PROTECTION HIGHLIGHTS

- **Protection of Civilians:** One year since the ceasefire, introduced on 27 July 2020, there has been an 82% decrease in civilian casualties due to active hostilities. In spite of the positive trend, the security situation remains volatile and slightly deteriorating every month – since January 2021, there has been a 51% increase in civilian casualties, compared to the first six months after the ceasefire. Casualty losses due to mines/ERWs increased by 38% since the ceasefire and account for 71% of the total civilian casualties in 2021. The trend is worrisome considering that Ukraine has no state mechanism to assist mine victims and the humanitarian response is very limited (only 8% of the targeted people was reached by June 2021). Most cases took place in Non-Government Controlled Area (NGCA), where humanitarian access is very limited.

  In July, INSO recorded a 20% increase in incidents – from 435 in June to 523 in July, with a particular 50% increase in collateral damages to civilian property. Damages to civilian housing increased from 8 cases in June to 25 cases in July.

- **Freedom of movement:** In June, COVID-19 restrictions for crossing Entry-Exit Crossing Points (EECPs) were lifted, allowing NGCA residents more flexibility to cross EECPs. Nonetheless, on 28 July, the Government of Ukraine re-established COVID-related requirements and people entering Government-Controlled Area (GCA) are required to install the ‘Diya’ app, to undergo self-isolation or do COVID-19 testing. Observation centers have limited supplies and food to accommodate persons unable to install ‘Diya’ app. The same measures apply to the International Border Crossing Points (IBCPs) with Russia. On 29 July, the draft law #5478 lifting the fines against NGCA residents entering GCA through IBCPs was finally signed by the President. NGCA residents are exempted from fines if crossing for the humanitarian reasons listed in the Resolution #815. After the law came into force, the border monitoring conducted by UNHCR and NGO ‘Right to Protection’ at IBCPs ‘Milove’ and ‘Hoptivka’ showed that no fines were applied and the waiting time for crossing decreased in the Ukrainian side. However, IBCPs have limited reception capacities and still lack adequate waiting areas, benches, cover from the sun, sufficient number of toilets and drinking water.

- **Mine Action:** The Ministry for Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories initiated establishment the local Coordination Groups on Mine Action in conflict-affected areas, provided by Mine Action Law. The Groups aim to coordinate mine action activities among state actors; inform local residents on mine risks; and identify and assist mine victims. So far the coordination groups are established in Vyhledarsk, Sloviansk, Kostiantynivka and Novohrodovka.

  On 14 July, the President signed the draft law #5373 amending the Law ‘On State Social Assistance to Children with Disabilities’, to increase the monthly social assistance by 50% when a child’s disability resulted from mine/UXO. Currently, mine victims with disabilities can access monthly state disability assistance, available for all persons with disabilities in Ukraine. Provision of assistance to mine victims on such grounds does not meet international standards, as it conditions provision of the assistance on having a disability.

- **Housing, land and property:** The Cabinet of Ministers approved state subvention in the amount of 18 million UAH to local budgets within IDP housing programme 70/30. The funding will allow purchasing 65 housing premises for 201 IDPs across Ukraine. The first 150 IDPs who will benefit from the preferential long-term mortgage loans were selected. It is expected that in 2021-2022, 680 households or 1,768 IDPs will benefit from this programme.

  In January-June 2021, the Compensation Committees in Donetsk and Luhansk regions approved 122 requests for compensation for destroyed housing in general amount of 34.5 million UAH; 43 persons already received compensation.
OPERATIONAL RESPONSE

- **Protection and legal counseling:** NGO ‘Right to Protection’ provided 635 legal consultations to 613 persons. Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) provided information, counselling, and legal assistance to 496 persons. NRC’s community-based network of paralegals provided 288 legal and individual counselling sessions in the settlements located along the contact line in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. NGO Donbas_SOS provided individual counselling and legal assistance to 2,494 persons through the hotline. The most frequent asking topics related to humanitarian grounds for entering GCA through IBCPs between Ukraine and Russian Federation; access to personal documentation (national and international passports) for people residing in NGCA. UNHCR provided individual protection assistance to 27 vulnerable IDPs who suffered from COVID-19 across Ukraine. International Organization for Migration provided reintegration assistance to 26 persons suffered from human trafficking in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. NGO ‘Proliska’ provided 984 protection consultations and provided social accommodation to 360 persons.

- **Mine action:** The HALO Trust cleared 12 hectares of mine-contaminated land and conducted online and offline Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) sessions for 6,264 children, teachers, and caregivers. Ukrainian Deminers Association conducted EORE sessions for 440 children (including 19 conflict-affected children and 10 IDPs) in children’s summer camps in Kyiv region.

- **Older people:** HelpAge International provided home-based care and psychosocial support to 2,500 older people in 13 settlements along the contact line, and conducted small group PSS sessions for 1,228 persons from six settlements in Donetsk region. Triangle Génération Humanitaire provided home-based care through 47 community volunteers to 256 older people from nine settlements along the contact line.

- **Psychosocial support:** People in Need (PIN), jointly with partner NGOs ‘Posmishka.UA’ and ‘Equilibrium’, provided PSS to 144 persons. PIN’s PSS hotline assisted 771 persons. International Organization for Migration through the hotline provided PSS support to 360 persons.

- **Transportation services:** NGO ‘Proliska’ provided transportation services to 11,380 persons with limited mobility on the GCA side of the ECPP ‘Stanytsia Luhanska’. ADRA launched a 1-year project on social transportation for people residing in isolated settlements along the contact line and that will run 22 routes in Donetsk and Luhansk region to ensure access to administrative, social protection, and medical services for people living in remote areas. In August, a similar project will be launched by the NGO ‘Proliska’ and will cover 49 routes in both regions.

- **Gender-Based Violence:** UNFPA conducted a workshop for representatives of 12 local councils in Pokrovskyi rayon on ‘Purchasing services for GBV shelter between communities’. This will improve services provided in newly-opened shelter for GBV survivors in Myrnograd.

- **Capacity building:** On 11 May, NGO ‘Right to Protection’ conducted online training on family law and child protection for 127 volunteers (including 15 from Donetsk and Luhansk regions) within the project ‘Free Legal Aid Volunteer’. Danish Refugee Council supported local authorities, activists, and service providers in Kalchyk and Kremenivka (Donetsk region) to set up new boreholes and connect remote houses to the water supply system.

### KEY FIGURES ON THE PROTECTION RESPONSE IN JANUARY-JULY 2021

- **2.8M** People in need
- **1.5M** People targeted
- **0.57M** People reached
- **44** Partners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Achieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of protection monitoring missions conducted and recorded</td>
<td>6,100</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of persons receiving information</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of persons receiving Explosive Ordnance Risk Education through EORE awareness session</td>
<td>125,000</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># women, men, boys and girls with access to essential services</td>
<td>400,000</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of local and displaced women, men, girls and boys supported through peaceful coexistence/peace-building/social cohesion projects, or community support initiatives</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>40%</td>
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</tbody>
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