

# CROSSING THE CONTACT LINE: October 2020 Snapshot

## NUMBERS AND TRENDS

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

During the month, crossing the contact line remained possible only through two EECPs, at a level considerably below the pre-COVID period. The number of people crossing the contact line **decreased** in October compared to September by  $\approx 77$  percentage points due to the closing of Stanytsia Luhanska EECP:  $\approx 20,000$  and  $86,000$  respectively.

From 30 September to 4 October, the passage of people was temporarily suspended at Stanytsia Luhanska EECP in Luhanska Oblast due to large-scale fires in the vicinity. As a result of the fire on the EECP on 30 September and 1 October, the first-aid point and the waiting area were partially damaged. All beneficiaries waiting to cross the contact line were safely evacuated.

On 13 October, the JFO HQ announced that they would temporarily close Stanytsia Luhanska EECP between 16 and 31 October due to the increasing prevalence of COVID-19 in Luhanska oblast. From the moment of closing Stanytsia Luhanska EECP until the end of October, only about 200 people have received JFO HQ permission to cross the contact line to NGCA.

The day after the closing of Stanytsia Luhanska EECP, people who came to cross the contact line to NGCA gathered there: in many cases, people claimed that they were uninformed about the closure of EECP. Some people stayed overnight at EECP, waiting the opportunity to cross the contact line to NGCA, they were not provided with accommodation. Also, there were a lot of older people of age above the 80 years.

On 28 October, the JFO HQ announced that the closure of Stanytsia Luhanska EECP will continue until 15 November.

In the period between 5 to 15 October, **3,574 vulnerable elderly persons were provided with transport support at Stanytsia Luhanska EECP** by NGO Proliska e-vehicle.

<sup>1</sup>The findings of the monitoring should not be directly extrapolated to the entire population.



### 325

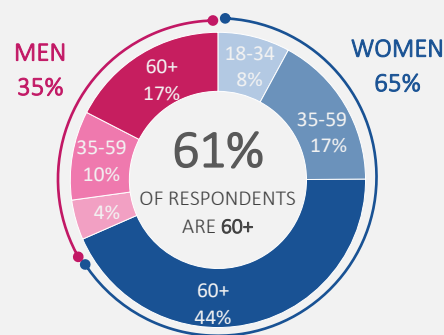
R2P resuming survey at EECPs. 325 individuals surveyed by R2P in October<sup>1</sup>



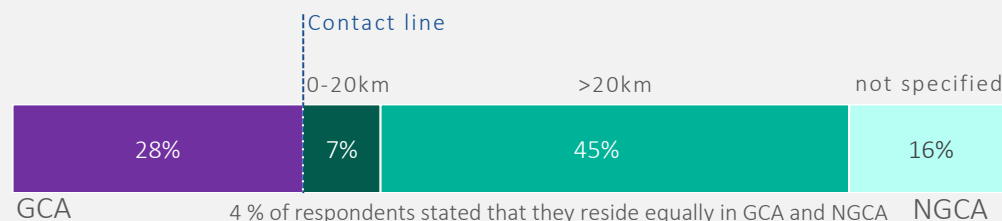
Two out of five EECP only remain operational. Moreover, Stanytsia Luhanska EECP has not been working since 15 October.



A 67-year-old man died after crossing at Stanytsia Luhanska EECP on 13 October. He felt bad while crossing and paramedics provided the necessary assistance and took him to the hospital of Stanytsia Luhanska for further hospitalization. But he passed away in the emergency room.

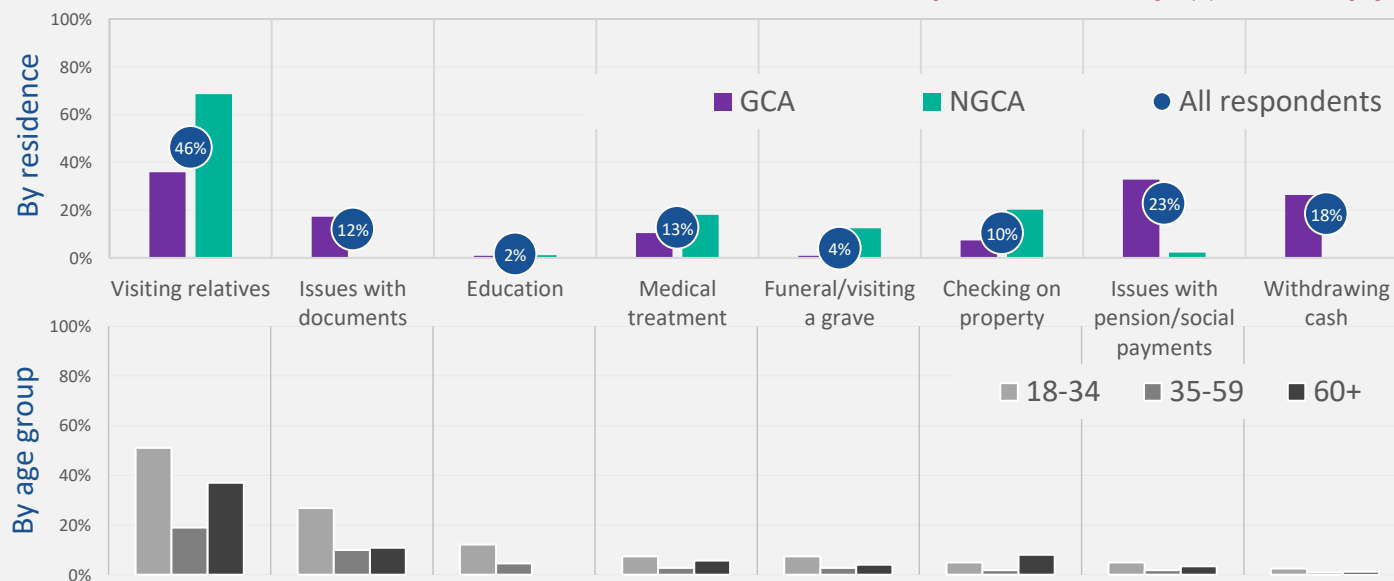


### CURRENT PLACE OF RESIDENCE



### MOST FREQUENT REASONS FOR CROSSING

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



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

EECP – entry-exit checkpoint

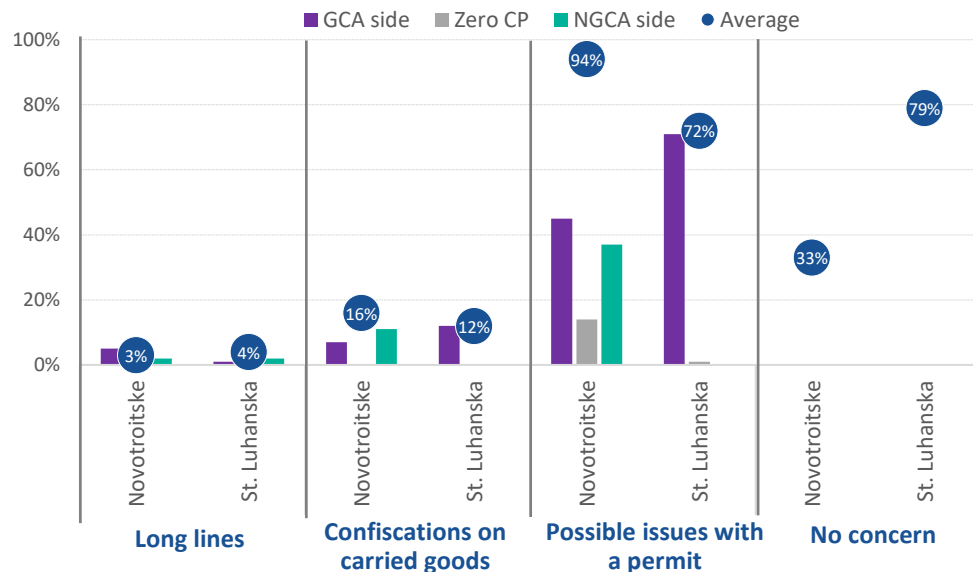
JFO – Joint Forces Operation

SBGS – State Border Guard Service

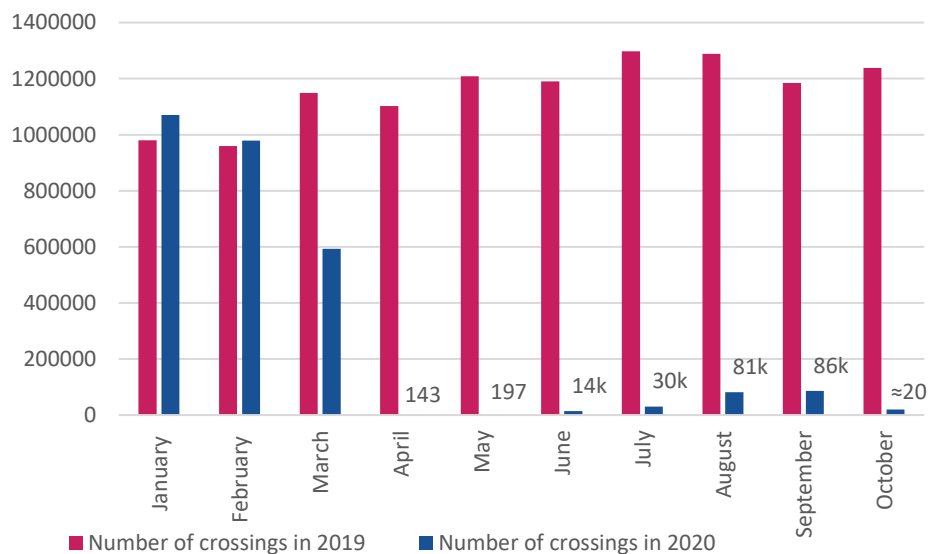
NGO - non-government organization

UNHCR and the NGO Right to Protection (R2P) are grateful for the generous support provided by donors, including the European Union's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO); the Governments of Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom (DFID), the United States of America (PRM) as well as private citizens who are contributing funds through different UNHCR private associations such as España con ACNUR of Spain and the UNO Flüchtlingshilfe of Germany.

## MAIN CONCERNS WHILE CROSSING



## COMPARISON OF THE MONTHLY NUMBER OF CROSSINGS AT ALL EECPS<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>General statistics on crossings are available at the UNHCR dashboard visualizing data from the State Border Guard Service. <https://goo.gl/TZbU8c>

## DONETSKA OBLAST

- In October, over 600 people were authorized to cross to GCA in Donetsk Oblast and over 1,000 people crossed the contact line to NGCA in Donetsk Oblast.
- Three out of four EECPs in Donetsk Oblast remain closed. Novotroitske EECP remains the only EECP in Donetsk Oblast where it is possible to cross the contact line based on lists established by de-facto authorities in NGCA. The passage of people is conducted every Monday and Friday.
- The process of crossing is the same as it was 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, including writing an application to the NGCA “Emergency headquarters for fighting the spread of COVID-19” via an email or Telegram. In addition, people who crossed the EECP to GCA report that they were required to sign a document at the NGCA checkpoint stating that they will not return to NGCA until the end of quarantine there.

## LUHANSKA OBLAST

- In period between 5 to 15 October, over 8,000 people crossed the CL towards GCA and over 10,000 people backward.
- As of end of October, in order to cross contact line to NGCA side, one needs to have residence registration in NGCA Luhanska Oblast, an urgent issue for crossing and the decision of the JFO Headquarters, as per an interim measure. Thus, people write a statement to the JFO head attaching documents proving the necessity for crossing and identifying ones. Two types of proving documents are the most common: (1) death certificate of a relative and (2) certificate issued by medical institution confirming the need for medical treatment.

## NUMBER OF CROSSINGS IN OCTOBER<sup>1</sup>

The number of civilian crossings the contact line decreased in October compared to September ( $\approx 20,000$  vs.  $86,000$ ) and remained only 1,61% percent of the 1.3 million crossings in October 2019.

