### CROSSING THE CONTACT LINE: October 2020 Snapshot

**NUMBERS AND TRENDS**

- **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 ≈77 percentage points due to the closing of Stanitsya Luhanska EECP: ≈20,000 and 86,000 respectively.

- **From 30 September to 4 October,** the passage of people was temporarily suspended at Stanitsya Luhanska EECP in Luhanska Oblast due to large-scale fires in the vicinity. As a result of the fire, 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 Stanitsya Luhanska EECP between 16 and 31 October due to the increasing prevalence of COVID-19 in Luhanska oblast. From the moment of closing Stanitsya 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 Stanitsya 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 Stanitsya 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 Stanitsya Luhanska EECP by NGO Proliska e-vehicle.

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

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>By residence</strong></th>
<th><strong>GCA</strong></th>
<th><strong>NGCA</strong></th>
<th><strong>All respondents</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visiting relatives</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issues with documents</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical treatment</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funeral/visiting a grave</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checking on property</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issues with pension/social payments</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withdrawing cash</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>By age group</strong></th>
<th><strong>18-34</strong></th>
<th><strong>35-59</strong></th>
<th><strong>60+</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage calculated within each group (NGCA/GCA or age groups)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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MAIN CONCERNS WHILE CROSSING

- GCA side
- Zero CP
- NGCA side
- Average

Long lines: Novotroitske 3%, St. Luhanska 4%
Confiscations on carried goods: Novotroitske 15%, St. Luhanska 12%
Possible issues with a permit: Novotroitske 94%, St. Luhanska 72%
No concern: Novotroitske 3%, St. Luhanska 79%

COMPARASION OF THE MONTHLY NUMBER OF CROSSINGS AT ALL EECPs

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
- The number of civilian crossings the contact line decreased in October compared to September (≈ 20,000 vs. 86,000) and remained only 1.61% percent of the 1.3 million crossings in October 2019.

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