

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



PROTECTION CONCERNS

- **Civilian casualties:** In September, OHCHR recorded 20 conflict-related civilian casualties (5 killed and 15 injured). Three boys were killed and one severely injured due to a landmine explosion near Horlivka (Donetsk NGCA). Overall, mine and ERW-related incidents accounted for 50% of casualties.
- **Security:** On 11 September, a school in Zolote-5 (Luhansk NGCA) came under fire and children were evacuated to bomb shelters.
- **Freedom of movement:** The number of crossings across the contact line has decreased by 14% compared to the previous month. In September, all five checkpoints have reduced their operations by three hours (functioning from 07.30-18.30). Also, 'Stanytsia Luhanska' checkpoint was closed during 2-7 September due to reconstruction works. On 28 September, 'Hnutove' checkpoint (Donetsk GCA) was shelled, causing approximately 50 people waiting in the queue to evacuate to bomb shelters.

In Donetsk NGCA, de-facto authorities issued a clarification of the Decree No. 363 regulating travel to GCA. The clarification provides a list of civil servant positions who are not allowed to travel to GCA. Lower rank employees have to obtain permission from the self-proclaimed DPR 'Ministry of Defence' to travel to GCA.

- **Settlements along the contact line:** In Zolote-4, an area also known as Hutir Vilniy, (Luhansk region), that was located between the military positions of the parties to the conflict, Ukrainian Armed Forces entered two streets, occupying empty houses, on 21 September. On 24 September, armed groups of so-called LPR moved into the remaining two streets, occupying the houses of about 30 people, who were asked to leave. As both sides established their positions near civilian homes, 67 remaining residents are now affected by daily shelling.
- **Access to education:** With the beginning of the school year, 28 children in three settlements along the contact line are facing difficulties with access to schools and kindergartens in GCA, due to lack of public transport, break-downs of school bus or impassible roads.
- **Access to basic services:** On 25 September, cases of tap water poisoning were reported in Makiivka (Donetsk, NGCA), allegedly due to poor water treatment.
- **Collective Centers:** Two IDP families with disabilities were threatened with eviction from the collective center Sviati Hory (Donetsk GCA). The number of conflicts between residents are rising, as extremely vulnerable people live for the fourth year in accommodation with substandard living conditions, and are threatened with eviction.

PROTECTION CLUSTER CONTACTS

Anna Rich, Protection Cluster Coordinator, rich@unhcr.org

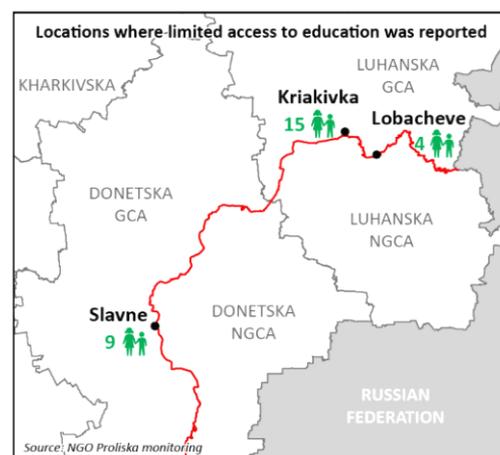
Kateryna Martynenko, Child Protection Sub-Cluster Coordinator, kmartynenko@unicef.org

Olena Kochemyrovska, GBV Sub Cluster Coordinator, kochemyrovska@unfpa.org

Martin Oubrecht, Mine Action Sub Cluster Coordinator, martin.oubrecht@undp.org

Mykhailo Verych, Age and Disability TWG Coordinator, mykhailo.verych@helpage.org

Olena Lukaniuk, Housing, Land and Property TWG Coordinator, olena.lukaniuk@nrc.no



HIGHLIGHTS

PROTECTION RESPONSE

- HelpAge International provided assistance to **2,138 older people** through 12 Community Safe Spaces in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, which engage mobile older people separated from their family, older people suffering from isolation or neglect and older people caring for a disabled or chronically ill family member.
- UNFPA/UNICEF psychosocial support mobile teams provided **assistance to 629 GBV survivors**, including 102 IDPs. 34 GBV survivors received safe space accommodation and complex psychosocial support at 7 UNFPA-supported shelters.
- La Strada received **1,619 calls to the national 24/7 hotline for GBV survivors**. Survivors calling for psychological, legal and information support reported 1,110 cases, of which 39% are attributed to sexual and physical violence.
- Polish Humanitarian Aid provided **group PSS sessions at schools to 198 adolescents** in Bakhmutskiy and Kostyantynivskiy rayon.
- Crimea SOS and UNHCR supported an IDP from Donetsk NGCA in opening of the **center of socio-psychological rehabilitation** for children with specific needs in Sumy.
- DRC-DDG in cooperation with UNICEF have started a **project on mine victim assistance** which will undertake a situation analysis, mapping of available services in order to contribute to improved service provision and is aimed at strengthening the protective environment for child mine victims through community support networks and awareness raising.
- Save the Children with the local NGO Most opened a new **community protection center in Donetsk NGCA** that will also be providing services through mobile outreach in Gorlovka, Yasynuvata, Vuhlehirsk.
- Protection Cluster partners in Donetsk NGCA provided **individual protection counseling to 490 persons**, including IDPs, pensioners and returnees and group counselling to 93 persons. Issues requiring assistance included pension payments and renewal of lost documents in GCA, issuance of new documents in NGCA, permits for crossing of the contact line, HLP and accommodation, humanitarian assistance, and social payments in NGCA.
- NRC provided **legal assistance, counseling and training to 935 people**, out of whom **24.6% were from NGCA**. Legal Aid Centres in Severodonetsk, Stanytsia Luhanska and Kramatorsk received 506 visitors and 346 hotline calls with most questions related to access to pensions (28%), civil and identity documentation (17%) and HLP (9%).

ADVOCACY

- HelpAge International presented its [Baseline report on conflict-affected older men and women in eastern Ukraine](#) at the Parliamentary Committee on Social Policy, Employment and Pensions hearings 'Social protection of older people'.
- OHCHR published its [23rd Quarterly Report on the Human Rights Situation in Ukraine](#), covering the period from 16 May to 15 August 2018. The majority of casualties were recorded in May to June, with a lull during July-August. Such lulls, however, do not bring relief to civilians in the conflict zone as the situation remains volatile sustaining an atmosphere of insecurity and anxiety.
- Stabilization Support Service participated in the [OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting](#) in Warsaw and raised the issue related to the right to pension of the conflict-affected persons and IDPs, calling for adoption of the draft Law No. 6692 as a solution.

Key findings of the HelpAge Baseline Report on conflict-affected men and women

	96%	experiencing conflict-related psychosocial issues
	20.5%	reported experiencing at least one type of violence and abuse
	53%	are in need of assistive devices
	47%	require basic hygiene items and diapers for adults
	56.9%	have limited mobility and need external assistance
	7.2%	are immobile

Source: HelpAge International

TRAININGS/EVENTS

- HelpAge International conducted a **training on Minimum Standards for Age and Disability Inclusion** into humanitarian action for 22 participants in Severodonetsk.
- Radnyk Program funded by the Stabilization Support Service provided **consultations on IDP social protection issues** to 962 specialists of the social protection system and 198 NGO representatives across all regions of Ukraine.
- NRC conducted a **training on advocacy for 20 representatives of national NGOs** covering preparation of advocacy plans and strategies, types and levels of advocacy, advocacy tools, strategic litigation, public relation etc.
- Polish Humanitarian Aid psychologists held a **session on 'Prevention of professional burnout' for 33 social workers** of the territorial center of social services in Bakhmutskiy rayon.
- Dorcas delivered a **training on Aflateen program for 15 teachers of 5 schools** and technical schools in Luhansk region. 250 teenagers will be covered by the program during the current school year and will pass 5 modules on personal awareness, rights and obligations, savings and expenditures, planning and budgeting, social and financial education.