

CROSSING THE CONTACT LINE:

January 2022 EECF Survey Snapshot

As in previous months, crossing the contact line remained possible only through **two of the seven Exit-Entry Crossing Points (EECPs)**: Novotroitske EECP in Donetsk Oblast and Stanytsia Luhanska EECP in Luhansk Oblast. **94 per cent** of all people crossing between the GCA and the NGCA in January did so through **Stanytsia Luhanska EECP**. This is due to the fact that Novotroitske EECP operates only two days a week, with additional permits required by de facto authorities for crossing.

As in January 2021, the number of people crossing the contact line reached a low point in January 2022. The low level of crossing is most explained by the winter holidays.

On **24 January 2022**, the **SSU website** has been revamped and is ready to register new crossing permits. From November 2021, people without prior registration on the **SSU website** were unable to register to obtain permits to cross the contact line.

The resumption of the **SSU website** and abolition of the requirement to install the Vdoma app on **29 December 2021** for people crossing EECPs to GCA considerably made the process easier and less stressful.

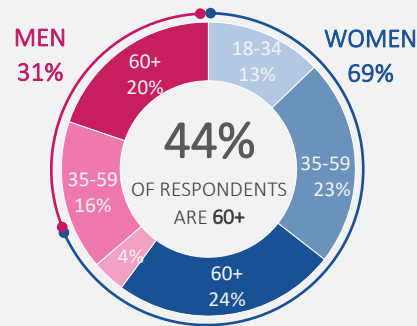
COVID-19 vaccination has become one of the reasons to cross EECPs since February 2021. A vaccination centre opened at **Novotroitske EECP on 21 January**. As a result, people crossing the contact line can be vaccinated at both of the EECPs operating, free of charge.

More statistical data is available on the Eastern Ukraine Checkpoint Monitoring Online Dashboard: <https://www.unhcr.org/ua/en/eeep-monitoring-2021>



273

Individuals surveyed by R2P in January.



On **January 24**, the **SSU website** was revamped and ready to be used.



A **vaccination centre** was opened at Novotroitske EECP in January.



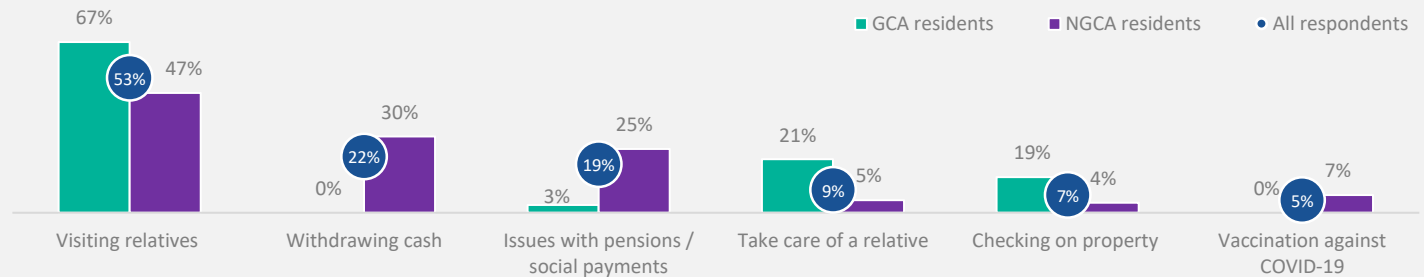
In January, 10,745 persons in a situation of vulnerability were transported across the Stanytsia Luhanska EECP on an electric cart operated by the NGO Proliska.



R2P facilitated **134** requests for crossing through the fast-track procedure and assisted **119** persons with obtaining permits to cross.

MOST FREQUENT REASONS FOR CROSSING*

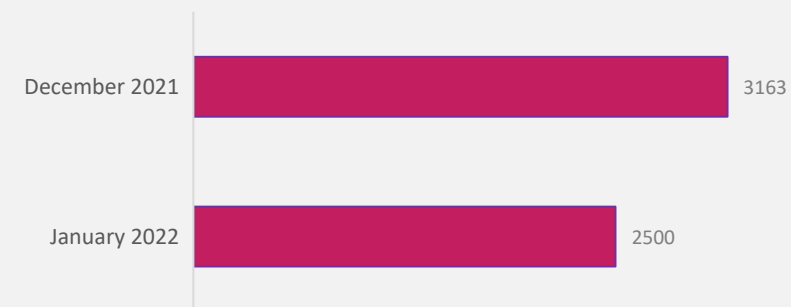
BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE



Number of crossings at Stanytsia Luhanska EECP



Number of crossings at Novotroitske EECP



(N)GCA – (non-)government-controlled areas
SBGS – State Border Guard Service

IBCP- International/interstate border crossing point
SSU– Security service of Ukraine

EECP – entry-exit checkpoint

NGO – non-government organization



GOING AROUND THE CONTACT LINE:

January 2022 IBCP Survey Snapshot

In January, the R2P team identified that **some people were not informed** that the Vdoma app still needs to be downloaded by people crossing through IBCPs. At **Hoptivka IBCP**, people carried out PCR tests on their own in the neutral zone in order to avoid observation or other measures. 28 per cent of the people interviewed by R2P at Milove and Hoptivka IBCPs were over the age of 60, who often face difficulties installing the Vdoma app or paying for Covid-19 tests. Thus, from **Milove IBCP**, 15 older people were sent for observation. **UNHCR and R2P** will seek solutions to strengthen the dissemination of information on existing requirements.

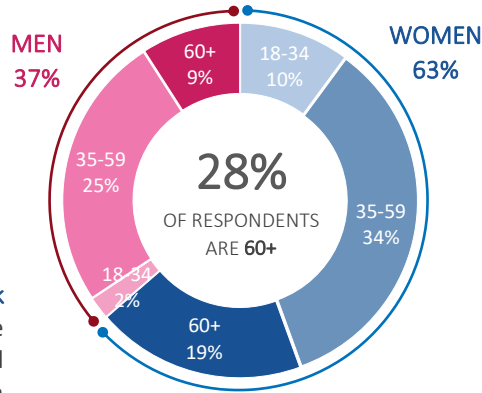
In January, most respondents were residents of **Donetsk NGCA** (51 per cent), compared to 16 per cent who were residents of **Luhanska NGCA**. Furthermore, for the third consecutive month, there were no residents of Luhanska NGCA among respondents at Hoptivka IBCP. The reason for the higher number of residents from Donetsk NGCA is that Novotroitske EECF in Donetsk oblast is only open two times per week.

The construction of reception and sanitary facilities for people crossing the border through IBCP in **Milove** has been completed with **UNHCR** support.



158

Individuals surveyed by R2P in January at IBCPs

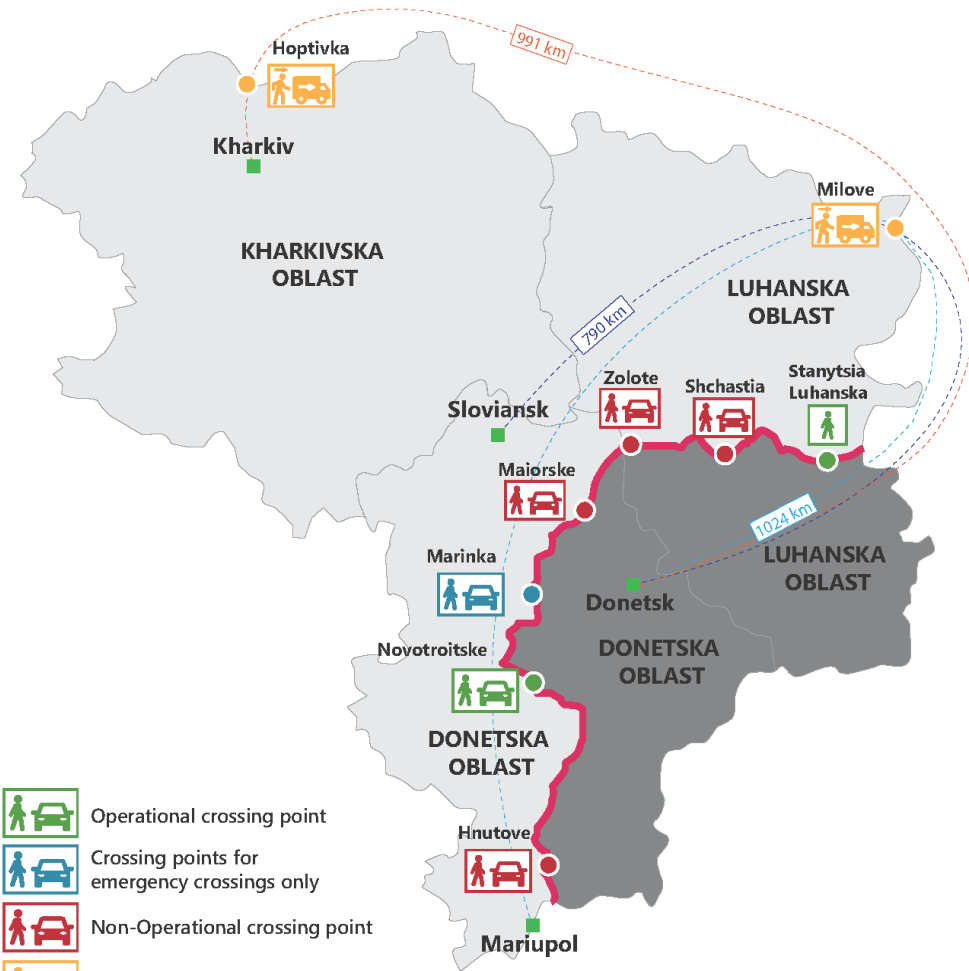
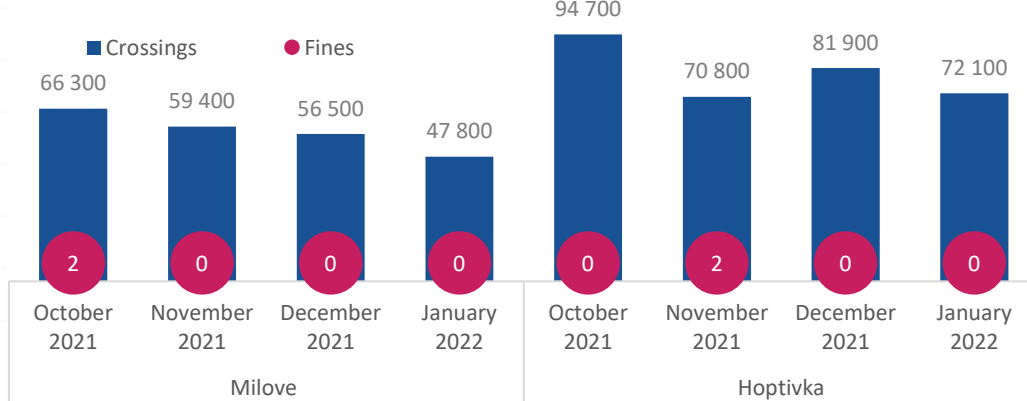


27 per cent of respondents spent more than **2,000 UAH** for a one-way trip through IBCP in January.



Hoptivka IBCP still lacks reception facilities for people to sit while waiting for buses for up to three hours.

Number of crossings, and people fined, at Milove and Hoptivka IBCPs (citizens of Ukraine only)*



- Operational crossing point
- Crossing points for emergency crossings only
- Non-Operational crossing point
- International crossing point
- Crossing of people
- Crossing of vehicles

- Government-controlled area
- Non-Government-controlled area
- 'Contact line' as of August 2018

* Statistics on the number of crossings and fines were obtained from the State Border Guard Service