

CROSSING THE CONTACT LINE: November 2020 Snapshot

More statistical data is available on the Eastern Ukraine Checkpoint Monitoring Online Dashboard: <https://www.unhcr.org/ua/en/eecp-monitoring-2020>

On 9 November, the JFO headquarters reported that, from 10 November, all EECPs would resume their work after a temporary suspension due to the worsened epidemiological situation, including the new EECPs in Luhanska Oblast: Shchastia and Zolote. However, as a result of restrictions on the NGCA side, **Novotroitske EECP in Donetsk Oblast and Stanytsia Luhanska in Luhansk Oblast remain the only EECPs where crossing is possible.**

On November 10, two new (both vehicular and pedestrian) EECPs were opened in the Luhanska Oblast on the GCA side. One administrative service centre, police station, pharmacy, bank, post office, a mother and child room and different shops are available at the EECP Shchastia. As for Zolote EECP, the road between the EECP and Severodonetsk has been reconstructed.

At Zolote EECP and at Shchastia EECP, about ten people were allowed to pass in the direction of the NGCA side, since their opening. However, all people who tried to cross the contact line towards the NGCA side were not admitted by the NGCA side and had to return to GCA, where SBGS requested them to install the "Act at home" app to track their self-isolation.

During the month of November, **5,508 vulnerable elderly persons were provided with transport support at Stanytsia Luhanska EECP** by the NGO "Proliska" e-vehicle.

¹The findings of the monitoring should not be directly extrapolated to the entire population.

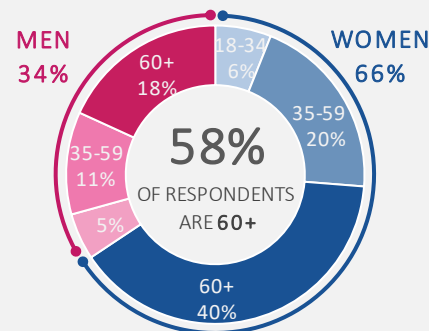
²Percentage calculated within each group (NGCA/GCA or age groups)



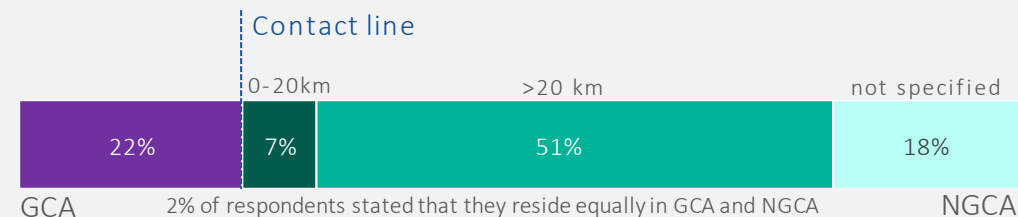
The opening of two new checkpoints at Shchastia and Zolote on the GCA side in Luhanska Oblast. The administrative service centre, bank and post office were constructed and opened at Shchastia EECP.



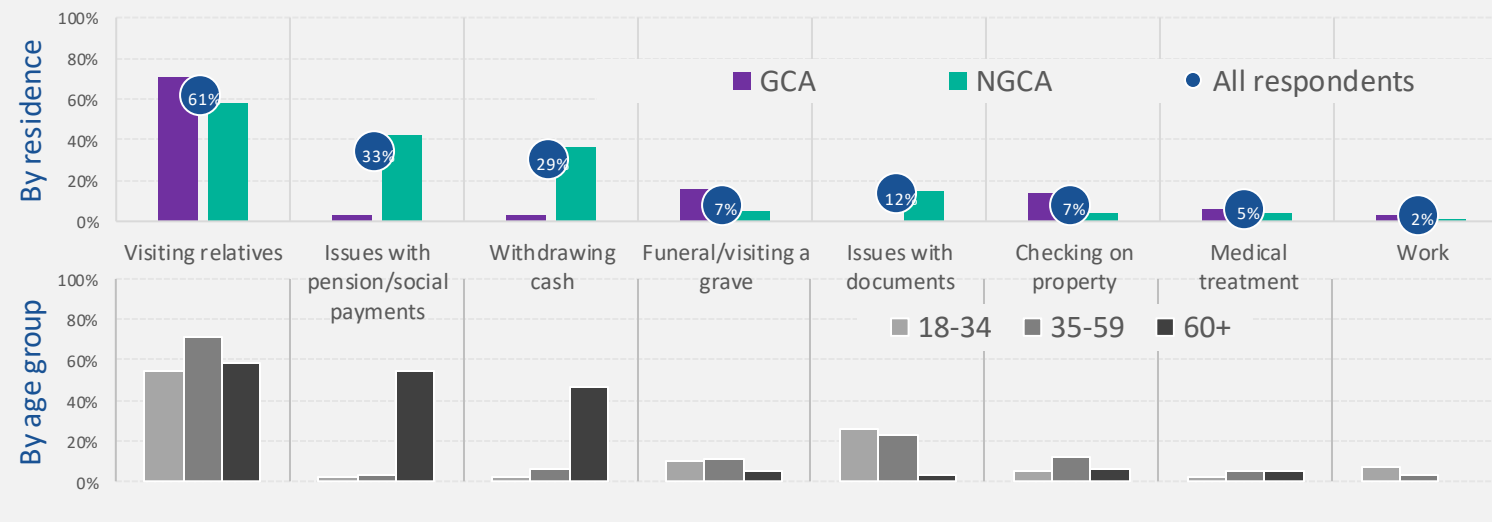
Visiting relatives remains the main reason for crossing in both directions. Pension, social payment and cash withdrawal are most prevalent among people crossing from the NGCA side.



CURRENT PLACE OF RESIDENCE



MOST FREQUENT REASONS FOR CROSSING²



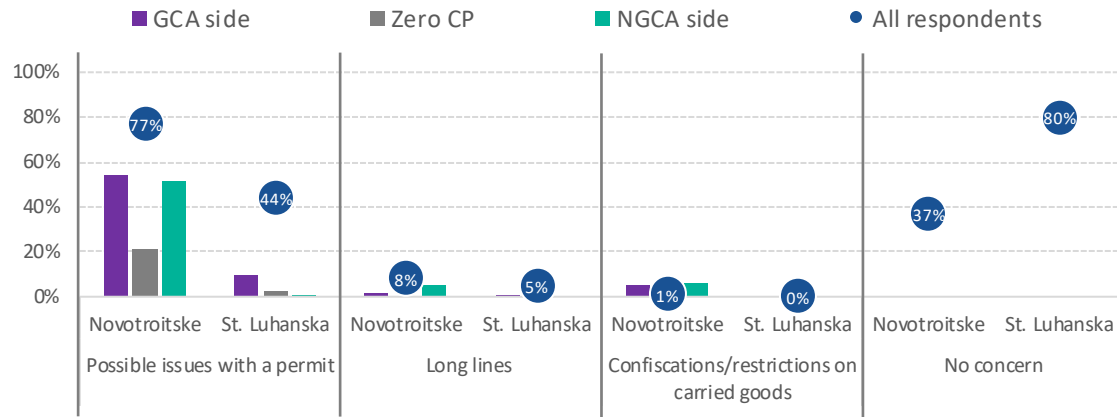
*(N)GCA – (non-)government-controlled areas

EECP – entry-exit checkpoint

JFO – Joint Forces Operation

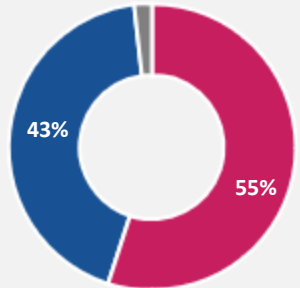
SBGS – State Border Guard Service

MAIN CONCERNS WHILE CROSSING



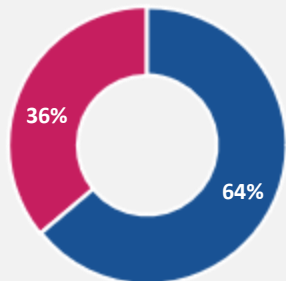
COVID-19 SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

COVID-19-related concerns while crossing the contact line (current crossing)

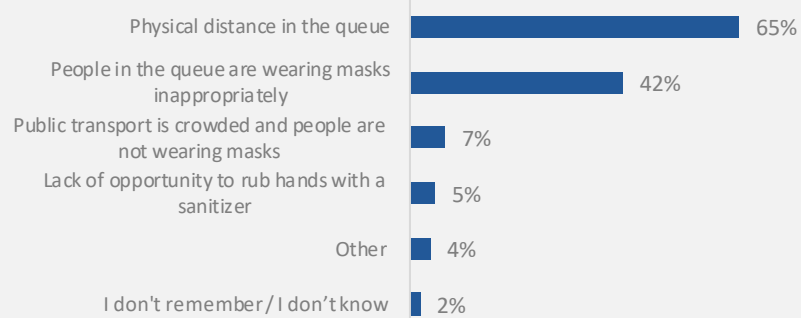


■ Yes ■ No ■ No answer

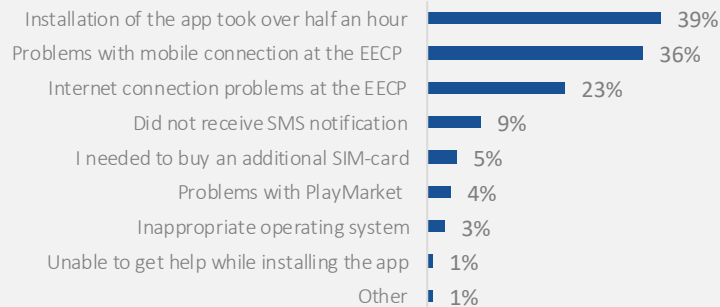
Difficulties while installing "Act at home" app



Types of COVID-19-related concerns while crossing the contact line (current crossing)



Types of difficulties while installing the "Act at home" app



DONETSKA OBLAST

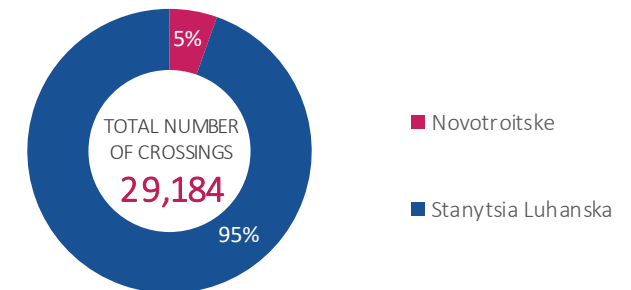
- In November, about 1,084 people were authorized to cross to the GCA at the Novotroitske EEC and about 494 people crossed the contact line to NGCA. Novotroitske EEC remained the only EEC in Donetsk Oblast where it was possible to cross the contact line based on lists established by de-facto authorities in NGCA. 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.
- People who did not have the ability to install the app "Act at home" had to go to the observation wards in Hostre settlement in Donetsk oblast. When interviewed by R2P at Novotroitske EEC in November, these people did not raise any concerns about conditions in the observation wards. In these wards people had the opportunity to pass a free COVID-test. If the test was negative, they were released from observation. A mobile ambulance team from Selidovo arrives only once a week to collect material for the COVID-test.
- The administrative service centre at the Novotroitske EEC is scheduled to open in December.

LUHANSKA OBLAST

- Early November, the crossing of the contact line to the NGCA side was further restricted in the context of COVID-19. Crossing was only possible upon a special authorization of the JFO Headquarters for people with a residence registration in NGCA Luhansk Oblast and having an urgent issue requiring the crossing. From 10 November, the JFO headquarters issued an order to lift these restrictions and reopen Stanytsia Luhanska EEC. In November, 13,981 people crossed the contact line towards the GCA and 13,595 people in the other direction.

NUMBER OF CROSSINGS IN NOVEMBER³

The number of people crossing the contact line increased in November compared to October by 35 percentage points due to the full-fledged work of Stanytsia Luhanska EEC from 10 November: 29,184 and 21,373 respectively, which is about 2,25% percent of the 1.2 million crossings recorded in November 2019.



³General statistics on crossings are available at the UNHCR dashboard visualizing data from the State Border Guard Service. <https://qoo.q/TZbU&c>