

## CROSSING THE CONTACT LINE: August 2019 Snapshot

More statistical data are available on the Eastern Ukraine Checkpoint Monitoring Online Dashboard – <a href="http://bit.ly/CP Monitoring 2019">http://bit.ly/CP Monitoring 2019</a>



## **1,283,000** CROSSINGS

- Maiorske EECP\* was closed on 28/08/2019 from 13:15 to 14:20 due to the "red" alert. According to the people traveling from NGCA, they had to wait on the checkpoint without a bomb shelter during the alert. Civilians in GCA were evacuated from the EECP.
- UNHCR with support from its partner NGO Proliska launched an electric car at Stanytsia Luhanska EECP to transport most vulnerable pedestrians: 75+, people with disabilities, pregnant women and children. The electric car operates daily from 7 AM to 5 PM and can transport up to 400 people a day.
- By the end of August, the demining process in the vicinity of Stanytsia Luhanska EECP was completed in GCA, preparations for the reconstruction of the bridge are in progress.
- The number of respondents who were accompanying minors (mostly (90%) NGCA residents) reached 15%, which is 8% more than the average for previous months of 2019. Older people were less likely to travel with children (6% compared to 37% of respondents aged 18-34). Such respondents had substantially different reasons for crossing, as seen on the chart.

### CURRENT PLACE OF RESIDENCE

MEN

(35-59)

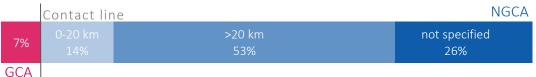
MEN

(18-34)

MEN

(60+)

21%



WOMFN

(35-59)

WOMEN

(60+)

WOMEN

(18-34)

40%

THE MAJORITY OF

RESPONDENTS ARE

WOMEN

63%



**2,422**Individuals surveyed by R2P in August<sup>1</sup>



## 83-years-old man died

at Maiorske EECP on 07/08/2019 on the road to Oschadbank. The primarily cause of death was cardiac arrest.



#### 7 incidents

of abuse of power by EECP staff were reported in August.



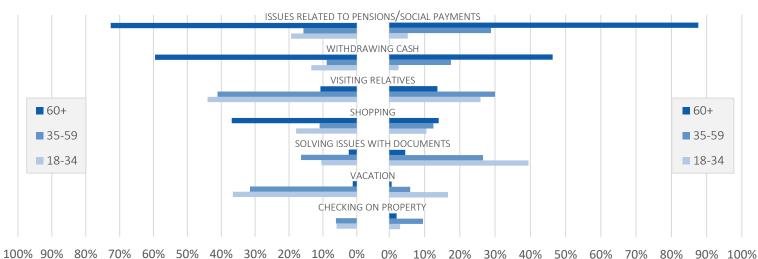
### 15%

of respondents were accompanying minors in crossing the contact line.

### MOST FREQUENT REASONS FOR CROSSING

#### RESPONDENTS WITH CHILDREN

#### RESPONDENTS WITHOUT CHILDREN



<sup>1</sup>The findings of the monitoring should not be directly extrapolated onto the entire population of NGCA residents and IDPs as not all of them are travelling through the contact line.

(N)GCA – (non-)government-controlled areas

SFS – State Fiscal Service

**SES** – State Emergency Service

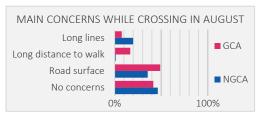
SBGS - State Border Guard Service

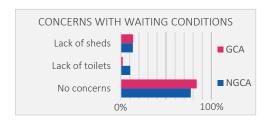
UNHCR and the NGO the Right to Protection (R2P) are grateful for the generous support provided by donors, including the European Union's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO); the Governments of Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lithuania, 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.

<sup>\*</sup>EECP — entry-exit crossing point

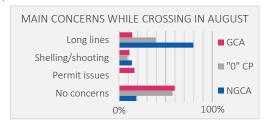
### CONCERNS AND DURATION OF CROSSING

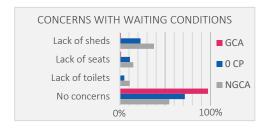
# **P**HNUTOVE



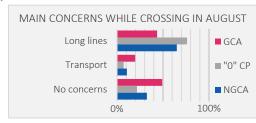


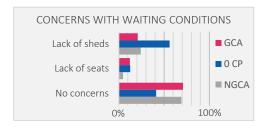
# **₽** MAIORSKE



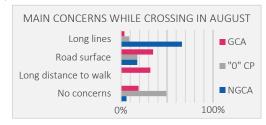


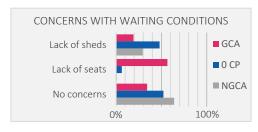
# **₽**MARINKA



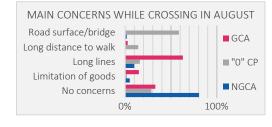


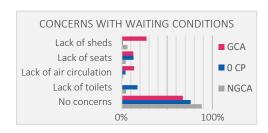
# **₽** NOVOTROITSKE





# STANYTSIA LUHANSKA





#### ABUSE OF POWER

- Four respondents articulated some concerns about abuse of power. One of them reported prejudice from NGCA checkpoint staff due to his job of a deputy assistant in Kyiv. Three other concerns involved SBGS servicemen behaviour (two at Stanytsia Luhanska, one at Marinka EECP). A woman of middle age who was accompanying a minor at Marinka EECP reported that the SBGS serviceman was meticulously inspecting them, looking for a passport issued in NGCA. According to the woman, he threatened to find it "even in the underwear".
- Several other cases of abuse of power were witnessed by monitors that did not involve the survey respondents. On 08/08/2019 an SFS serviceman at Marinka EECP was taking pictures of passports of young men during the inspection of personal belongings, using his own phone. On 22/08/2019 a conflict between a civilian and EECP staff member resulted in a fight. Another SBGS serviceman at Marinka EECP tried to confiscate a man's passport for smoking on the EECP territory. All of the issues listed above were solved, sometimes with R2P and chief EECP officer intervention.

#### INFORMATION AWARENESS

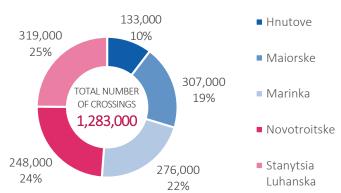
- 73% of all respondents stated that the information provided at the EECP was sufficient, mostly at Hnutove (93%) and Stanytsia Luhanska (89%) EECPs.
- The **lowest awareness level** was at Novotroitske (39%) EECP, which is 6% less than in July. In comparison, the share of respondents who were lacking contacts for raising complaints and contacts of social aid organizations increased by 8% and 6% respectively.
- 58% of all respondents were not aware of any mechanism for raising complaints regarding the functioning of governmental entities and/or NGOs.

### **OBSERVATIONS**

Monitors reported about quarantine weeds, including ragweed, that are massively growing at Marinka and Novotroitske EECP, causing severe allergic reactions (tearing, blurred vision, increased body temperature, coughing, headache, asthma attacks, Quincke's edema etc.) on people crossing the contact line.

### NUMBER OF CROSSINGS<sup>2</sup>

The number of crossings increased by **14,000** in comparison to the previous month. Compared to the previous year (August 2018), the number of crossing decreased by **44,000**.



<sup>2</sup>General statistics on crossings are available at the UNHCR dashboard visualizing data from the State Border Guard Service. https://goo.gl/TZbU8c