

# CROSSING THE CONTACT LINE: September 2021 Snapshot

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

- Only two of seven Exit-Entry Crossing Points (EECPs) remained open for crossing the contact line: Novotroitske in Donetsk Oblast and Stanytsia Luhanska in Luhanska Oblast. COVID-19 measures continue to have an impact on the number of persons crossing the EECPs. In September less people crossed than in previous months. According to SBGS statistics, about 70,000 people crossed the contact line in September, while the figure was 91,000 for August. Anti-COVID-19 measures are cited by the de facto authorities as their reason to keep the other EECPs closed.
- On 17 and 24 September, NGCA side of Novotroitske EECP was closed by the de facto authorities citing technical problems without any further explanations. Meanwhile, Novotroitske EECP on GCA side was open on those days. This closure prevented people crossing for purposes such as obtaining necessary medical treatment, visiting relatives or attending funerals of relatives on time. Such closures may in some cases lead to the deterioration of health of sick people and those who need special care.
- In September, it has become possible to obtain a printable Covid-19 vaccination certificate at the Diya website. It means that people can get the certificate without visiting a medical facility even while being in the NGCA. However, a smartphone with Diya app or an electronic digital signature is needed.
- During September, 10,159 vulnerable elderly persons were transported across the Stanytsia Luhanska EECP by an electric vehicle provided by the NGO Proliska.

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



325 individuals were surveyed by R2P in September: 62% were women and 38% were men.



The installation of Vdoma app remains a challenge for the majority of respondents (63% in September).



Issues with permits continues to be the main concern expressed by people crossing EECPs.



R2P facilitated 293 requests for crossing through the fast-track procedure and assisted about 1,350 persons with installing Vdoma app.

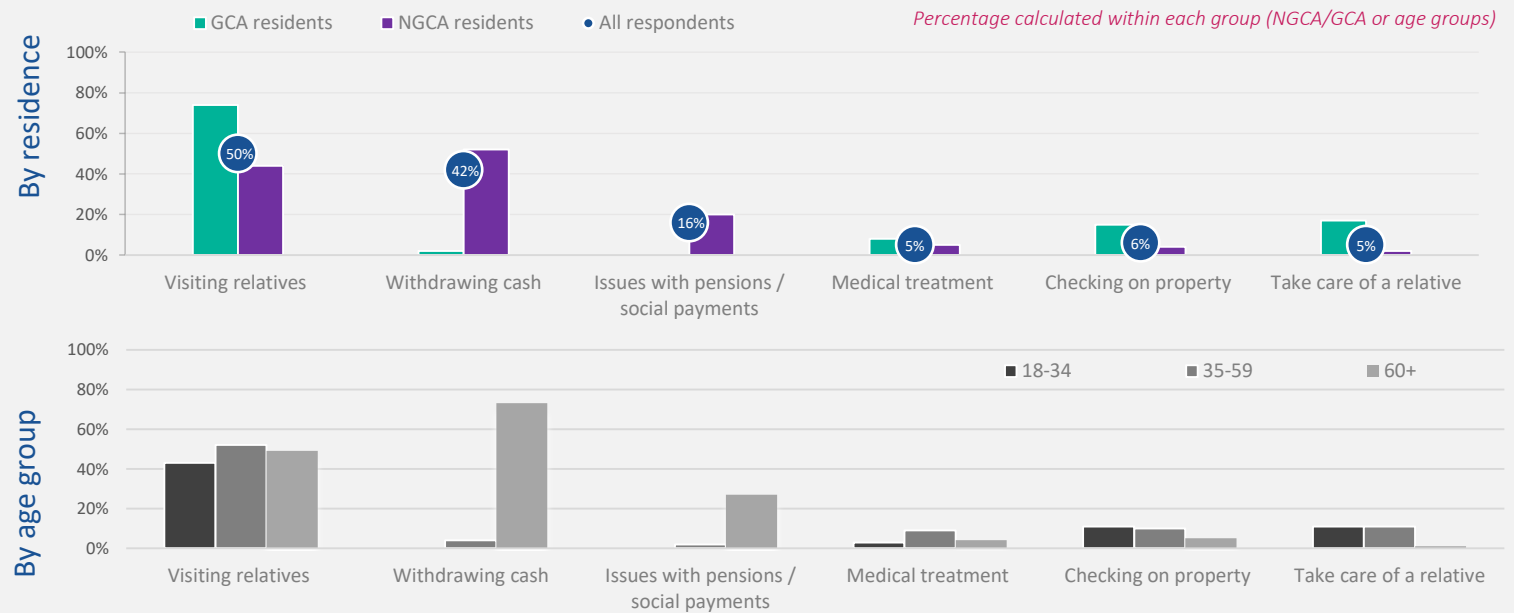


On 17 and 24 September, de facto authorities closed Novotroitske EECP on NGCA side.



Getting a printable COVID-19 vaccination certificate became possible via Diya website.

## MOST FREQUENT REASONS FOR CROSSING\*



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

EECP – entry-exit checkpoint

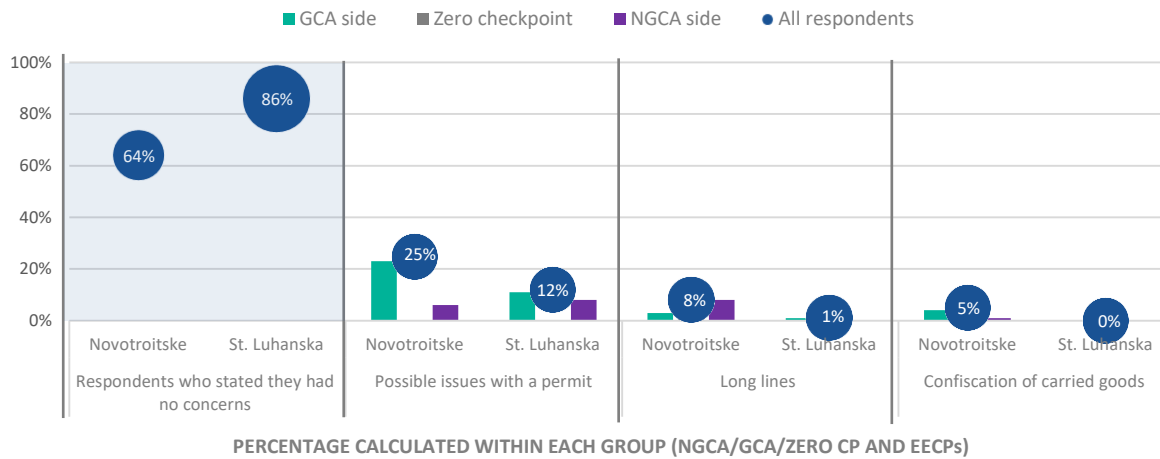
NGO – non-government organization

PCR - Polymerase chain reaction

SBGS – State Border Guard

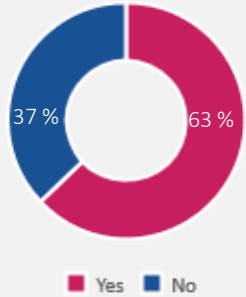
UNHCR and the NGO Right to Protection (R2P) are grateful for the generous support provided by donors, including the European Union's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO); the Governments of Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lithuania, 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

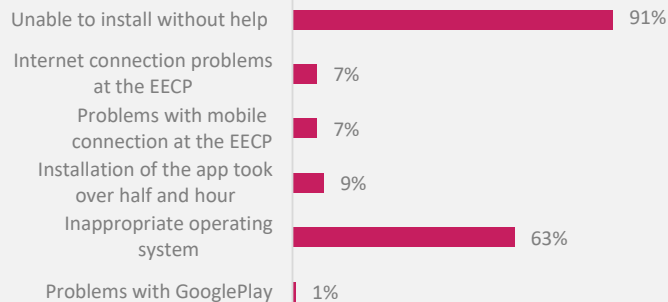


## COVID-19 SPECIFIC ISSUES

### Difficulties while installing "Vdoma" app (current crossing)



### Types of difficulties while installing "Vdoma" app



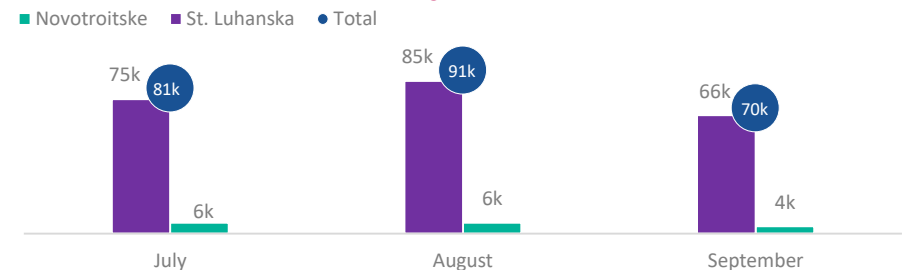
## R2P OBSERVATIONS

- In September, according to data obtained from the laboratories at the EECPs 943 persons, 56 per cent of those who entered GCA via Novotroitske EECF took antigen tests for COVID-19 as did 3,482 persons, 21 per cent of those who entered GCA via Stanytsia Luhanska EECF. Meanwhile, in Donetsk Oblast, 61 persons were referred to the observation facility, because they had no mobile phone or had an old phone that wasn't able to download the Vdoma app. As of late September, there were still no state-run observation facilities in Luhanska Oblast.
- Resolution #787 that came into force on 5 August made the installation of the GEO-tracing app Vdoma a mandatory requirement for those crossing the contact line to the GCA. For people crossing the contact line, the installation of Vdoma app is still a serious problem. Lack of smartphones matching the requirement for the app and/or inability to install it made the time spent on EECF longer and the trip more difficult, especially for people aged 60+ (54 per cent of respondents) and people with serious illnesses. R2P monitors assisted more than 1,350 persons with installing Vdoma app in September.

## NUMBER OF CROSSINGS IN SEPTEMBER

The total number of crossings in September 2021 was 69,948. Almost 95 per cent of all people crossing between the GCA and the NGCA in September did so through the Luhansk EECF. In Donetsk Oblast, 1,639 people were authorized to cross to the GCA and 2,054 to the NGCA. In Luhanska Oblast, 32,751 people crossed the contact line to the GCA and 33,504 to the NGCA.

## NUMBER OF CROSSINGS AT EECPS IN THE 3RD QUARTER OF 2021\*



General statistics on crossings are available at the UNHCR dashboard visualizing data from the State Border Guard Service <https://www.unhcr.org/ua/en/resources/checkpoints-crossings>. For the statistics of May 2021, data from Joint Forces Operation were used.