UKRAINE: CHECKPOINTS - Humanitarian Snapshot (as of 18 October 2018)

The number of civilian crossings through the ‘contact line’ decreased after the peak of 1.3 million in August. Reconstruction works aimed at improving basic services such as shelter, water, toilets and electricity supply for people crossing is currently ongoing at the EECP ‘Novotroitske’ and ‘Stanytsia Luhanska’. However, lack of adequate facilities and access to emergency care remained a concern, particularly at the zero checkpoints - a territory between the five operating EECPs in the Government controlled areas and those beyond Government’s control. This aggravated the people’s suffering. In September alone, two civilian casualties were reported near the zero checkpoints. One occurred at the EECP ‘Stanytsia Luhanska’ where an elderly woman was injured when a large number of people flocked to cross the wooden bridge at the same time. The other incident happened at the EECP ‘Maiorske’ where an elderly man died due to health complication while waiting in a queue to cross the zero checkpoint, as no medical team could reach him in time. As of 1 September, the working hours of the EECPs reduced for three hours according to ‘autumn schedule’. The EECPs now operate from 07:30 am to 18:30 pm daily. Nevertheless, there were at least nine cases in September, when working hours at the GCA side of the checkpoints ‘Maiorske’ and ‘Marinka’ had to be extended to allow additional inflow of civilian and vehicle crossings from the NGCA.