

2019

# HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OVERVIEW

PEOPLE IN NEED

3.5 M

DEC 2018



UKRAINE



This document is produced on behalf of the Humanitarian Country Team and partners.

This document provides the Humanitarian Country Team's shared understanding of the crisis, including the most pressing humanitarian needs and the estimated number of people who need assistance. It represents a consolidated evidence base and helps inform joint strategic response planning.

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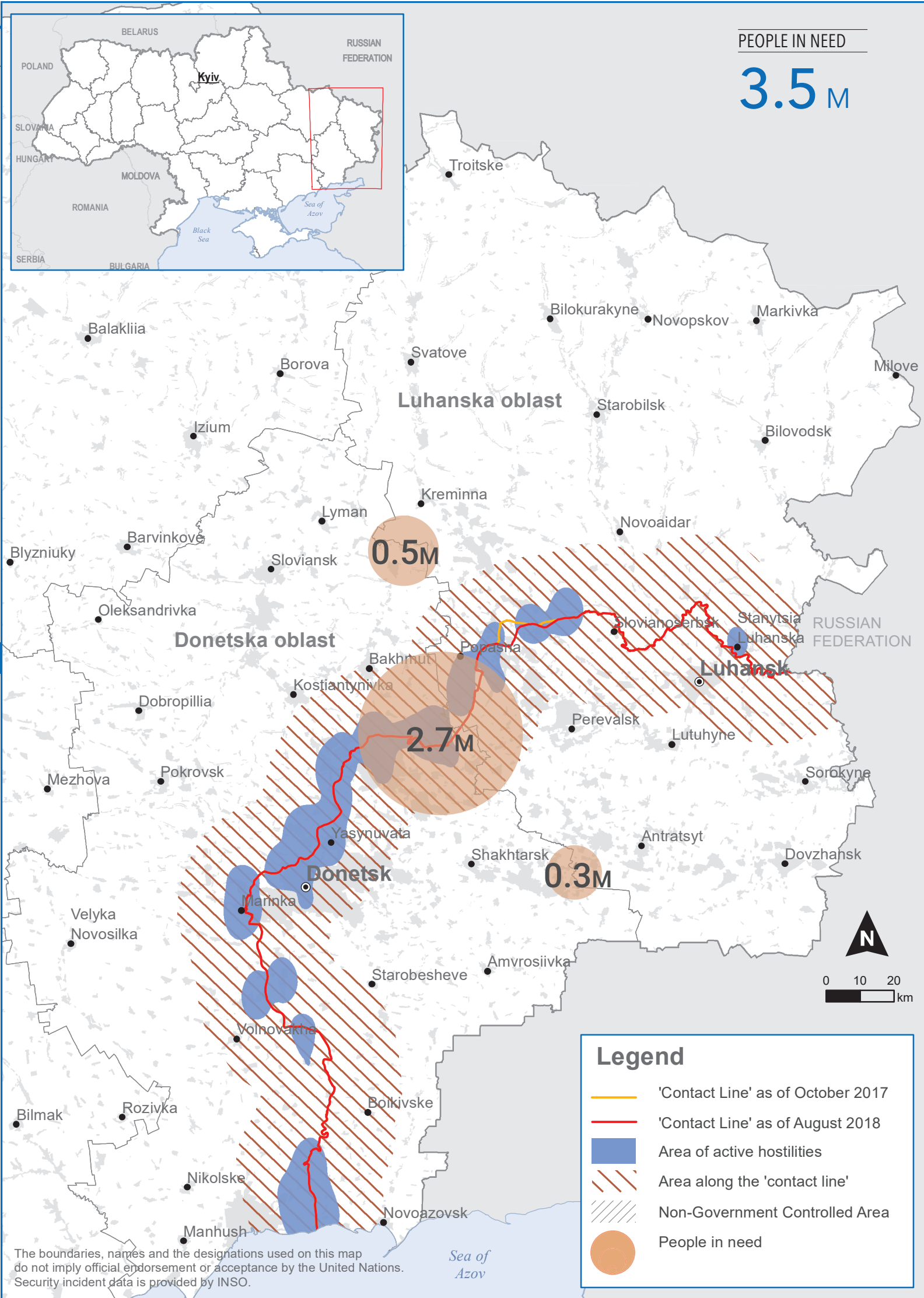
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# PART I: SUMMARY

- 
-  Humanitarian needs and key figures
  -  Impact of the crisis
  -  Breakdown of people in need
  -  Concentration of needs
  -  Community perceptions and accountability to affected persons (AAP)





## HUMANITARIAN

## NEEDS &amp; KEY FIGURES

An estimated 5.2 million people bear the brunt of the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine. Even after four years of active hostilities, there is no immediate resolution in sight to end the suffering of the affected population, 3.5 million of whom require humanitarian assistance and protection due to widespread mine contamination, escalating psychological trauma and the degrading impact of the lack of access to basic services. Most people in need live in the conflict-affected oblasts of Donetsk and Luhansk divided by the 427-kilometre-long 'contact line', which is equivalent to the length of the French-German border. The 'contact line' has also been the theatre of active hostilities which took the lives of over 3,000 civilians and injured approximately 9,000 since 2014. For three consecutive years, Ukraine has had more anti-vehicle mine incidents than any other country, which together with other mine-related incidents and the mishandling of explosive remnants of war (ERW) accounted for more than 40 per cent of civilian casualties in 2017 and 2018.<sup>1</sup> Crossings of the 'contact line' through the five official checkpoints increased by 15 per cent in 2018 compared to 2017, with an average of 1.1 million crossings each month – over half of which were made by the elderly aged over 60. Freezing temperatures during Ukraine's harsh winter further exacerbate the humanitarian situation, along with restrictions on and unpredictability of humanitarian access as well as diminishing or limited livelihood opportunities. Women and the elderly are disproportionately affected and increasingly prone to risks of abuse, exploitation and neglect. The elderly account for 30 per cent of those in need, which is the highest proportion of any crisis in the world, and constitute over half of those who are food insecure. Their higher rates of disability and immobility make them more vulnerable to economic insecurity. The situation is aggravated by administrative hurdles they face when accessing their entitlements, especially pensions. This increasingly difficult situation continues to force people to make impossible choices to meet their basic needs, and to keep their heads above water at the expense of their dignity and future.

1. 348 (92 killed and 256 injured) out of 864 (165 killed and 699 injured) civilian casualties from 1 January 2017 to 31 October 2018, according to OHCHR.

## HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

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## 1 Direct Impact of Hostilities

Civilians face serious risks to their safety, wellbeing and basic rights due to ongoing hostilities and the proliferation of landmines and ERW. In Government-controlled areas (GCA), an estimated two million people are exposed to landmine risks, with 70 per cent of families changing their behaviors or daily habits to avoid them.<sup>2</sup> The presence and impact of landmine and ERW on civilians in non-Government controlled areas (NGCA) remain difficult to ascertain due to the lack of credible data, but the situation is estimated to be serious. The conflict's impact is most severely felt in areas closest to the 'contact line', where one in three families are afraid to send their children to school due to security concerns.<sup>3</sup> International Humanitarian Law is constantly violated, with indiscriminate attacks against critical civilian structures, which often causes disruption of essential services such as water supply to civilians on both sides of the 'contact line'. Almost five years of shelling and hostilities have heightened psychological distress among all age groups, with children and adolescents most affected. With 1.5 million registered IDPs<sup>4</sup> living in a situation of protracted displacement, a whole-of-government approach is required to urgently implement the recently-adopted Action Plan of the Government's national IDP Strategy.<sup>5</sup> Civil documentation is a rising concern, with 57 per cent of births in NGCA unregistered and risking statelessness.<sup>6</sup> The Mine Action Law recently adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine is a welcoming step to scale up the much-needed humanitarian mine action.

## 2 Disrupted Services

Well into its fifth year, the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine continues to place relentless pressure on critical civilian structures and services in and near conflict-affected areas. The lives of millions of people living in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts have had to be re-organised, placing additional burdens on already over-stretched services, such as health, education, water, electricity and heating. The conflict impacts the proximity and access of services. Along the 'contact line', schools regularly come under fire, affecting the education and wellbeing of thousands of children and teachers. Water supply systems are often damaged. In 2018, the cost of chlorine gas essential for water treatment increased three times. Frequent water shortages, coupled with Ukraine's low immunisation rates, also increase the risk of communicable diseases. Tuberculosis (TB) is highly endemic to Ukraine and remains a concern, in particular multi-drug resistant TB. This is concerning in a situation of high mobility and scanty healthcare services. With two-thirds of health facilities in areas closest to the 'contact line' damaged, 38 per cent of households report lacking access to health-care services.<sup>7</sup> The elderly suffer from chronic health conditions that require regular life-saving medicines.

2. REACH, Humanitarian Trend Analysis Fact Sheet: Government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, June 2018

3. Ibid.

4. As registered by the Ministry of Social Policy, in 2018.

5. On 21 November 2018, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted the ordinance "On Approval of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy of Integration of Internally Displaced Persons and Implementation of Long-Term Solutions to Internal Displacement until 2020" drafted by the Ministry of Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs (MTOI).

6. According to the Protection Cluster.

7. According to the Health and Nutrition Cluster.

### 3 Lack of Livelihoods and erosion of coping mechanisms

The conflict has paralysed economic activity in Ukraine's once-thriving industrial region, seriously impacting wellbeing and living standards of people. Unemployment in the conflict-affected oblasts has increased over the past four years and is higher than in the rest of the country. Rural families' access to farmland is severely curtailed due to widespread mine contamination. They spend over 20 per cent of their limited income on heating, and their food consumption scores are nearly halved during winter. IDPs and host communities face additional economic strain. IDPs struggle to access social benefits, such as pensions, that many of them heavily rely on to survive. Almost five years of the conflict, vulnerable people are increasingly forced to buy food on credit, cut health expenditures, or resort to begging. Loss of income and lack of livelihood opportunities are the second main concern among conflict-affected communities, which is closely correlated with increased alcohol and drug use, particularly among young people. This has contributed to the increase in domestic violence. One in five elderly people living along the 'contact line' reported experiencing at least one type of violence and abuse, 76 per cent being women.<sup>8</sup> People living close to the 'contact line' have a more pessimistic outlook regarding job opportunities and have a sense of isolation and even abandonment due to the poor state of the transportation network and several basic public services.<sup>9</sup>

### 4 Curtailed freedom of movement and restricted access

While there has been slight progress in reaching more people in need in 2018, access in NGCA and along the 'contact line' remains unpredictable and restricted due to bureaucratic impediments, insecurity and logistical challenges. People's freedom of movement and ability to access humanitarian goods, basic services and their social entitlements and pension remains constrained. While infrastructures have improved at all five official checkpoints in GCA, thousands of families continue to face long delays in undignified conditions, and risks from the hostilities and landmines. Half of those who cross are more than 60 years old, with the majority being female. In Luhanska oblast, freedom of movement remains severely constrained as only one rickety pedestrian crossing point serves the entire region. Negotiations to open additional checkpoints in Luhanska oblast have been stalled for over three years. Humanitarian access to people in need, particularly in NGCA, remains not only unpredictable but also not enough to scale up the response to meet the volume and breadth of critical humanitarian needs. Persistent underfunding over the past years has delayed, disrupted and led to the discontinuation of critical humanitarian activities.

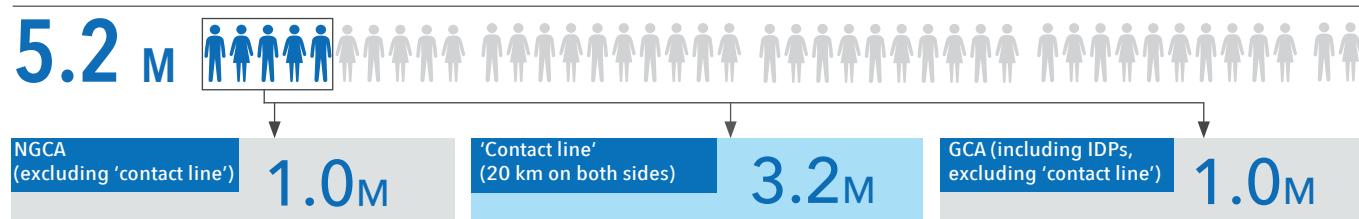
8. HelpAge International, Humanitarian Needs of Older Women and Men in GCA, July 2018.

9. UN Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index for eastern Ukraine (USE) 2018

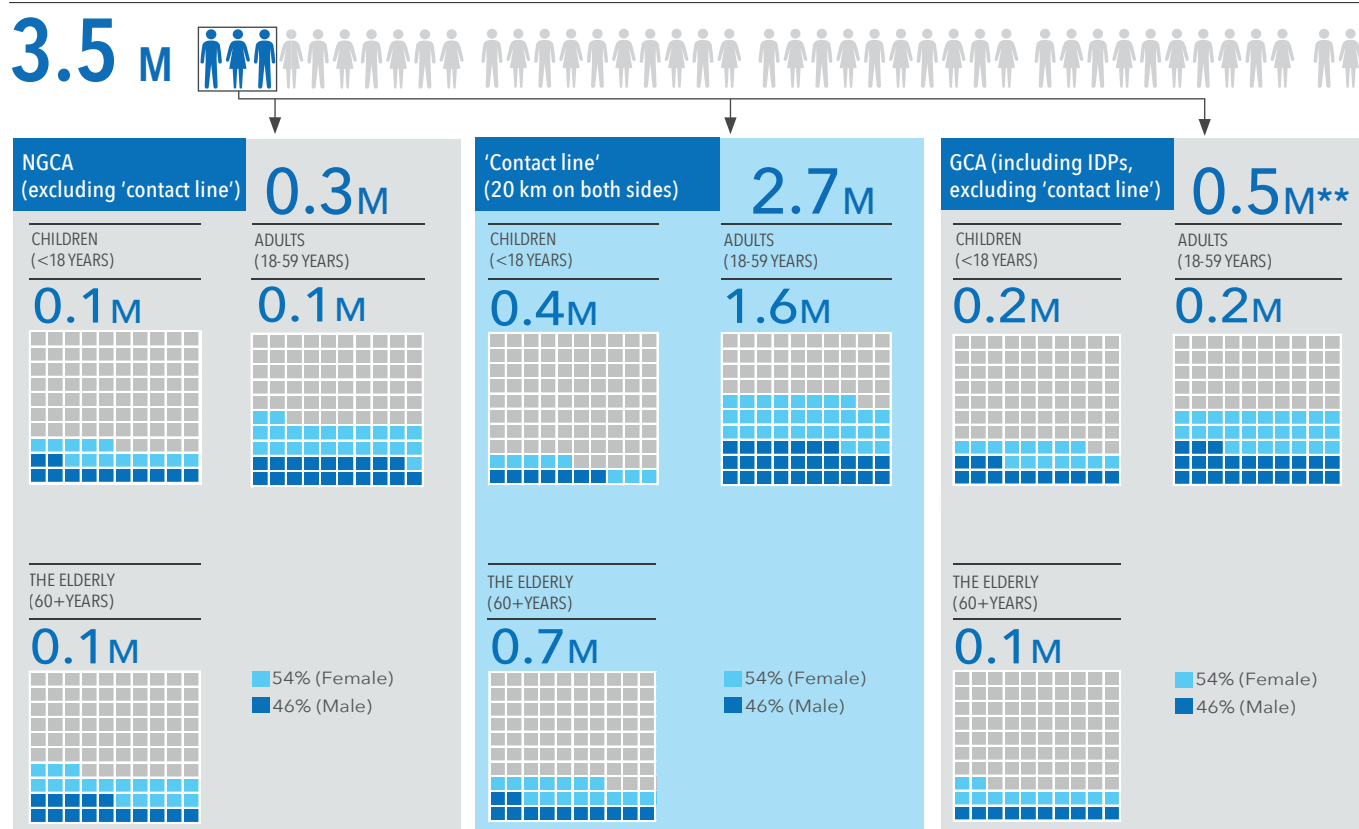
#### TOTAL POPULATION



#### NUMBER OF PEOPLE AFFECTED



#### NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NEED OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



\* Based on population estimates by the Ukrainian Statistics Service as of 2018.

\*\* The Ministry of Social Policy registered 1.5 million IDPs in 2018 nationwide. All of them need different types of assistance. An estimated 0.8 million IDPs are living permanently in GCA, while others move frequently across the 'contact line', and for the planning purpose, are considered to be living in NGCA.



## IMPACT OF THE

## CRISIS

For almost five years, millions of people have suffered the complex humanitarian consequences of the active armed conflict in eastern Ukraine. Despite numerous ceasefire agreements, civilians are regularly exposed to active hostilities, particularly along the 427-kilometre 'contact line' that divides the affected areas. Periodic lulls in hostilities provide little relief as civilians continue to face risks of dangerous landmines and explosives, whether on their way to market, school, home, hospital or crossing the 'contact line'. Over 3,000 civilians have been killed and approximately 9,000 injured since the beginning of the conflict. The hostilities have also damaged and destroyed homes, hospitals, schools, roads, water supply systems and other civilian infrastructure, disrupting or cutting off people's access to these critical services. With more than a million crossings each month and only five checkpoints with long lines and limited services, crossing the 'contact line' puts enormous challenges for civilians trying to maintain family ties and to meet their basic needs.

The protracted nature of the crisis has also diminished the livelihoods of conflict-affected Ukrainians. Lack of or no income has stretched people's resources to a breaking point, with families having to resort to negative practices like selling their vital belongings or reducing costly but necessary expenditures, such as medication. Mental health and psychosocial disorders are a growing concern that requires urgent action for millions of people, with children and the elderly most in need. The humanitarian needs in eastern Ukraine are therefore manifold and severe, with 3.5 million men, women and children being dependent on humanitarian assistance and protection. Even if hostilities wane and landmines have been cleared, communities will need extensive support to regain their self-sufficiency.

### Devastating consequences of the violence

Eastern Ukraine remains one of the deadliest regions in the world, especially for the two million people who reside close to the 'contact line' on both sides. As International Humanitarian Law is repeatedly violated, efforts to protect civilians often fall short.

Civilians who live, work and attend school in these areas must contend with landmines and other explosives on a regular basis. Ongoing hostilities and landmine and ERW accounted for 270 deaths and injuries in 2018.<sup>10</sup> More than 3,000 civilians have been killed and another 9,000 injured since the conflict began in 2014.<sup>11</sup> Life for the men, women and children living in conflict-affected settlements is hard, and psychological trauma is deep and increasingly widespread. Healing will take time.

Shelling and small-arms fire regularly damage thousands of

homes and critical infrastructure such as hospitals, schools, roads, and water supply systems. In 2018 alone, water supply systems were disrupted 89 times by hostilities and other issues, affecting millions of people. Schools and hospitals continue to be caught up in indiscriminate shelling.

Whilst it is difficult to determine the exact number of missing persons, it is estimated that at least 1,500 people remain unaccounted for as a result of the conflict.<sup>12</sup> Over 80 per cent of them used to be employed and the majority of them were breadwinners.<sup>13</sup> In August 2018, the Ukrainian Parliament adopted a new law on the "legal status of missing people", which grants a person the missing "status" from the day they are reported and creates a Commission on Persons Missing in Special Circumstances and the Unified Register of Missing Persons.

10. Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, January - November 2018.

11. Ibid.

12. International Committee of the Red Cross, "Hello Son, I'm Home", Needs Assessment of Families of Missing, November 2018.

13. Ibid.

#### IMPACT OF CONFLICT

People in need

3.5 M



60%  women and children

#### ELDERLY IN NEED

30% of people in need are  
the elderly -  
the highest  
proportion  
in the world



#### 'CONTACT LINE' CROSSING

≈ 1.1 M



crossings monthly  
in 2018

(15% increase from 2017)

## Freedom of movement restrictions shatter people's dignity

### The perilous 'contact line' divides families and communities and denies access to basic services

Millions of people in eastern Ukraine face severe restrictions on their freedom of movement. The 'contact line' spans some 427 kilometres and has only five official crossing points throughout the entire region. One of these is a pedestrian-only wooden bridge that serves the entire Luhanska oblast. Civilians who need to cross the 'contact line' to access pensions, hospitals, markets, social services, or simply visit friends or family often wait in long lines for several hours at checkpoints, and sometimes stay overnight, in a highly volatile environment with shelling and extreme levels of landmine contamination. Considerable efforts were made to improve crossing conditions by the Government of Ukraine and humanitarians, but overall the checkpoints lack basic services, including water and sanitation facilities, cooling points in summer and heating points in winter - particularly in the so-called 'zero' checkpoints (the territory between the GCA and NGCA crossing points). In 2018, 50 people died or injured by hostilities or suffered serious health complications while crossing the checkpoints.<sup>14</sup>

An average of 1.1 million crossings were registered each month at the five crossing points in 2018, a 15 per cent increase over the preceding year. Over half of these were over the age of 60,<sup>15</sup> crossing mainly to collect their pensions in GCA.

### Hostilities and landmines isolate communities

We had to stay overnight in the queue of cars that wasn't moving at all. You can hear the shooting there. I don't care who started it all! I just want to see my daughter.

Elderly resident of a village near Donetsk airport

Ongoing hostilities and landmine contamination isolate thousands of people who live in villages closest to the 'contact line'. Almost 9 out of every 10 households within five kilometers of the 'contact line' in GCA live in fear of shelling.<sup>16</sup> The situation in NGCA remains unclear due to lack of access and credible data, however, it is estimated to be as serious. In many villages along the 'contact line' hospitals, schools, transportation and basic services such as electricity and gas are frequently disrupted or in some cases unavailable, and the isolated men, women and children face immense difficulties in accessing these services. While safety and protection remain their biggest concerns, people also urgently need psychological support, food and non-food items, shelter, water and sanitation, health care and education.

## The protracted crisis hits the elderly the hardest

The conflict in eastern Ukraine has a unique, disproportionate impact on the elderly. Of the 3.5 million in need, 30 per cent are above the age of 60. This is the largest proportion of elderly in a single country affected by a conflict in the world. These men and women face severe hardships when accessing essential services because they experience higher rates of disability and immobility and are often separated from their families. They are also more susceptible to abuse and neglect, have specific health and nutritional needs, and are highly prone to economic insecurity. Available evidence suggests that over half of food insecure people are elderly and 9 in 10 elderly persons in GCA rely on pension as their main source of income.<sup>17</sup> At the same time, this income is not sufficient to cover basic needs as over half this money is spent on medicine and over a quarter on food.<sup>18</sup>

For pensioners living in NGCA, accessing their pension entitlement is a real challenge in itself. Adding to the cumbersome procedures established in 2014, additional amendments adopted in May 2018 created even more challenges to receiving any pension benefits retroactively if they were suspended.<sup>19</sup>

Over the years, these legislative and administrative restrictions have had a disproportionate impact on NGCA pensioners. Of the more than 1.2 million pensioners in these areas before the conflict, only 477,000 pensioners from NGCA were still receiving their pensions at the end of July 2018.<sup>20</sup> While the Grand Chamber of the Supreme Court's decision to declare linking pension payments to IDP registration as unlawful was considered a welcome move, it did not result in a system-wide redress of this impediment.

### Health care - too difficult to access for millions

The conflict has not only hindered people's immediate access to health care, it has also cut off the referral pathway that used to connect isolated rural health facilities with major health centers located in urban areas.

Four in 10 civilians in rural areas of GCA experience difficulties accessing critical health care.<sup>21</sup> The situation in NGCA remains unclear due to lack of access and credible data. However, it is believed to be serious. At the same time, landmines and other explosives contamination contributes to diminishing access to health care. As years of conflict pass, the costs of health care borne by the affected people have significantly increased, including for transport, diagnostics, and medications. Lack of health professionals continues to pose another serious risk. Over 1,500 healthcare professionals have left the conflict-

14. The figure is compiled based on various sources, primarily OCHA daily field reports, UNHCR, INSO and Right to Protection. It counts only civilian casualties due to insecurity at the checkpoints and serious cases of health complications such as heart attack, strokes, etc. As such, it may not be comprehensive of all kinds of suffering and hardship endured by people crossing the checkpoints.

15. Crossing the 'Contact Line', Right to Protection.

16. Humanitarian Trend Analysis in GCA 2018, REACH.

17. HelpAge International, Emergency Protection-Based Support to Conflict-Affected Older Women and Men in the GCAs: [https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/helpage\\_baseline\\_report\\_usaid\\_echo\\_july\\_2018.pdf](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/helpage_baseline_report_usaid_echo_july_2018.pdf)

18. Ibid.

19. UNHCR Legislative Update, May 2018.

20. UN in Ukraine Briefing note: Pensions for IDPs and persons living in the areas not controlled by the Government in the east of Ukraine: [https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/briefing\\_note\\_on\\_pensions\\_updated\\_24\\_july\\_2018.pdf](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/briefing_note_on_pensions_updated_24_july_2018.pdf)

21. Humanitarian Trend Analysis in GCA 2018, REACH.



affected areas since 2014.<sup>22</sup>

Irregular supply of medicines and equipment deprive those highly dependent upon the availability of life-saving care. The risk of communicable disease outbreaks continues to increase due to frequent water supply damage and interruptions, damaged heating systems, as well as overall low immunisation rates, including basic childhood vaccines, such as polio and measles. Previous reported outbreaks in Ukraine include polio (2015–2016), measles (2017–2018), cases of tetanus, and diphtheria were also reported—most of these are vaccine-preventable diseases.

### Increased risk of HIV and tuberculosis in conflict-affected areas

Before the conflict erupted, Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts were among the most affected areas by HIV/AIDS in Ukraine. The latest available data also indicates a higher prevalence of HIV in eastern Ukraine. Issues such as displacement, migration, widespread multidrug-resistant (MDR) and extensively drug-resistant (XDR) tuberculosis (TB) further compound systemic gaps and contribute to the higher spread rates of HIV and TB in the conflict-affected areas and beyond. According to the latest validated data, standing at 16 per cent, Ukraine had the second highest estimated number of MDR-TB cases in the WHO Euro region in 2016.<sup>23</sup>

In NGCA, key challenges include lack of formal reporting by the de facto authorities on the key epidemiological and health system indicators, which, in turn, limits an understanding of the real situation. There is also a need for re-training of medical professionals who have been isolated due to the conflict. The risks of further interruptions in the delivery of medications and health supplies to NGCA also remain high in case of conflict escalation.

### Worrisome mental health and psychosocial impacts

Families in conflict-affected areas live in constant fear and face deadly risks every day with raging hostilities and extreme levels of landmine contamination. Evidence shows that there is a direct correlation between physical and emotional distress and the level of conflict activities – the higher the conflict activities, the more severe psychological trauma among the population. Decreasing or lack of livelihoods and income is another cause of distress for conflict-affected people as they are often forced to resort to some stark and impossible choices between eating, accessing health care or sending their children to school. Other factors include family separation, limited access to basic services including health care, increase in prices of basic commodities and angst over the unresolved conflict.<sup>24</sup> The cumulative impact of the conflict is severe and high levels of psychological distress among the population have been reported across the conflict-affected areas.

Psychological stress and mental health problems have

been associated with poor lifestyle and risky behaviours.<sup>25</sup> Psychosocial support (PSS) remains one of the most requested forms of assistance by conflict-affected people. Those with chronic and severe mental disorders (e.g. psychotic disorders) are especially vulnerable during times of hardship, conflict and displacement. Against this background, lack of mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) pose a serious challenge. Two-thirds of households do not know where to access mental healthcare services, and 75 per cent of families living close to the 'contact line' in GCA report unavailability of or do not know where to access psychosocial support services.<sup>26</sup> In NGCA, available evidence suggests increasing demands for urgent psychosocial support.

### Children are not spared from the conflict

The conflict also continues to endanger the physical and psychological wellbeing of children, especially those living along the 'contact line' where active hostilities are most intense and threaten education facilities. More than 242,000 children and teachers in schools located along the 'contact line' regularly experience shelling and face extreme levels of mine-contamination. More than 150 schools in eastern Ukraine were concerned about their proximity to military activities and 62 schools reported unexploded ordnance near them.<sup>27</sup> Children commute along unsafe routes to schools. In a single incident in May 2018, a child was killed and three more injured from an explosion in their school bus.

Attacks on schools are frequent. Since the start of the conflict over 750 educational facilities have been damaged due to hostilities.<sup>28</sup> On several occasions, education facilities were damaged more than once. Alarming, not all the education facilities that are regularly exposed to shelling have adequately equipped or accessible bomb shelters or safe spaces.

"When there was heavy shelling, I did not use to go to school, as it's very frightening. Then I started to go to school as usual. Before the war, there were 34 students in our class, now there are 24 of us."

Diana from Avdiivka

### Risk from landmines and explosive remnants of war

Explosive hazards endanger millions of men, women and children in eastern Ukraine. An estimated two million people are affected by landmines and ERW contamination in GCA, while almost one in three households along the 'contact line' perceived these hazards in their communities.<sup>29</sup> The situation

25. In Donetsk oblast alone, most common signs of distress among men was "drinking" and "alcohol use," followed by "aggressive" behaviour and outward displays of anger. Men are less likely to show emotions, making it difficult to know if they are feeling distressed. Common sign of distress identified by women were changes in behavioural presentation of emotions or difficulty in regulating emotions. Rapid Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Assessment for Conflict-Affected Communities of Donetsk Oblast (February 2018), International Medical Corps and Premiere Urgence Internationale.

26. Humanitarian Trend Analysis in GCA 2018, REACH.

27. Education Cluster.

28. Ibid.

29. Humanitarian Trend Analysis in GCA 2018, REACH.

22. Health and Nutrition Cluster.

23. World Health Organization.

24. International Medical Corps and Premiere Urgence Internationale: Rapid Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Assessment for conflict-affected communities of Donetsk oblast (February 2018).

in NGCA remains difficult to ascertain due to lack of access to conduct any technical assessment, however, it is believed to be serious.

For three consecutive years, Ukraine had more anti-vehicle mine incidents than any other country in the world.<sup>30</sup> Since the start of the hostilities in 2014, at least 924 civilians have been killed or injured by landmines and ERW.<sup>31</sup> The risk usually increases during the harvesting season when farmers are working in their fields. This risk has a detrimental socio-economic effect as farmers become reluctant to cultivate their land and look after their livestock.

These explosive hazards put essential civilian structures at risk and severely impact children's lives. Places where children used to play are now dotted with explosives making them a death trap. Mine-related incidents and mishandling of ERW accounted for 65 per cent of child casualties in 2017 and 2018.<sup>32</sup> In one single tragic incident in September, three children were killed by a landmine near the 'contact line'.

On 6 December, the Ukrainian Parliament approved the Mine Action Bill, which should pave the way to establish a national Mine Action Coordination entity and significantly scale-up the much-needed mine action efforts. Meanwhile, vital mine action work continues, including mine risk education, clearing of contaminated areas and assistance to victims.<sup>33</sup>

### Critical civilian structures under attack

For nearly five years, armed clashes have damaged and destroyed critical civilian infrastructure, including houses, hospitals, schools, water, electricity and gas supply systems. Access to these facilities and services has long become a daily struggle for millions of people. In 2018, there were 89 incidents against water and sanitation facilities in the two conflict-affected oblasts. In a single incident in April 2018, five workers at the Donetsk Filter Station (DFS) were injured by gunfire, while two were seriously injured in a mine-related incident in October. Since the start of the conflict, over 30 water workers have been killed or injured due to hostilities, while many more are risking their lives on a daily basis to ensure that water and heating continue to be supplied to millions of people on both sides of the 'contact line'. Similarly, critical wastewater treatment plants and hygiene utilities, power lines and gas supply systems are regularly impacted by hostilities. Safety guarantees called "windows of silence" are essential for technicians to repair the damage, however, they were not always obtained immediately. When they were obtained, they were not always upheld, forcing the repair teams to take refuge under shelling, while leaving millions of people without the essential services.

Since the conflict began, over 50,000 residential buildings on both sides of the 'contact line' have been damaged, with some 520 homes damaged in the first half of 2018 alone. The number

of families who live in desperate conditions because their houses have been damaged continues to increase. The homes of some 40,000 families living along the 'contact line' are in urgent need of repair to withstand the harsh winter, which starts in eastern Ukraine as early as November and lasts until March.

### Freezing winters and scorching summers

Ukraine's harsh winter with temperatures below 15 degrees Celsius generates acute needs. Financial strains make home repairs often impossible, so families sometimes either have to live in inadequate housing or move elsewhere for the season. Rural families spend over 20 per cent of their limited income on heating, and their food consumption scores are nearly halved during winter.<sup>34</sup> Bad road conditions make basic services even more difficult to access than any other time of the year.<sup>35</sup> Higher utility costs force families to make cuts in other much-needed areas, such as medication, schooling or even food. Those households who are unable to afford the higher utility costs are forced to collect firewood, often in areas contaminated with landmines. Active shelling also threatens centralised heating systems.

The country's extreme weather is no different in the summers with temperatures reaching record levels of 30 plus degrees Celsius. This makes crossing conditions at the checkpoints a real hardship, especially for the elderly, children, pregnant women and people with disabilities.

### Loss of livelihoods and rising unemployment

Socio-economic conditions of the conflict-affected region continue to deteriorate, particularly in NGCA, threatening livelihoods and wellbeing of the population. There is a clear correlation between food insecurity, vulnerability and socio-economic trends.<sup>36</sup> Increasing conflict-related poverty and unemployment rates affect the standards of living and pose risks to people's health.<sup>37</sup> The lack of financial resources forces them to make some stark and impossible choices on whether to eat, buy medicine or send their children to school. Accessing food is also a challenge due to active hostilities, especially for 16 per cent of households closest to the 'contact line' in GCA, who are at poor and borderline food consumption scores.<sup>38</sup> While unemployment is on the rise in both Donetska and Luhanska oblasts, businesses also have trouble finding skilled workers, further compromising their productivity.<sup>39</sup>

### Civil documentation remains a challenge

Conflict-affected people face difficulties when trying to access official documents, including identity papers, civil status and property documentation. This has a pervasive impact on every aspect of their lives – limiting their access to services and benefits and their freedom of movement, particularly in the

30. Humanitarian and Development Impact of Anti-Vehicle Mines, GICHD, SIPRI: [https://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/GICHD-resources/rec-documents/Brochure\\_AVM\\_2017\\_web.pdf](https://www.gichd.org/fileadmin/GICHD-resources/rec-documents/Brochure_AVM_2017_web.pdf)

31. Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2014 - November 2018.

32. Protection Cluster "Mine Action in Ukraine" (February 2018).

33. Mine-Action in Ukraine: [https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/2018\\_02\\_protection\\_cluster\\_-\\_mine\\_action\\_en.pdf](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/2018_02_protection_cluster_-_mine_action_en.pdf)

34. REACH Winter Assessment of Government-Controlled Areas within 5km of the Contact Line, February 2018.

35. Ibid.

36. Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, Food Security & Socio-Economic Trend Analysis - Eastern Ukraine, March 2018.

37. WFP Ukraine "Study on Social Protection and Safety Nets in Ukraine", 2017.

38. Humanitarian Trend Analysis in GCA 2018, REACH.

39. REACH - Thematic Assessment of Local Enterprises and Labour Markets in Eastern Ukraine, March 2017.



areas along the 'contact line'. A generation of nearly 100,000 graduates in NGCA is at risk of having fewer opportunities for employment and higher education outside NGCA,<sup>40</sup> which is due to complications around authentication and legitimisation of documentation. As part of awareness raising efforts, the Government of Ukraine has conducted a number of events to encourage enrollment and explain the special terms of enrolment in education facilities in GCA, with some 3,000 students who obtained consultations and over 1,500 students from NGCA enrolled under simplified procedures to education facilities in GCA in 2018, according to MTOT.

There is an increased concern about the risk of statelessness, as a review of court records suggests that only an estimated 43 per cent of children born in NGCA have obtained a birth certificate issued by the Government of Ukraine.<sup>41</sup> A birth certificate is a precondition for a child's access to the entire spectrum of rights and critical state services, such as education and health care. Even though a judicial procedure<sup>42</sup> allows parents from NGCA to obtain birth certificates, the steps are complex and often expensive, especially for vulnerable families. Without birth registration in Ukraine, the children born in NGCA are likely to face difficulties in accessing documentation required to prove their nationality or enroll in undergraduate and post-graduate schools. Difficulties are also reported when people try to obtain official death certificates for inheritance and property rights. It is estimated that only 23 per cent of deaths in NGCA are certified in GCA.<sup>43</sup> If not urgently addressed, the situation is likely to become more complicated considering that Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts traditionally had the highest number of the elderly in pre-conflict Ukraine.

Another challenge many of the 1.5 million registered IDPs face is their diminished voting rights. Registration of place of residence for IDPs is temporary, whereas the right to participate in local elections is granted for those who have permanent registration in their respective area of residence, making it impossible for them to take part in local elections.

### Protracted internal displacement affects millions

More than 1.5 million people have been registered by the Ministry of Social Policy (MoSP) as internally displaced.<sup>44</sup> In the absence of notable sustained peace, much of the internal displacement has become protracted. As years of conflict pass by, the number of IDPs who intend to stay in areas of displacement is rising. For the first time in 2018, this number exceeded the number of IDPs who intend to return to their

area of origin.<sup>45</sup> Over half of the IDPs returning are over the age of 60, while young people tend to stay in cities in search of better job opportunities. At the same time, 93 per cent of IDPs surveyed say that even though they feel integrated in their new communities, they still face challenges, such as affordable housing, employment, discrimination and legal and administrative barriers.<sup>46</sup> Most of the IDP population is less resilient and face more uncertainty in securing stable employment and accessing services, including housing, as compared to non-displaced populations.

Host locations also observed an increase in rental and food prices, and downward pressure on wages and employment opportunities. Displacement has also at times caused tension between IDPs and host communities, risking undermining social cohesion.

In an effort to promote IDP inclusion in local communities, and finding durable solutions, the Government of Ukraine adopted the "State Strategy on Integration of Internally Displaced Persons and Implementation of Long Term Solutions to Internal Displacement until 2020" in November 2017 and its Action Plan in late 2018. These are aimed at securing and protecting the rights, freedoms and interest of IDPs and elimination of any discrimination and promote social cohesion. While some progress has been made in terms of strategic planning, long-term solutions for IDPs remain to be fully implemented, and there is a need for a stronger focus on integrating displaced communities.

40. These are regulated by the Procedure of Enrolment for Obtaining Higher and Vocational Education for Persons Residing in the Areas of the Anti-Terrorist Operation (for the period of its duration), approved by Order No. 697 of 21 June 2016 of the Ministry of Education and Science.

41. Protection Cluster.

42. Outlined in Article 317 of the Civil Procedure Code of Ukraine. Law "On particular aspects of public policy aimed at safeguarding state sovereignty of Ukraine over the temporarily occupied territory of Donetsk and Luhansk regions" introduces an exception to the general rule of non-recognition of documents issued in the territory not controlled by the Government for birth- and death-related documents that "shall be attached to the applications for registration of birth or death". This requires the Ministry of Justice to introduce an administrative procedure on registration of birth and death occurring in the territory not controlled by the Government as is also envisaged in the National Human Rights Action Plan (points 126(3) and 129(1)). As this exception is introduced only for documents issued in certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions similar exception should be made for documents issued in Crimea.

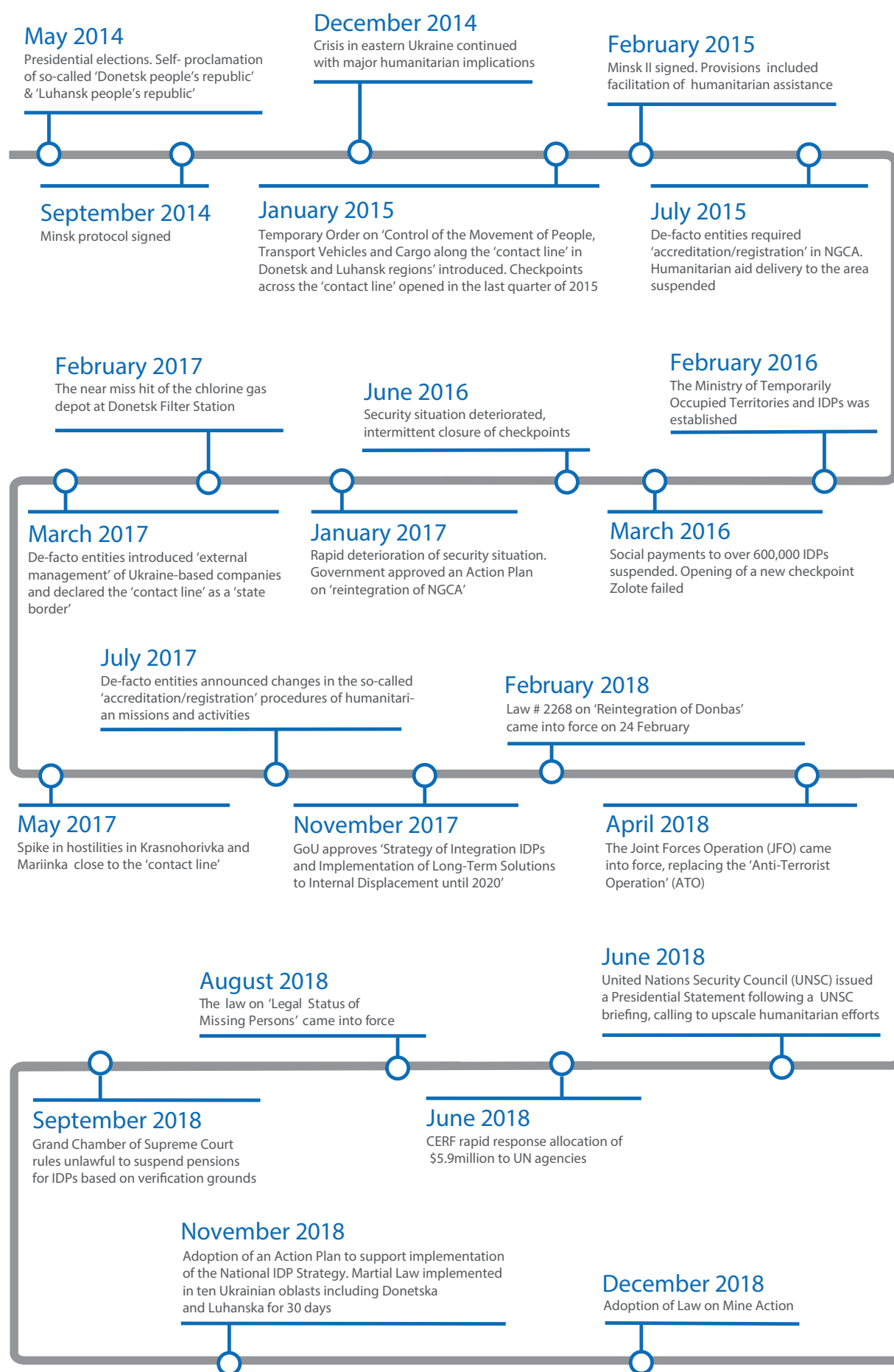
43. Protection Cluster.

44. This figure is somewhat distorted as a number of the registered IDPs are displaced for registration purposes, which is due to Ukraine's IDP policy which links access to social payments and pensions to their IDP registration.

45. IOM, National Monitoring System Report, June 2018.

46. IOM National Monitoring System Report, March 2018.

## TIMELINE OF EVENTS



## BREAKDOWN OF

PEOPLE IN NEED<sup>47</sup>







An estimated 5.2 million people are affected by the active armed conflict in eastern Ukraine, of whom 3.5 million people need humanitarian assistance and protection. The most vulnerable groups in need of humanitarian assistance are the elderly, single-headed households with low income, people with disabilities, and children. The elderly constitute 30 per cent of those in need, while households headed by people aged 40-60 are more vulnerable compared to previous years due to widespread unemployment.<sup>48</sup>

Elderly with disabilities in conflict-affected areas are often excluded from humanitarian assistance, Ukraine included.<sup>49</sup> Their main concerns are access to healthcare due limited resources. They also often face insecurity and are unable or unwilling to move away from their homes. To survive, they often rely on their meagre income and on families or neighbours to access basic services and food.

The humanitarian needs of vulnerable households vary over time, as the dynamic of the crisis changes. WASH-related incidents and damage to critical civilian infrastructure remain one of the biggest threats to everyday life, including frequent stoppages of water, gas and electricity that aggravate critical needs in winter. Lack of livelihood opportunities not only threatens food security, but also increases vulnerability, constantly forcing people to make impossible choices between food, medicine, heating or their children's education. Poor accessibility to functional health facilities, particularly along the 'contact line' and NGCA, further create constraints.

Widespread mine contamination poses lethal risks to all civilians, particularly nearly half-a-million children living within the 20 km area on both sides of the 'contact line' where mine risks are acute. Together with humanitarian demining, mine risk education remains a priority to minimize risk for injuries or death. Further protection concerns include the complicated procedures to receive social payments and the necessity of civilians living in NGCA to regularly travel across the 'contact line' to keep family ties and access basic services.

## NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NEED BY SECTOR

SECTOR	PEOPLE IN NEED (million)	PEOPLE AFFECTED (million)
 Protection	3.1 M	5.1 M
 Food Security and Livelihoods	1.1 M	3.6 M
 Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	3.2 M	3.6 M
 Health and Nutrition	1.3 M	5.2 M
 Shelter/NFI	0.3 M	2.5 M
 Education	0.7 M	0.7 M

47. The Ministry of Social Policies registered 1.5 million IDPs in 2018, nationwide. All of them need different types of assistance. An estimated 0.8 million IDPs are living permanently in GCA, while others move frequently across the 'contact line' and, for the purpose of the HNO, are considered to be living in NGCA.

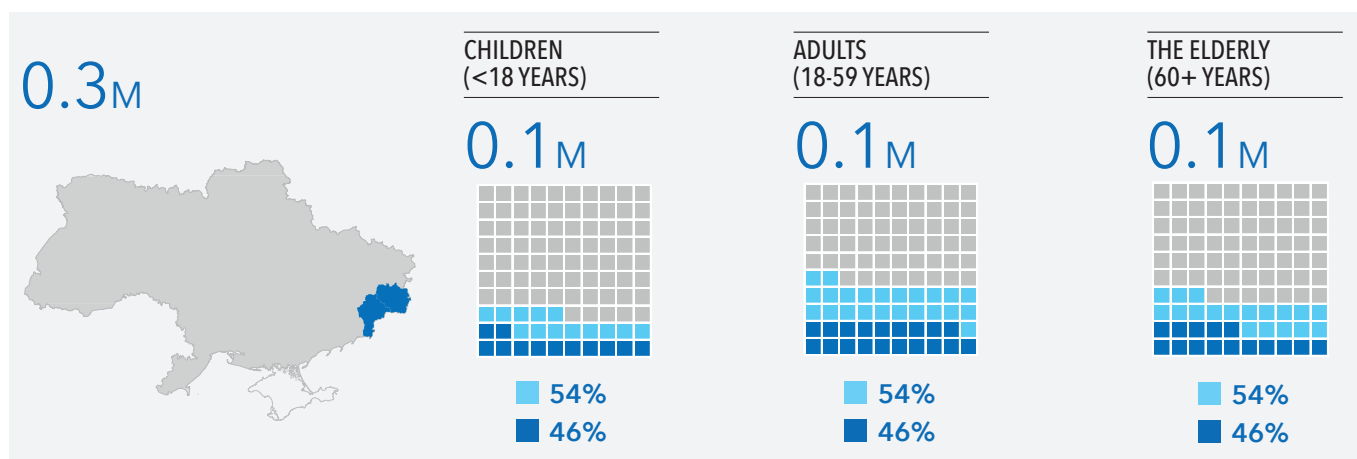
48. Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, Food Security & Socio-Economic Trend Analysis – Eastern Ukraine, March 2018.

49. HelpAge International, Missing Millions: How older people with disabilities are excluded from humanitarian response, May 2018.

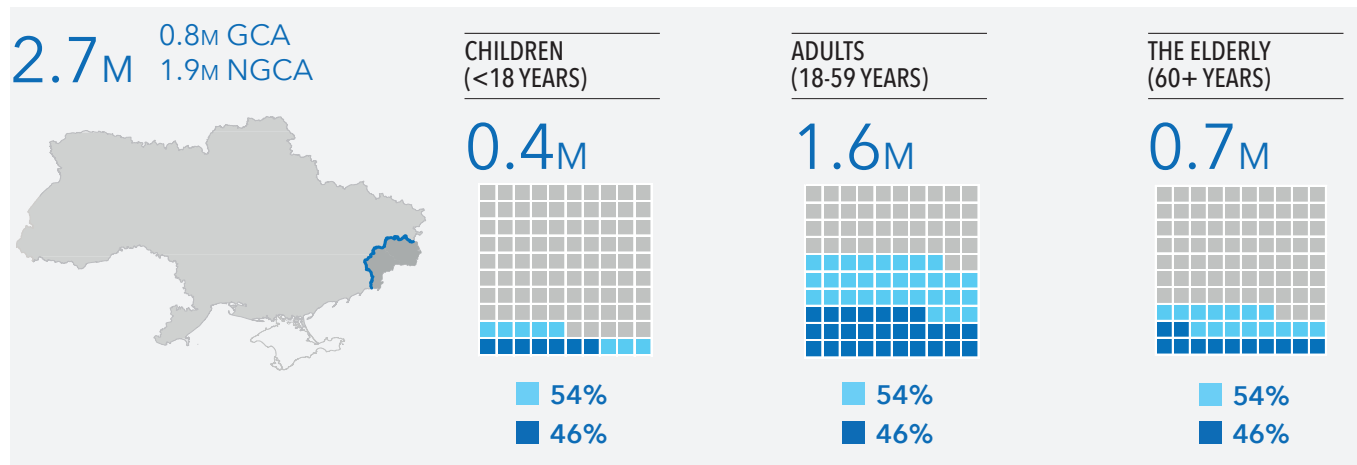


BY AGE &amp; SEX

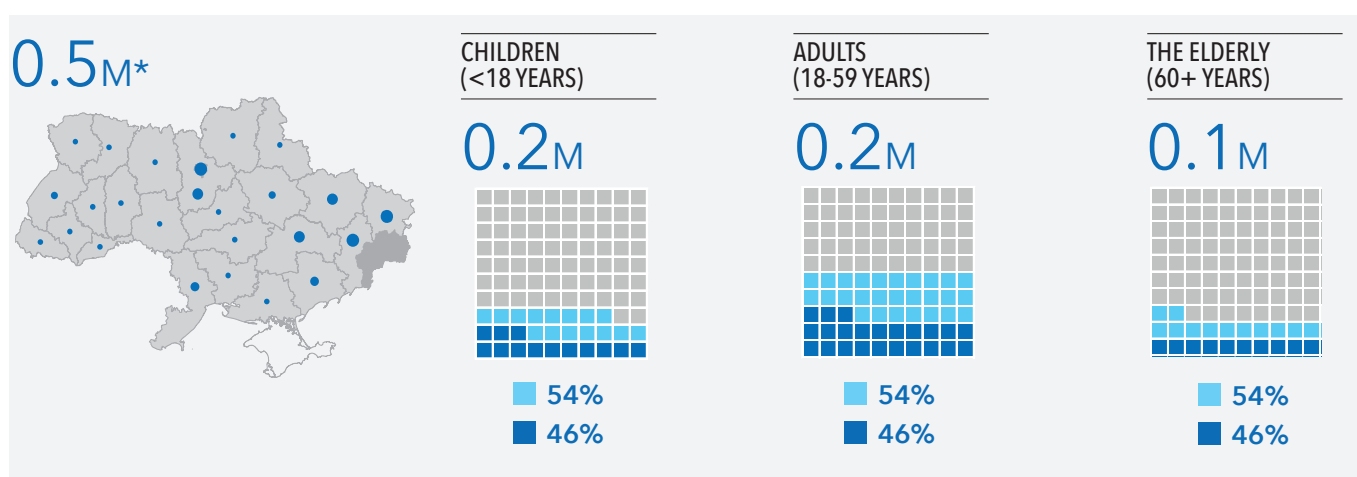
## NON-GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED AREAS (excluding 'contact line')

■ Female ■ Male


## 'CONTACT LINE' (20km on both sides)



## GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED AREAS (including IDPs, excluding 'contact line')

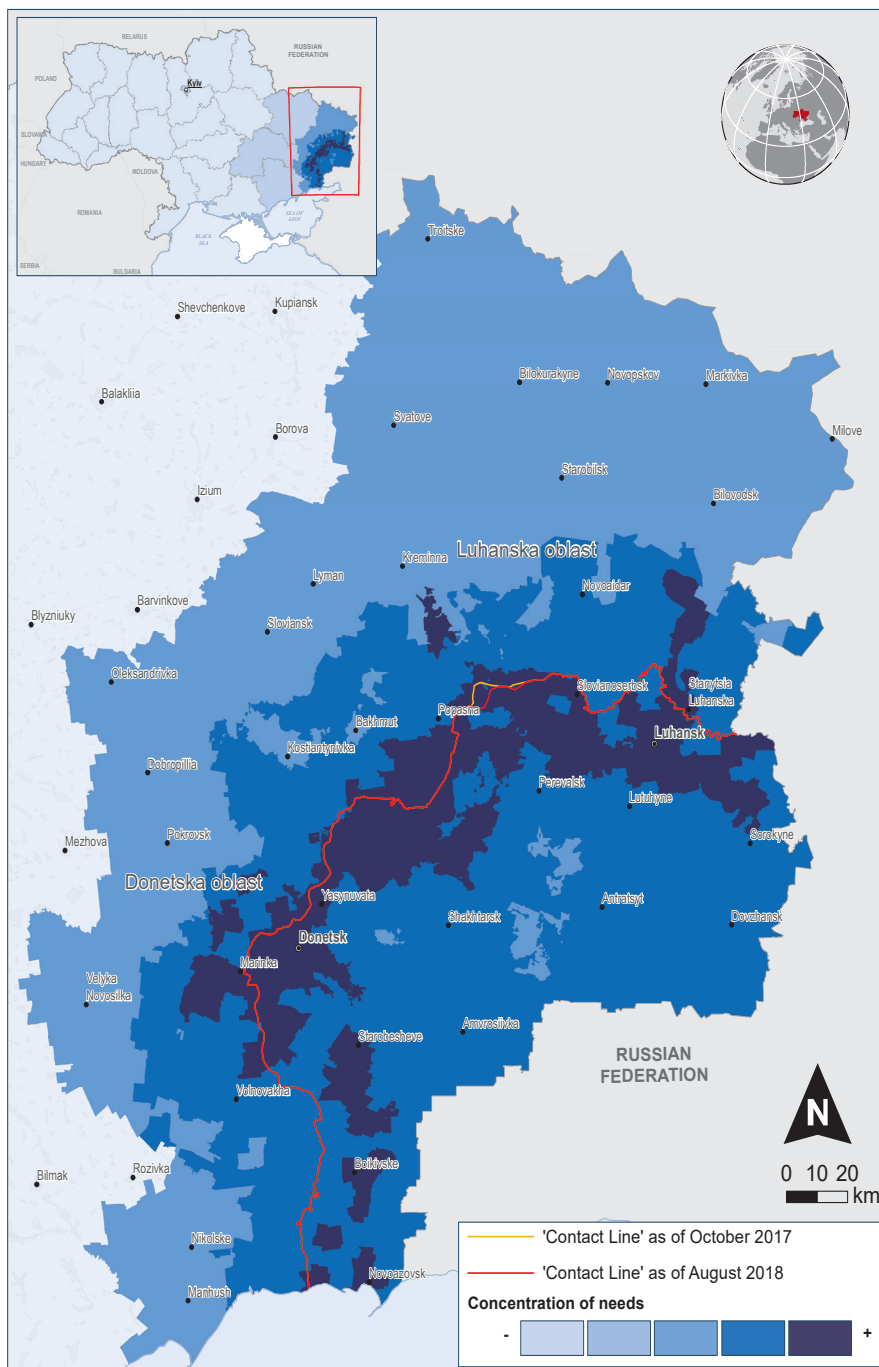


\* The Ministry of Social Policy registered 1.5 million IDPs in 2018 nationwide. All of them need different types of assistance. An estimated 0.8 million IDPs are living permanently in GCA, while others move frequently across the 'contact line', and for the planning purpose, are considered to be living in NGCA.

## CONCENTRATION OF

# NEEDS

The most severe and highest levels of needs extend across multiple sectors in the areas with the greatest restrictions on access in NGCA and the areas most affected by hostilities, particularly along the 'contact line'. Needs are most concentrated in the area closest to the 'contact line' where an average of 30 security incidents is reported daily. Further away from the 'contact line' in GCA, needs have also increased compared with 2017, primarily due to mine contamination. The map below shows locations where sectoral needs overlap and exacerbate each other, combined with security hotspots along the 'contact line'. The darker blue areas, concentrated along the 'contact line', indicate a higher level of criticality.



Concerted advocacy with parties to the conflict is urgently required to ensure rapid, unimpeded access, particularly in the active conflict zones, to prevent degradation of the humanitarian situation. This year's rada-level (admin 3) severity analysis gives a more granular view of where the needs are critical. It is the result of overlaying sector-specific severity estimates by the clusters and additional specific indicators grouped under context domain. More details appear in the Methodology annex. This composite map does not substitute for sectoral severity maps (please see the cluster sections).

## COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS AND

ACCOUNTABILITY TO  
AFFECTED PERSONS (AAP)

Assessments conducted in 2018 revealed how residents in conflict-affected areas cope with everyday life, and whether or not humanitarian aid has reached those it intends to assist.

Previous information gaps on access to basic services have been addressed by various assessments undertaken in the past years. In 2017, the REACH Humanitarian Trend Analysis found that 93 per cent of the respondents were either fully or partially satisfied with humanitarian assistance. Respondents who were partially or completely unsatisfied with humanitarian assistance mentioned three main reasons: aid was not enough (70 per cent), of poor quality (26 per cent), and the wrong type (9 per cent).<sup>50</sup>

Despite active hostilities, humanitarian assistance reached over 90 per cent of the communities closest to the 'contact line' in GCA, compared to 46 per cent in 2017. Most of the assistance provided in the area closest to the 'contact line' was delivered by international humanitarian organizations. Further away from the 'contact line' in GCA, 9 in 10 families in the communities reported receiving aid in the last 12 months from the Government, international and local humanitarian organizations.

In terms of community consultation and feedback on aid delivery, the proportion of households living closest to the 'contact line' reporting the availability of a complaint mechanism did not change significantly. However, the proportion of households that reported being consulted about their needs or preferences increased from 2017 to 2018— from 18 per cent to 28 per cent.<sup>51</sup>

While this is a positive trend indicating that humanitarian projects are increasingly planned and implemented in a manner that takes into consideration and respects the views and capacities of crisis-affected communities, some vulnerable households living in area along the 'contact line' perceived the distribution of humanitarian assistance to be unfair, as some households who frequently experience insecurity may not always be eligible to receive support due to lack of funding.<sup>52</sup> Those who do not directly fit the criteria are often left without support and often NGOs lack a mechanism for community feedback.<sup>53</sup>

Moving forward in 2019, the Ukraine Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) has reaffirmed its commitment to AAP by having AAP as one of the mandatory requirements for projects to be included in the Ukraine Multi-Year Humanitarian Response Plan (MYHRP) 2019-2020.

50. REACH Humanitarian Trend Analysis 2017 [http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/reach\\_ukr\\_report\\_humanitarian\\_trend\\_analysis\\_september\\_2017\\_0.pdf](http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/reach_ukr_report_humanitarian_trend_analysis_september_2017_0.pdf) (p.13)

51. REACH Humanitarian Trend Analysis 2018. [https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/pui\\_ukr\\_hard-to-reach-settlements\\_assessment\\_full-report\\_final\\_eng.pdf](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/pui_ukr_hard-to-reach-settlements_assessment_full-report_final_eng.pdf)

52. Hard-to-REACH Settlement Assessment, Première Urgence Internationale, January 2018. [https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/pui\\_ukr\\_hard-to-reach-settlements\\_assessment\\_full-report\\_final\\_eng.pdf](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/pui_ukr_hard-to-reach-settlements_assessment_full-report_final_eng.pdf)

53. Ibid.



# PART II:

## NEEDS OVERVIEWS

### BY CLUSTER

#### INFORMATION BY CLUSTER



Protection



Food Security and Livelihoods



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



Health and Nutrition



Shelter/Non-Food Item



Education

#### INFORMATION GAPS AND ASSESSMENT PLANNING

ANNEX I: METHODOLOGY FOR CROSS-SECTORAL  
ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

ANNEX II: CLUSTER SEVERITY RANKING INDICATORS

## PROTECTION

### OVERVIEW



The conflict in eastern Ukraine continues to present serious protection concerns for conflict-affected people living on both sides of the 'contact line', particularly in NGCA, as well as internally displaced people throughout Ukraine. As hostilities continue, civilians bear the heaviest brunt, with those living within the proximity of the 427-km 'contact line' most harshly affected. Shelling, mines and unexploded ordinances (UXOs) continue to kill, maim and instil fear, while the use of indirect and/or explosive weapons continues in violation of the Minsk agreements.<sup>54</sup>

Shelling and exchanges of small arms and light weapons (SALW) fire is the greatest security concern for people living near the 'contact line', followed by mine contamination and the large presence of military personnel. One third of households living near the 'contact line' in GCA, consider the presence of military as a key security concern, which brings with it a number of protection risks.<sup>55</sup> Violations of international humanitarian law are widespread. From January to November 2018, OHCHR recorded 270 civilian casualties (53 killed and 217 injured), of which 42 per cent resulted from mine and ERW related incidents. Since the beginning of the conflict, there have been 924 casualties related to mines, UXOs and ERW. Incidents involving mines and ERW contributed to nearly two-thirds of all reported child casualties in 2017.<sup>56</sup> Ongoing shelling leaves undetonated weaponry dangerously scattered even in areas that have already been de-mined.

While basic medical assistance to survivors is provided, there is a lack of comprehensive rehabilitation programs for survivors and their families. Remedy and reparation to civilian victims is minimal, as there is no comprehensive state policy and mechanism for civilians injured during the hostilities and to the relatives of those killed.

54. OHCHR report on the human rights situation in Ukraine February – May 2018.

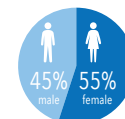
55. Humanitarian Trend Analysis in GCA 2018, REACH.

56. Protection Cluster note on Mine Action in Ukraine, February 2018.

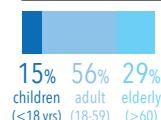
### NO. OF PEOPLE IN NEED

3.1 M

### BY SEX



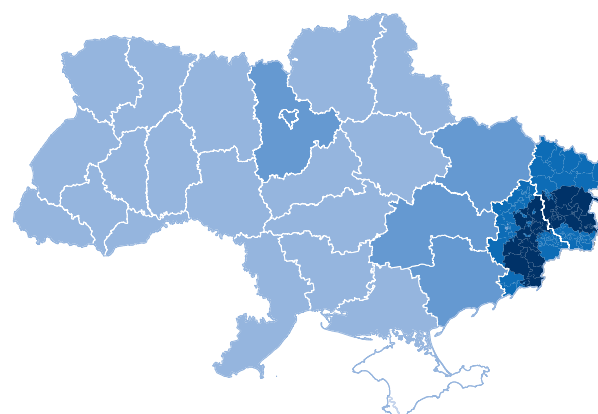
### BY AGE



### BY GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN

0.2 M NGCA (excluding 'contact line')  
 2.5 M 'Contact line' (20 km on both sides)  
 0.4 M GCA (including IDPs, excluding 'contact line')

### SEVERITY MAP<sup>57</sup>



According to ICRC, it is estimated that more than 1,500 people have gone missing since the start of the conflict,<sup>58</sup> around half are civilians. In August 2018, the Ukraine Parliament passed the Law on the Status of Missing Persons, a landmark development which will allow coordination among the various governmental institutions involved in the search for and identification of missing persons, provide support to the families of missing persons and provide for a Unified Register of Missing Persons.

57. Please refer to Annex II: Cluster Severity Ranking Indicators.

58. ICRC Press Release, 12 July 2018. <http://ua.icrc.org/2018/07/12/icrc-welcomes-adoption-law-missing/>

### PEOPLE AFFECTED BY MINES AND ERW

270 civilian casualties in 2018<sup>1</sup>

of which 42% are due to mines and ERW related incidents



<sup>1</sup> OHCHR, January - November 2018

### CHILD PROTECTION

57% children born in NGCA do not have birth certificates issued by the Government of Ukraine<sup>2</sup>



<sup>2</sup> UN briefing note, August 2018

### PROTECTION

78% of households in GCA have applied negative coping strategies (the highest level since April 2016<sup>3</sup>)



<sup>3</sup> 2018 Food Security & Socio-Economic Trend Analysis (FSLC, March 2018)

## Mine action

Mine contamination remains one of the key concerns with an estimated two million men, women and children affected in GCA.<sup>59</sup> Ukraine ranks amongst the most severely affected places in the world for casualties as a result of landmines and other ERW<sup>60</sup>. According to the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) 2017 Global Mapping and Analysis of Anti-Vehicle Mine Incidents, for the third consecutive year in 2017, Ukraine has the highest number of anti-vehicle mine incidents and ranks second for the number of casualties.<sup>61</sup>

Lack of mine action legislation and standards, as well as a lack of consensus over the future of the mine action framework in Ukraine have stalled the formation of a national mine action authority. As a result, there is no formal process of accreditation and licensing for the importation of vital equipment such as detectors and heavy machinery or for the purchase of commercial explosives used to destroy mines, negatively affecting the efficiency of international operators. Vital mine action work is being done but the efficacy and quality of such work will be improved by legislation and a well-functioning national coordination body. Ukraine does not have a national centralized landmine/UXO casualty database where information about mine victims could be stored. As a result, mine action victims cannot obtain official status and there is no mechanism for recognizing victims of mine-related incidents and providing them with appropriate assistance or compensation. The adoption of the Mine Action Law in December 2018 is hoped to address these concerns.

At least one in three households living along the 'contact line' have reported that they are aware of landmines or UXOs in their communities.<sup>62</sup> It is not possible to assess the level of mine contamination in NGCA due to limited humanitarian access, but it is likely to be significant. Whilst it poses a deadly threat to the millions of people affected, mine contamination also affects access to food and livelihoods, as people cannot engage in agricultural activities, fishing, or animal husbandry. In addition, mine contamination puts people in danger when collecting wood for heating, which is common in eastern Ukraine. For example, in Luhanska oblast GCA 46 per cent of households use wood as their primary fuel source for heating.<sup>63</sup> They therefore, are seriously exposed to the danger of mine and UXO explosion. Access to basic utilities such as water, electricity, and gas is frequently interrupted. The maintenance and repair of basic utilities is impeded or made impossible by the presence of mines and UXOs. In addition, landmines restrict access to and cause damage to private houses and public buildings. They also contribute to the

displacement of the civilian population.

## Restrictions on freedom of movement

In 2018, there was an average of 1.1 million individual crossings across the 'contact line' through the five official checkpoints. That is approximately 36,000 crossings registered every day.<sup>64</sup> This is a 15 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2017. Over half of those crossing the 'contact line' through the checkpoints were over the age of 60.<sup>65</sup> These pensioners who live in NGCA must register as IDPs and cross the 'contact line' every 60 days in order to maintain their eligibility to receive their pensions.

The reason for the increase in 2018 is that IDP verification has become more stringent and therefore pensioners must travel from NGCA to GCA more often to continue receiving their pensions. Civilians crossing the 'contact line' are regularly exposed to dangers as these areas are heavily contaminated with landmines. In addition, checkpoints have come under shelling and sniper fire. People are also at increased risk of death and illness as a result of the difficult crossing conditions. In 2018, 50 people died or injured by hostilities or suffered serious health complications while crossing the checkpoints.<sup>66</sup> According to State Emergency Service, 8,847 people sought medical assistance between May and August at Stanytsia Luhanska checkpoint.<sup>67</sup>

Checkpoints lack adequate health, sanitation and shelter facilities, with long queues forcing people to wait for hours and sometimes even overnight in extreme weather conditions. In addition, there is often disruption of public transportation to and from checkpoints, forcing thousands of civilians to walk up to five kilometers with their belongings. This is particularly difficult for the elderly, children, and pregnant women.<sup>68</sup> Crossing the 'contact line' in the Luhanska oblast remains extremely challenging, as there is only one checkpoint – Stanytsia Luhanska, which is only accessible via a steep pedestrian bridge.

The ban on passenger transport across the 'contact line', as well as restrictions on trade and transfer of personal goods, continues to cause hardship for the civilian population, isolate people in NGCA and impede family unity. On a positive note, the reconstruction of the Stanytsia Luhanska and Marinka checkpoints was completed by the local authorities in August and September, respectively.

In order to cross the 'contact line' one must obtain and re-apply regularly for a pass through a system that is not easily accessible, especially for the elderly. In addition, the pass system suffers from multiple defects where information

59. Figure is based on mine action partners estimates, taking into account mapping of incidents, areas affected by hostilities and number of population residing in these settlements.

60. 2017 Landmine Monitor Report. [http://www.the-monitor.org/media/2615219/Landmine-Monitor-2017\\_final.pdf](http://www.the-monitor.org/media/2615219/Landmine-Monitor-2017_final.pdf)

61. GICHD 2017 Global Mapping and Analysis of Anti-Vehicle Mine Incidents.

62. Humanitarian Trend Analysis in GCA 2018, REACH.

63. REACH Winter Assessment 2018.

64. The figure is compiled based on various sources, primarily OCHA daily field reports, UNDSS, INSO and Right to Protection. It counts only civilian casualties due to insecurity at the checkpoints and serious cases of health complications such as heart attack, strokes, etc. As such, it may not be comprehensive of all kinds of suffering and hardship endured by people crossing the checkpoints.

65. Monitoring report 'Crossing the Line of Contact', January-June 2018, Right to Protection.

66. State Border Guard Service data: <https://goo.gl/SS8g57>

67. OHCHR Report 16 May- 15 August 2018.

68. OCHA Ukraine checkpoint snapshot: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/ukraine/infographic/ukraine-checkpoints-humanitarian-snapshot-13-april-2018>



is sometimes lost, and people are not allowed to cross the 'contact line'.

The introduction of the Joint Forces Operation (JFO) and adoption of the 'Special Order on implementation of the security and defense measures' in April 2018, have resulted in additional restrictions on the freedom of movement, especially for those living in areas along the 'contact line' in GCA. Access to certain settlements is allowed only for people who have documents confirming their residence in these settlements. People continue to report about additional checks when passing through these internal checkpoints in GCA, which consequently lead to delays in movement.

Legislative measures continue to restrict movement across the Administrative Boundary Line with Crimea. After train and bus connections were suspended in December 2014, people who do not have private transport must walk for two kilometres. This particularly impacts persons with disabilities, elderly, pregnant women and people with small children.

Among the most vulnerable are the nearly 30,000 persons residing in villages in GCA closest to the 'contact line'. In many of these villages, basic services such as electricity, shops, transportation, and ambulances, are not available due to geographic isolation and security restrictions. It is estimated that over half the residents remaining in these villages are over the age of 60.<sup>69</sup>

## IDP registration and civil documentation

As of September 2018, there were 1,519,937 IDPs registered by the government of Ukraine,<sup>70</sup> 236,779 of whom were children. According to the Representative of the President of Ukraine to the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, 32,435 originated from Crimea. In the first half of 2018, 2,904 new IDPs from Crimea were registered with the Ministry of Social Policy (MoSP). However, some IDPs face challenges with registration because of bureaucratic barriers and lack of financial support.<sup>71</sup> At the same time, many pensioners living in NGCA are registered as IDPs in GCA in order to continue receiving their pensions.

For almost five years, the conflict-affected people continue to face challenges when accessing identity, civil status and property documentation. IDPs from Crimea and NGCA face delays when obtaining passports, changing photos on identity documents at the age of 25 and 45, or restoring lost or damaged documents. In these cases they must prove their identity, relying on information from public databases and registries. Since most registries have remained in Crimea and NGCA, people must provide other documents with a photo confirming their identity and/or ensure that witnesses can confirm their identity. This process can take up to six months and sometimes cards have been denied.<sup>72</sup>

Birth and death certificates issued in NGCA and Crimea are not recognized in GCA so people must travel to GCA and go through court procedures to receive documentation. A

review of court records suggests that an estimated 43 per cent of children born in NGCA have obtained a birth certificate issued by the Government of Ukraine.<sup>73</sup> Official confirmations of death in NGCA are also difficult to obtain in GCA, which may lead to difficulties concerning inheritance and property rights. It is estimated that only 23 per cent of deaths in NGCA are registered in GCA.

The Ukrainian Government has introduced a new legislation in 2018, which gives NGCA people access to Ukrainian birth and death certificates. However, the implementation of the article in the Law remains a concern.<sup>74</sup> In the meantime, in the absence of administrative procedures, people residing in NGCA and Crimea must go to court to establish the fact of birth or death before relevant certificates can be issued, thus putting an additional burden on families.

Overall, procedures for obtaining identity documentation and birth and death certificates for IDPs and other conflict-affected people residing in NGCA are complex and constitute 18 per cent of requests for legal assistance received by the Protection Cluster partners.

## Social benefits and pensions

The suspension of state social benefits and pensions to IDPs continues to have a detrimental effect on hundreds of thousands of people, who depend on these payments to cover basic living costs, including food, medicine, and accommodation. It remains the most critical issue for legal assistance and constitutes over half of all requests received by the Protection Cluster partners.

Access to pensions is further restricted after adoption of the amendments to the Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 365 in May 2018, which states that any amount accrued between the suspension and reinstatement dates would be paid in accordance with a procedure which is yet to be elaborated by the Government.<sup>75</sup> This is a step back from the previous practice, when accumulated pension arrears were paid immediately after the reinstatement decision was made. Verification procedures are becoming more strenuous. With the adoption of Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 548 in July 2018, all IDPs are required to undergo verification every six months.<sup>76</sup> The Pension Fund continues to suspend pensions of IDP-pensioners who are suspected of residing temporarily in the government-controlled territory. As of July 2018, only 477,000 IDPs continued to receive pensions, which is a 40 per cent decrease from April 2017.<sup>77</sup> This is a key protection concern in NGCA, where pensions are the main source of income in the majority of returnee households, as well as for IDPs in GCA, where it is the third most frequent source of income.<sup>78</sup> In late 2017, the Pension Fund started

69. REACH Assessment.

70. The UN estimates that 800,000 IDPs reside more permanently in GCA in 2018.

71. IOM, National Monitoring System (NMS) report, March 2018.

72. Ukraine Protection Cluster, Protection Concerns of Internally Displaced People from Crimea, May 2018.

73. UN Briefing Note: Birth registration, July 2018.

74. Law of Ukraine "On particular aspects of public policy aimed at safeguarding the sovereignty of Ukraine over the temporarily occupied territory of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine".

75. UNHCR Legislative Update, May 2018.

76. DRC Legal Alert, July 2018, Part 1.

77. UN Background note: Pensions for IDPs and persons living in the areas not controlled by the Government in the east of Ukraine, July 2018.

78. IOM NMS Report, June 2018.

suspending pension payments to IDP-pensioners who had acquired residence registration in GCA and consequently relinquished their IDP certificates, therefore impeding local integration.

Following an intense advocacy campaign by protection cluster partners, the Grand Chamber of Supreme Court confirmed on 4 September that the verification requirements do not constitute lawful grounds for termination of pension payments. Whilst this is a welcome court decision, it remains to be seen whether it will be implemented by the Government, as the 2015 decision of the Higher Administrative Court was never implemented.

The ongoing armed conflict, continued trade blockade between GCA and NGCA, suspension of social benefits, and sharp economic deterioration have further stretched the resilience and heightened the vulnerability of the conflict-affected and displaced population. Many therefore, are forced to resort to negative coping mechanisms. In both GCA and NGCA, the most vulnerable groups remain single headed households with children, older people (especially those living alone), chronically ill, people with disabilities, female-headed households, and households headed by unemployed people aged 40-60.<sup>79</sup> An assessment done in March 2018 found that in NGCA, 71 per cent of households applied negative coping strategies, and in GCA 78 per cent of households, the highest levels since April 2016. While the negative coping practices can take many forms, 16 per cent of households in GCA and 7 per cent in NGCA reported unsavoury sources of income, such as illegal work or high-risk jobs.<sup>80</sup>

The elderly are particularly at risk, as most rely solely on their pensions to cover their basic cost of living. In many cases, this is often insufficient, even to cover food, medicines and utilities.<sup>81</sup> Older people are, therefore, particularly at risk of accumulating debts or having to do without food or other essential items. They are also vulnerable to abuse.<sup>82</sup>

Conflict-affected people and IDPs are at heightened risk of trafficking and exploitation. Among IDPs who had to engage in stress-coping strategies during the past 12 months, 9 per cent reported either working without getting the expected payment or working in conditions significantly worse than promised.<sup>83</sup>

### Gender-based violence

Continued armed conflict coupled with a deteriorating socio-economic environment, high levels of unemployment, and a lack of livelihood opportunities have increased the risk of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), particularly for people living along the 'contact line' where the military presence in the residential areas and checkpoints are also the risk factors. Access to life-saving information and services, including shelters for GBV survivors, is lacking. Armed conflict has

led to increased levels of domestic violence. Violent patterns of behaviour in society are tolerated, there is easier access to weapons, and post-traumatic stress disorder is rampant among former combatants. GBV, in particular sexual violence, remains underreported, as stigma surrounding it, lack of state services, and referral pathways prevent survivors of violence from receiving adequate support. There is little awareness and limited measures to address the impact of violence on children. Serious gaps between prevention, protection, and response measures to violence for cases against children continue to grow.

### Child protection

Children on both sides of the 'contact line' have been affected by continuous shelling with symptoms of psychosocial distress widely reported. The conflict continues to seriously disrupt access to basic social and protection services. Weakened family and community support mechanisms as a result of conflict and displacement continue to put children at heightened risk of neglect and domestic violence.

Organizations providing case management services have observed an increased reporting on child neglect and domestic violence since the beginning of the conflict. Case management response monitoring has shown that a decrease in the availability of social services as a result of the conflict, coupled with psychological trauma experienced by parents, have negatively impacted families living along the 'contact line' which often leads to child neglect. Displacement has also affected traditional community and social support mechanisms, leading to some families voluntarily separating from their children, sending them to live in safer environments with extended family or in institutions. The local social protection services are often not able to address the root causes of child separation, neglect and protection challenges. In addition, the types of services available at the community level that could address the diverse needs of vulnerable families, especially those with disabled children, are very limited.

Birth registration remains a serious challenge for children born in NGCA as birth certificates provided by the de-facto authorities are not recognized in GCA. There is an increased concern about risk of statelessness, as a review of court records suggests that an estimated 43 per cent of children born in NGCA have obtained a birth certificate issued by the Government of Ukraine.<sup>84</sup> A birth certificate is a precondition for a child's access to the entire spectrum of rights and to critical State services, such as education and healthcare.

Older children whose parents are not able to travel to GCA from NGCA, are also unable to acquire other Ukrainian identity documentation such as passports. Not obtaining identity documents on time may lead to a situation when young adults are not allowed to cross the 'contact line' into GCA. Freedom of movement for children from single-headed households is another key protection concern, as the single parent must have an official document from the second parent to cross the 'contact line'. The document must be certified by

79. Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, Food Security and Socio-Economic Trend Analysis, March 2018.

80. Ibid.

81. 2018 Baseline report, HelpAge International

82. A quarter of older people living along the 'contact line' reported experiencing some form of abuse, 2018 Baseline report, HelpAge International.

83. IOM National Monitoring System (NMS) Report, June 2018.

84. UN Briefing Note: Birth registration, July 2018.

a Ukrainian notary and is expensive to obtain. The situation with children who do not have a contact with one of the parents is even more challenging, making such documents almost impossible to obtain for a single parent.

A number of positive legislative changes aimed at strengthening protection of conflict-affected children have not yet yielded any tangible improvements. Amendments to the Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 268<sup>85</sup> which simplify the procedures for granting children the status of victim of armed conflict do not specify the remedy and reparation to help the affected children. Only 1,665 children in Ukraine have received the official status,<sup>86</sup> while the real number of those in need of medical and psychological assistance is much higher.

### Psychosocial support

With almost five years of violence, the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of conflict-affected people continues to be a key challenge. The consequences of displacement and conflict such as family separation, loss of livelihoods, lack of access to services, and anxiety about the future are some of the psychological distresses.<sup>87</sup> Lack of mental health and psychosocial support (PSS) is a key gap in protection and health in conflict-affected areas, particularly near the 'contact line'.

A recent World Bank scoping study found that one of the key gaps in programming in eastern Ukraine is PSS support. "Among the most striking findings of several recent analyses is the degree of psychosocial trauma in the populace the extent of need for psychosocial assistance is becoming alarmingly clear."<sup>88</sup> PSS was one of the top five protection needs identified by people living along the 'contact line' in the Area-Based Assessment (ABA) conducted by REACH in 2017.

PSS remains one of the most requested forms of assistance from conflict-affected people, yet two-thirds of households do not know where to access these services<sup>89</sup> and 17 per cent of rural households report that there is no place to access services in their settlement. Continued conflict and the severe humanitarian crisis have led to feelings of hopelessness and depression for the population. Psychosocial issues have been reported amongst all age groups, including children, the elderly, and working age men and women. Physiological signs of distress, such as difficulty sleeping, and emotional difficulties, including grief, fear, and crying for no reason, were also reported in a recent Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) assessment.<sup>90</sup> In particular, there remains a gap in MHPSS support for working-age people. In NGCA, the situation is even more dire, with only a few psychologists and there are many areas where there are no functional social

services at all. One-third of older people report feelings of isolation and loneliness,<sup>91</sup> which is compounded by the lack of social services for those living close to the 'contact line' in GCA and in many parts of NGCA.

### Housing, land, property

Absence of a legal framework and administrative procedure for providing restitution or compensation for the loss of property damaged or destroyed as a result of hostilities, as well as property which is under military use, is one of the most critical protection concerns among the conflict-affected people.

Currently, 146 cases on Housing, Land and Property (HLP) rights are pending with courts in the absence of defined mechanisms for civilians to apply for compensation. The existing court procedure appears to be non-responsive to the circumstances of an armed conflict. The general procedure of claiming the compensation enshrined in Ukrainian legislation is subject to a three-year statute of limitations for civil cases, which makes this remedy for those who lost their property at the beginning of the conflict inaccessible. It is difficult for people to meet the burden of proof in compensation cases and court fees are expensive, making this avenue unfeasible. Use of civilian property by the military and cases of looting have also been reported along the 'contact line' in both GCA and NGCA.

In NGCA, the de facto authorities have put in place a parallel legal system that regulates HLP rights and requires mandatory re-registration of property. Property verification is being conducted in these areas, where owners must physically present themselves or risk their property being 'nationalized'. This affects property rights of IDPs, who are not present in NGCA. In addition, in Donetsk oblast NGCA property can be 'nationalized' if utility fees are not paid. This puts IDPs under additional financial strain as they have to cover the cost of utilities both in their place of origin and in the area of displacement.

Approximately 9 per cent of IDPs reside in dormitories and collective centers.<sup>92</sup> In GCA, IDPs continue to be at risk of evictions from private houses and collective centres, where many people with specific needs, such as the elderly and single-headed female households, reside in poor conditions. Many of the premises used as collective centers are unsafe and unsuitable for habitation.

### Durable solutions for internal displacement

After four years of armed conflict and protracted internal displacement, the number of IDPs who intend to stay in areas of displacement is rising and in 2018 for the first time, exceeded the number of IDPs who intend to return to their area of origin.<sup>93</sup> Most IDPs who return to NGCA are pensioners or unemployed. The decision to return is not always voluntary, with only 39 per cent of those who returned to NGCA reported to feel physically safe, compared to 70 per

85. Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 301 on Introduction of Amendments to the Resolution No. 268 "On the Approval of Order of Determining the Status of a Child Affected by Armed Hostilities and Armed Conflicts", 11 April 2018.

86. Ministry of Social Policy, 1 September, 2018. <http://radnyk.org/novyny/0-17-same-stilki-ditey-otrimali-status-postrazhdalikh-vnaslidok-vijskovih-dij>

87. Rapid Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Assessment for conflict-affected communities of Donetsk Oblast.

88. World Bank Scoping Study: conflict in Ukraine - coordinating peacebuilding, recovery, and development: response efforts, 2018. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/765741527763154377/pdf/Scoping-Study-Ukrainian.pdf>

89. Humanitarian Trend Analysis in GCA 2018, REACH.

90. 2018 IMC MHPSS Assessment.

91. 2018 HelpAge Baseline report.

92. IOM National Monitoring System (NMS) Report, June 2018.

93. Ibid.



cent of IDPs in GCA.

IDPs are less resilient and face more uncertainty in securing stable employment and accessing services as compared to non-displaced populations. The level of discrimination as reported by IDPs has not improved since 2017. In addition, the continued lack of voting rights for IDPs in local elections remains a barrier to integration.

In an effort to promote IDP inclusion in local communities, the Government of Ukraine adopted in November 2017 the State Strategy on Integration of Internally Displaced Persons and Implementation of Long Term Solutions to Internal Displacement until 2020 and approved its implementation Action Plan in November 2018. These are aimed at securing and protecting the rights, freedoms and interest of IDPs and elimination of any discrimination and promote social cohesion. At the same time, practical arrangements, including funding mechanisms, to implement the Strategy and the Action Plan will need to be fully agreed upon, including with the support of international organisations. Meanwhile, durable solutions for IDPs and there a need for a stronger focus on integrating displaced communities remained priority. Collaborative and coordinated engagement with local authorities is required by both humanitarian and early recovery partners, with a more robust focus on social resilience and integration.

## AFFECTED POPULATION

- The 3.38 million people living in the 20-km area near the 'contact line' are in need of at least one type of protection assistance, including mine-risk awareness, marking and demining, PSS, legal assistance, safe spaces for older persons, child-friendly spaces, shelters for GBV survivors, and community mobilization assistance;
- People living in mine-contaminated areas, throughout Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (GCA and NGCA);
- Nearly 30,000 persons who reside in villages closest to the 'contact line' in GCA where there are restrictions on movement and lack of basic services due to geographic isolation and security restrictions. It is estimated that over half the residents remaining in these villages are over the age of 60;<sup>94</sup>
- Over 55,000 children who live along the 'contact line', need access to child-friendly spaces, psychosocial support and mine risk education;
- 120,000 displaced and conflict-affected people lack access to life-saving information or services on GBV in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (GCA);
- IDPs throughout the country and affected population in GCA and NGCA are in need of legal assistance to facilitate access to documentation, social payments and pensions, and compensation for destroyed property;
- 600,000 pensioners in NGCA who have been deprived of access to their pensions;

- IDPs who receive social benefits and pensions and are regularly subject to verification procedures that are discriminatory and impact their ability to meet their basic needs;
- Approximately 9 per cent of IDPs reside in dormitories and collective centers;<sup>95</sup>
- Twenty-nine per cent of IDPs residing in collective centres throughout Ukraine are at risk of eviction;
- 3.21 million people who live in NGCA, including displaced people within NGCA and returnees;
- IDPs with specific needs, including persons with disabilities, female-headed households, minorities (religious, ethnic, and those with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities), and civilians injured as a result of hostilities;
- Older people who have not yet reached pension age and may not be entitled to humanitarian assistance as they do not fall under traditional vulnerability criteria, but face discrimination in the employment market, and are therefore, left without any means of support. Unemployed adults with one child, may also not fall into a traditional vulnerability criteria, and therefore be excluded from humanitarian assistance; and,
- Displaced and conflict-affected women, men, boys and girls at risk of trafficking and exploitation, particularly those living close to the 'contact line'.

## HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

- Marking of mine and ERW contaminated areas, especially near checkpoints and residential areas. Mine action activities are urgently required not only in the area along the 'contact line', but throughout Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, including: (i) Mine clearance (ii) Mine risk education (iii) victim assistance (iv) marking and surveying;
- There is continuous critical need for monitoring and reporting on protection concerns and human rights violations, including at checkpoints, settlements along the 'contact line', in collective centers and institutions hosting IDPs;
- Thousands of people reside along the 'contact line' which are affected by the on-going shelling SALW fire and mine/ERW contamination. At the same time, vulnerable groups of IDPs are going through the fourth year of displacement with no certainty regarding durable solutions. Psychosocial support is urgently needed for children, older people, people with disabilities and other groups with specific needs;
- People residing in the areas along the 'contact line' need access to essential services, which is restricted due to ongoing conflict, restrictions on the freedom of movement, shortage of service providers and limited

94. REACH Assessment.

95. IOM National Monitoring System (NMS) Report, June 2018.

availability of public transport;

- People in GCA and NGCA need increased freedom of movement and safer conditions for crossing the 'contact line', including additional entry-exit checkpoints (especially in Luhanska oblast), proper maintenance of the checkpoints, a more accessible and rational application procedure, and access to authorized public transportation;
- Survivors of GBV and those at risk of violence need to have access to life-saving information, medical, psychosocial and legal services and "safe spaces". Due to absence of shelters in Luhanska oblast GCA, GBV survivors have no option but to remain in unsafe living environments;
- The conflict-affected women and adolescent girls should be prioritized for livelihood activities to counter possible harmful coping practices;
- Improved access to information and outreach activities on MHPSS services, as well as information on the stress-related symptoms and positive coping mechanisms;
- IDPs and conflict affected people require legal assistance to facilitate access to justice, HLP rights, freedom of movement, social benefits and pensions, access to identity documentation and temporary or permanent legal guardianship of children separated from their parents in NGCA. There is also a need for a legal provision for those, whose houses were destroyed, damaged or being used by the military;
- Promotion of interventions to prevent involuntary return to NGCA. This includes assistance targeted at those who are at heightened risk of return, including pensioners and female-headed households with children;
- IDPs at risk of eviction from collective centers are in need of assistance with identifying alternative housing;
- Initiatives aimed at enhancing social cohesion and countering discrimination against IDPs and population

residing in NGCA are needed;

- There is lack of shelters/safe space solutions for GBV survivors. Due to absence of shelters in Luhanska oblast (GCA) and limited availability of this type of service in other regions, GBV survivors have no option but to remain in unsafe living environments.
- Access to life-saving information and psychosocial services, including shelters for GBV survivors, improvement in referrals and multi-sectoral coordination remains a key protection need;
- Need for improved coordination among humanitarian partners and integration of Minimum Standards for Prevention and Response (MSPR) to GBV in Emergencies in their programs and activities, in particular those working along the 'contact line';
- There is a need for continuous awareness raising on GBV-related risks and the dissemination of life saving information on available services.
- Finding safe, confidential and 'do-no-harm' solutions as well as provision of life saving services for GBV survivors in NGCA remains a challenge.
- There is a need for a comprehensive state policy and mechanism on remedy and reparation for civilians injured during the hostilities and to relatives of those killed in line with UN Principles Basic and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law; and
- A policy and mechanism should be developed that ensures access to restitution and compensation for civilians whose property (including housing and land) has been damaged or destroyed due to hostilities as well as property which is under military use. Adequate housing should be provided to IDPs and conflict affected population.

## FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

### OVERVIEW



For almost five years, the continued impact of the conflict in eastern Ukraine has been severe, sharpening vulnerabilities related to poverty.

The weakening social protection systems are not adequate with rising prices. The continued disconnect between GCA and NGCA, disrupted access to markets, as well as high levels of unemployment and lack of livelihood opportunities have severely impacted millions of people.

The Food Security & Socio-Economic Trend Analysis highlights the continued correlation between food insecurity, vulnerability and socio-economic trends. The armed conflict has also had a serious impact on the agricultural sector, which has traditionally been one of the major sources of food and livelihoods for thousands of people in Ukraine.<sup>96</sup>

Humanitarian needs remain high, especially in the areas along the 'contact line' and in NGCA as a whole. More than one million people, including IDPs outside of Donbas, are food insecure and/or in need of livelihood support. Out of these, 862,000 people, including 37,000 IDPs outside of Donbas, are still in need of food security interventions. Last year's worsening of the socio-economic situation, spike in prices between May and June 2017, as well as a reduction of humanitarian support, resulted in a significant increase of food insecurity, which has lowered during 2018. While there have been some positive socio-economic improvements in GCA, including pension reform and real salary<sup>97</sup> growth, some groups remain vulnerable and could not at all or only marginally benefit from such improvement.<sup>98</sup> The recent improvement in food security in NGCA is mainly a reflection of a seasonal reduction of food prices which plays a key role in food access. However, given the general trend, food security is expected to remain at its consistently poor level.

96. Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, Food security & Socio-Economic Trend Analysis - Eastern Ukraine, March 2018.

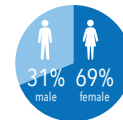
97. Income of an individual or group after taking into consideration the effects of inflation.

98. WFP, Market Monitor Review January-June 2018, August 2018.

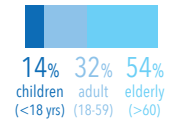
### NO. OF PEOPLE IN NEED

1.1 M

### BY SEX



### BY AGE



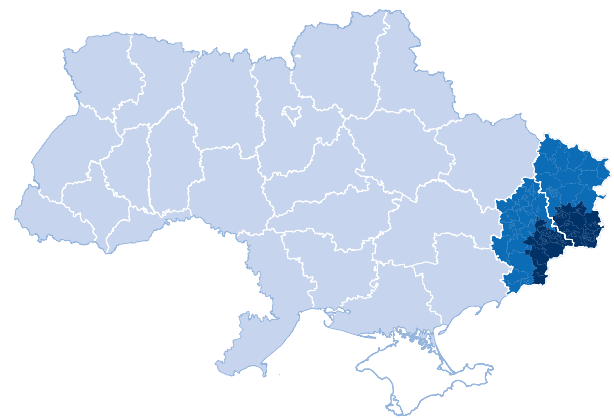
### BY GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN

0.2 M NGCA (excluding 'contact line')

0.7 M 'Contact line' (20 km on both sides)

0.2 M GCA (including IDPs, excluding 'contact line')

### SEVERITY MAP<sup>99</sup>

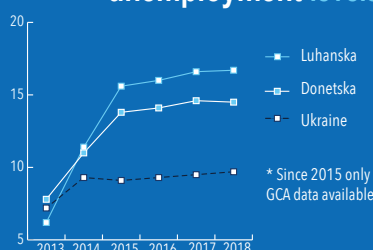


The socio-economic situation in eastern Ukraine has changed dramatically since the beginning of the conflict in 2014. Most economic indicators in the two oblasts deteriorated compared to the rest of the country. Industrial production in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts decreased significantly during 2014-2017. This has resulted in reduced employment opportunities in the region.

99. Please refer to Annex II: Cluster Severity Ranking Indicators. No data available for Crimea.

### INCREASED UNEMPLOYMENT

#### Conflict seriously impacts unemployment levels



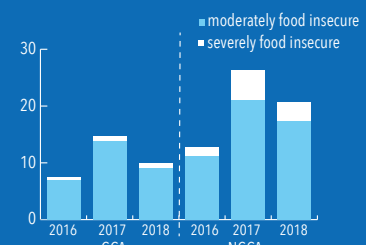
### FOOD NEEDS

#### Food basket price over time



### FOOD INSECURITY 2016-2018

#### Food insecurity levels remain high



In Donetsk oblast, the unemployment rate has doubled since 2013, while in Luhanska Oblast, it almost tripled. It is estimated that up to 406,000 unemployed working-age people, including IDPs are still in need of livelihood assistance.

The REACH winter assessment data confirms the trend identified in 2017, directly linking food security and unemployment. Minimum subsistence levels, minimum salary levels, utility prices, social protection services, and economic factors have a direct impact on a household's food security status.

All state social payments (such as assistance for a household when a child is born, support to households with members with a disability, support for single parents etc.) are based on the 'legal stationary minimum subsistence level'.<sup>100</sup> However, this level does not always match the level of inflation and vulnerable groups, as people receive far less than they did in 2013 prior to the conflict.<sup>101</sup>

At the same time, the actual cost of the WFP monitored food basket<sup>102</sup> increased significantly between June 2017 and June 2018, reaching the highest historical level of UAH 996 (approx. US\$40) in June 2018.<sup>103</sup> Total household expenditures are growing faster than the total income level, which is mainly a reflection of increased cash and non-cash expenditures on food and utilities. This means low income within a household forces the household to reduce their food and other expenditures in order to pay for utilities.<sup>104</sup> This has a negative impact on their food consumption, as observed when analysing food consumption trends.

The Ukrainian crisis is characterised by large number of elderly people. Around 54 per cent of those in need of food assistance are elderly. Although there was pension reform in October 2017 with improved food insecurity for some pensioners, 90 per cent of the heads of households reported that their pension had increased since the reform, the latest data highlights that the increase is not sufficient to cover the rising prices, particularly during the cold season.<sup>105</sup> Pensioners, especially those with minimum pensions and those living alone or as a couple, face high risks, as they cannot share expenditures with other members of the household.

Households headed by unemployed people aged 40 to-60 now have a higher share of poor and borderline food consumption score at 27.4 per cent, as compared to households headed by elderly people which stands at 22 per cent.<sup>106</sup>

### Food insecurity and livelihoods needs of internally displaced people (IDPs)

IDPs are among the most vulnerable groups, as they have special needs and face more challenges. A total of 89 per cent of IDPs, who were actively seeking employment, reported facing difficulties, 80 per cent of them women.<sup>107</sup> The most frequently mentioned issues among them were low pay and lack of vacancies. The latter was much more frequently reported by IDPs residing in rural areas. IDPs coping strategies differed in their severity, from stress strategies such as borrowing money, to emergency strategies such as selling property. The results of the 10th round of the IOM's National Monitoring System showed that 42 per cent of IDPs only have enough funds for food and not for other basic needs, a 4 per cent increase since March 2018 and a 9 per cent increase since December 2017. A total of 13 per cent of IDPs reported that they have to limit their food expenses, compared to 16 per cent reported in 9th round. It is estimated that 37,000 IDPs out of Donbas are food insecure and require food assistance while 30,000 are in need of livelihood support. The number of food insecure IDPs has dropped since 2017, however, it remains significant enough to have a severe impact.

### Food insecurity - needs

Significant humanitarian needs remain unmet with some 558,000 people severely and moderately food insecure in NGCA, a decrease from 800,000 people in 2017. Of them, around 103,000 people are severely food insecure across NGCA. Overall, moderate and severe food insecurity was recorded at 17.4 per cent in October 2017,<sup>108</sup> while of these some 3.2 per cent are severely food insecure, a decrease to two per cent from 5.2 per cent in June 2017.

The improvement of food insecurity levels is mainly a reflection of a seasonal reduction of food prices, prices peaked in May-June but had already dropped by 19 per cent in August, which plays a key role in food access in Ukraine. The value of the WFP monitored food basket in NGCA was significantly higher in April-June 2017, when compared to August-September 2017. Moreover, prices in NGCA were higher when compared to GCA during 2015-2017. However, the growth rate of food prices in GCA narrowed the price gap between GCA and NGCA, where food prices were unstable and prone to spikes and rapid changes. The difference between GCA and NGCA food basket costs narrowed to only seven per cent in September 2017, from 21 per cent in June and a full 35 per cent in May 2017.<sup>109</sup>

Positive trends are observed in GCA's Luhanska and Donetsk oblasts. The latest REACH Trend analyses in 2018 highlighted that overall, food insecurity levels in GCA have decreased compared to the assessment in 2017, with nine per cent of the population considered to be moderately food insecure and only one per cent severely food insecure. However, in

100. The value of the legally statutory minimum subsistence level is approved annually by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine as part of the State Budget. Every month (as per Ukrainian law), MoSP undertakes monitoring and calculates the actual minimum subsistence level based on statistical data on consumer prices.

101. Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, Food security & Socio-Economic Trend Analysis - Eastern Ukraine, March 2018, page 13.

102. WFP monitored Food Basket includes 23 main food commodities from the national food basket of Ukraine (which includes 45 items).

103. WFP, Market Monitor Review January-June 2018, August 2018, page 8.

104. Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, Food security & Socio-Economic Trend Analysis - Eastern Ukraine, March 2018, page 9.

105. REACH, Winter Assessment, 2018.

106. Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, Food security & Socio-Economic Trend Analysis - Eastern Ukraine, March 2018.

107. IOM, National Monitoring System Report on the Situation of Internally Displaced Persons in Ukraine, June 2018.

108. REACH - Multi-Sector Needs Assessment, October 2017.

109. Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, Food security & Socio-Economic Trend Analysis - Eastern Ukraine, March 2018.



the areas close to 'contact line', the share of the population with moderate or severe food insecurity reached 15 per cent. The clear majority of the population in both oblasts, 57 per cent within the 5-km area of the 'contact line' and 59 per cent overall, are found to be marginally food secure and could be at risk if there is an escalation of the conflict, economic shocks, drastic shrinking of humanitarian assistance, or any other factors.

Overall in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, food insecurity decreased from 410,000 people in 2017 to 267,000 in 2018. Among those, around 13,000 are still severely food insecure. The reduction of food insecurity in GCA is also a result of the economic improvement in the country, including a significant increase of real salary levels reaching pre-crisis levels of 2013<sup>110</sup> as well as pension reform. From January 2017 to January 2018, pensions have increased by 56 per cent in Donetsk and 52 per cent in Luhansk oblasts, with an average increase of 39 per cent across Ukraine. However, by January 2018, 79 per cent of pensioners received pensions below 3,000 UAH (the Actual Minimum Subsistence Level is 3,128 UAH).<sup>111</sup> People with an average salary could cover minimum costs of living for more than two persons, while the average pension could cover only 75 per cent of the costs.<sup>112</sup>

The share of the population in GCA living near the 'contact line' with inadequate food consumption decreased to 16 per cent from 21 per cent in the winter period. However, the situation has deteriorated when compared to the 2017 pre-winter level of 13 per cent and should be considered as a seasonal trend. It is estimated that 30 per cent of female-headed households have poor and borderline levels of food consumption<sup>113</sup> and therefore continue to be more vulnerable than male-headed households in GCA. This figure stands at 19 per cent in NGCA.<sup>114</sup>

According to the latest REACH MSNA-2 data in NGCA, in October 2017, the share of households with poor and borderline levels of food consumption was 16 per cent. Households headed by elderly (60+ age) were most vulnerable with an average of 19 per cent having poor and borderline food consumption.

In February 2018, 78 per cent of households in GCA applied negative coping strategies, the highest level since April 2016. The number of NGCA households who applied negative coping strategies in October 2017 remained high at 71 per cent according to REACH MSNA-2 data.

The analysis of the main indicators presented in the latest REACH and FSLC assessments of both GCA and NGCA, highlights that the most vulnerable groups remain relatively the same: single headed households with children, households with two or more children (mostly in NGCA), elderly (60+

age, mostly those living alone and in couples), disabled people, female-headed households, as well as households with no active employment – especially households headed by people aged 40-60. For the last group, 37 per cent of households are food insecure, of which, 15 per cent are severely food insecure and 22 per cent moderately food insecure.<sup>115</sup> The situation for people with chronic illnesses, especially people living with HIV and tuberculosis, in conflict-affected areas also remains a concern. Many of those are food insecure and are living in extreme poverty. Food expenditures have declined overall, mainly to reflect the increased cost of utilities, which in turn has negatively impacted the food consumption of some vulnerable groups.<sup>116</sup>

Generally, food availability is not an issue, however in some rural villages of NGCA, there is a very limited number or absence of shops and markets with food. Due to the conflict, shops were either closed or robbed, so families are forced to travel to bigger cities, often crossing the 'contact line' in order to buy basic goods, or they sell and/or exchange the goods between themselves. One of the trends observed in rural areas of NGCA is the worsening quality of food products, due to inappropriate storage of food, for example, frozen meat and fish. Households with children are also forced to reduce their meals so they can feed their children first, whilst most of the goods absorbed are either bread or cereals.

Traditionally, food needs increase during winter and spring in Ukraine, which further impacts vulnerable households. During this time, kilocalorie requirements intensify and access to food becomes restricted as prices also increase. At the same time, in winter, households have to cover additional, increased costs for heating expenses and fuel. Lack of agricultural products, depletion of food stocks and winter weather further restrict access. In NGCA, some residents are trying to store frozen or preserved vegetables, but high prices prevent them from storing in bulk. In addition, in some villages, people are experiencing difficulties with accessing water to irrigate their backyard plots.

### Agricultural needs

The prolonged conflict continues to have a detrimental impact on the socio-economic status of the population, especially in rural areas, where people are more vulnerable because of higher unemployment rates.<sup>117</sup> This is also due to the loss of access to many sources of livelihoods that were available before the conflict. The rural population is also characterized by a higher share of roots, vegetables, and fruits in their food consumption pattern,<sup>118</sup> which means that backyard farming continues to be a significant source of food for many. Nevertheless, the rural population close to the 'contact line' are still food insecure due to limited financial resources to buy enough food.<sup>119</sup> Whereas, in NGCA, people in rural areas are not able to afford their agricultural activities due

110. WFP, Market Monitor Review January-June 2018, August 2018.

111. Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, Food security & Socio-Economic Trend Analysis - Eastern Ukraine, March 2018, page 23-24.

112. WFP, Market Monitor Review January-June 2018, August 2018.

113. Score calculated using the frequency of consumption of different food groups consumed by a household during the 7 days before the survey.

114. Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, Food security & Socio-Economic Trend Analysis - Eastern Ukraine, March 2018, page 7, page 14.

115. REACH, Analysis of Humanitarian Trends in Luhansk and Donetsk Oblast, 2017.

116. Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, Food security & Socio-Economic Trend Analysis - Eastern Ukraine, March 2018, page 9.

117. State Statistics Service of Ukraine, 2018.

118. REACH, Analysis of Humanitarian Trends in Luhansk and Donetsk Oblast, 2017.

119. REACH, Trend Analysis, 2018.

to the high prices of seeds and livestock fodder. Owned resources of agricultural supplies required for self-production of food ran short with the constant increase of market prices and devaluation of the national currency. In addition, with transport connections damaged and disrupted due to hostilities, obtaining vegetable seeds, fodder for the livestock, fertilizers and tools is almost an impossible task for many.

Consequently, the needs for agricultural type of assistance in rural villages along the 'contact line' are high. Around 21,000 rural households residing within 20-km from the 'contact line' in GCA rely on self-production of food. They are in need of agricultural inputs.

"We are experiencing major problems with agriculture. We are locked up in our village and cannot go anywhere so our livestock is about to die and going to the field became a life-threatening activity. Before the conflict we were able to buy supplies on the market, but now it's unaffordable and we only rely on humanitarian support"

A resident of a small village near the 'contact line', Donetsk oblast

Considering the higher levels of food insecurity in NGCA,<sup>120</sup> the need for assistance in these areas is notably higher, with some 39,000 households in need of agricultural inputs. These vulnerable households require assistance to support their income generation and food production activities. Providing agricultural inputs through enhancing production capacities within their backyards, which continues to become harder to afford in the area, could ensure meeting food security needs of the households. This would also provide a more durable solution, improve dietary diversity and prevent further worsening of the food insecurity situation in the region.<sup>121</sup>

Further, the agricultural sector has proved to have a higher resilience to the difficulties caused by the conflict. Therefore, provision of agricultural support is more efficient, which may bring sustained and durable change. Agricultural micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are able to create thousands of jobs on demand based on self-employment if an enabling environment is in place. To unlock the potential of MSMEs, support should be given towards addressing major obstacles, such as access to markets, finance and inadequate services. Required immediate actions should include provision of technical, methodological and financial support to improve the quality of the production, processing and competitiveness.<sup>122</sup>

## AFFECTED POPULATION

Up to 3.5 million people have been affected by the conflict.<sup>123</sup>

120. Food Security & Socio-Economic Trend Analysis - Eastern Ukraine, 2018.

121. State Statistics Service of Ukraine, 2018.

122. FAO, The Agriculture Sector in Eastern Ukraine: Analysis and Recommendations, 2018.

123. This covers the number of people who have fallen into poverty in Luhanska and Donetsk GCA/NGCA (by the actual minimum subsistence level) and the number of IDPs outside of Donbas.

Of these, about 1.1 million people, including IDPs outside of Donbas region, are food insecure and in need of food security interventions, agriculture inputs and/or livelihood support.

During 2018, unmet humanitarian needs have continued to put at risk the most vulnerable groups, such as:

- Elderly (60+, those living alone and in a couple);
- Individuals and households with no employment, especially households headed by people aged 40-60;
- Single-headed households with children;
- Households with 2 or more children;
- Female-headed households;
- People living with chronic illnesses, such as HIV/AIDS, TB, diabetics etc., and with disabilities; and,
- IDPs and host communities.<sup>124</sup>

## HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Latest assessments, analysis and collaborate consultations present a continuing high humanitarian need for interventions addressing immediate access to food, support food production and agricultural livelihoods as well as non-agricultural livelihoods and income generation support.

- 825,000 people (general population, including IDPs) are food insecure in eastern Ukraine, in addition to 37,000 IDPs residing in other oblasts, and in need of food security assistance;
- Up to 116,000 people are severely food insecure in Donbas (103,000 in NGCA and 13,000 in Luhanska and Donetsk oblasts GCA) in addition to 2,000 IDPs residing in other oblasts) and in need of immediate assistance to ensure their access to food.
- The needs for agricultural type of assistance in rural villages along the line of conflict are high: around 21,000 rural households residing within 20 km from the contact line in GCA and 39,000 households in NGCA rely on self-production of their food and are in critical need of agricultural inputs to support their income generating and food production activities.
- The need for supporting early recovery livelihoods and income generation remains unmet: It is estimated that up to 406,000 unemployed working age people (15-70 years) are in need of livelihoods assistance. Among these, some 127,000 are estimated to be food insecure as well and therefore in need of food and/or livelihood assistance to ensure they can cover their basic needs. In addition, outside of Donbas, it is estimated that 30,000 IDPs are in need of livelihoods assistance and of these, around 6,300 IDPs are also food insecure.

124. E.g. livelihoods support for IDPs located outside of Donbas normally also target host communities where necessary to ensure social cohesion. Within Donbas, vulnerable groups include both IDPs and the general population.

## WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

### OVERVIEW



Many settlements and municipalities continue to highlight water supply as the most pressing need for 2019. In 2018, at least 27 per cent of people who live close to the 'contact line' experience daily or weekly water shortages.<sup>125</sup> At the same time, due to lack of funding under the 2018 HRP, the number of people accessing trucked water dropped from 12 per cent in 2017 to 7 per cent in 2018.<sup>126</sup>

The situation remains critical for major water infrastructure such as pipelines, pumps, and treatment plants. In an area where 4.6 million people rely on centralized water systems, there were 89 WASH incidents when shelling, SALW fire or other issues directly affected water infrastructure in 2018. In April 2018, in a single incident, five workers at the Donetsk Filter Station (DFS), were injured by gunfire, which hit the vehicle they were traveling home in. Meanwhile, massive water pipelines supplying water to the Luhansk city (NGCA) failed repeatedly due to obsolete infrastructure. The situation was further complicated, as access to repair the infrastructure was severely restricted as a result of fighting or extreme levels of mine contamination.

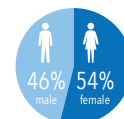
Water companies, such as the "Voda Donbasu" and "Popasnyanskyi Vodakanal" continued to struggle with debt in spite of the Government of Ukraine's debt release (1.8 bln UAH) of Voda Donbasu at the end of 2017.

At the time, when the cost of chlorine gas increased three times in 2018, companies still require essential chemicals to treat water. It was only thanks to UNICEF, ICRC and other humanitarian partners that adequate quality water was produced and distributed. In 2018, MTOT also coordinated with the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC)

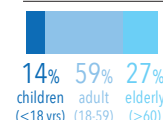
### NO. OF PEOPLE IN NEED

3.2 M

### BY SEX



### BY AGE



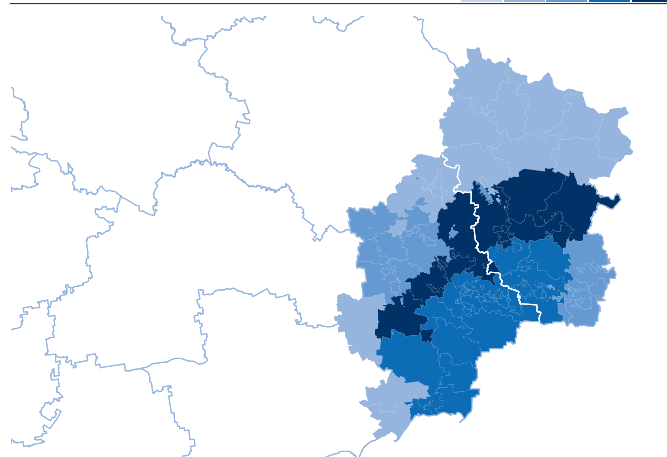
### BY GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN

0.3 M NGCA (excluding 'contact line')

2.4 M 'Contact line' (20 km on both sides)

0.5 M GCA (including IDPs, excluding 'contact line')

### SEVERITY MAP<sup>127</sup>



to transfer 17 WATA electrolysis units into NGCA areas, so that locally produced sodium hypochlorite can be used for water disinfection. As fighting continued, lack of safety guarantees and "windows of silence" made the preparations for winter 2019, such as critical front-line repairs to major pipes supplying Mariupol city, Dokuchaievsk, Volnovakha, Toretsk and Luhansk were not fully accomplished. Should pipelines fail at any given moment, either due to the shelling

125. Humanitarian Trend Analysis Fact Sheet. Government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, Ukraine, REACH, 2018.

126. Ibid.

127. Please refer to Annex II: Cluster Severity Ranking Indicators. WASH Cluster severity of needs focuses on Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts only.

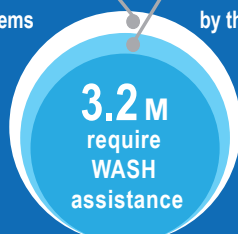
### WATER NEEDS

4.8 M

served by centralized water systems

3.6 M

directly affected by the conflict



### WATER SUPPLY DISRUPTIONS

89 incidents affecting water and sanitation supply in 2018



### WATER WORKER CASUALTIES

7 water workers shot or injured in 2018



and consequent damage or the aging infrastructure, the centralized heating systems may stop, with a potential for widespread suffering as temperatures often reach -15 C between December and February. Broken pipes also allow pathogens and pollutants to enter the water supply, leading to intermittent water quality issues at household level.

In NGCA, access to drinking water via piped supply dropped from 64 per cent pre-conflict to 53 per cent at the end of 2017. Some 13 per cent of households reported daily water shortages and only one in two households have never experienced water shortages.<sup>128</sup> There is no doubt that the advanced age of the entire water system, which cuts across the 'contact line' continues to negatively affect people on both sides.

Sewage networks and wastewater treatment facilities, which may be 70 years old, are also failing, which may lead to water contamination. Within the 5-km range of the 'contact line', some 56 per cent of people have a toilet connected to a sewer network. However, 18 per cent have a septic tank and 32 per cent have an outside toilet, rising to 69 per cent in rural areas.<sup>129</sup> WASH partners reported observing difficulties for people to empty septic tanks near the 'contact line', with people instead using 200 liter drums and other means to empty septic tanks manually.

There are around 3,500 schools, kindergartens and vocational training colleges in the two conflict affected oblasts. Of these, some 45 per cent also have substandard latrines, or an inadequate water supply (Education cluster 2018).

Better conditions were reported in 2018 than in 2017 at the Entry-Exit Checkpoints (EECP) for NGCA, where the de-facto authorities increased the number of toilets and water points, for example, at the "Mariinka" EECP (Donetska oblast). However, with the number of individual crossings continuing to rise, cleaning of facilities remains a challenge. The situation at the EECP "Stanytsia Luhanska" (Luhanska oblast) is even more severe, where over 50 per cent of people crossing expressed concern regarding the condition of the toilets<sup>130</sup> Whereas, only 6 per cent expressed similar concerns at the EECP "Mariinka" and even less at the three other EECPs in Donetska oblast.

Towns and villages near the 'contact line' report problems with garbage, as reduced income for village councils means they can no longer afford to pay to remove it. A similar situation applies to sewage systems in more rural areas close to the 'contact line', where people have to empty the septic tanks for their own household. This is more difficult, as pump trucks refuse to visit these highly volatile areas, or charge an increased price for the risk incurred.

In 2018, a market study<sup>131</sup> by the ACCESS consortium, NRC and Save the Children found that some hygiene items were not

available in all locations in Donetska and Luhanska oblasts, with the least available items being adult and infant diapers, only available at 53 per cent and 29 per cent of surveyed locations respectively. Meanwhile, the cost of hygiene items increased on average 10 per cent from November 2017 to February 2018. Hygiene item prices in Donetsk city (NGCA) are around 25 per cent higher than the Ukrainian average.

If water supply, sanitation and hygiene needs are not improved, risks directly impacting people's health could increase, especially the risk of diarrhea and other water-borne diseases, which disproportionately affect very young children and the elderly. Women are more exposed to and are impacted by water shortages than men. In Ukraine, protection issues arise when people are on the move: and lack of water, dysfunctional urban heating and high utility prices represent strong push factors, encouraging displacement.

## AFFECTED POPULATION

- People and vulnerable groups in need of water and sanitation assistance include:
- 3.6 million people are affected by water systems damaged by the conflict. Of these, 3.2 million people, need direct water supply and sanitation assistance;
- An estimated 100,000 IDPs living in all areas of Donetska and Luhanska oblasts need WASH support: elderly IDPs will be prioritized taking into consideration their limited mobility;
- 850,000 older people need to be prioritized for water and sanitation support; and,
- 450,000 children in the affected areas need assistance. This includes the children attending some 1,800 schools and kindergartens in the conflict-affected areas, which need repairs to water supply and toilets.

## HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

- Repair of water supplies, and provision of stocks of spare parts, materials and equipment to facilitate local agency repairs to channels, pumps and water filtration stations, focusing on systems run by the companies like the "Voda Donbasa", "Popsnyanski Vodakanal", "Luhansk Voda", and smaller "vodakanals". Similar repair of decentralized water networks. Prioritize sustainable repairs;
- Short-term water trucking of potable and technical water (untreated water used for cleaning) when critical needs arise;
- Capacity building, working alongside Government counterparts, to ensure water can be trucked to people affected by cuts in supply, and that "Vodakanals" are stronger for the future;
- Supply of water treatment chemicals, and increased water testing at household level, in both Donetsk and Luhansk

<sup>128</sup> Multi-Sector Needs Assessment in the Non-Government Controlled Areas of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, REACH, 2018.

<sup>129</sup> Situation Overview: Winter Assessment of Government-Controlled Areas within 5km of the Line of Contact, REACH, 2018.

<sup>130</sup> Crossing the Line of Contact: Monitoring Report, UNHCR, May, 2018.

<sup>131</sup> Joint Market Monitoring, February 2018.



Oblasts, preferably in partnership with the State Sanitary and Epidemiological Services or their equivalents;

- Desludging of septic tanks and garbage removal activities, especially in areas close to the 'contact line', where access has been limited due to active hostilities, and where costs of removal are now high. WASH activities supported by integration with livelihoods activities;
- Wastewater systems, pipelines and treatment plants have also been impacted by shelling and blockages due to reduced water flow, and now need equal priority to water systems;
- Repairs to water, wastewater and heating systems in health facilities, schools and kindergartens, and old people's homes;
- Improved availability to essential hygiene items, especially diapers, through distribution of hygiene kits in NGCA or in hard to reach areas, and vouchers in GCA. Appropriate hygiene promotion focusing on how to maintain hygiene in times of reduced water supply and combined with psychosocial first aid for children;
- Continued WASH provision at checkpoints, with a view of an exit strategy, through handing over responsibility for water and sanitation operation and maintenance activities to the relevant authorities, where possible. Focus on operation and maintenance on facilities; and,
- Advocacy to protect water infrastructure by all actors; increased funding for utilities; stability and facilitated movement of utility workers and essential materials across the 'contact line'; unrestricted access of water utility workers to complete timely repairs and the safety of those same workers.

## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

### OVERVIEW



The loss of life and a steady decrease in the health and wellbeing of the most vulnerable people continues to be an area of major concern.

After more than four years of conflict, 5.2 million people are currently directly affected in eastern Ukraine, with around 1.3 million people within 20-km of the 'contact line' in need of life-saving and essential health services. The conflict has isolated rural GCA health facilities from major health centers located in urban areas in NGCA due to insecurity, increased distances, travel times, and impeded access to referral hospitals and pharmacies, including restrictions caused by landmine and ERW contamination.

### Health and laboratory systems

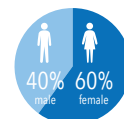
The health system in the conflict-affected areas faces several distinct patterns of disruption. The health care facilities in NGCA and within 20-km of the 'contact-line' in GCA are often isolated and many health care workers have left. Residents in both GCA and NGCA experience difficulties in accessing appropriate health care services due to insecurity, disrupted transportation, and lack of qualified health care workers, the latter of which impacted both quality and availability of services. An assessment conducted by WHO on public health laboratories in Donetsk and Luhansk GCA and NGCA in 2017, showed serious concerns of quality control procedures and practice, including bio-risk management. An adequate lab surveillance system is key to stop disease transmissions as it will trigger the right response and ensure population health security. The lack of adequate blood screening systems and safe blood transfusion services brings additional risks to all patients' health, for example, hepatitis B and C.

People with disabilities, families with young children and the elderly, are among the most vulnerable. Many cannot easily move independently, while in many areas there are no

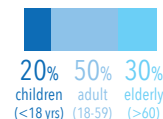
### NO. OF PEOPLE IN NEED

1.3M

### BY SEX



### BY AGE



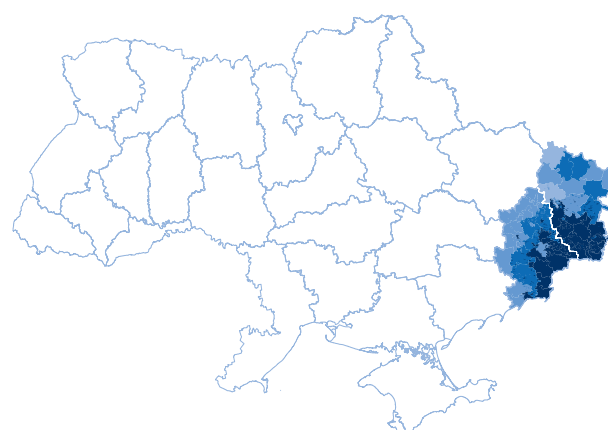
### BY GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN

n/a NGCA (excluding 'contact line')

1.1 M 'Contact line' (20 km on both sides)

0.2 M GCA (including IDPs, excluding 'contact line')

### SEVERITY MAP<sup>132</sup>



available health care facilities within range for timely care. While most health care services are considered to be free of charge, real out-of-pocket costs borne by the affected population have significantly increased, for example, transport, diagnostics, and medications, deterring many and further diminishing their health status and resilience. With ongoing interruptions in electricity and heating, and continued displacement, upcoming winter conditions,

<sup>132</sup>. Please refer to Annex II: Cluster Severity Ranking Indicators. Health and Nutrition Cluster severity of needs focuses on Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts only.

### ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL HEALTH CARE

38% of households in the conflict zone



report



lack of access to health care services

### LIFE SAVING HEALTH NEEDS

63% of households in Donetsk oblast



are not satisfied with health care services

### LIFE SAVING HEALTH NEEDS

72%

of people in Donetsk oblast



not able to cover medical expenses at all

especially for those without adequate shelter or heating, puts the most vulnerable population, particularly children and elderly, at an increased risk of respiratory diseases and hypothermia.

Nutrition studies identified an increase in anemia among pregnant women living in conflict-affected areas.

Health information data is either not available or unreliable. Strengthening epidemiological surveillance, including early warning systems to help prevent disease epidemics, is a key component to help link early recovery to medium-long term development of the health system

An estimated 1,500 health care professionals have left the conflict areas and are registered as IDPs, further decreasing availability of care. The remaining health care workers are overloaded and lack opportunities to participate in professional development and continuous medical education activities to improve their skills and knowledge, reducing the quality of available health care services even further.

### Medical supplies and equipment

Health care facilities at all levels face impediments in procurement, delivery, and maintenance, resulting in lack of medicines and medical equipment affecting their capacity to deliver essential health care services across both sides of the 'contact line'.

Health care services in GCA experienced a steep reduction in primary health care facilities over the last four years. Many remaining health care facilities are cut-off from their previous specialized referral centers, as well some secondary level services, which have been closed due to lack of staff and resources. Some 52 per cent of primary care services close to the 'contact line' face shortages of medications, whilst 34 per cent face electric outages and are without generator back-up, and 22 per cent experience water disruptions.

The irregular stock of medicines, medical supplies and diagnostic equipment deprives those who depend on life-saving care and medicines, such as insulin-dependent diabetics, those in need of hemodialysis and blood bank services; and mothers and infants in need of appropriate pre- and post-natal care as well as family planning services. Obstetric and prenatal care, along with childbirth services are lacking or are difficult to access.

In NGCA, the lack of information, restricted movement of persons and goods, including medical supplies and equipment, and limited medical assistance from local and international organizations forces many to travel across the 'contact line' to seek medical care in GCA, which puts further stress on an already overstretched health system. In contrast the main Cancer care center in the region is located in Donetsk NGCA and therefore GCA patients seek care in NGCA.

### Communicable diseases

As the conflict enters its fifth year, the risk of communicable disease outbreaks is also increasing. This is due to frequent

water supply damage and interruptions, damaged heating systems, as well as an overall low immunization rate, because basic childhood vaccines such as polio, measles, rubella, and diphtheria are lacking in NGCA, and there are distribution issues in GCA. Overall, the immunization rates have continued to remain below the needed thresholds despite efforts to raise them.

It is important to note, that Ukraine has experienced several outbreaks in the last few years, including botulism, pertussis, measles, tetanus, and diphtheria, which evidences the weaknesses in surveillance for both vaccine-preventable and epidemic prone diseases. Limited data collection, including early notification and data sharing, along with documented gaps in laboratory capacity, significantly increases the potential for outbreaks. While polio was halted in 2015, the country remains vulnerable, as vaccination coverage remains very low. The lack of reporting by the de-facto authorities in NGCA on key epidemiological and health system indicators significantly limits the understanding of the overall health situation and prevents adequate planning.

### Non-communicable diseases

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) related to mortality in Ukraine is among the highest in the European Region. They are estimated to account for 86 per cent of annual deaths, with cardiovascular disease (CVD), cancer, diabetes and respiratory diseases making the largest contribution to NCDs. Chronic diseases are of particular concern in all of Ukraine due to the high proportion of elderly people, many of whom are left without support and live alone, a situation made worse in the conflict-affected areas. In Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, the majority of older people (70-87 per cent) suffers from at least one chronic condition and requires long-term treatment. For those with chronic diseases, inaccessibility and unaffordability of health care and medications led to late-seeking health behavior and thereby worsening of conditions, especially diabetes, cancer, hypertension, and cardiovascular diseases, such as heart attacks and strokes, which affects over 50 per cent of people over 50 years of age in the conflict-affected areas.

### Mental health and psychosocial support

Lack of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services is a key gap in both the protection and health sectors. PSS remains one of the most requested forms of assistance from conflict-affected people. Two-thirds of households do not know where to access psychosocial services, and 17 per cent of rural households report that there is no place to access services in their settlements. Those with chronic and severe mental disorders, for example, psychotic disorders, are especially vulnerable during times of hardship, conflict, and displacement. Psychological stress and mental health problems have been associated with poor lifestyle and risky behaviors such as smoking, drinking alcohol, using drugs, and having unhealthy or risky relationships. The IMC-PUI MHPSS assessment indicated that 61 per cent of those surveyed stated that alcohol and drug use was the main

problem in their community. This was followed by caring for people who are on their own (52 per cent) and mental illness (41 per cent). While PSS issues continue to be reported amongst all age groups, there remains a gap in MHPSS services for working-age people.

### Trauma and emergency medical services

For the health system to provide appropriate emergency care for trauma cases and mass-casualty management as a result of hostilities, additional resources are urgently required. The lack of emergency room capacity, standardization of care, medicines and medical supplies, as well as the lack of trainings and community awareness programs remain some of the key concerns. To strengthen the referral pathways, ambulances need to be appropriately equipped, staff trained, and emergency trauma protocols and guidelines agreed and disseminated.

Patients in need of physical rehabilitation and those with debilitating injuries require additional, long term support, as they face years of difficulties in their daily lives and are confronted with a diminished ability to sustain their livelihoods.

### TB and HIV/AIDS

The delivery and use of standard treatment regimens for TB remain unclear, especially in NGCA of Luhanska Oblast. Non-governmental organizations who provide the bulk of services in HIV/AIDS prevention and follow-up face considerable restrictions in NGCA. There are a lack of opportunities for continuous training of health professionals and sufficient funding of critical disease control programs. Even before the conflict, Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts were among the most affected areas by HIV/AIDS in Ukraine. Issues such as displacement, migration and widespread multidrug-resistance (MDR) and extensively drug-resistant (XDR) tuberculosis (TB) reveal further health system gaps and contribute to the higher rates of HIV and TB in the conflict-affected areas. In general, people do not know their HIV status and are unaware of the associated risks. Most people have limited access to HIV and TB testing, and they must travel long distances for appropriate treatment, care and support. Further, risks to children through mother-to-child HIV transmission are elevated due to the unknown HIV status of the mother.

### Conclusion

The active conflict in eastern Ukraine continues to affect access to essential health care services for millions of people. Local providers are still struggling to meet basic needs among the most affected which include women, children under five and the elderly. Restrictions of movement for people, goods and services between GCA and NGCA reinforce a strong sense of isolation. People living along the 'contact line' and in NGCA are still unable to meet their basic health care needs due to lack of access to quality medicines and medical supplies, lack of sufficient income to cover the out-of-pocket medical costs and long travel times to reach appropriate health care services. The protracted conflict affects people's

resilience and prevents them from recovering, health workers included, which in turn affects the quality and availability of needed services. The longer this situation prevails, the less resilient the health system and the populations in need will be. This will inevitably result in a diminished ability to cope with additional threats.

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### AFFECTED POPULATION

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- Health care workers;
- Pregnant and lactating women;
- Children under five;
- Elderly people living along the 'contact line'; and,
- Adolescents, youth, parents, and caregivers in settlements near the 'contact line'.

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### HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

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- Access to quality care and diagnostics (including immunization) in medical facilities and laboratories by conflict-affected population;
- Local providers are still struggling to meet basic health needs due to a limited number of health workers who are often overworked, exhausted, and not adequately trained;
- Better access to psychosocial support and specialized mental health services, child-friendly spaces;
- Strengthen epidemiological surveillance, including early warning systems to help prevent disease epidemics, is a key component to help link early recovery to medium-long term development of the health system; and
- Health education and awareness raising to prevent sexual and GBV as well as injuries due to mine risk and ERW contamination.



## SHELTER/NON-FOOD ITEM

### OVERVIEW



Nearly five years of continuous conflict in eastern Ukraine has led to over 50,000 residential buildings incurring damage on both sides of the 'contact line'. Humanitarian partners have repaired an estimated half of these damaged buildings since 2014. Of these repairs, around 80 per cent were conducted in GCA, where the presence of the Cluster partners has been continuous and geographically well-distributed. In an effort to prevent further displacement, most of these repairs were for returnees and conflict-affected persons living along the 'contact line'. It is important to note that humanitarian shelter interventions target only a subset of all the residential housing damaged by the conflict, namely the most vulnerable households where repairs are necessary to provide suitable living conditions, and where security conditions permit.

Based on the ongoing verification of data in the Shelter Cluster's damage database, the Cluster estimates that as of the beginning of 2018, some 5,300 vulnerable households in GCA alone continued to require humanitarian shelter interventions. Humanitarian partners expect to be able to cover some 50-60 per cent of these referrals with 2018 funding, leaving outstanding needs for repairing some 2,000-2,500 homes in 2019. Additionally, the conflict continues to cause new damage to residential housing: some 520 homes were damaged in the first half of 2018<sup>133</sup> (70 per cent in NGCA), which is roughly one-sixth of the damages registered in the correspondent period of 2017. Thus, the Shelter cluster must maintain a capacity to respond to new damages, complementing the strengthened efforts of local authorities.

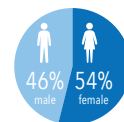
With the current response capacity, and provided that the level of funds for shelter repairs remains stable, it is expected that outstanding humanitarian shelter needs in currently accessible areas of GCA could be covered by the end of 2019. However, if the dynamics of the conflict change, needs could

133. The Shelter/NFI Cluster is updating on a monthly basis the number of newly-damaged houses, using partners', OCHA's, OSCE's and INSO's reports as sources. Whenever possible, the Cluster requests partners to visit the sites where incidents have occurred and verify the damage reports.

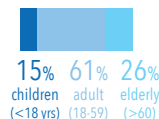
### NO. OF PEOPLE IN NEED

0.3M

### BY SEX



### BY AGE



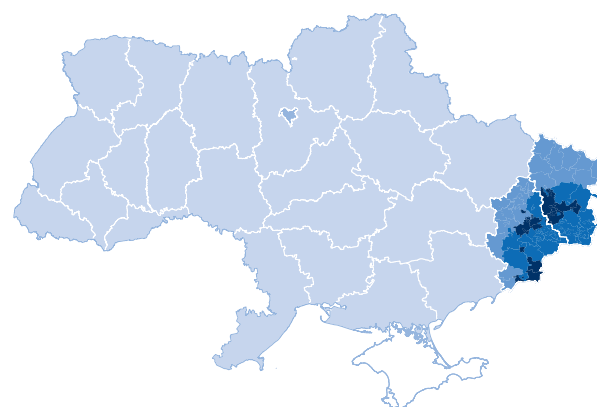
### BY GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN

60k NGCA (excluding 'contact line')

0.2M 'Contact line' (20 km on both sides)

10k GCA (including IDPs, excluding 'contact line')

### SEVERITY MAP<sup>134</sup>



in crease.

Humanitarian shelter partners provide support only to vulnerable families who reside or plan to reside in their homes following the repair. The population along the 'contact line' in GCA is disproportionately female (57 per cent), and some 66 per cent of female-headed households have a significant vulnerability linked to age, displacement, or disability. Shelter Cluster partners have noted that some families continue to live in substandard conditions due to the conflict, but are currently not considered for assistance, because they do not

134. Please refer to Annex II: Cluster Severity Ranking Indicators. Concentration index for the rest of Ukraine has been ranked as the lowest to reflect IDPs needs.

### SHELTER DAMAGE IN GCA&NGCA



over

50,000

houses damaged

during five years of conflict

### VULNERABILITY OF POPULATION

In GCA

around 10,000

vulnerable households in need  
of shelter assistance

### WINTERIZATION NEEDS

Insufficient winter heating have

11%

urban households

37%

rural households

within 5 km along the 'contact line'  
in the GCA

match humanitarian organizations' vulnerability criteria, such as households where working-aged adults face persistent unemployment. Shelter Cluster partners will be encouraged to review the vulnerability criteria for 2019 in order to address the needs. Households that cannot make the necessary repairs on their own could increase the humanitarian caseload. This could lead to an estimated 10 per cent increase in the number of remaining shelter repairs, from 2,500 to 2,750.

Thus, the total number of humanitarian shelter interventions needed for GCA in 2019 is estimated to be 3,000, which would cover the remaining households (2,750), along with a contingency to repair newly damaged homes.

Shelter partners work only in reasonably safe areas. There are entire communities of damaged or destroyed houses along the 'contact line' where security conditions do not allow repairs to take place. Most families with homes in these areas have been displaced. Furthermore, humanitarian shelter partners provide only minimum interventions to create sufficient living conditions in line with national standards. This normally does not extend to full reconstruction of destroyed homes, since the costs are high. Thus, communities along the 'contact line' continue to have many shelter-related needs which go beyond the scope of humanitarian interventions and will have to be met through Government programs and development partners.

The situation differs significantly in NGCA. Since the beginning of the crisis, only 4,500 repairs have been made, in addition to 5,600 emergency interventions.<sup>135</sup> Lack of sustained humanitarian access has prevented systematic verification of damage. Based on the dynamics of the conflict, the pace of repairs and direct observations, it is conservatively estimated that there are outstanding needs for repair of some 25,000-30,000 homes (including apartments in multi-story buildings), of which at least one-third is represented by extremely vulnerable households.

### NFIs and Winterization

Since the scale of new damage and displacement is limited, there are relatively few needs for the distribution of emergency non-food items. In GCA, many emergency needs can be met through the distribution of cash assistance, since markets function in most areas. Where quality is a concern, monitoring and conditional cash programming should be considered. To support the response of local authorities, it will be important to maintain a limited number of emergency NFI kits to have a timely response to potential localized flare-ups and escalation of hostilities.

While the needs for emergency NFIs (e.g., blankets, buckets, etc.) are low, the population on both sides of the 'contact line' has a growing seasonal need for items related to winterization, particularly in rural areas closest to the 'contact line'. In GCA, the REACH-led winter assessment of humanitarian needs within five kilometres of the 'contact line'<sup>136</sup> indicated that 11 per cent of households had insufficient heating in the previous

30 days, whereas in rural areas, the proportion without sufficient heating was considerably higher (37 per cent), and rural households also reported having to heat their homes for more months in the year.

The survey also found heightened rates of food insecurity during the winter months, particularly among persons aged over 50. Furthermore, rural households report lacking winter clothing at a higher rate than urban households. Nearly 22 per cent of rural households lack winter shoes/boots for all members of their household, compared with 11 per cent of urban households. Rural households are also twice as likely to lack sufficient warm jackets for household members (16 and eight per cent). Adapting REACH's figures to the population residing within 20 kilometres of the 'contact line', the population with insufficient winter heating can be estimated at 84,450 persons in 35,000 households. In NGCA, the estimates are less reliable. Among surveyed returnee households,<sup>137</sup> 24 per cent employed at least one negative coping strategy due to lack of resources. In the Ukrainian context, experience shows that the negative coping mechanisms increase significantly during the winter months. Based on the increased number of requests of assistance received by NGCA partners related to winterization items, the population in need of assistance can be estimated at 180,000 individuals in 75,000 households.

### Durable housing solutions for IDPs

The latest round of the National Monitoring System report (June 2018)<sup>138</sup> shows that 58 per cent of IDPs live in rented accommodation. The percentage living with host families/relatives decreased substantially in 2018 from 24 per cent to 13 per cent, suggesting that the generous hospitality of many host families has reached its limit. The findings of the same survey reveal that in focus group discussions, IDPs express frustration about their housing situation due to the high cost of rent, uncertainty of relations with their landlords, and the impossibility of planning for the longer-term rent. The numbers of returnees from GCA to NGCA citing ownership of private property in NGCA as their main motivation for return increased from 73 per cent in 2017 to 78 per cent in 2018.<sup>139</sup> Some programs have started to help IDPs find durable housing solutions, such as the subsidies offered by the State Youth Construction Fund or various municipal programs, including support through subventions allocated from the state budget to local budgets to support acquisition of housing by municipal authorities in order to provide it to the IDPs for temporary use<sup>140</sup> and in some cases by the Ministry of Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs (MTOT). However, these programs do not yet address the full scale of the demand for a range of durable housing solutions, which might include low-interest loans, subsidies, access to land, rent-to-own schemes, rural housing schemes, and others. The MTOT is also facilitating financial cooperation between the Cabinet of Ministers and the Government of Federal Republic

135. Shelter/NFI Cluster SW.

136. REACH, Winter Assessment of Government-Controlled Areas, February 2018, [http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/reach\\_ukr\\_situation\\_overview\\_winter\\_assessment\\_february\\_2018.pdf](http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/reach_ukr_situation_overview_winter_assessment_february_2018.pdf).

137. IOM, NMS Report, June 2018, <http://iom.org.ua/en/national-monitoring-system-report-situation-internally-displaced-persons-june-2018>

138. IOM, NMS Report, June 2018.

139. Ibid.

140. In 2018, these subventions amount to UAH34 million (MTOT).

of Germany for a project on Housing Solutions for IDPs and with various international financial institutions for Housing to IDPs.

### Housing, land and property rights

The Government of Ukraine has yet to develop a standardized approach for recording the property damage associated with the conflict, and it has not yet adopted an overall strategy for restitution or compensation for property damaged by the conflict. This leaves many families unable to recover from unexpected financial losses.<sup>141</sup> The challenge is compounded by the fact that a significant number of families who fit into humanitarian organizations' criteria for selection lack ownership documents and cannot be included in shelter programmes. Shelter humanitarian agencies will require the necessary resources to document destruction to homes in order to better support protection partners to ensure housing security for affected populations.

both sides of the 'contact line' 1,000 shelter and 1,000 NFI emergency kits to respond to the immediate needs of the affected population in terms of bedding and kitchen primary items and temporary repairs of their homes; and,

- In the coming winter, some 264,450 vulnerable IDPs, returnees and non-displaced persons (68 per cent in NGCA), if not assisted, will not be able to purchase sufficient solid fuel for heating, pay for utilities, and purchase warm clothing and other essential winter items.

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## AFFECTED POPULATION

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- In GCA some 6,000-8,000 families (mainly non-displaced, but also returnee and internally displaced), living along the 'contact line', will still need home repairs. In NGCA this number reaches to 25,000-30,000 families (mainly non-displaced, but also returnee and internally displaced);
- Non-displaced, returnee and internally displaced people, living in areas along the 'contact line', who are at particular risk of conflict-related incidents, will need emergency shelter and NFI assistance; and,
- More than 2.5 million people in the Donetska and Luhanska oblasts will have challenges in allocating financial resources to purchase sufficient solid fuel for heating, pay the utilities, and purchase winter clothing, to prepare themselves and their families for the next winter.

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## HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

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- In GCA, in 2019, some 3,000 vulnerable families (mainly non-displaced, but also returnee and internally displaced), living along the 'contact line', will need humanitarian shelter assistance while their homes are being repaired. In NGCA, in 2019, some 8-10,000 vulnerable families (mainly non-displaced, but also returnee and internally displaced) will need humanitarian shelter assistance;
- Humanitarian agencies should be able to organise themselves in order to complement the local authorities' emergency interventions in case of conflict-related incidents. Based on the trend registered in the first half of 2018,<sup>142</sup> shelter/NFI agencies should preposition on

141. Ways, mechanisms and methods of compensation for the losses and implementation of a mechanism for restitution of the violated ownership will be determined as part of the activities of the Inter-Agency Commission and according with the respective laws and legislation of the Government of Ukraine.

142. See footnote 55.

## EDUCATION

### OVERVIEW



The armed conflict in eastern Ukraine continues to impact children, educators and the whole education system, especially in the areas along the 'contact line'. In other areas, there is widespread evidence of the cumulative effect of the conflict on 737,000 children and teachers learning and teaching in 3,500 education facilities.<sup>143</sup> For many children and youth, access to education is occasionally disrupted, and their wellbeing and learning is affected due to prolonged fear, conflict-related distress and trauma. Children, adolescents, and young people are among the most vulnerable categories due to very specific risks they are exposed to in their everyday life.

There is a difference between the specific needs of children and communities living on both sides of the 'contact line' due to various factors including security, safety, response mechanisms and services available. Local and international NGOs, UN agencies and government authorities, provide boys and girls living in GCA with numerous services, while there is a slight increase in presence of some of the key actors, this is not the case in NGCA. Of the estimated 437,000 children from 0-18 years and teachers living within 20-km of the 'contact line' 63 per cent learn and teach in NGCA.

As a result of the conflict, the education system has splintered, worsening pre-existing conditions in the education sector.<sup>144</sup> Significant gaps in learning, temporary school closures, shortages of qualified teaching staff, shortage of learning materials, the high cost of education for families, and the insufficient number of psychosocial programs continue to contribute to deterioration of educational

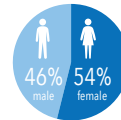
143. Education Cluster estimate. Of these, 670,000 are estimated to be children and 67,000 teachers. 343,000 learn and teach in Government controlled areas (GCA) and another 394,000 in Non-Government controlled areas (NGCAs).

144. Three separate education systems are now in place. There are now de facto authorities in Non-Government controlled areas (NGCAs) of Donetsk and Luhansk and de facto 'Ministries of Education' in each area. In Government controlled areas (GCAs) there are two separate Departments of Education relocated from NGCAs which are administratively linked to the Ukraine Ministry of Education and Science (MoES).

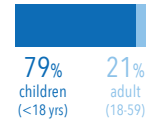
### NO. OF PEOPLE IN NEED

0.7 M

### BY SEX



### BY AGE



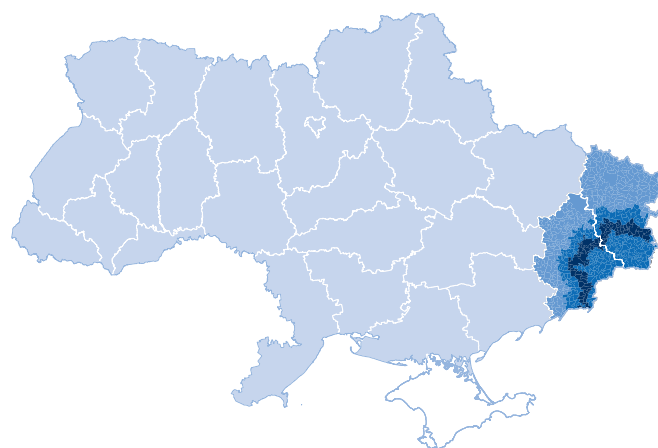
### BY GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN

0.1 M NGCA (excluding 'contact line')

0.4 M 'Contact line' (20 km on both sides)

0.2 M GCA (including IDPs, excluding 'contact line')

### SEVERITY MAP<sup>145</sup>



quality. In the consultations conducted in August 2018 by the Education Cluster in Donetsk (NGCA), as well as in Sloviansk (Donetska GCA) and Sievierodonetsk (Luhanska GCA), the Education Cluster's partners expressed the need for non-formal after-school programs. They also noted a concern for youth who need preparation for the job market through vocational, professional and skill training. In the Capacity & Vulnerability Assessment conducted by REACH in January

145. Please refer to Annex II: Cluster Severity Ranking Indicators. No data available for Crimea.

### IMPACT ON EDUCATION

737,000

school children and teachers  
suffer from  
sustained  
conflict impact



### DOCUMENTS ISSUES

99,000

school graduates in NGCA  
need wider  
recognition  
of certificates



### EDUCATION FACILITIES DAMAGED



52

Education  
facilities

damaged / destroyed  
by shelling  
in the last 21 months

(January 2017- September 2018)



2018 in Yasynuvata Raion, Donetska Oblast GCA, all schools assessed reported having expenditures that they were unable to cover. The most commonly reported cost that schools were unable to cover were capital expenses. According to the same assessment, 19 per cent of households with children in urban areas within 5km of the 'contact line' were most likely to report that their children had missed more than one month of school. The main reported reasons for gaps in school were health reasons and closed schools. In rural areas however, there is a greater proportion of households reporting security concerns as the main reason for their gap in school attendance.

Rural households within five kilometres of the 'contact line' were most likely to report that they could not afford all school expenses. Their biggest security concern was also 'hearing and seeing' shelling during accessing education facilities.

Although pre-school children are equally affected by the consequences of the conflict, access to early childhood education, according to the Education Cluster's consultations, has improved in 2018. At the same time, in some settlements there are no kindergartens (KGs) and/or schools available or functioning. As an illustration, in 2018 more than 2,000 children reportedly are on the waiting list for kindergartens in Luhanska oblast NGCA and some kindergartens in both oblasts are significantly overcrowded. Results of the Education Cluster school survey which was conducted in September 2018 and which included 920 education facilities in Donetska and Luhanska oblast GCA, covering 65 per cent of the total enrolled children, show that infrastructure related needs still come up high among the priority needs of the schools. Twelve per cent, or a total of 113 education facilities need conflict-related rehabilitation, of which 77 are located within 20 km of the 'contact line'.

The Education Cluster consultations which were conducted in July 2018, show that most of the conflict-related repair needs were addressed in GCA while they remain largely unaddressed in NGCA. There are many schools in NGCA that are not subject to provision of support from INGOs or UN agencies. For example, the boarding school #27 in Dokuchaievsk (Donetska NGCA) was damaged three times in 2018 and is still waiting to be repaired.

Many schools across both sides of the 'contact line' struggle to cope with winter due to old heating systems or lack of resources to procure fuel. This results in inadequate room temperatures during winter months, temporary closures, and the need to shift or extend winter breaks. In the 2018 school survey, 374 education facilities needed to repair or rehabilitate their heating systems. While many schools still experience short-term electricity and water shortages, it doesn't seem to be causing major issues for education in both GCA and NGCA. However, provision of water and sanitation and water quality remains a serious issue for many schools, with 119 education facilities evaluating it as not usable for drinking and cooking even after filtering and boiling.

Due to socioeconomic difficulties and in the context of a general economic decline, some families cannot afford

education fees. Education costs are allegedly high within 5-km of the 'contact line'.<sup>146</sup> In 48 per cent of schools, at least one in four children needs support with education materials.<sup>147</sup> In the stakeholder consultations from August 2018, the need for this type of support came up frequently. Families on limited incomes are unable to afford school stationary and uniforms.

For children living near the 'contact line', access to education continues to be hampered by security risks from continual shelling, the prevalence of UXOs and mines near or on the commute to school, as well as damage to school buildings. Children commute long distances along unsafe routes to get to school.<sup>148</sup> Dozens of cases of a military presence near schools have been reported to the Education Cluster during 2018 in both GCA and NGCA. According to the REACH Capacity and Vulnerability Assessment from January 2018, 50 per cent of households reported some safety or security concerns for their children in educational facilities. Shelling remains the greatest reported security concern with 43 per cent of households experiencing the issue, followed by a large presence of military personnel at 30 per cent, particularly in Donetsk oblast (32 per cent compared to 26 per cent in Luhanska oblast).

In the Education Cluster School Survey from September 2018, 66 per cent or a total of 606 education facilities reported that they have conflict or non-conflict related safety and security concerns in the vicinity of the education facility area/site or on the children's commute to school. 22 per cent or a total of 201 education facilities reported conflict related safety and security concerns, for example, military presence nearby, UXOs, shelling, checkpoints. Within 20 km of the 'contact line', 33 per cent of education facilities reported conflict-related safety and security concerns, and within 5 km, 78 reported conflict related safety and security concerns. The school survey indicates that 154 education facilities expressed concerns of military presence nearby and 61 reported UXOs near schools as a security concern. There is no improvement in this area compared to 2017 when the same concerns were reported by 150 and 62 facilities respectively. Forty-one (41) per cent or a total of 376 facilities reported concerns over road conditions and road safety.

Seventy-four per cent of education facilities within 5 km of the 'contact line' (GCA) reported that either they do not have a proper safe space or bomb shelter, or if they do have one, it is not adequately equipped. 47 per cent or 532 education facilities reported that they are aware of the Safe Schools Declaration (SSD) and 95 per cent of them would like to learn more about the SSD and disseminate the information to their colleagues, children and parents. Ukraine is currently looking to become a signatory to the Safe Schools Declaration, an inter-governmental commitment (signed by 81 countries worldwide to date) to protect students, teachers, schools, and universities from the worst effects of war. It provides countries the opportunity to express support for protecting education from attack during times of armed conflict, the

146. REACH, Area Based Assessment, 2017.

147. Education Cluster, Needs Survey in Government Controlled Areas of Donetska and Luhanska Oblasts, 2018.

148. REACH, Area Based Assessment, 2017.

importance of the continuation of education during war, and the implementation of concrete measures to deter the military use of schools.

Attacks on schools continued on a regular basis in 2017 and 2018. Between January 2017 to September 2018, at least 52 educational facilities were damaged due to continuous hostilities, and five more than once.

During the consultations with partners held in GCA and NGCA the needs around safety and security surfaced as one of the top priorities. Svitlodarsk school #11 (Donetska GCA), which sustained damages in May 2018, has demonstrated that preparedness measures for schools save lives. More than 60 windows equipped with an anti-blast film were damaged when artillery/mortar shell landed in a schoolyard with over 400 children and teachers during classes. No one was injured during the incident.

Children, teachers and staff struggle with the lasting trauma, fear and stress of living through years of armed conflict, and for those closest to the 'contact line', the impact continues to mount. While according to the REACH Capacity and Vulnerability Assessment, access to psychosocial services in schools remains significantly higher than in 2016 (58 per cent compared to 16 per cent) there has been a slight reduction since the September 2017 Trend Analysis when 66 per cent reported access to the service in education facilities. Lack of psychosocial services appears to more greatly affect students in rural areas, where only 30 per cent of households with children report availability. In the Education Cluster School Survey from September 2018, 54 per cent of education facilities reported the impact of the conflict on their student's ability to learn or wellbeing. Within 20 km of the 'contact line' this indicator is 65 per cent. This indicator has not changed from last year when 52 per cent of all education facilities and 74 per cent within 15 km of the 'contact line' reported the same.

The estimated number of children in need of PSS services is around 23,000. The USE<sup>149</sup> / Adolescent component has found some disturbing dynamics in adolescents near the 'contact line' as a result of sustained exposure to high levels of violence, including increased risk of developing behavioral problems when subject to peer violence in schools, a stronger impact of family violence on the development of mental health and behavioral problems, and higher levels of callous unemotional traits. 48 per cent of education facilities reported that at least one out of four children lacks education materials due to displacement or for economic reasons. The estimated number of those children in the surveyed education facilities is around 36,000. After school and extracurricular activities are also very limited, especially in NGCA.

Eighty-nine per cent of the education facilities received Mine Risk Education (MRE) in the 2017/2018 school year and 75 per cent indicated the need for continued MRE for 2019. The estimated number of children in surveyed education facilities who would benefit from a range of resilience strengthening life skills programs, including conflict sensitivity, peace

promoting content and coping skills is close to 94,000. Forty-three per cent or 393 education facilities reported that they have children with disabilities in need of the elements of inclusive education and the majority of these schools have up to five children in need of these services, ranging from adaptation of facilities for the physically disabled to appropriate content and curricula. The total number of children in need is 1,829, out of which 599 are home schooled.

Teachers require psychosocial and pedagogical support, as well as continuous capacity building to be able to cope with numerous challenges they face in and outside the classroom. Partner consultations linked the unmet PSS needs of teachers to the significantly lower levels of teacher support reported by adolescents in the USE/adolescent component. In the August 2018 Education Cluster's consultations, partners and representatives of education authorities expressed that teachers need trainings to help them deal with burnout as well as PSS.

Now, more than ever, updated teaching methods, such as the child-centered approach, are essential. School officials clearly see the need for capacity building for teachers and education staff on psychosocial issues, life skills, and conflict-sensitive education. Conflict sensitive education is a non-prescriptive, ongoing approach to the "how" and "what" of education delivery in conflict and crisis contexts. Being conflict sensitive means acting to minimize negative impacts and maximizing the positive impacts such as increased peace, social harmonization, and social justice. Conflict sensitive education is an approach that applies across all stages of conflict and at all levels of the education system, from the classroom to policy level, regardless of the severity or frequency of violence, even in situations where underlying tensions have not yet, or not recently, resulted in violence.

According to the Education Cluster school survey from September 2018, 48 per cent of the education facilities reported that the conflict impacts staff members' wellbeing or ability to work effectively, seven per cent more than the last year. 49 per cent of teachers need additional capacity building or pedagogical support in this area, and 40 per cent need PSS. 18 per cent or a total of 168 education facilities reported that they do not have enough teachers and 29 per cent reported that some teachers need to teach subjects outside of their specialization area. Within 20 km from the 'contact line' these indicators are similar, 20 per cent and 29 per cent respectively.

In Ukraine there are 28 higher education facilities with specific needs that have relocated from NGCA to GCA, leaving behind equipment and supplies, and are therefore, in need of support. Children in NGCA are of particular concern, as the protracted conflict is putting a generation of school graduates at risk of diminishing opportunities to continue higher education outside NGCA and enter the job market. According to the Education Cluster estimates, the number of children and youth who received school certificates in NGCA since the beginning of the conflict is 99,000 (including grades 9 and 11), a 32 per cent increase compared to 2017.<sup>150</sup> The longer the conflict continues, the greater number of students

149. United Nations Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index for eastern Ukraine

150. Education Cluster estimates

complete their secondary education in NGCA without widely recognized certificates, and if the current trend continues, approximately 140,000 students would face the certification problem by 2020.

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## AFFECTED POPULATION

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- An estimated 737,000 school children and teachers across both sides of the 'contact line' in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts are affected and in need of assistance. This number includes children and teachers in kindergartens and vocational schools;
- 394,000 of these learn and teach in NGCA and are of particular concern due to the limited response during the earlier stages of the conflict and challenges due to certification issues; and,
- 437,000 children from 0 – 18 and teachers (including 275,000 in NGCA and 162,000 in GCA) are most vulnerable in schools along the 'contact line', areas which are at additional risk of shelling, prevalence of mines and UXOs and proximity to military sites.

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## HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

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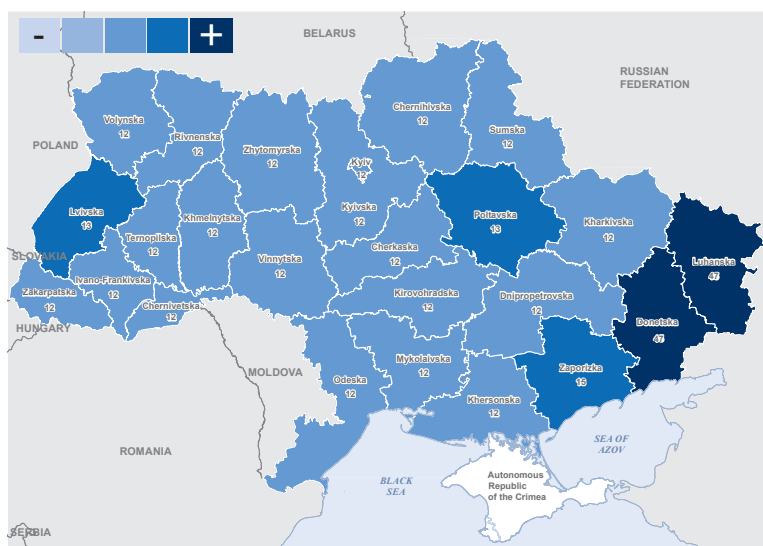
- Conflict-related repair and rehabilitation (mostly for NGCA);
- Advocacy on equal access and wider recognition of learning attainment for students in NGCA;
- Address administrative barriers to enrolment, testing and certification, and support more widely accepted and validation of certificates of learning for 99,000 students from NGCA;
- School supplies and ECD kits for most in need schools and most vulnerable/impoverished families and those living in remote areas;
- Provision of psychosocial and pedagogical support for teachers;
- Advocacy on the Safe Schools Declaration (SSD) endorsement and Conflict Sensitive Education (CSE) approach;
- Inclusive curriculum, textbooks and learning resources and devices and specialists including speech therapists;
- Increased access to after school programs, vocational schools and professional training for youth;
- Provision of psychosocial support to students, including non-clinical, stress reduction activities such as art therapy; and,
- Increased access to education for most vulnerable students, including children of kindergarten age, learners with disabilities, and unaccompanied minors.

## INFORMATION GAPS & ASSESSMENT PLANNING

The humanitarian partners continued to assess the humanitarian needs and map key concerns for people in need. Multiple assessments on the humanitarian situation in GCA were replicated in 2018 to capture and analysis the evolving trends of humanitarian needs and situation, including the Food Security and Socio-Economic Trend Analysis by the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, the National Monitoring System by IOM, the Humanitarian Trend Analysis in GCA by REACH. All these undertakings contributed to a comprehensive understanding of humanitarian needs in GCA, particularly in communities located closest to the 'contact line'.

In GCA where humanitarian, recovery and development needs exist side-by-side, the humanitarian community has recognised the necessity to foster stronger linkages across humanitarian and development, particularly when the situation is increasingly protracted. This calls for a 'New Way of Working' approach to analysing and monitoring needs to not only meet immediate humanitarian needs, but also inform smooth transitions to longer-term interventions.

However, difficulties continue in fulling the information gap with specific and often sensitive issues such as gender-based violence as well as mental health and psychological impact of the conflict. In response, REACH, in consultation with the Protection Cluster, will embark on a protection-specific assessment in early 2019 to shed more light on these protection issues. In NGCA, the availability of credible information on the humanitarian situation remains limited due to access restrictions. Although the Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessments carried out by REACH in NGCA over the past years are important in providing an overview of the situation, its scope covers mainly urban areas. The humanitarian situation among rural families in NGCA, particularly close to the 'contact line', remains difficult to ascertain, but is estimated to be critical.



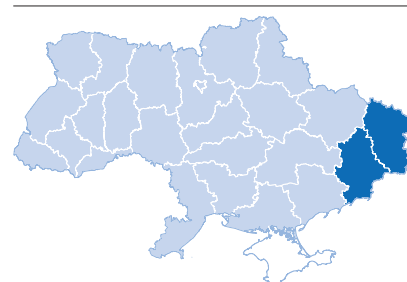
NUMBER OF PARTNERS

138\*

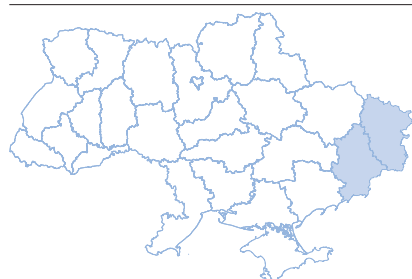
NUMBER OF ASSESSMENTS

58

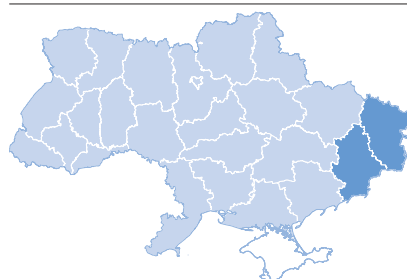
MULTICLUSTER



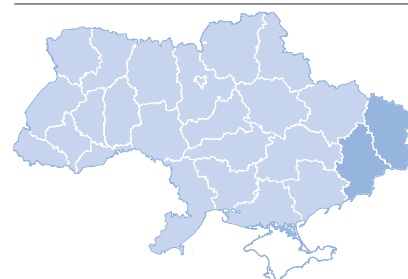
EDUCATION



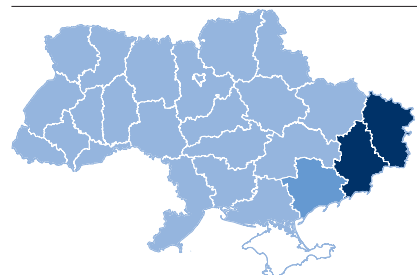
FOOD SECURITY &amp; LIVELIHOODS



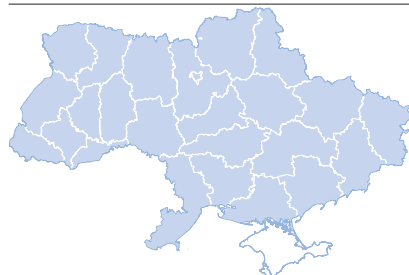
HEALTH &amp; NUTRITION



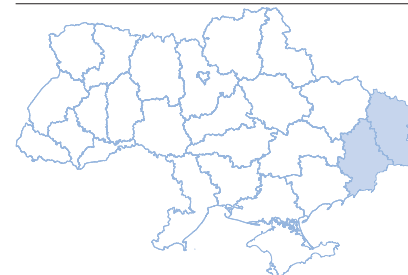
PROTECTION



SHELTER/NFI




































WASH



\* This figure represents the number of organizations operating across Ukraine and sharing information on their activities with the Clusters from January to October 2018.



## NUMBER OF ASSESSMENTS BY LOCATIONS AND BY SECTOR

		MULTICLUSTER 	EDUCATION 	FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS 	HEALTH & NUTRITION 	PROTECTION 	SHELTER/NFI 	WASH 	MULTIPURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE 	TOTAL
	CHERKASKA	4		2	1	8	1			12
	CHERNIHIVSKA	4		2	1	8	1			12
	CHERNIVETSKA	4		2	1	8	1			12
	DNIPROPETROVSKA	4		2	1	8	1			12
	DONETSKA	16	4	8	5	27	3	1	3	47
	IVANO-FRANKIVSKA	4		2	1	8	1			12
	KHARKIVSKA	4		2	1	8	1			12
	KHERONSKA	4		2	1	8	1			12
	KHMELYNYSKA	4		2	1	8	1			12
	KIROVOHRADSKA	4		2	1	8	1			12
	KYIV	4		2	1	8	1			12
	KYIVSKA	4		2	1	8	1			12
	LUHANSKA	16	4	8	5	26	4	1	3	47
	LVIVSKA	4		2	2	8	1			13
	MYKOLAIVSKA	4		2	1	8	1			12
	ODESKA	4		2	1	8	1			12
	POLTAVSKA	4		2	2	8	1			13
	RIVNENSKA	4		2	1	8	1			12
	SUMSKA	4		2	1	8	1			12
	TERNOPILSKA	4		2	1	8	1			12
	VINNYTSKA	4		2	1	8	1			12
	VOLYNSKA	4		2	1	8	1			12
	ZAKARPATSKA	4		2	1	8	1			12
	ZAPORIZKA	4		2	2	10	1			15
	ZHYTOMYRSKA	4		2	1	8	1			12
TOTAL		16	4	8	6	27	4	1	3	58*

\*The number of assessments relating to each Cluster does not necessarily correspond with the total number of assessments, as some assessments cover several geographical regions (oblasts)

## ANNEX I

## METHODOLOGY FOR CROSS-SECTORAL ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

In any humanitarian crisis, people experience a variety of needs across multiple sectors. While it is important to understand what and how severe sectoral needs are, to guide a prioritized response it is also necessary to understand the extent to which sectoral needs overlap and potentially compound each other. Such an understanding also ensures a coherent and convincing humanitarian narrative, which is instrumental for advocacy and resource mobilization.

Focusing on and responding to humanitarian needs on a sector-by-sector basis could lead to inefficiency, particularly when using already-dwindling resources. It may also overlook the affected population's own priorities. Greater effectiveness and synergies can be achieved by responding to multiple rather than single/sectoral needs. This is particularly true when some needs can not be solved unless others are addressed first or simultaneously, for example, food requires water, cash transfers require passable roads to markets, resumption of cultivation requires security of access to fields. In some cases, pooling efforts to meet multiple needs will also save logistics and other costs. However, it is recognized that understanding multiple and often overlapping needs and how these result in a given level of severity is inherently complex.

While there is no 'one-size-fit-all' approach, the methodologies used in other humanitarian contexts were adapted to Ukraine. Following a thorough study and additional technical guidance from OCHA HQ's Needs Assessment and Analysis Section (NAAS), the Yemen methodology has been used since 2017 to systematize and further enhance the rigour of the Ukraine HNO. The Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) and the Information Management Working Group (IMWG) recommended a replication of the same methodology for the 2019 planning purpose.

The methodology for composite index calculation is as follows:

- The composite index is created through the construction of one or several indicators for each domain. In the case of Ukraine, there are two types of domains, one sector-based and the other contextual.
- Under the sector-based domain, a domain value is defined by the overall severity ranking scales by the respective clusters (and sub-clusters where applicable).
- Under the context domain, three indicators are used – 1) the number of security incidents (INSO); 2) access-related data (INSO); and 3) mine-related data (provided by the Mine Action Sub-Cluster through the Protection Cluster) for a given geographical unit. These three indicators are scaled from 0 to 5.
- Calculations are made at each and every geographic unit

(at rayon level for Luhanska and Donetsk oblasts, and oblast level elsewhere in the country).

- Each indicator score is then normalized to a range of 0 to 1 (expressed as a percentage of the maximum score).
- An overall index across all indicators is obtained by the multiplicative combination of the indices with equal weighting, i.e. the geometric mean. This method is deliberately used to ensure a more balanced consideration of each indicator. Geometric mean is in the range of 0 to 1. Therefore, multiplication by the maximum scale is needed to convert the value into the 0-5 scale.
- Zero values are not taken into calculation to avoid inactive weighting.

Formula:

$$\text{Composite index } 0 = (\text{Max scale}) * \left( \left( \frac{D_1}{D_{1\max}} \right) * \left( \frac{D_2}{D_{2\max}} \right) * \left( \frac{D_n}{D_{n\max}} \right) \right)^{1/n}$$

### Output

The composite severity map (see page 15 under "Concentration of Needs"), based on colour-coded scaling of 1-5, resulted from the composite index value for each geographical unit (rayon level for Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts; and oblast level for the rest of the country).

The output would not substitute or replace a ranking and/or analysis of severity of sector-specific needs, but serves as a starting point for strategic comparison and could be used to provide the basis for an overall, informed decision-making process where it is deemed to be useful.

**ANNEX II****CLUSTER SEVERITY RANKING INDICATORS**

<b>SHELTER/NFI</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of population living in inadequate shelter condition threatening person integrity and dignity</li> <li>• % of population at life risk during the winter period</li> <li>• % of population in insecure tenure and potentially exposed to eviction/forced return</li> <li>• Number of damaged houses in need of repairs</li> <li>• Number of newly damaged houses in need of preventive measure to avoid further decay</li> </ul>
<b>HEALTH &amp; NUTRITION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of IDPs and vulnerable people in need of essential health services</li> <li>• Number of health facilities damaged and/or in need of essential medicines</li> <li>• Number of confirmed TB/HIV patients who require treatment and distance to nearest health facilities</li> </ul>
<b>FOOD SECURITY &amp; LIVELIHOOD</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food security index</li> </ul>
<b>PROTECTION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IDP figures</li> <li>• Freedom of movement</li> <li>• Rule of law and access to justice</li> <li>• Access to essential services</li> <li>• Military presence</li> <li>• Shelling/fighting</li> <li>• Mine action issues</li> </ul>
<b>WASH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dependence on high-risk water supplies</li> <li>• Proximity to the 'contact line'</li> <li>• Ease of humanitarian access</li> </ul>
<b>EDUCATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attacks on schools</li> <li>• Other composit (e.g. partner consultations, secondary data review)</li> </ul>









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[www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)



[www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/ukraine](http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/ukraine)



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