



**COVID-19 Prevention Posters in government controlled areas (GCA):** UNHCR finalized installing 200 World Health Organization (WHO) COVID-19 prevention posters in villages near the 'contact line'. UNHCR also installed posters informing residents of recent legislative updates related to COVID-19 produced by the NGO Right to Protection (R2P). In total, UNHCR and its NGO partner Proliska reached 70 villages located near the 'contact line' and 80 villages in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblast in GCA. *Photo top left by NGO Proliska.*

**Raising awareness in non-government controlled areas (NGCA):** UNHCR and WHO joined forces to raise awareness of COVID-19 prevention in NGCA. UNHCR has received 5,000 COVID-19 prevention posters that will be distributed in Donetsk NGCA by the Donbas Development Center, UNHCR's NGO partner in Donetsk NGCA. These will be distributed in social institutions located along the 'contact line' such as in Debaltseve, Dokuchaevsk, Horlivka, Donetsk and Novoazovsk. *Photo top right by UNHCR.*



**Psycho-Social Support (PSS):**

UNHCR's NGO partner Slavic Heart continues to provide PSS to survivors of SGBV along the contact line by Slavic Heart mobile teams equipped with sanitizers and individual masks. Slavic Heart also produced a series of videos on positive coping mechanisms during quarantine and self-isolation. The videos have been shared with a network of women, men, girls and boys living along the contact line via social messaging

apps and email. *Photo bottom left by Slavic Heart.*

**Community mobilizing against COVID-19:** In 2017, thanks to funding provided by GIZ, UNHCR rehabilitated an older building in Bakhmut that became a multi-functional community center called KvARTal. Thanks to sewing machines provided by UNHCR in 2018, the community has identified volunteers who are currently producing 200 masks that will be distributed to the most vulnerable community members using precaution measures. The materials used in the production of the masks were provided by the local authorities. *Photo bottom right by community members of Bakhmut.*



**Situation on the entry-exit checkpoints (EECP):** UNHCR received reports that some persons were allowed to cross the 'government controlled side' (GCA) of the contact line based on 'humanitarian consideration' of their specific case (as they had a residence permit for GCA only) but were blocked as they reached the non-government controlled side of the checkpoint because of the closure of the 'contact line' on 21 March. Therefore, these people had to return to GCA. UNHCR was informed of 13 cases on 23 March and seven cases on 24 March.

**Meeting with Deputy Head of Donetsk Oblast Administration**

On 23 March, UNHCR met with the Deputy Head of Donetsk Oblast Administration who is responsible for social welfare issues, as well as the Donetsk Oblast Heads of Social Protection and Health Departments. The Head of the Health Department is heading the oblast's multi-sectoral entity established to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. During the meeting, it was agreed that:

- UNHCR received a voice recording of actions advising the population to respect the quarantine. These recordings will be broadcasted in localities along the contact by UNHCR's partner Proliska through loudspeakers provided by UNHCR.
- At the authorities' request, UNHCR will print maps of Donetsk oblast to be distributed to all state authorities in all localities along the contact line to be used in operationalizing the response to COVID-19. UNHCR provided the maps as of 24 March. On 26 March, copies of the maps (around 50) will be sent to Luhansk oblast administration in order to further distribute to Luhansk oblast and local administrations.
- Authorities asked UNHCR to donate fabric to produce masks and medical gowns for hospitals. As a response, UNHCR is currently planning two projects implemented through community mobilization in which masks will be produced.

During the meeting, authorities informed that approximately **37,900 persons** living near the contact line in Donetsk oblast are in need of special support with food and hygiene items. These persons are the recipients of different types of state social benefits and are unable to access these because of the quarantine measures in place. They all belong to 'high risk' categories. The authorities also informed that some **11,500 persons** who are physically unable to leave their homes because of disabilities and other reasons, are in need of material assistance (food and hygiene items).