

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



### ●●●● PROTECTION CONCERNS

- **Civilian casualties:** In January, the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission recorded two conflict-related casualties, including one boy injured as a result of mine incident. In 2020, out of 144 casualties, 73 were related to landmines and ERW.

- **Security:** In 2020, INSO recorded 6,358 security incidents (29% less than in 2019); 582 incidents were recorded in December and 496 in January.

In December, an elderly couple lost all their belongings after their house was affected by shelling and a driver was injured after his tractor was also affected by shelling.

- **Freedom of movement:** Out of five existing EECs, only two (Stanytsia Luhanska and Novotroitske) are open on both the GCA and NGCA side. The new EECs in Zolote and Shchastia are still not operational on the NGCA side.

On 5 January, the Cabinet of Minister amendments to the [Resolution #1236](#) allowing to apply rapid COVID-19 testing to enter GCA without obligation to undergo a self-isolation regime. This service is available only at EEC Novotroitske. In January, 156 people were tested.

- **Access to services:** On 16 December, a multi-service center was opened at EEC Novotroitske and, once fully operationalized, is expected to provide administrative, banking, legal, and post services.

In January, the State Migration Service and Pension Fund Stanytsia Luhansk stopped face-to-face assistance and switched to online services due to increasing COVID-19 cases among employees, affecting NGCA resident's access to documents and pensions.

- **HLP rights:** In December-January, the Compensation Committees in Donetsk and Luhansk regions approved 64 requests for compensation for destroyed housing. The [key obstacles](#) for applying for compensation continue to be the lack of ownership documents of the destroyed housing and reluctance to renounce property rights, a requirement to apply for compensation. The Ministry for Reintegration of TOT requested the HLP TWG to submit its recommendations on proposed amendments to address the main shortcomings of the Compensation Decree.

- **Decentralization:** Eighteen communities in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, where local elections did not take place, will continue to be governed by civil-military administrations (CMA). While appointments of the heads of CMA by the President are still pending, the provision of social services is affected in some communities, as local authorities are no longer eligible to access budgets to pay the bills for maintaining public institutions, including schools and community centers, and pay salaries to the employees. In addition, communities raised concerns on challenges to access services due to lack of transportation to new centers covering the recently established ATCs. The Protection Cluster is monitoring the situation and its impact on access to protection services.

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### RELEVANT ONLINE DASHBOARDS

[Protection Cluster 5W](#)

[Explosive Ordnance Risk Education \(EORE\) Sessions](#)

[MHPSS and GBV Services](#)

[Checkpoints: people's monthly crossings](#)

[Settlements Map](#)

[Legal Aid Directory](#)

## ●●●● HIGHLIGHTS

### PROTECTION RESPONSE

- NRC and the Ministry for Reintegration of TOT started to develop an **online digital platform** to provide timely and reliable information about the crossing procedures and **services available at the EECPs**. The pilot version is expected to be launched in mid-2021.
- **Legal Assistance:** NGO “Right to Protection” provided legal assistance to 1,249 individuals. NRC provided legal assistance, individual counselling and information to 1,681 individuals. DRC provided legal aid to 667 persons at the EECF Novotroitske.
- **Assistance to IDPs:** UNHCR provided cash assistance to 467 IDPs affected by COVID-19 and supported IDP Community Centers with donations of PPEs, sewing equipment, and kitchen supplies.
- NGO Proliska, with UNHCR’s support, **relocated** 3 families (12 people) from severely affected areas of Zhovanka, Avdiivka and Lopaskyne to locations away from the contact line.
- **Older People:** HelpAge’s community volunteers provided home-based care, psycho-social support, NFIs, and referral services to 1,100 older people with limited mobility from 23 settlements along the contact line. Triangle Generation Humanitaire’s community volunteers provided home-based care to an additional 231 older people from eight settlements along the contact line.
- **MHPSS:** People in Need, jointly with the NGOs “Child Smile” and “Equilibrium”, held 733 PSS sessions for 1,306 persons residing along the contact line. IOM provided individual counseling sessions to 609 persons through the MHPSS hotline, including follow-up calls. SOS Children’s Villages provided PSS to 699 children and their parents in Luhansk region. UNFPA **handed over seven PSS mobile teams** to the local authorities in Sloviansk, Bakhmut, Kostiantynivka, Lyman, Manhush (Donetsk GCA) and Bilokurakyne, Troitske (Luhansk GCA). Mobile teams provide critically important medical services and identify the cases of domestic and gender-based violence. These teams were trained and previously supported by UNFPA.

### ADVOCACY

- Following long-term advocacy efforts of Protection Cluster partners (including UNHCR, OHCHR, NGO Right to Protection, NRC, Donbas SOS), the Cabinet of Ministers **issued Resolution #1161, providing the list of humanitarian grounds for crossing EECPs**. The Resolution will improve the predictability and facilitate the crossing procedure for the civilian population.
- In December 2020, the **draft law #911-IX amending the Mine Action Law** was signed by the President. Additional by-laws are yet to be developed to ensure its full implementation, including the framework for the National Mine Action Authority, procedures for mine victim’s assistance, and National MA standards.

### TRAININGS/EVENTS

- DRC conducted **training on decentralization processes for the representatives of Olgynska and Myrnska territorial communities** in Donetsk GCA. The training included modules on administrative, financial, and budget issues.
- People in Need **conducted training on "Public participation in the implementation of reforms of the administrative-territorial system and local self-government"** for 23 members of the conflict-affected communities.
- NRC presented the **report "Profiling of IDP Situation in Luhansk Region, Ukraine"** to more than 140 national, regional and local authorities, as well as NGOs and donors. The UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs, Ms. Cecilia Jimenez-Damary also attended the event.

### KEY FIGURES ON THE PROTECTION RESPONSE IN 2020 (HRP)

