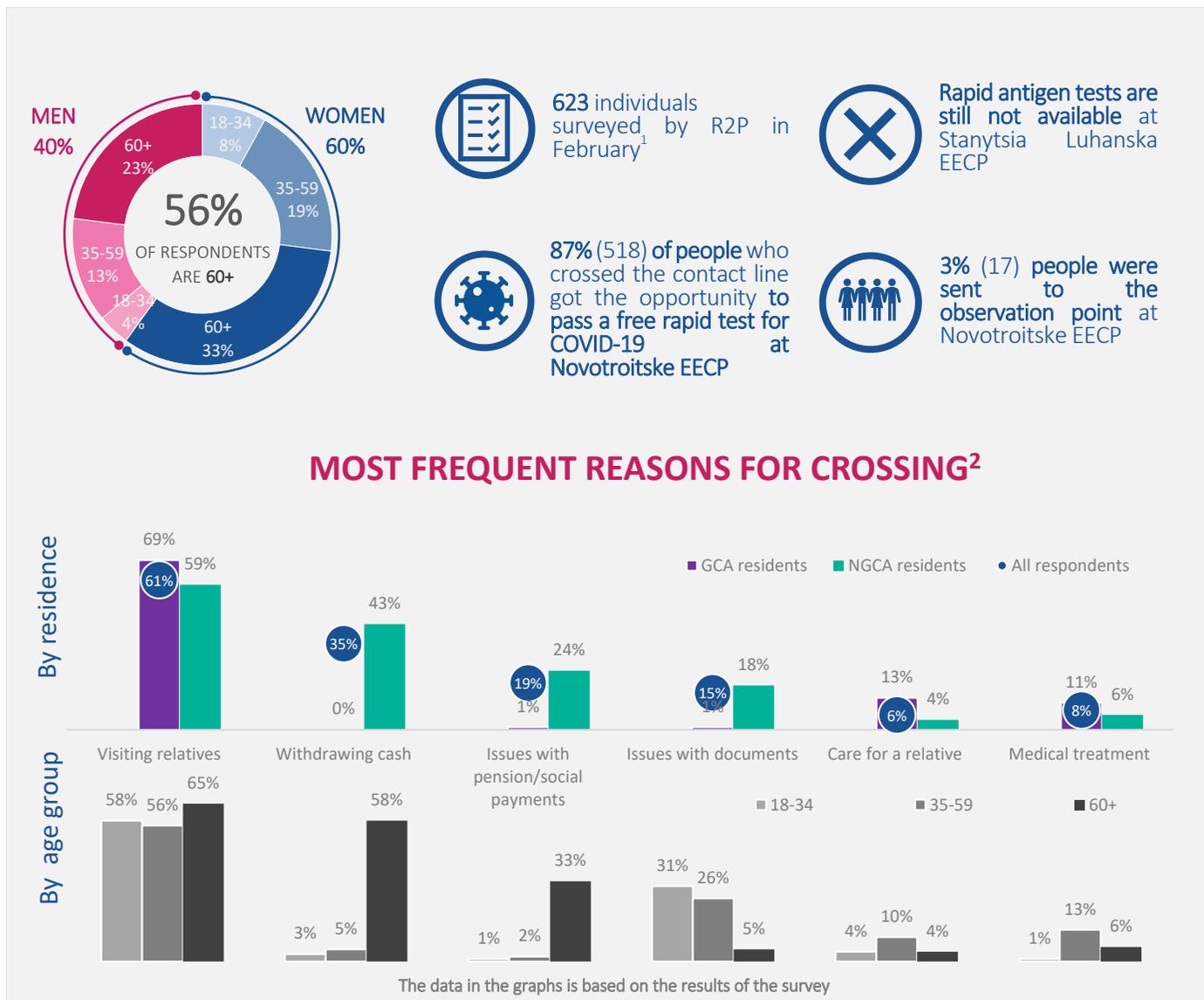


# CROSSING THE CONTACT LINE: February 2021 Snapshot

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 **increased** in February compared to January by 31 percent: 39,497 and 27,480 respectively.
- At the end of February, it was still not possible to take free-of-charge rapid COVID-19 tests at Stanytsia Luhanska EECP, despite governmental instructions. PCR tests for COVID-19 could only be done at one's own expense in three different private laboratories located at the EECP. **At Novotroitske EECP in Donetsk Oblast, of those who crossed 518 (87%) people took advantage of the opportunity to pass a rapid test for COVID-19.**
- Visiting relatives remained the main reason for crossing in both directions, including for people crossing into GCA. NGCA residents also crossed EECPs for reasons of cash withdrawal, issues of pension or social payments, and documentation issues. In February 2020, visiting relatives was only the third widespread reason for crossing into GCA, after pension recovery and cash withdrawal.
- R2P monitors' assistance**: R2P facilitated 120 requests for crossing from GCA residents through the fast-track procedure. Also, R2P assisted about 800 persons with installing the "Vdoma" app.
- During the month of February, **4,483 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

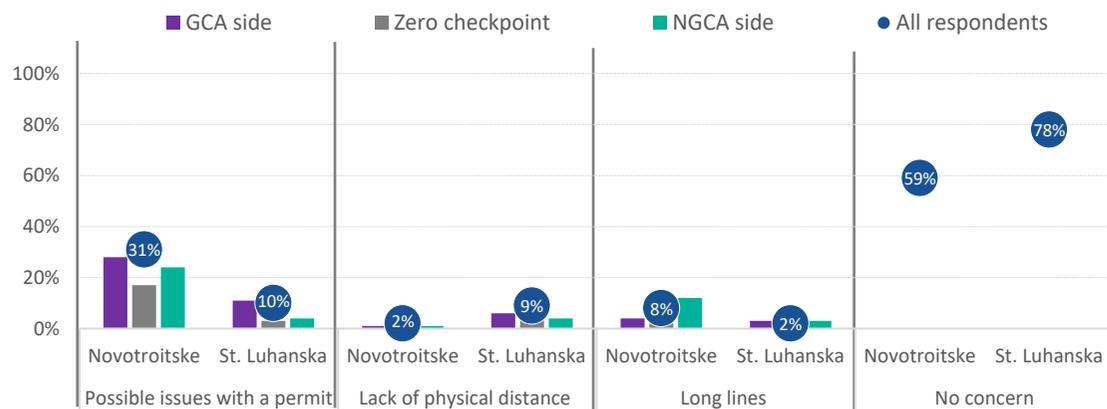
EECP – entry-exit checkpoint

NGO - non-government organization

PCR - Polymerase chain reaction

UNHCR and the NGO Right to Protection (R2P) are grateful for the generous support provided by donors, including the European Union's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO); the Governments of Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom (DFID), the United States of America (PRM) as well as private citizens who are contributing funds through different UNHCR private associations such as España con ACNUR of Spain and the UNO Flüchtlingshilfe of Germany.

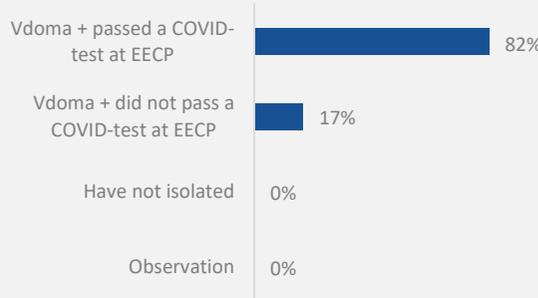
## MAIN CONCERNS WHILE CROSSING



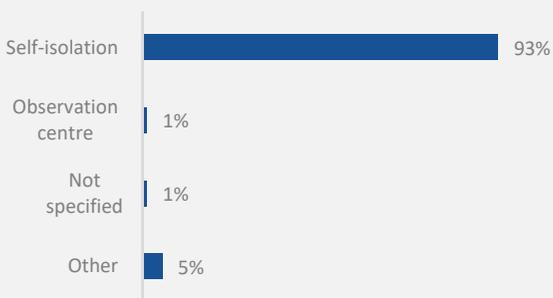
## COVID-19 SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

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

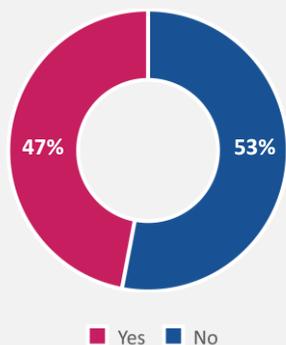
### Options for compulsory isolation after crossing the contact line from NGCA to GCA



### 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 February, about 595 people were authorized to cross to the GCA at the Novotroitske EECP and about 668 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. The passage of people was conducted every Monday and Friday. 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

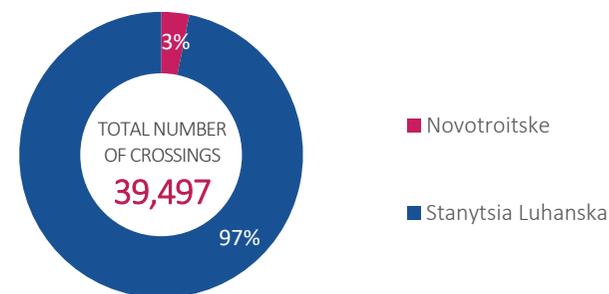
In February, about 19,000 people crossed the contact line to GCA and about 19,000 people to NGCA at Stanytsia Luhanska EECP. To prevent people from being stuck at the zero checkpoint, SBGS was checking NGCA residence registration of people crossing to the NGCA side, which de facto authorities require for entering the NGCA.

## COVID-19 SPECIFIC OBSERVATIONS

- A very small percentage of respondents raised concerns about the risks associated with COVID-19. This can be explained by the small numbers of people crossing the EECP every day, and the absence of long waiting lines.
- Concerns reported by respondents related predominantly to issues of permit. The majority of people who confirmed being concerned when crossing EECPs mentioned possible issues with permits as their main concern main reason for their concern. The percentage of people having concerns regarding permit issues during the crossing was significantly higher among respondents at Novotroitske EECP (31 percent), where crossing conditions are very restrictive, compared to Stanytsia Luhanska (10 percent).

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

The total number of crossings in February 2021 represents only 4 percent of the total numbers of crossings recorded in February 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>