A 20 per cent increase in civilian crossings of the "contact line" was reported through the entry-exit crossing points (EECPs) in December compared with November. A slight increase was also observed at the crossing point "Milove" (Luhanska oblast) and "Hoptivka" (Kharkivska oblast) located on the Russian-Ukrainian border, with many of those crossing likely being residents of non-Government-controlled areas (NGCA) of Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts transiting the Russian Federation to reach Government-controlled areas (GCA). Recent reports indicated cases, particularly at the "Milove" crossing point, in which Ukrainian ID holders were asked on the Russian Federation (RF) side of the CP to provide additional identity documents as proof of their place of residence in NGCA. This could be connected to the fact that entry to the RF to transit to GCA (and back) is exceptionally permitted for residents of NGCA who have special grounds, e.g., visiting relatives, returning to the place of residence, medical visits, etc.

**Operational Updates**

On 29 December, Ukraine’s Cabinet of Ministers announced the lifting of mandatory COVID-19-related requirements for entering GCA via the EECPs on the "contact line". This decision came into force on 30 December. Furthermore, the decision removed the obligation for people to install the mobile phone application "Dii Vdoma" and self-quarantine when entering GCA. This development is a positive step towards removing obstacles hindering freedom of movement. At the same time, several major administrative challenges remain, which include: (i) the requirement to have a permanent residence registration in Luhanska oblast (NGCA) as a prerequisite for re-entering Luhanska oblast (NGCA) via the EECP "Stanytsia Luhanska", (ii) requisite pre-approval from the entities in control of Donetsk oblast (NGCA) to cross the "contact line" that is issued only based on humanitarian grounds, and (iii) the necessity to acquire an e-permit issued by the Security Service of Ukraine for entering GCA.

In December, four people crossing from NGCA to GCA via the EECP "Stanytsia Luhanska" were reported to be temporarily stranded in the "grey zone" due to possible technical glitches in the e-permit system. People became stranded as they could not turn back to NGCA due to the lack of residence registration in Luhanska oblast (NGCA). While three of them were allowed to cross to GCA later on the same day, one person had to spend the night in the "grey zone" in the harsh Ukrainian winter conditions.

Three UN-organized humanitarian convoys delivered 170 MT of relief items to NGCA. In 2021, there were 22 UN-organized humanitarian convoys to NGCA, with over 2,000 MT of relief items delivered (half of which went to Luhanska oblast, NGCA) compared with 1,311 MT in 2020. The increase in the amount of assistance delivered is attributed in part to the opening of the EECP "Schastia" for the transportation of humanitarian cargo directly to Luhanska oblast (NGCA) in March 2021. Previously, humanitarian convoys to Luhanska oblast (NGCA) had to either transit through Donetsk oblast (NGCA) via the EECP "Novotroitske" or to be hand-carried over the pedestrian crossing bridge at the EECP "Stanytsia Luhanska".

1. People without registered permanent residence in Luhanska oblast (NGCA) could leave NGCA; however, to re-enter, they have to seek pre-approval from the entities in control of Luhanska oblast (NGCA) in accordance with humanitarian exceptions.

2. According to the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the UN, there were four Russian humanitarian convoys to Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts (NGCA) in 2021, which delivered 768 MT of medicines, medical consumables and equipment, including some 272,350 doses of the coronavirus vaccine Sputnik Light. OCHA reports on what has been communicated in New York, but is not in a position to verify this information.

**Comparison of the Monthly Civilian Crossings (2019-2021)**

- **Jan**: 29k, 40k, 55k, 55k, 52k, 82k, 97k, 91k, 31k, 49k, 59k
- **Feb**: 30k, 45k, 55k, 55k, 52k, 82k, 97k, 91k, 31k, 49k, 59k
- **Mar**: 30k, 40k, 55k, 55k, 52k, 82k, 97k, 91k, 31k, 49k, 59k
- **Apr**: 30k, 40k, 55k, 55k, 52k, 82k, 97k, 91k, 31k, 49k, 59k
- **May**: 30k, 40k, 55k, 55k, 52k, 82k, 97k, 91k, 31k, 49k, 59k
- **June**: 30k, 40k, 55k, 55k, 52k, 82k, 97k, 91k, 31k, 49k, 59k
- **July**: 30k, 40k, 55k, 55k, 52k, 82k, 97k, 91k, 31k, 49k, 59k
- **Aug**: 30k, 40k, 55k, 55k, 52k, 82k, 97k, 91k, 31k, 49k, 59k
- **Sep**: 30k, 40k, 55k, 55k, 52k, 82k, 97k, 91k, 31k, 49k, 59k
- **Oct**: 30k, 40k, 55k, 55k, 52k, 82k, 97k, 91k, 31k, 49k, 59k
- **Nov**: 30k, 40k, 55k, 55k, 52k, 82k, 97k, 91k, 31k, 49k, 59k
- **Dec**: 30k, 40k, 55k, 55k, 52k, 82k, 97k, 91k, 31k, 49k, 59k

**Main Reasons to Cross**

- Visiting relatives
- Withdrawing cash
- Recovering a pension

**Civilian Crossings at CPs with Russia**

### CIVILIAN CROSSINGS AT CPs WITH RUSSIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CP</th>
<th>Inflow NOV</th>
<th>Inflow DEC</th>
<th>Outflow NOV</th>
<th>Outflow DEC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HOPTIVKA</td>
<td>41,144</td>
<td>50,301</td>
<td>42,257</td>
<td>51,051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MILOVE</td>
<td>32,520</td>
<td>27,861</td>
<td>28,452</td>
<td>29,698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>74,664</td>
<td>78,162</td>
<td>70,709</td>
<td>80,749</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EECP Figures (December 2021)**

- **Civilians entering**
  - GCA to NGCA: 59k
  - NGCA to GCA: 700
- **Contact line crossings**: 95%

**Legend**

- "Contact line" as of August 2018
- Planned EECP
- Non-operational EECP
- Operational EECP
- Partially operational EECP

**EECP Key Figures**

- **Contact line crossings**
  - On 29 December, Ukraine’s Cabinet of Ministers announced the lifting of mandatory COVID-19-related requirements for entering GCA via the EECPs on the "contact line".
  - This decision came into force on 30 December.
  - The decision removed the obligation for people to install the mobile phone application "Dii Vdoma" and self-quarantine when entering GCA.

**EECP Status**

- **Operational**
  - "Hoptivka" (Kharkivska oblast)
  - "Novotroitske" (Donetsk oblast)

**EECPs**

- **Operational EECPs**
  - "Hopectivka" (Kharkivska oblast)
  - "Novotroitske" (Donetsk oblast)

**Feedback**

- On 29 December, Ukraine’s Cabinet of Ministers announced the lifting of mandatory COVID-19-related requirements for entering GCA via the EECPs on the "contact line".
  - This decision came into force on 30 December.
  - The decision removed the obligation for people to install the mobile phone application "Dii Vdoma" and self-quarantine when entering GCA.

**EECP Status**

- **Operational EECPs**
  - "Hopectivka" (Kharkivska oblast)
  - "Novotroitske" (Donetsk oblast)

**Civilian Crossings at CPs with Russia**

- **Inflow**
  - GCA to NGCA: 59k
  - NGCA to GCA: 700
- **Outflow**
  - GCA to NGCA: 59k
  - NGCA to GCA: 700

**Main Reasons to Cross**

- Visiting relatives
- Withdrawing cash
- Recovering a pension

**EECPs**

- **Operational EECPs**
  - "Hopectivka" (Kharkivska oblast)
  - "Novotroitske" (Donetsk oblast)

**Legend**

- "Contact line" as of August 2018
- Planned EECP
- Non-operational EECP
- Operational EECP
- Partially operational EECP

**Main Reasons to Cross**

- Visiting relatives
- Withdrawing cash
- Recovering a pension