

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



## PROTECTION CONCERNS

- **Civilian casualties:** The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine recorded four conflict-related casualties (4 persons injured).
- **Security:** The security situation remains tense, with hostilities reported near a large number of settlements. However, the number of ceasefire violations slightly decreased. During 28 October – 24 November, OSCE SMM recorded 23,400 ceasefire violations, which is 1.4 times less than in October.  
On 23 November, a woman was injured near the center of Marinka village as a result of small arms fire and suffered a chest wound.  
On 23 November, a man died in his shed in Bakhmutka (Donetsk GCA) as a result of hypothermia. He was forced to move out of his house as he could not afford to heat it.  
On 30 November, an older woman died in a fire in her house in Opytne which was probably started by a kerosene lamp. It is already the fifth year that residents of the village are cut off from electricity and forced to use unsafe lighting sources.
- **Child protection:** On 4 November, about 40 children in Novotoshivske school #10 (Luhansk GCA) were evacuated to a bomb shelter due to heavy shelling in the area.
- **Freedom of movement:** On 16 November, a 77-year old man died at Stanytsia Luhanska checkpoint due to a heart attack. On 17 November, a 67-year man died there and on 8 November, a 68-year woman had to be taken to a hospital due to deteriorating health at the Stanytsia Luhanska checkpoint.

Following the adoption of the Cabinet of Ministers Resolution №815, introducing changes to the procedure for crossing of the contact line, protection partners reported cases when NGCA residents traveling with children over 14 years of age who have not yet obtained a Ukrainian national passport were denied entry to GCA.

- **Access to basic services:** As part of the ongoing decentralization process, the Cabinet of Ministers released recommendations, supplementing Resolution №606, [on the reduction of the number of civil servants in district state administrations](#) by up to 38%, with a handover of functions to territorial communities and regional state administrations. The cut in social workers and services could negatively affect people living along the contact line, as the [territorial communities have not yet been created in this area](#).

Following military disengagement near Zolote-4 and Katerynivka, the Oshchadbank mobile branch ceased its work as entry to the settlements was not agreed with the JFO. This has left many people without access to banking services.

## PROTECTION CLUSTER CONTACTS

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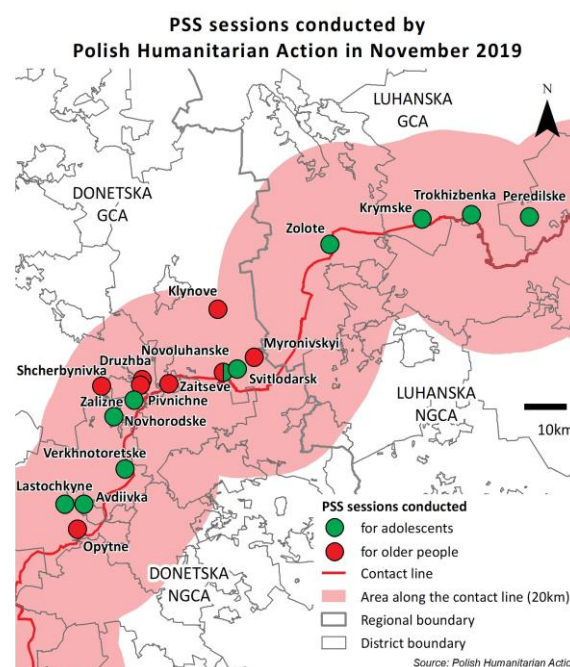
**8% of people who crossed the contact line in 2019 were travelling with minors**

Source: NGO Right to Protection

## ●●●● HIGHLIGHTS

### PROTECTION RESPONSE

- Polish Humanitarian Action **conducted PSS sessions for 1,806 older people** in Verkhnetoretske, Svitlodarsk, Novoluhanske, Lastochkyne Avdiivka, Novhorod, Zalizne (Donetsk GCA) and Trokhizbenka, Zolote-4, Peredilske and Krymske (Luhansk GCA).
- Protection Cluster partner in Donetsk NGCA organized master classes by elderly women (60+) for younger girls in a **small isolated community near the contact line**. The series of master classes on jewelry and gift-making brought together 36 girls and four elderly women.
- NGO Proliska provided **protection consultations for 1,261 persons**, focusing on humanitarian aid, including winterization assistance, access to healthcare services, freedom of movement, personal documentation, obtaining of social benefits and pension payments, access to adequate housing and HLP rights.
- NRC provided **legal services for 1,604 persons (of these, 30% reside in NGCA)** through the provision of information, counselling and legal assistance. The main protection concerns related to termination/suspension/renewal of pension payments, salary arrears, death registration and inheritance of immovable property in GCA.
- The HALO Trust **cleared a total of 15 hectares of land** from mine/UXOs near 14 settlements across Donetsk and Luhansk regions. In November, the HALO Trust exceeded a milestone of 100,000 people reached through Mine Risk Education, including 65,000 children, since the start of the operation in early 2016.
- Save the Children conducted **MRE sessions for 2,378 persons Krasnohorivka, Mariinka, Avdiivka, Myronivske**; almost 50% of them are boys, who are at special risk on mine incidents.
- Child Protection Sub Cluster partners Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages, KMA and PIN through the NGO Avalyst **provided PSS support to children and adults in response to the shelling of school #10 in Novotoshivske**. Save the Children conducted group sessions of art-therapy and sessions on overcoming stress in crisis for 29 children and 5 adults.
- In November, UNICEF and UNFPA, through psychosocial support mobile teams, **provided targeted assistance to 470 GBV survivors, including 60 IDPs** from Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Another 134 GBV survivors received complex psychosocial support and primary legal aid in 5 daycare crisis centres, supported by UNFPA.



### ADVOCACY

- On 7 November, representatives of PIN, NGO Right to Protection, Mediciens du Monde, REACH and NRC briefed a group of **20 representatives of EU Member State Perent Missions to Geneva on humanitarian trends in eastern Ukraine** and presented recommendations with regards to humanitarian access, protection of civilian infrastructure, access to healthcare, compensation for damaged housing, pensions payments and access to personal documentation.
- On 25 November, UNHCR jointly with NRC and OCHA conducted an expert discussion on **'Durable solutions for internally displaced persons: a way forward'**, which brought together representatives of parliament and key ministries. During the event, organizations presented [Recommendations on durable housing solutions for IDPs](#), prepared as a follow-up to the Cities of Solidarity Forum conducted by UNHCR in Kharkiv in October, and issued the Ukrainian translation of the [Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Framework on Durable Solutions](#).
- On 20 November, following advocacy efforts of partners, including UNICEF and Save the Children, the **Safe Schools Declaration was endorsed by Ukraine**. The Declaration aims to prevent and respond to attacks and use of educational institutions for military purposes during an armed conflict.

### TRAININGS/EVENTS

- IOM conducted a training session on counter-trafficking for the representatives of the State Border Guard Service and Free Legal Aid Centers in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. IOM, jointly with the Free Legal Aid Centre in Milove (Luhansk GCA) **conducted educational sessions on safe migration and the risks of human trafficking** for 102 students and 6 teachers.
- DRC-DDG conducted **two trainings on victim assistance for mine/ERW survivors for the representatives of social services and police** from Donetsk and Luhansk regions. A separate session on inclusion and communication with people with disabilities was organized for the representatives of social departments, centers of social services and police.
- NGO Slavic Heart conducted **two trainings on the prevention of Gender-Based Violence for police officers** from Uhledar and Toretsk (Donetsk GCA).