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 need 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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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)
The boundaries, names and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Security and access-related incident data is provided by INSO.
The human toll of the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine is critical, with 4.4 million people affected by the crisis, of whom 3.4 million require humanitarian assistance and protection. The shelling of urban areas and civilian infrastructure means that 60 per cent of the people living along the 457-kilometre ‘contact line’ are affected by shelling regularly, and almost 40 per cent are affected every day. There is just under a million individual crossings of the ‘contact line’ each month, which is rapidly becoming one of the most mine contaminated stretches of land in the world. Food insecurity has doubled since 2016, with 1.2 million people food insecure, and there are escalating cases of multi-drug resistant TB, HIV and even polio. HIV prevalence among pregnant women in conflict-affected oblasts is significantly higher than the national average. These impacts are aggravated by Ukraine’s extremely harsh winter, severe restrictions on humanitarian access and limited livelihood opportunities for those affected by the crisis. As hopes of a political solution have waned, so have people’s savings and their ability to cope. Four years into the crisis, millions of people, including 1.6 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), half of whom are the elderly, are being forced to make impossible choices between food, medicine, shelter, heating or their children’s education. The unique demographics of the crisis in Ukraine is that the elderly make up almost 30 per cent of people in need. Those who are most vulnerable are increasingly resorting to risky means to cope, including survival sex, trafficking and alcoholism. Today, the dire humanitarian crisis in eastern Ukraine is protracted and complex, whilst the response is severely underfunded and largely forgotten by the international community.

1. This figure excludes those living along the ‘contact line’ in the non-Government controlled area (NGCA), who encounter the regular shelling in the areas of their residence.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS & KEY FIGURES

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HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

1. Protection

Civilians continue to face serious risks to their safety, wellbeing and basic rights due to the active and ongoing hostilities, as well as the saturation of land mines and other explosive ordinances (UXOs). There is also urgent need for enhanced Government action to address problems arising from conflict-induced displacement. Peculiarities in IDP registration and verification of their status further complicate recovery efforts, as in many cases deregistration triggers a loss of social benefits, such as pensions rights. Policies can penalize the most vulnerable, particularly those living in the non-Government controlled areas (NGCA), creating physical and financial barriers to their entitlements. The negative impacts are compounded by the increase in the number of households relying on pensions and social benefits (including IDP payments) in 2017. This reliance is highest in the 5km zone along the ‘contact line’, which reflects lower employment rates potentially as a result of disruption to markets between the GCA and NGCA.

2. Shrinking access

The ability of people to access humanitarian goods and services has deteriorated in 2017. The Government has introduced additional controls on crossing the ‘contact line’, whilst the de facto authorities maintain severe restrictions on operations in the NGCA. One of the main humanitarian partners was expelled from the NGCA in 2017. Freedom of movement in Luhanska Oblast remains severely constrained, with only one pedestrian crossing point servicing the entire region. Attempts to negotiate the opening of an additional crossing point have yet to achieve a breakthrough. The de facto authorities, despite continuous dialogue, also continue to require the mandatory ‘registration’ of humanitarian actors and programmes. Despite the many challenges, humanitarian actors continue to deliver humanitarian programmes in the NGCA, but not to the scale required to meet the critical needs of the population.

3. Emergency assistance

In less than a year, food insecurity levels have doubled in both the GCA and NGCA, with up to 1.2 million people moderately or severely food insecure. Emergency shelter repairs, food assistance and emergency healthcare have become time-critical requisites for millions of people living on both sides of the ‘contact line’. Fuel needs are acute, especially during the winter. As critical civilian infrastructure remains at the centre of hostilities, lifesaving water and electrical supplies are increasing needs. Lack of access to healthcare caused by insecurity, disrupted transportation, and damage to or shutdown of facilities poses real threats to people’s survival, especially along the ‘contact line’. Schools are regularly under fire near the ‘contact line’, even during children’s lessons. A rapid scale up in the provision of emergency assistance is an immediate priority, especially for those who are most vulnerable, such as the elderly.

4. Loss of livelihoods

The protracted nature of the crisis is taking its toll on the ability of people to cope. The conflict has paralyzed economic activity in Ukraine’s eastern industrial heartland, seriously impacting household wellbeing and living standards. Knock-on effects have also increased poverty. The unemployment rate has skyrocketed, up to 18 per cent in the conflict-affected oblasts in early 2017. IDPs and host communities face economic strain. The ‘contact line’ has become a de facto border with negative economic and social impacts on civilians. Compounded with depleted savings, the population’s ability to access basic services has eroded, forcing many to adopt negative practices to make ends meet, including taking children out of school, survival sex and other illicit activities. As the situation becomes more protracted, civilians have less ability to fend for themselves. Humanitarian activities coupled with livelihood and recovery opportunities are urgently needed.


3. Poverty by actual cost of living increased from 2013-2016 in the GCA parts of the two directly affected oblasts: from 20 per cent in 2013 to 72 per cent in 2016 in Luhanska Oblast (GCA) and 22 per cent to 68 per cent in Donetsk Oblast (GCA).

PART I: HUMANITARIAN NEEDS & KEY FIGURES

TOTAL POPULATION

45 M

NUMBER OF PEOPLE AFFECTED

4.4 M

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NEED OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

3.4 M

*Based on population estimates by the Ukrainian Statistics Service as of 2017

**This figure includes 0.5m IDPs in GGA. People in need living on both sides of the ‘contact line’ are included in the GCA and NGCA estimates, respectively.

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IMPACT OF THE CRISIS

Millions of people continue to suffer unnecessarily in eastern Ukraine due to the entrenched political impasse and ongoing armed conflict. Despite many attempts at a ceasefire, hostilities continue with almost daily shelling, frequent localized clashes and rapidly escalating mine and unexploded ordinance contamination. Given the restrictions on access, just under a million crossings of the ‘contact line’ occur each month, with people forced to wait for many hours in long lines with minimal services. Four years on, the prolonged conflict and socioeconomic disparity between the GCA and NGCA have led to a major reorganization in access to services such as education, health, legal assistance, markets and shops along and close to the ‘contact line’. Signs of long-term repercussions are slowly manifesting themselves, including increased poverty in the GCA. The blockade of rail transportation, a trade embargo and ‘nationalization’ of important private sector entities in the NGCA have generated large-scale job losses and the closure of enterprise. Peoples’ savings and reserves are exhausted, and those in most need are being forced to stretch already limited resources or simply go without. Recent analysis indicates that people resort to degrading or negative practices to make ends meet, such as removing children from school, crime and survival sex. If unaddressed, these negative impacts could spiral into a vicious cycle that could not only create additional humanitarian needs, but significantly undermine recovery efforts and the country’s overall development.


Detrimental impacts from the violence

With the parties to the conflict failing to adhere to the various ceasefire agreements, more than 2,500 civilian men, women and children have been killed since April 2014 and another 9,000 injured. Along the ‘contact line’, an average of 40 armed clashes are recorded every day. Up to 200,000 people living in the 5 km zone along the ‘contact line’ in the GCA regularly experience the injury or loss of loved ones or their neighbours, damage to property and systematic barriers to accessing basic services. The regular use of heavy weaponry prohibited by the Minsk ‘Full Package of Measures’ disproportionately impacts civilians.

“We don’t have a basement, so we have to hide in a small corridor every time shelling or shooting occurs. The shelling on 28 May [2017] was the scariest, and it took place during daylight”. Natalia, 63, resident of Krasnohorivka, Donetsk Oblast.

“It is inhumane. We often wait for 10 or sometimes 15 hours to cross this line. We have to cross. I only get my pension in the Government-controlled area.” Elderly woman waiting in a queue at the Maiorske entry/exit checkpoint, Donetsk Oblast.

6. Numbers may change as new information emerges over time
7. REACH, Area based assessment, 2017
PART I: IMPACT OF THE CRISIS

Land mines, explosive remnants of war (ERW) and unexploded ordnances (UXOs) pose an escalating threat for civilians, curbing people’s access to farmland, thereby inhibiting their ability to get back on their feet. Between January and September 2017, approximately 103 civilian men, women and children were killed or injured in mine-related incidents.8 Adherence to International Humanitarian Law and the Minsk ceasefire arrangements is lax.

In addition, documentation of missing persons has been considerably disrupted in eastern Ukraine due to the ongoing hostilities. Although, efforts have subsequently resumed in both GCA and NGCA, there has been no effective exchange of forensic information (such as DNA samples and anthropometrical data) across the ‘contact line’ for over three years. Despite recent positive legislative changes, there is no effective possibility to match figures on the missing reported by the Government (865 to 1,476 people9) and those reported by de facto authorities (509 people, as of 10 November 2017, according to the de facto authorities of Donetska oblast).10 As of 22 August 2017, according to estimates, the number of conflict-related missing persons ranges from 1,000 to 1,500.11

Crossing the ‘contact line’ is perilous

“I visit my son who is in hospital. I have family members there....Crossing procedures are almost as if you are crossing a real border” elderly woman in the queue at the Maiorske entry/exit checkpoint, Donetsk Oblast.

Since the Government order in January 2015 to impose restrictions on crossing the ‘contact line’, the freedom of movement of Ukrainian citizens has been severely restricted. Crossing the ‘contact line’ has become a perilous, prolonged and cumbersome journey. In 2017, the number of crossings has steadily increased to a record high of up to 1.2 million in August. Just under a million crossings are recorded each month, compared to 700,000 in 2016. The highest increase was observed at the ‘Stanytsia Luhanska’ checkpoint – the only operational pedestrian crossing point in Luhanska Oblast. Thousands of civilians cross this checkpoint each month, which in fact amounts to a rickety, worn-out and dangerous wooden bridge in need of repair.

In addition to constant shelling and the presence of mines, the checkpoints – especially those in ‘no man’s land’ – lack adequate health, sanitation and shelter facilities, with long queues forcing people to wait for hours or sometimes days. While queuing, people are exposed to intense heat in summer as well as snow, wind and freezing conditions in winter, putting their health at risk. This is particularly challenging for the elderly, those with disabilities, children and pregnant women. In 2017, at least 14 civilians reportedly died or suffered serious health complications whilst waiting. The difficulties, along with frequent checkpoint closures due to insecurity and congestion, force people to take longer and extremely dangerous routes through unmarked areas, putting them at greater risk of mines and UXOs.

Despite all these challenges, people continue to make the journey across the ‘contact line’ for to maintain family ties, access services and receive vital social benefits, including pensions. In November 2016 the weight of personal items that individuals could carry across the ‘contact line’ was increased to 75 kg. However, this amount is still inadequate for carrying goods and foodstuffs needed for daily personal needs in the NGCA.

Despite ongoing advocacy efforts, increased restrictions on freedom of movement of people and goods is dehumanizing for the people every time they cross the ‘contact line’.

The elderly bears the conflicts’ brunt

The elderly constitute a significant proportion of the conflict-affected population in Ukraine, making up almost 30 per cent of the 3.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection, and half of registered IDPs.12 This is the largest percentage of elderly persons affected by conflict in a single country, and reflects the unique demographics of the crisis. The figures also result from the country’s discriminatory IDP policies14 which link access to social payments and pensions to IDP status, even if a person is not displaced. To access social benefits and pensions, residents of the NGCA, including older persons and persons with disabilities, must cross the ‘contact line’ to be registered as IDPs in the GCA. They are also prohibited from spending more than 60 consecutive days in the NGCA or they risk losing their IDP status and therefore their pensions.

In mid-2017, additional verification requirements were imposed forcing IDP pensioners to undergo another round of verification by Oshchadbank – the main government bank responsible for pension and social benefit payments. This correlated with a huge wave of people rushing to cross the ‘contact line’. IDP pensioners with disabilities must undergo the same procedure as non-disabled IDPs despite the difficulties and additional cost incurred. As of January 2017, some 407,000 IDPs are estimated to have lost access to social benefits and pensions as a result of the suspension of IDP social benefits and pensions, and due to the verification of IDP status.15

Most conflict-affected people, particularly the elderly and vulnerable households, rely heavily on the Government’s social protection scheme as their main source of income.

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8. Data provided by OHCHR
9. As of 15 November, according to the Main Department of the National Police in Donetsk oblast.
10. As of 15 November, according to the National Police of Ukraine.
11. No figures have been reported by the de facto authorities of Luhansk oblast.
donbasse.html
14. In November 2014, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine issued Decree 595 restricting the right to pensions and social benefits for citizens of Ukraine residing in the NGCA. This left approximately 1,200,000 people without benefits that are critical for their subsistence. This policy was challenged in the courts almost a year later and the High Administrative Court of Ukraine issued a decision declaring the Decree illegal and void. However, this court ruling has never been enforced. In 2016, the Government introduced further restrictions on access to social payments and pensions for IDPs, outlining additional procedures for verification of IDP status, while suspending social payments and pensions for some 500,000-2,600,000 IDPs in eastern Ukraine, pending verification of their continued presence in the place of IDP registration.
15. The figure of 407,000 is the number of persons from NGCA who were removed from pension rolls in 2016.
The percentage of households relying on pensions and social benefits (including IDP payments) increased in 2017. Losing access to these will have detrimental consequences for thousands. Reliance on pensions and social benefits is higher in the 5 km zone alone to the ‘contact line’ than in other areas of the GCA. This corresponds with lower rates of employment in the private sector, as a result of the disruption in markets between the GCA and NGCA. The high dependence on pensions is explained by the high proportion of retiree households, especially in rural areas where they head 60 per cent of households. Unemployment rates are also considerably higher in rural areas. With increased food and consumer prices, those aged 60 and older were found to be the most vulnerable group, with up to 35 per cent food insecure in the NGCA and 21 per cent in the GCA.

Children in harm’s way

“The children have become experts on missiles already. They discuss whether the sounds come from a Grad or a 122 mm or a 150 mm. This is sad. Children should not become experts on missiles.” Anastasiya, child and youth psychologist, Mariupol, Donetsk Oblast.

Education facilities are often shelled, particularly along the ‘contact line’, where more than 220,000 children, youth and educators are in immediate need of safe and protective schools. Some are also forced to spend time in makeshift bomb shelters.

Education facilities are often shelled, particularly along the ‘contact line’, where more than 220,000 children, youth and educators are in immediate need of safe and protective schools. From January to November 2017, some 56 educational facilities were damaged, destroyed or temporarily closed in both the GCAs and the NGCA. This is in addition to some 700 educational facilities damaged since the start of the conflict. Further from the ‘contact line’, hundreds of thousands of shelters. Education facilities are often shelled, particularly along the ‘contact line’, where more than 220,000 children, youth and educators are in immediate need of safe and protective schools. From January to November 2017, some 56 educational facilities were damaged, destroyed or temporarily closed in both the GCAs and the NGCA. This is in addition to some 700 educational facilities damaged since the start of the conflict. Further from the ‘contact line’, hundreds of thousands of students and teachers require education support to cope with the impact of the conflict. An estimated 703,000 students and teachers in more than 3,500 education facilities are also suffering from the cumulative psychological impacts.

Continuous insecurity coupled with inadequate psychosocial support may lead to long-term psychosocial problems among children. Over three quarters of school directors and teachers interviewed near the ‘contact line’ reported striking behavioural changes in students before and after the conflict. In heavily-shelled districts, many children show symptoms consistent with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Parents and caregivers are overstretched and are increasingly adopting negative practices to cope with the crisis such as alcohol abuse, which can lead to an increase in child abuse and neglect.

The high concentration of military and armed groups – coupled with a proliferation of weapons, weak law enforcement and impunity – has increased the risk of gender-based violence (GBV) for people living along the ‘contact line’, particularly women, adolescent girls and young men. Additional risks include the worsening economy, high unemployment and limited livelihood opportunities. There is a lack of access to vital information and services, including shelters for GBV survivors. The conflict has also led to heightened levels of domestic violence due to increased tolerance of violence in society, easier access to weapons and PTSD among former combatants. Stigma surrounding GBV, and a lack of services and referral pathways prevent survivors, including women and girls, from receiving adequate support. Survival sex, including by minors, is being reported, further increasing risks to mental, physical and reproductive health.

Children, especially those living in the NGCA, face difficulties in accessing official documents, including identity papers, birth registration and education certificates. For example, due to difficulty crossing the ‘contact line’, as well as non-recognition of birth certificates issued by the de facto authorities in the NGCA, more than half of births in the NGCA are not being registered in the GCA. This increases the risk of statelessness, as children born in the NGCA may be unable to obtain Ukrainian birth certificates. Similarly, a generation of school graduates could be at risk of diminished opportunities of continuing higher education outside the NGCA and entering the job market, as education documents issued by the de facto authorities are not recognized by the Ukrainian authorities. Students from the NGCA who want to continue their education in the GCA are required to obtain additional documentation from the Ukrainian authorities.

Critical infrastructure under fire

The disruption of critical infrastructure in settlements along the ‘contact line’ is becoming the daily ‘normal’ for millions of people. Life-saving water and electricity installations were subject to continuous interruption in 2017, affecting more than three million people on both sides of the ‘contact line’. Multiple pumping stations, including the large Donetsk Filter Station (DFS) remain at the centre of hostilities. In February, water stoppages due to damaged power lines, and shelled filter stations placed the heating systems of around 1.8 million people directly at risk, with the town of Avdiivka particularly affected. While hostilities continue near critical infrastructure, damage to supply systems and – as a knock-on effect – the

16. 53 per cent of GCA households and 33 per cent of NGCA households rely on social benefits as their primary source of income, according to Joint Food Security Assessment undertaken by the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, September 2017.
17. REACH, Update to the Inter-Agency Vulnerability Assessment in Luhansk And Donetsk Oblasts, November 2017.
20. Approximately 49 per cent of the students are girls and most of the teachers are female.
21. The increase since the 2017 HNO is the number of students/teachers and the number of education facilities is mainly due to the inclusion of vocational and technical schools.
22. UNICEF, The Children of the Contact Line in Eastern Ukraine: an assessment of the situation of children and their families living in Government-Controlled Areas along the contact line in the east Ukraine conflict zone, June 2017.
23. Donetsk city (1.15 million people), Horlivka (0.3 million), and areas served by Velikianadolske and Krasnoarmiiske Filter Stations (0.1m, 0.25m respectively).
collapse of inter-dependent heating systems may be inevitable, leading to increased humanitarian needs across areas of critical concern during the winter months where temperatures routinely drop to negative 25 degrees centigrade. Disruptions of centralized heating systems therefore amounts to a life-threatening risk to millions of people dependent on them for life sustaining warmth.

Lack of access to healthcare is particularly concerning, threatening the wellbeing – and the survival – of millions of people in both the GCA and the NGCA. Overall, a reported 130 health facilities still require rehabilitation, and the freedom of movement, so critical for both patients and healthcare providers, is often curtailed by insecurity. Transportation difficulties also mean that access to health facilities is either limited or expensive. In 2017 alone, within the 5 km of the ‘contact line’ up to 66 per cent of health care facilities reported damage during the crisis.

Cold and unprotected

Three years of continuous conflict in eastern Ukraine have resulted in over 40,000 homes having some form of damage. Approximately 25 per cent of IDPs in the GCA also have inadequate shelter, placing them at risk of further involuntary displacement. Damage to houses is reported daily, increasing the need for acute shelter interventions and adding to the backlog of more durable repairs, mainly light and medium. By October 2017, more than 772 houses were newly damaged, according to Shelter/NFI Cluster. At the same time, there is an absence of longer-term rehabilitation programmes.

As winter approaches, the protracted nature of the conflict and deepening socioeconomic problems have dramatically depleted people’s capacity to prepare and winterize their homes. Alarmingly, recent preliminary data indicates that nearly half of rural households and one-third of urban households in the GCAs of the two conflict-affected oblasts do not have adequate supplies for the winter.24

“We do not know how we will survive the winter. We need fuel… we need food. We have already been living in these conditions for four years. Some have small children here. But we will survive. We have to survive.” Serhii, 54, an internally displaced man at an IDP collective centre, Sviatohirsk, Donetsk Oblast.

In addition, some 6,000 IDPs living in hundreds of collective centres across the country are particularly vulnerable.25 Collective centres are often a last resort for IDPs who face socioeconomic challenges.26 One in three collective centre residents are pensioners and most of them are female. Thirty-one per cent experience unsatisfactory living conditions citing issues with hygiene and cooking facilities, as well as poor-quality heating. Sixty-nine per cent of persons living in collective centres are required to pay rent and 49 per cent are required to pay utilities. Indebtedness is thus one of the primary reasons for eviction.

Loss of livelihoods and unemployment

The socioeconomic situation in the Donbas has significantly worsened. Recent analysis of the impact of the conflict in eastern Ukraine shows a clear link between the conflict and the worsening socio-economic situation.27 Closure of enterprises, the high inflation rate, the economic blockade, damage to critical infrastructure, the increase of unemployment to its highest rate since 2008, and prices and poverty28 rising faster than the national average are some of the key contributing factors. This has had a negative impact on food security and people’s ability to meet basic needs.

Against this backdrop, increased food insecurity has been observed in both the GCA and the NGCA. Some 1.2 million people were found to be either severely or moderately food insecure. Of these, some 800,000 food insecure people live in the NGCA. In 2017, the proportion of the population with poor and borderline levels of food consumption has increased, while the food expenditure basket has reduced, mainly reflecting the increased cost of utilities, which negatively impacts the food consumption of some vulnerable groups.

Increased food prices have also contributed to more people in the NGCA resorting to negative coping strategies such as buying food on credit or borrowing food and/or reducing dietary diversity because of lack of money or other resources to obtain food. From 40 per cent in 2016, now 87 per cent of people in the NGCA use negative coping strategies, while in the GCA more than half the population (53-55 per cent) apply such strategies. The number of people unable to cover their most basic needs has also increased.29 The most vulnerable groups are single-headed households with children, elderly persons, female-headed households and households with no active employment.30

As the ‘contact line’ has become a de facto border, the socioeconomic disconnect between the two sides is growing, essentially making the NGCA an economic exclusion zone. The current state of economic vulnerability is extremely fragile. Emerging anecdotal evidence points to a greater-than-ever risk that the working-aged urban population, including ex-miners, currently unemployed and not eligible for social assistance, could rapidly become vulnerable and in need of humanitarian assistance.31 Such a scenario, would likely place an additional burden on an already limited humanitarian response capacity and resources, undermining recovery efforts.

24. REACH, Area Based Assessment, 2017.
25. In the GCA only. The number of persons living in collective centres in the NGCA remains unknown.
28. Between 2013 and 2015, the percentage of the population living below the actual minimum subsistence level increased from 20 per cent to 74 per cent in Luhanska Oblast; and from 22 per cent to 66 per cent in Donetsk Oblast, while the average for Ukraine (GCA only) increased from 22 per cent to 58 per cent.
Re-organization of markets

Markets play an essential role in Ukraine. More than 40 per cent of the projects in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) have a cash component, while many projects outside the HRP, together with the Government’s social protection programmes, also provide assistance through cash transfers.

The crisis has led to disruptions in the farm produce supply network from the GCA to the NGCA, and a reorganization of the supply routes within the GCA. These changes have had negative effects on purchasing power because of long distances to markets, and increased commodity prices, including the food basket, coupled with other factors, such as seasonality. In general, markets are operating in the GCA along and further from the ‘contact line’, though some construction materials and fuel are reportedly missing from some of the markets.

Supply chains are well-networked. Most commodities are sourced locally, at oblast level with a few coming from other oblasts (but sourced in-country). Restocking takes place on average twice a month. Markets such as Popasna, Bakhmut, Toretsk and Stanitsia Luhanska are mentioned as the most popular locations in the 5 km zone next to the ‘contact line’ for selling farm products, thereby increasing competition between traders. However, Kurakhove and Stanitsia Luhanska, which are closest to the NGCA, had higher commodity prices than average.

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“Shrinking humanitarian access”

While humanitarian partners continued efforts to stay and deliver, humanitarian access - particularly in NGCA, where humanitarian needs are acute - shrank further in 2017. The ‘registration’ requirement imposed by the de facto authorities in 2015 continues to severely hamper the ability of partners to operate. In 2017, additional ‘registration’ requirements were introduced for humanitarian cargo and programming without clarity on the timelines and documents required. Despite constant efforts by the UN, the absence of a systematic coordination arrangement with the de facto authorities is another concern, which curtails the timely and quality delivery of assistance to the most vulnerable.

While the Government of Ukraine has eased some procedural bottlenecks, challenges remain. Taxation of humanitarian aid (organizations, entities and individuals) remains unresolved. After two years, the draft ‘humanitarian law in times of emergency’ still remains a pending debate in Parliament. In the absence of its adoption, there continues be a lack of corrective measures to address access, taxation and other bureaucratic obstacles and impediments to humanitarian action.

Structural problems exacerbated

Pre-existing systemic weaknesses, such as aging or poorly maintained public infrastructure and social service facilities, and lack of capacity in the health sector are further increasing the vulnerability of conflict-affected communities, including the displaced. While recovery and rehabilitation programmes are yet to kick start at full scale, multiple factors, including ongoing hostilities and consequent damage to infrastructure, as well as the Government’s political and security priorities are impeding efforts to address the root causes of these structural challenges. In addition, according to National Monitoring System (NMS) and provided data by the World Bank, shelter is one of the primary needs of IDPs.
PART I: IMPACT OF THE CRISIS

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

May 2014
Presidential elections. Self-proclamation of so-called “Donetsk people’s republic” & “Luhansk people’s republic”

June 2014
Violence continued despite the ceasefire agreement

August 2014
Preliminary Response Plan launched

September 2014
Minsk protocol signed

December 2014
Crisis in Donbas continued with major humanitarian implications. SRP launched

February 2015
Minsk II signed. Provisions include facilitation of humanitarian assistance. HRP 2016 launched

June 2015
UN distributions to Luhansk resumed / hostilities increased

August 2015
De facto authorities required ‘accreditation/registration’ in NGCA. Humanitarian aid delivery to NGCA was suspended

September 2015
Government suspended social payments to over 600,000 IDPs.

November 2015
Temporary closure of Stanytsia Luhanska, the only checkpoint for pedestrians in Luhanska oblast. Overflow of civilians to other checkpoints overwhelming capacity and increasing risk

A Temporary Order by GoU limited Freedom of Movement and introduced ban on commercial supplies of goods and services to NGCA

January 2016
The Ministry of Temporary Occupied Territories and IDPs was established

February 2016
The near miss hit of the chlorine gas depot at DFS posed increased life-threatening environment and health risks for civilians

March 2016
De facto authorities introduced an ‘external management’ of companies based in Ukraine and declared the ‘contact line’ as a ‘state border’

April 2016
Spike in hostilities in Krasnohorivka and Mariinka (Donetska Oblast) close to the ‘contact line’

May 2016
Government suspended social payments to over 600,000 IDPs. Opening of a new checkpoint Zolote failed

June 2016
Security incidents continued to be reported on both sides despite renewed ceasefire agreement on 1 September

August 2016
Escalation of the conflict led to the highest number of civilian casualtiesince August 2015

September 2016
Security incidents continued to be reported on both sides despite renewed ceasefire agreement on 1 September

December 2016
HRP 2017 launched

January 2017
Rapid deterioration of security situation in Donbas regions. Government approved an Action Plan on reintegration of NGCA territories

February 2017
The harvest-time ceasefire declared from 24 June till 31 August

March 2017
De facto authorities announced changes in the so-called ‘accreditation/registration’ procedures of humanitarian missions and activities

April 2017
Ceasefire enforced on 24 August to allow safe return to schools
An estimated 4.4 million people are affected by the Ukraine crisis today, and of these, approximately 3.4 million are in need of humanitarian assistance and protection. Ukraine is a unique context, where the elderly comprise almost 30 percent of people in need, with women, children and disabled people also disproportionately impacted. Yet, with the conflict into its fourth year, the dynamics of the needs are changing. Whilst there are still significant acute humanitarian needs, particularly for people directly affected by the daily hostilities and stifling access restrictions, the protracted nature of the conflict is increasingly undermining the fragile capacities of affected and host communities. The lack of jobs and livelihoods mean people are being forced to stretch already limited resources or simply go without. Faced with impossible choices as to whether to have shelter, food, medicine or heating, the severity of the needs has dramatically increased in key sectors such as food, health and emergency education. Access to livelihoods is increasingly required, as is psychosocial and other forms of support, given the number of people resorting to degrading or negative practices to make ends meet, such as removing children from school, crime and survival sex.

As a result of persistent shelling, lack of safe access to perform repairs and maintenance, and the mushrooming debt of water companies, the risks to WASH infrastructure and implications for the millions of dependent people have escalated in 2017. Whilst those who are most vulnerable still need assistance, structural reforms – including legislative changes – are urgently required. Similarly, ongoing hostilities along the ‘contact line’ continue to trigger acute shelter needs, often jeopardizing longer-term recovery efforts. The ability of millions of people who regularly travel across the ‘contact line’ to access basic services and entitlements continues to be severely obstructed. They also face undignified conditions with limited access to WASH and shelter facilities, as well as the risk of daily hostilities and escalating risks from mine and UXO contamination. Access to services, particularly pensions – the only source of income for hundreds of thousands of elderly people is further curtailed, if not cut off, including for almost 600,000 conflict-affected Ukrainians, who have lost access to their pensions. In addition, as displacement has become protracted for the almost 1.6 million IDPs, thousands of families are facing challenges to make ends meet.

### NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NEED BY SECTOR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SECTOR</th>
<th>PEOPLE IN NEED (million)</th>
<th>PEOPLE AFFECTED (million)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>3.3 M</td>
<td>4.4 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Security and Livelihoods</td>
<td>1.6 M</td>
<td>3.5 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water, Sanitation &amp; Hygiene</td>
<td>3.4 M</td>
<td>4.2 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Nutrition</td>
<td>2.2 M</td>
<td>4.2 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter/NFI</td>
<td>0.6 M</td>
<td>1.0 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>0.7 M</td>
<td>0.7 M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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33. The Ministry of Social Policies registered 1.6 million IDPs in 2017, nationwide. All of them need different types of assistance. An estimated 0.8 million IDPs are living permanently in the GGA, while others move frequently across the ‘contact line’ and, for the purpose of the HNO, are considered to be living in the NGGA.
PART I: BREAKDOWN OF PEOPLE IN NEED

NON-GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED AREAS
(excluding ‘contact line’)

1.8M

CHILDREN (<18 YEARS)

0.3M

ADULTS (18-59 YEARS)

1.0M

THE ELDERLY (60+ YEARS)

0.5M

‘CONTACT LINE’ (5km on both sides)

0.6M

CHILDREN (<18 YEARS)

0.1M

ADULTS (18-59 YEARS)

0.3M

THE ELDERLY (60+ YEARS)

0.2M

GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED AREAS
(including IDPs, excluding ‘contact line’)

1.0M

CHILDREN (<18 YEARS)

0.2M

ADULTS (18-59 YEARS)

0.5M

THE ELDERLY (60+ YEARS)

0.3M
The most severe and highest levels of needs extend across multiple sectors in the areas with the greatest restrictions on access in the NGCA and the areas most affected by hostilities, particularly along the ‘contact line’. The below map shows the locations, where sectoral needs overlap and compound each other, combined with security hotspots in 2017. The ‘dark’ blue areas in the GCA represent the highest concentration of cross-sector needs, where an integrated response covering assistance and protection services, and in some cases, recovery efforts, is urgently required. In the NGCA, the the ‘dark blue’ concentration of severe needs has increased visibly in the last year, exacerbated by the worsening socio-economic situation. Further away from the ‘contact line’ in the GCA, there remain ‘pockets’ of humanitarian need, which require scale up of integrated protection and recovery activities.

Concerted advocacy with parties to the conflict is urgently required to ensure rapid, unimpeded access, particularly in the active conflict zones and where needs have increased, to prevent further degradation of the humanitarian situation. This year’s raion-level severity analysis 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.)

The composite index is created through the construction of several indicators under two main domains - one sector-based and the other context. 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). There are three indicators used under the context domain - security incidents in 2017 (INSO); access-related incidents in 2017 (INSO); and mine-related data (provided by the Mine Action Sub-Cluster). For more information on the methodology, please refer to the Annex section.
COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS

ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED PERSONS (AAP)

Assessments in 2017 have improved understanding of affected people’s priorities and how they view the overall humanitarian response in Ukraine.

During 2017, information gaps regarding access to basic services were identified as hampering the humanitarian and recovery response in settlements located along the ‘contact line’.

To fill these information gaps, REACH conducted an assessment of 100 settlements within 5km of the ‘contact line’ with two main objectives: to understand how residents of settlements in the area access basic services; and to identify gaps in service provision and understand challenges from the perspectives of both service providers and users.

The assessment provides a detailed understanding of the local population’s ability to meet basic needs using existing services. It also provides a granular picture of areas, where development action can invest in local capacities, while humanitarian action continues supporting conflict affected populations until their full integration into new basic service delivery and markets networks.

The assessment highlighted some weaknesses in collective efforts towards meeting Accountability to Affected Persons (AAP) commitments. Most respondents said they were not asked what the response should look like; an average of 14 per cent of people say that they were consulted before receiving aid. There is no collective data on whether aid provided met specific community priority needs. Only around half of respondents understand how to provide complaints or feedback on aid programs. More than half are not fully satisfied with the information they are receiving about the response, with satisfaction being lowest in Luhanska oblast. Recognizing this area for improvement, the HCT has developed a collective, system-wide approach on Accountability to Affected Population (AAP) in Ukraine.

Results from interviews undertaken as part of this assessment, as well as others, were jointly analyzed and used to identify priority needs; it will subsequently inform strategic planning by humanitarian and local government actors.
PART II: NEEDS OVERVIEWS BY CLUSTER

INFORMATION BY CLUSTER

- Protection
- Food Security and Livelihoods
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- Health and Nutrition
- Shelter/NFI
- Education

INFORMATION GAPS AND ASSESSMENT PLANNING

ANNEX: METHODOLOGY FOR CROSS-SECTORAL ANALYSIS OF NEEDS
PART II: PROTECTION

PROTECTION

OVERVIEW

The protection situation for conflict-affected and displaced people in Ukraine continues to be acute. The ongoing armed conflict, restrictions on freedom of movement, imposition of a trade blockade between the GCA and NGCA, difficulties accessing documentation, and continued suspension of social benefits and pensions to thousands of people have further stretched the resilience and heightened the vulnerability of the conflict-affected and displaced population, forcing many to resort to negative coping mechanisms. A recent study found that use of negative coping mechanisms increased by 117 per cent between 2016 and 2017 in the NGCA. Survival sex, including by minors, is being reported, particularly in areas close to the contact line, where there is a large military presence.

Violations of international humanitarian law remain widespread in settlements within 5 km of the ‘contact line’, the most affected by the conflict. According to REACH-led Area Based Assessment (ABA) 60 per cent of key informants report regular shelling in their community and 39 per cent report daily shelling with an average of 47 security incidents recorded every day.

The number of mine-related incidents has risen, accounting for up to half of civilian casualties in April 2017. Ukraine has the largest number of anti-vehicle mine related incidents globally, and ranks fifth worldwide for civilian casualties as a result of landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO). One third of the settlements in the area along the contact line surveyed by ABA reported that hazardous areas contaminated by mines and UXOs remain unmarked and one in four respondents reported that MRE is unavailable in their settlements. With a high level of contamination by UXO and explosive remnants of war (ERW) in Eastern Ukraine, civilians are exposed to injury and often lack access to agricultural land, depriving them of subsistence and income-generating activities. Given the dire economic conditions in Eastern Ukraine arising from the conflict, and the lack of alternative income sources, people are forced to undertake dangerous activities such as fishing in mine-contaminated streams and farming mine-contaminated land. Areas around checkpoints are heavily contaminated with mines. OHCHR has documented a number of incidents in which civilians have triggered mines near checkpoints, sustaining serious injuries. The contamination situation in the NGCA is reported to be equally acute. Mine contamination also prevents durable solutions, as people cannot resume livelihood activities.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NEED

3.3M

54% female

15% children

46% male

28% elderly

57% adults

SEVERITY MAP

PEOPLE AFFECTED BY MINES AND ERW

1.9M people affected by mines and ERW across Donetsk and Luhansk GCA

CHILD PROTECTION

19,000 children live within 5 km of the ‘contact line’ over 12,000 children experience shelling at least once a month

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

IDPs are 3 times more likely to be exposed to GBV than non-displaced people.

36. Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, Joint Food Security Assessment, September 2017

37. Protection Cluster indicators for the severity map are: IDP figures, freedom of movement, rule of law and access to justice, access to essential services, military presence, shelling/fighting and mine action issues.
Freedom of movement continues to be a key protection concern. Depending on the season, a daily average of between 20,000 and 38,000 crossings have been recorded at the contact line, and in August 2017, over one million crossings were recorded – an increase of 35 per cent compared to August 2016. Checkpoints lack adequate health, sanitation and shelter facilities, with long queues forcing people to wait for hours, and sometimes even overnight. While queuing, people are exposed to intense heat in summer and snow, wind and freezing conditions in winter, putting them at risk of health issues such as heat stroke and hypothermia. This is particularly challenging for the elderly, persons with disabilities, children and pregnant women. Several people have died while crossing the checkpoints. These difficulties, along with frequent checkpoint closures, force people to take more dangerous, unauthorized routes through unmarked areas, putting them at risk of mines and ERW. Luhanska Oblast continues to have only one checkpoint, which is only accessible via a broken and steep pedestrian bridge. The ban on passenger transport across the ‘contact line’, as well as restrictions on trade and transfer of personal goods, causes further hardship for the civilian population, isolates people in the NGCA, hinders reconciliation and impedes family unity.

Many of those affected by restrictions on freedom of movement are older people and persons with disabilities, including those who live in the NGCA and need to travel to the GCA to access their social benefits and pensions. Provisions are in place for certain categories of people with specific needs to be given priority to cross. However, these often do not work in practice, either because border guards are not aware of the provisions, or because they are misused.

At the same time, legislative measures continue to restrict population movement across the administrative boundary with Crimea. These restrictions also affect the transfer of personal belongings and have resulted in highly restrictive procedures for foreigners and stateless persons.

Conflict-affected persons and IDPs face challenges accessing identity documentation and birth registration, creating a risk of statelessness among children born in the NGCA. For example, because of difficulty crossing the contact line, as well as legal obstacles to recognizing birth certificates issued by de facto authorities in the NGCA, it is estimated that over half of all births in the NGCA are not registered in the GCA. This increases the risk of statelessness, as children born in the NGCA may not be able to obtain Ukrainian birth certificates. Official confirmations of death in the NGCA are also difficult to obtain in the GCA, which may lead to difficulties concerning inheritance and property rights.

Access to basic services, such as education, healthcare and administrative services, is either limited or non-existent in the area along the contact line, and the security situation impedes humanitarian access and assistance to persons living in these areas. Damaged roads, restrictions on freedom of movement at internal checkpoints and lack of public transportation mean that many people are isolated and unable to access lifesaving assistance and livelihood opportunities. In areas along the contact line and in the NGCA, prices for basic goods such as food, hygiene materials and medicine are often higher, due to scarcity, as it is difficult to transport goods and there is a prohibition on conveying cargo to the NGCA. Access to justice is also impeded for people living near the ‘contact line’ because of a lack of public transport, as well as long distances to reach legal and administrative services. The population in the area is older than the national average (31 per cent over 60 compared to 23 per cent for Ukraine as a whole), and with the departure of younger generations many older persons have been left without social support.

Persons living in the NGCA continue to face human rights violations and increasing isolation due to the economic blockade imposed in early 2017 and lack of access to social payments and pensions. Lack of rule of law and systematic restrictions of freedoms in the NGCA have heightened people’s vulnerability. The ‘nationalization’ of Ukrainian enterprises in 2017 has left hundreds of thousands of people without incomes. The largest humanitarian aid provider, which regularly distributed food aid and medicines to tens of thousands of people in the NGCA, was also forced to discontinue its work. The humanitarian consequences are already evident with up to 800,000 people in the NGCA food insecure, according to the recent Joint Food Security Assessment.

Food insecurity, unemployment and poverty have led to an increase of application of negative coping strategies. According to a recent study, 87 per cent of those living in NGCA and 53 per cent in GCA use negative coping mechanisms, including restricting food consumption and engaging in sexual activity in exchange for money or goods (see the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster section).

The number of survivors of trafficking in Ukraine has been increasing in recent years. Displaced and conflict-affected people, especially women and children, remain at heightened risk of human trafficking and gender-based violence. IDPs are trafficked abroad and also exploited internally for forced labour and in commercial sex. Increased prevalence of labour exploitation and sexual abuse, including among children, has been reported in areas near the ‘contact line’. However, these cases are underreported and too often not referred for assistance.

The suspension of state social benefits and pensions to IDPs, which began in February 2016, 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. As of 1 January 2017, as a result of verification measures introduced by the Government, 407,100 IDPs (43 per cent of those

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38. According to paragraph 3.4 of the “Temporary Order on Control Over the Movement of Persons, Vehicles and Goods Through the Line of Contact in the Donetsk and Luhansk Regions” persons with disabilities, the elderly, pregnant women and parents with children under three years of age can enter exit control points in the ‘beneficial queue’. Available at: https://ssu.gov.ua


40. According to IOM, there was a 55 per cent increase in 2016 compared to 2015, and a 30 per cent increase in 2017 compared to 2016. http://iom.org.ua/sites/default/files/migration_and_human_trafficking_in_ukraine_2017.pdf

41. UNHCR – OHCHR Background note: Pensions for IDPs and persons living in the areas not controlled by the Government in the east of Ukraine
previously receiving pensions) stopped receiving pensions and 46,400 IDPs stopped receiving social payments. Those suspensions have worsened the humanitarian situation of IDPs and led to the involuntary return to the NGCA of those who could not afford to remain in the GCA. People living in the NGCA who cannot travel to the GCA – for reasons of health, expense or lack of documentation – are particularly affected. All IDPs must undergo several verification procedures to continue receiving pensions and social payments. Even when verification is successful, barriers to reinstating pensions, including lengthy waiting time and issues with documentation, such as that confirming place of residence, mean that people can be left without any source of income for months at a time.

Psychosocial distress is widespread, and assistance limited. A recent study found that 32 per cent of IDPs questioned suffered from PTSD as a result of the conflict, with women particularly affected, and that 74 per cent of those requiring mental healthcare did not receive it. The conflict has also resulted in family separation and social fragmentation, which can further compound feelings of anxiety and hopelessness among children, families and communities.

Children on both sides of the ‘contact line’ have been affected by continual shelling; frequent water, gas and electricity cuts; and interrupted access to education, when schools are shelled or when children are unable to attend school because of critical security situations. A recent UNICEF report found that over 19,000 children live within 5 km of the ‘contact line’ in the GCA and over 12,000 experience shelling at least once a month. The continuous insecurity on both sides of the ‘contact line’ in a context of inadequate psychosocial support may lead to long-term psychosocial problems for children. Over three quarters of school directors and teachers interviewed near the ‘contact line’ reported striking behavioural changes in students before and after the conflict. In heavily affected districts, numerous children show symptoms consistent with post-traumatic stress disorder, according to trained psychologists interviewed by UNICEF. Parents and caregivers are overstretched and may adopt negative coping mechanisms such as alcohol abuse, which can lead to an increase in child abuse and neglect.

The high concentration of military and paramilitary groups, coupled with a proliferation in weapons, weak law enforcement bodies, and impunity for perpetrators has increased the risk of GBV for persons living along the ‘contact line’, particularly women, and adolescent girls and boys. Additional risk factors include a deteriorating economic environment, high levels of unemployment and a lack of livelihood opportunities. Access to life-saving information and services, including shelters for GBV survivors, are lacking. The armed conflict has also increased the level of domestic violence because of increased tolerance to violence in society, easier access to weapons and PTSD among former combatants. Stigma surrounding GBV, lack of services and referral pathways prevents survivors, including women and girls, from receiving adequate support. Survival sex, including by minors, is being reported, increasing threats to mental, physical and reproductive health.

The Housing, Land and Property (HLP) rights of the population in eastern Ukraine have been acutely affected by the conflict, both because of the destruction, damage and unauthorized use and confiscation of their land and property in the areas near the ‘contact line’ or in the NGCA, and due to the lack of security of tenure experienced by IDPs, who rent in private accommodation. IDPs face challenges finding adequate housing, because of lack of affordable accommodation in areas of displacement. The state provides a small rental subsidy for IDPs, but this is insufficient to cover housing and utility costs. In addition, there has been an increase in threats of eviction from collective centres in the GCA, leading to secondary displacement, as well as involuntary return to the NGCA. Given that most of those living in collective centres are persons with specific needs, including older persons, this means that the most vulnerable throughout the country are facing eviction.

Ukraine does not have a legal framework for providing compensation or restitution for damaged or destroyed property. Cases of looting and vandalism of property have also been reported along the ‘contact line’ in both the GCA and the NGCA, as well as illegal occupation of public or private buildings for military purposes. In addition, lack of documentation confirming ownership leads to challenges regarding property transactions and inheritance rights. In the NGCA, the de facto authorities have put in place a parallel legal system regulating HLP rights, and introduced mandatory re-registration of property. Lack of affordable housing and insecurity of tenure in the GCA have also led to involuntary return to the NGCA.

While some IDPs have been able to integrate, many others face challenges. The key obstacles to integration include difficulties finding employment opportunities and adequate housing, and challenges related to documentation and lack of access to voting rights. Persons from minority groups, such as Roma, encounter additional obstacles because of discrimination. One study found that even those IDPs who have been able to find employment have low average incomes, which are often below subsistence levels. At the same time, unemployment rates in Donetsk and Luhanska Oblasts, which house the largest number of displaced persons, have risen sharply.

With resilience down, savings depleted and difficulties finding housing and employment, 26 per cent of displaced persons

42. International Alert, the Global Initiative on Psychiatry, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the King International Institute of Sociology. Hidden burdens of conflict: Mental health issues and access to services among IDPs in Ukraine. This study was based on 2,203 questionnaires; 33 per cent of the respondents were recruited from collective centres, 37 per cent from NGOs working with IDPs, 4 per cent from state institutions, 24 per cent were contacted with the help of another person (informant) and 6 per cent were recruited by other means (e.g. churches or using the door-to-door survey method). In total, 121 unique locations were used to recruit IDPs (not counting the private dwellings and working place of the respondents approached with the help of informants).


44. Shelter Cluster, Collective Centres Update, June 2017

45. Twenty-nine per cent of the IDP population residing in collective centres in the GCA are at risk of eviction. [Shelter Cluster, Collective Centres Update, June 2017]

46. IOM, National Monitoring System Report, April 2017. This is because IDPs are more likely to be in temporary or part-time work.

47. World Bank, Survey on socio-economic impacts of internal displacement and veteran return, May 2017
are at risk of return to the NGCA, primarily because of inability to support themselves in the GCA.

People with specific needs, such as older persons, and women are particularly at risk of return. The trend of involuntary return to the NGCA and also to unsafe areas near the ‘contact line’ in the GCA is expected to continue due to a lack of livelihood opportunities and the high cost of living in the areas of displacement.

The resulting protracted displacement in Ukraine perpetuates humanitarian challenges, and leads to economic deprivation that affects not only IDPs but also host communities, thus undermining social cohesion.

**AFFFECTED POPULATION**

- Most of the people living along the ‘contact line’ are in need of at least one type of protection intervention, in particular mine risk awareness, marking and demining, as well as psychosocial support, legal assistance, safe spaces for older persons or child-friendly spaces, shelters for GBV survivors and community mobilization assistance.

- Fifteen thousand people residing in the villages along the ‘contact line’ where humanitarian actors’ access is limited and freedom of movement is restricted have no access to essential services and humanitarian assistance.

- People living in mine-contaminated areas, not only close to the ‘contact line’, but also throughout Donetska and Luhanska Oblasts (GCA and NGCA).

- Over 54,000 children living within 15 km of the ‘contact line’, who 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 Donetska and Luhanska Oblasts (GCA).

- IDPs and affected population in the 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 the NGCA have been deprived of access to their pensions.

- IDPs receiving social benefits and pensions are regularly subject to verification procedures that are discriminatory and impact their ability to meet their basic needs.

- Twenty-nine per cent of IDPs residing in collective centres throughout Ukraine are at risk of eviction.

- Persons living in NGCA, including IDPs 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 (as they are not entitled to state assistance). Unemployed adults with one child, may also not fall into a traditional vulnerability criteria, and therefore be excluded from humanitarian assistance.

- Displaced and conflict-affected women, men, boys and girls at risk of trafficking, particularly those living close to the ‘contact line’.

**HUMANITARIAN NEEDS**

- A need for mined and ERW areas to be clearly marked and protected against accidental trespassing, especially near checkpoints and residential areas. Mine action activities are urgently required, not only in the area along the ‘contact line’, but throughout Donetska and Luhanska Oblasts, including: (i) mine risk education; (ii) victim assistance; and (iii) marking, surveying and mine clearance.

- A need to ensure protection by presence through monitoring and reporting on protection concerns and human rights violations, including at checkpoints, in settlements along the ‘contact line’, and in collective centres and institutions hosting IDPs.

- As thousands of people residing along the ‘contact line’ are affected by the ongoing shelling, and vulnerable groups of IDPs are going through the third year of displacement with no certainty regarding durable solutions, psychosocial support is urgently required for children, older people, persons with disabilities and other groups with specific needs.

- People residing in the area along the ‘contact line’ need access to essential services, which is restricted due to the ongoing conflict, restrictions on the freedom of movement, a shortage of service providers and limited availability of public transport.

- People in the GCA and NGCA need increased freedom of movement, including for personal goods, across the ‘contact line’.

- Survivors of GBV and those at risk of violence require access to life-saving information, medical, psychosocial and legal services and ‘safe spaces’. Because of the absence of shelters in Luhanska Oblast (GCA) and the insufficient number of shelters in Donetska Oblast (NGCA), GBV survivors have no option but to remain in unsafe living environments.

- Conflict-affected women and adolescent girls should be prioritized for livelihood activities to counter possible harmful coping practices.
• IDPs and conflict-affected people require legal assistance to facilitate access to justice, HLP rights, freedom of movement, social benefits and pensions, access to documentation and birth and death certification, and temporary or permanent legal guardianship of children separated from their parents in the NGCA. There is a need for legal redress to be made available to those whose houses have been destroyed, damaged, occupied or expropriated.

• There is a need to provide inclusive assistance, including psychosocial support, to LGBTIQ IDPs and conflict-affected persons.

• Interventions are required to prevent involuntary return to the 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 centres are in need of assistance to identify alternative housing.

• Initiatives are needed to enhance social cohesion and counter discrimination against IDPs and persons residing in the NGCA.

• A need for prevention programmes and identification, referral and assistance to protect survivors of trafficking, exploitation and abuse among the conflict-affected population.
The ongoing conflict is continuing to negatively affect the food security and socio-economic situation in Eastern Ukraine. Without adequate food, agriculture and/or livelihood support, there is a risk that vulnerable people will fall into more critical food insecurity and poverty. In less than one year, food insecurity levels have doubled in both the GCA and NGCA of Luhanska and Donetsk Oblasts. According to the 2017 Joint Food Security Assessment (FSA), up to 1.2 million people are now moderately or severely food insecure. This is an increase of 620,000 since July-August 2016.

Socio-economic factors

This increased food insecurity exists in the context of an overall worsening of the socioeconomic situation. Conflict has had a detrimental effect on many aspects of life in Eastern Ukraine – felt most strongly in Luhanska and Donetsk Oblasts, which experienced both a direct impact (losing control of territory, resources infrastructure and markets) and an indirect impact (through negative structural changes and poverty). Cluster analysis of state statistical data for the GCA shows a clear link between the consequences of the conflict (such as the closure of enterprises, the high inflation rate, the economic blockade, and damage to critical infrastructure) and the deterioration in the overall socioeconomic situation, including the increase of unemployment, prices and widespread poverty, which affect food security and the ability to meet basic needs.

Between 2013 and 2015, the region experienced a significant increase in poverty by actual cost of living. The percentage of the population living below the actual minimum subsistence level increased from 20 per cent in 2013 to 74 per cent in 2015 in Luhanska Oblast (GCA) and from 22 per cent to 66 per cent in Donetsk Oblast (GCA). State Statistics 2016 data indicate no positive trends in this regard. Moreover, during the first quarter of 2017, unemployment increased to 18.3 per cent in Luhanska GCA and to 15.6 per cent in Donetsk GCA. This is the highest increase in the unemployment rate in these oblasts since 2008. In Ukraine as a whole, unemployment stood at 10 per cent. For

49. This covers the general population in the Luhanska and Donetsk GCA and NGCA, including IDPs. The Joint Food Security Assessment – Summary Report, 12 September 2017, was undertaken in June-July 2017. Food insecurity levels are expected to be even higher during the winter months. See page 5 of the report at: http://fscluster.org/ukraine/document/joint-food-security-assessment-gca-ngca
50. Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, Analysis of Impact of Conflict on the Socio-Economic Situation in Donbas, September 2017
51. Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, Analysis of Impact of Conflict on the Socio-Economic Situation in Donbas, September 2017
52. Food security & Livelihoods Cluster indicator for the severity map is: Food Security Index
53. Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, Socio-Economic Summary Report, 2017. See page 4 for the definition of actual minimum subsistence level
55. Please refer to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine (SSSU) web-site: www.ukrstat.gov.ua. In 2016, the proportion of people living below the actual subsistence level was 72 per cent in Luhanska GCA and 68 per cent in Donetsk GCA
56. Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, Joint Food Security Assessment – Summary Report, 2017, pp 8-9. Before the conflict, in 2013, the level was 7.8 per cent in Donetsk Oblast and 6.2 per cent in Luhanska Oblast
IDPs, unemployment remains significant at 23 per cent.57 Although employment data is unavailable for the NGCA, the Joint Food Security Assessment (JFA) indicates increased levels of unemployment.58 After March 2017, the blockade and ‘nationalization’ of numerous businesses and mines in NGCA, is expected to have led to a large number of people losing their jobs and income 59 thereby impacting their ability to meet their needs. The direct link between unemployment and increased levels of food insecurity are confirmed by FSA findings.60

This underscores the continued and growing need for humanitarian early recovery income generation and livelihoods support to help sustain the ability of conflict-affected people to cover their basic needs.

However, the overall worsening of the socio-economic situation in Eastern Ukraine also reveals a need for deep structural reforms in the economic and social sectors.

Food insecurity - needs

Across the NGCA, significant humanitarian needs remain unmet with 800,000 severely and moderately food insecure people,61 of whom 150,000 are severely food insecure. Whereas Luhansk NGCA traditionally has been the most food insecure, currently the highest levels are seen in Donetska NGCA.62 This can be attributed to several factors, some interlinked, and/or mutually reinforcing such as the ongoing blockade, ‘nationalization’ of factories and mines and its subsequent knock-on effects (e.g. loss of income) and not least the sharp reduction in food assistance in 2017.63 Food security needs have also increased in Luhanska and Donetska GCA, where 410,000 people64 now are found to be food insecure. Among them, 26,000 people are severely food insecure. For IDPs outside Donbas, it is estimated that 79,000 are food insecure and in need of assistance.

Growing needs are demonstrated by the deterioration of food consumption in the past year, especially for elderly people (aged 60 and over). Meanwhile, women-headed households are found to have worse food consumption levels than households headed by men.65 The recent REACH trend analysis covering the area within 5 km of the ‘contact line’ confirms a doubling of inadequate food consumption levels. Similarly, dietary diversity has declined in the past year, with an associated risk of Vitamin A and micronutrient intake deficiencies at household level.

During 2017, unmet humanitarian needs have continued to put the most vulnerable groups, at risk: the elderly (60+), and primarily those living alone, single-headed households with children, households with no active employment as well as female-headed households.66 A total of 30 per cent of female-headed households in the NGCA and 17 per cent in the GCA were found to be food insecure while 12 per cent of male-headed households in the GCA and 22 per cent in the NGCA were found to be food insecure. However, those aged 60 and older were found to be the most vulnerable group, with up to 35 per cent food insecure in the NGCA and 21 per cent in the GCA. Outside Donbas, unmet humanitarian needs are also having an impact, especially for vulnerable IDP households (e.g. such as households with no employment, single headed households, and households with many children and elderly members).

Food expenditure has reduced overall, mainly as a result of the increased cost of utilities, which in turn has negatively affected the food consumption of some vulnerable groups.67 There is an increased trend of vulnerable IDP households across Ukraine limiting their expenses on food (three times higher than the national average). In general, 50 per cent of IDPs reported they only had enough funds for food and not for other basic needs.68

Prices play a significant role in people’s access to food and their ability to cover their basic needs. Although there has been a shift in markets69 due to the structural changes caused by the conflict, food and goods are generally available. However, consumer prices overall have seen a rapid increase. Between June 2016 and June 2017, prices increased by 15.6 per cent in the GCA (with utilities prices increasing by 29.2 per cent).

Prices for basic foods have also increased dramatically. Between December 2016 and June 2017, the WFP-monitored food basket increased by 22.7 per cent in the GCA and 16.5 per cent in the NGCA.70 However, NGCA levels remain significantly higher than in the GCA, and in May 2017, NGCA food prices reached the highest level since the beginning of the conflict.71

57. IOM, National Monitoring System Report, November 2017: Among the unemployed IDPs, direct employment was recognized as the most effective means of support.
58. REACH, Thematic Assessment of Local Enterprises and Labour Markets in Eastern Ukraine, 2017 also highlights “the impact of conflict on individuals’ employment” and that, in Luhanska and Donetska GCA “almost one fifth of active households who have lost their employment since the conflict began.” See: http://www.reach-initiative.org/ukraine-local-enterprise-trade-relationships-labour-markets-disrupted-by-conflict-eastern-regions. Also see Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, Joint Food Security Assessment - Summary Report, 2017, p.9, footnote 31.
59. For further details on the impact on employment in the NGCA, see Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, Joint Food Security Assessment - Summary Report, 2017, p.9, footnote 31.
60. Food insecurity levels of households where no one is working were higher than for households with one or more employees. (Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, Joint Food Security Assessment - Summary Report, 2017, p.7)
63. Between February and March 2017, food assistance dropped by 89 per cent across Donbas. (Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, Joint Food Security Assessment - Summary Report, 2017, pp.8-9)
68. IOM, National Monitoring System Report, June 2017, p.13
69. REACH, Area Based Assessment, 2017
70. Between December 2016 and June 2017, the WFP-monitored food basket increased by 21.4 per cent in Donetsk GCA and 24 per cent in Luhanska GCA. Over the same period, food basket costs rose by 13 per cent in Donetsk NGCA and by 27 per cent in Luhanska NGCA. Official food inflation, as reported by State Statistics Service of Ukraine for the same period was 12 per cent for both Donetsk and Luhanska GCA. Official food inflation is lower, as it is wider and includes more food items in the calculations. The WFP food basket includes 23 main food commodities.
Increased needs in winter

This trend is especially significant during the winter months, when food prices rise whilst the daily calorie requirements increase.72 There is a clear trend of significantly higher unmet food needs during the winter, with 23 per cent of households in both the GCA and the NGCA reporting that they did not have enough food to meet their basic food needs at the height of winter (in February).73 During this period, vulnerable groups in particular are likely to have depleted their food reserves and will face significant shortages of nutritious food products without additional food support. With a lack of income, limited access to heating sources, insufficient self-production and thus a lack of food supplies, children and the elderly will be at high risk of falling deeper into food insecurity.

Increased food prices leading to the lack of access to food have caused more and more people in the NGCA to resort to negative coping strategies74 such as buying food on credit, borrowing food and/or reducing dietary diversity due to lack of money or other resources to obtain food. The proportion of the population in the NGCA applying negative coping strategies rose from 40 per cent in 2016, to 87 per cent in 2017 (in the GCA the level remained similar, 55 per cent in 2016 and 53 per cent in 2017). Meanwhile, the number of people unable to cover the most basic needs has increased according to the Food Security Assessment (FSA).75

In a context of increased prices, social payments such as pensions have stayed almost at the same level with the income of most pensioners falling below the actual minimum subsistence level.76 Information is not available on social benefits in the NGCA. However, the joint FSA indicates that the situation in the NGCA is worse. Moreover, the average monthly income of IDP households across Ukraine has fallen below the actual minimum subsistence level, increasing the risks faced by these households.

Agricultural needs

With unemployment, reduced incomes and increased vulnerability, households are increasingly relying on backyard farming to maintain their food security. The low income and vulnerable households residing in rural areas along the ‘contact line’ are relying on their own production, with backyard livestock and kitchen gardens as the principal sources of proteins and other critical food nutrients (for example expensive animal-based products such as milk, eggs and meat). They have limited access to food markets because of financial and logistical obstacles and therefore have no other alternatives, but solely relying on their own farming. People have insufficient reserves of agricultural inputs because of the ongoing conflict and consequent reduced income, increased prices and limited access to markets. Limited access to agricultural fields and pasturelands contaminated by UXOs and used by the military has resulted in insufficient reserves of the animal feed needed to sustain self-production of nutritious food products such as eggs, meat and milk for these disadvantaged families.77 Meanwhile, according to FAO, conflict has made high-quality agricultural inputs (animal feed, seeds, fertilizers, plant protection and tools) inaccessible to most households (because of reduced incomes, increased prices and limited access to input and produce markets). Higher needs overall have been noted at the ‘contact line’ and in the NGCA.

Therefore, the need for agricultural assistance remains particularly high along the ‘contact line’.78 In these areas especially, agricultural assistance is key to ensuring sufficient levels of dietary diversity and thus adequate vitamin and micronutrient intake at household level. About 93,000 households residing in rural areas within 10 km of the ‘contact line’ are relying on subsistence production of many food items. These are vulnerable households that require external assistance to improve farming practices and increase productivity. Adequate agricultural support is needed to prevent further deterioration of food security and improve income levels, especially in areas along the ‘contact line’.

AFFECTED POPULATION

Up to 3.5 million people have been affected by the conflict.79 Of these, up to 1.6 million people (including IDPs outside Donbas) are food insecure and/or in need of livelihoods support, and 1.2 million of these are in need of food security interventions.

According to the joint FSA and analysis of the socio-economic situation, the main vulnerable groups include:

- Elderly people (60 and older, and particularly those living alone);
- Single-headed households with children;
- Female-headed households;
- Households with no active employment;
- Individuals with no regular income;
- Persons living with chronic illnesses, such as HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis, as diabetics,
- Persons with disabilities;
- Households with two or more children; and
- Host communities.80

74. See Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, Joint Food Security Assessment - Summary Report, 2017, pp. 5-6 for further details on the types of negative coping strategies applied, especially in the NGCA.
75. See Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, Joint Food Security Assessment - Summary Report, 2017, pp. 5-6
76. In May 2017, the average pension was UAH 1,828 while the actual minimum subsistence level was UAH 2,930. See the SSSU website: www.ukrstat.gov.ua.
77. FAO, Socio Economic Impact and Needs Assessment (SEINA), 2017
78. FAO SEINA, 2017
79. This covers the number of people who have fallen into poverty in Luhanska and Donetskya GCA/NGCA (by the actual minimum subsistence level) and the number of IDPs outside of Donbas.
80. E.g. livelihoods support for IDPs outside Donbas normally also target host communities where necessary to ensure social cohesion. Within Donbas, vulnerable groups include both IDPs and the general population.
PART II: FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Cluster assessments, analysis and partner consultations highlight a growing humanitarian need for activities that support food security as well as affected people’s ability to cover their basic needs. The need therefore remains paramount for activities assisting immediate access to food, and supporting food production and agricultural livelihoods as well as non-agricultural livelihoods and income generation:

- 1.2 million people (including IDPs) are food insecure in Donetska and Luhanska Oblasts, in addition to 79,000 IDPs residing in other oblasts, and in need of some type of food security assistance.

- Up to 176,000 people are severely food insecure in Donbas (150,000 in the NGCA, 26,000 in the GCAs of Luhanska and Donetska Oblasts, and 10,500 IDPs residing in other oblasts) and thus in need of urgent and immediate assistance to ensure their access to food. However, a significant section of vulnerable groups (especially elderly people living alone, chronically ill or disabled people and households headed by women with children) amongst the moderately food insecure are at risk of falling into severe insecurity, especially going into winter where food security needs increase drastically. The FSLC estimates that 20 per cent of the moderately food insecure are in immediate need of assistance, especially over the winter. This means that, while up to 1.2 million people are food insecure and likely to be in need of some type of food security support, up to 408,000 people (384,000 people in Donbas with 281,000 in the NGCA and 103,000 in the GCA plus 24,250 IDPs outside of Donbas) are in urgent need of food assistance. These are groups for whom other types of assistance such as livelihoods support rarely is an option.

- Agricultural inputs to support self-production of food items is a solution for many food insecure households in the region. FAO field surveys and local authorities’ estimates indicate that 93,000 rural households in Donetska and Luhanska oblasts along the ‘contact line’ need immediate agricultural production support. The number of incidents with landmines and UXOs in the farming lands located along the ‘contact line’ is increasing. It is a clear indication of the need for awareness raising among the farmers and agricultural workers on the risks associated with the landmines and UXOs;

- The need to support early recovery livelihoods and income generation remains imperative. It is estimated that up to 429,000 unemployed working-age people (aged 15-70 years) are in need of livelihoods assistance (183,000 in the GCA and 246,000 in the NGCA). Of these, some 136,000 are also estimated to be food insecure and therefore in need of food and/or livelihood assistance to ensure they can cover their basic needs. However, of the 429,000, it is estimated that 363,000 unemployed persons aged 25 to 59 (144,000 in the GCA and 219,000 in the NGCA) are most in need of livelihoods assistance. In addition, outside Donbas, it is estimated that 44,000 IDPs are in need of livelihoods assistance, of whom around 9,260 are also food insecure.

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83. Based on estimated number of vulnerable households residing in rural areas and areas within 10km of the ‘contact line’ in both the GCA and the NGCA (FAO SEINA, 2017).
84. This group is not registered at social employment centres and its members therefore do not receive unemployment benefits.
PART II: WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

OVERVIEW

In the conflict-affected areas on both sides of the ‘contact line’ in Donetska and Luhanska Oblasts, 4.8 million people are served by large-scale centralized water systems. Of those, water supply to 4.2 million is directly affected by the conflict, and greatly at risk, and 3.4 million require water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) assistance.

Water and sanitation systems in the region are more than 70 years old, and have not been maintained adequately. The conflict has exacerbated these pre-existing structural weaknesses and rapidly worsened the already-fragile systems. Additionally, both water utilities and the electricity providers that serve them have significant debts, partly because of historic issues, but also because utility companies have provided essential services to people on both sides of the line without mechanisms to collect payments. Tariff levels are no longer coordinated across the front line. In Donetska Oblast in 2016, tariffs for drinking water in the GCA increased by 2.4 times for domestic consumers and by 2.8 times for ‘Vodakanal’s’ buying water from Voda Donbassa. However, no tariff increase occurred in the NGCA.85 The bank accounts of Voda Donbasa and Popasnianskyi Vodakanal (the main water suppliers for Donetska and Luhanska Oblasts, respectively) and LEO (the electricity supplier for Luhanska Oblast) have all been frozen, risking dysfunctionality.

Paying for water has become an issue for ordinary people: 55 per cent of households in the GCA and 45 per cent in the NGCA have reduced expenditure on food and medicines to pay increasing utility costs. In total, utilities costs account for 20 per cent of household income in GCA areas and 15 per cent in the NGCA.86

Water pipelines supplying both the NGCA and the GCA have been damaged repeatedly in 2017, and shells have struck water filter stations on several occasions (the WASH cluster recorded 93 incidents between October 2016 and October 2017). Near the ‘contact line’ in GCA areas of Donetska Oblast, the proportion of the population experiencing water shortages fell from 26 per cent to 12 per cent, while, the number of people receiving water trucking support more than doubled, from 5 per cent to 12 per cent. In the absence of adequate repairs, it seems the authorities and the humanitarian community have been forced to fill the gap in water provision caused by shell strikes and fragile water networks through increased water trucking, which is unsustainable.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NEED

3.4M

54% female
15% children
59% adults

46% male
26% elderly

SEVERITY MAP87

Water pipelines supplying both the NGCA and the GCA have been damaged repeatedly in 2017, and shells have struck water filter stations on several occasions (the WASH cluster recorded 93 incidents between October 2016 and October 2017). Near the ‘contact line’ in GCA areas of Donetska Oblast, the proportion of the population experiencing water shortages fell from 26 per cent to 12 per cent, while, the number of people receiving water trucking support more than doubled, from 5 per cent to 12 per cent. In the absence of adequate repairs, it seems the authorities and the humanitarian community have been forced to fill the gap in water provision caused by shell strikes and fragile water networks through increased water trucking, which is unsustainable.

WATER NEEDS

4.8M people served by centralized water systems

4.2M people directly affected by the conflict

3.4M people require WASH assistance

WATER SUPPLY DISRUPTIONS

incidents affecting water or sanitation supply in 12 months

93

HEATING SYSTEMS AT RISK

1.8 MILLION people at risk of heating systems breakdown as a result of shelling

86. Ukraine Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster: Joint Food Security Assessment (September 2017).
87. WASH severity is calculated, by rayon, on the basis of: a) dependence on high-risk water supplies; b) proximity to the contact line and c) ease of humanitarian access. Areas that are affected by all three criteria are defined as the most critical.
Water quality interventions are still required, as water utilities do not have sufficient funds to cover the cost of chlorine and other chemicals. Meanwhile, although water testing is completed at water treatment facilities, there is a need to work with the State Sanitary and Epidemiological Service to determine water quality at household level. Humanitarian agencies, together with the authorities, are investigating the increased usage of liquid hypochlorite instead of chlorine gas to reduce the risks of the bottled chlorine gas currently stored, transported and used for water treatment close to the ‘contact line’.

In February 2017 water stoppages due to damaged power lines, and shelled filter stations put the heating systems of around 1.8 million people directly at risk,86 with a particularly high impact on the town of Avdiivka. Broken water mains, such as the South Donbass Water Pipeline also exacerbated the risk. In 2018 problems with electricity utilities are a new winter risk: simple maintenance – such as cutting trees that are too close to power lines – has not been completed because of lack of funds. The risk of power cuts, and therefore heating failure, is greater in 2018 than ever before. Water, or especially heating, stoppages disproportionately affect the elderly and disabled. Therefore, these groups need to be prioritized in targeting with distributions, and should be considered for specific help during water or heating stoppages.

Power cuts, as a result of shelling, and due to electricity companies cutting off power to water utilities in the face of the harsh economic realities during the third year of the conflict, have led to stoppages of wastewater treatment facilities. As a result sewage has been released into the environment. Dokuchaievsk and Horlivka wastewater treatment plants were shelled, or suffered power cuts due to shelling eight times in 2017 (January to October WASH Cluster data). In villages close to the ‘contact line’ there are build-ups of rubbish due to non-collection by the authorities. In a few villages people have started to self-organize due to lack of assistance: for example in Bulivskoya village (near Sievierodonetsk) the local population sort waste themselves, and burn some of it.

Schools and kindergartens in the conflict-affected area on the GCA side also have needs: 52 per cent of schools report the need for improvements to water and/or sanitation facilities, and 12 per cent report experiencing water shortages on a monthly (or more frequent) basis.87

Contractors operating pump trucks and emptying sewage from septic tanks are afraid to visit frontline villages. This has led to an increase in the cost of desludging. In the last three years the cost of emptying a typical septic tank has risen. Not emptying septic tanks is a hygiene issue, and a health risk; however emptying them would be a major expense for villagers. Inadequate wastewater and waste management poses a serious risk to public health, particularly in a context where health services are either operating with significantly reduced capacity or are completely inaccessible because of the ongoing hostilities.

Provision of WASH facilities at Entry Exit Check Points (EECPs) improved during 2017, notably at Stanitsya Luhanska and Mayorsk. However, gaps in provision persist, especially in Mariinka and on the NGCA side of almost all checkpoints, where there are fewer facilities. For example on the NGCA side of Novotroitske, private houses have stepped in to offer use of their toilets in return for payment.

In Ukraine almost all households understand good hygiene practices. However, in the conflict-affected area people lack sufficient access to hygiene materials and adequate water supplies to continue known practices, and are dealing with the trauma of war. Younger children, especially, have grown up entirely in the context of conflict, and now need hygiene promotion support, alongside psychosocial first aid.

Water and sanitation improvements always improve the lives of women over and above those of men, and in Ukraine this also holds true. Women are usually central to keeping families and children healthy, and during water shortages women and children are put at risk when accessing water from alternative sources that may be located some distance away.

**AFFECTED POPULATION**

People and vulnerable groups in need of water and sanitation assistance include:

- 3.4 million people, of the 4.2 million whose water supplies are affected by the conflict, need direct water supply and sanitation assistance;
- An estimated 100,000 IDPs living in all areas of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts need WASH support: given their limited mobility elderly IDPs will be prioritized;
- 880,000 older people need to be prioritized for water and sanitation support;
- 11,006 children attending 60 schools in the conflict-affected areas will require repairs to water supply and toilets within schools; and
- People with disabilities need targeted WASH support in the affected areas

**HUMANITARIAN NEEDS**

- Ensuring the continued functioning of water supplies by providing stocks of spare parts, materials and equipment for rapid repairs to critical water pipes, canals, and treatment facilities, especially those highlighted in UNICEF’s risk assessment of the Voda Donbasa water system, and the Karbonit water system in Luhanska Oblast. Increased piloting of lower-environmental-risk water treatment options such as the use of hypochlorite;
- Targeted, but minimized, short-term water trucking of water supplies both potable and technical (i.e. untreated water generally used for household cleaning) when critical needs arise. Capacity building, working alongside
government actors, to ensure that water can be trucked to people affected by cuts in supply;

- Generators and fuel, stockpiles of electrical equipment and sheet steel to repair pipelines, and repairs to key pumping stations, as identified by the Water Risk Assessment;

- Increased water testing at household level, in both Donetska and Luhanska Oblasts, preferably in partnership with the State Sanitary and Epidemiological Services or their equivalents;

- Wastewater systems, pipelines and treatment plants have also been impacted by shelling and blockages due to reduced water flow, and now are an equal priority to water systems;

- Repairs to institutional-level water, wastewater and heating systems directly impacted by the conflict: priority repairs to affected institutions (health facilities and schools) while not veering into longer-term development issues connected to deterioration due to lack of maintenance;

- Desludging of septic tanks and waste disposal are required, especially in areas close to the 'contact line' and the NGCA, where access has been limited because of the conflict;

- Access to essential hygiene items through distribution of hygiene kits in the NGCA and in hard-to-reach areas, and e-vouchers in the GCA;

- Appropriate hygiene promotion focusing on how to maintain hygiene in times of reduced water supply, combined with psychosocial first aid for children;

- Additional WASH provision at checkpoints, which are still poorly served despite some improvements in 2017. Handing over responsibility for water and sanitation operations and maintenance to the authorities, following resolution of legal issues; and

- Advocacy for the military to avoid water infrastructure; for stability of and increased funding for utilities; to facilitate movement of utility workers and essential materials across the 'contact line'; for water utility workers to have unrestricted access to complete timely repairs and for the safety of these workers to be ensured.
PART II: HEALTH AND NUTRITION

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

OVERVIEW

In the midst of the ongoing conflict, around 2.2 million people in eastern Ukraine are in need of lifesaving and essential health services. The continued loss of life and decrease in the wellbeing of the population is of serious concern. The affected population faces a high burden of health risks and remains vulnerable. The healthcare system has been directly affected and disrupted; reducing quality and accessibility. The lack of healthcare providers in areas within 5-15 km of the ‘contact line’ is a major factor reducing the availability of healthcare in these areas. The conflict has isolated GCA facilities from major health centres located in the NGCA, impedes access to pharmacies and increases distances, and travel times to maternity facilities.

Persons with disabilities and the elderly are among the most vulnerable in the conflict-affected area of eastern Ukraine. Many older people cannot easily move independently, while in many areas there are no available healthcare facilities within an accessible distance for general healthcare and timely emergency care. With ongoing interruptions to electricity and heating, and continued displacement, upcoming winter conditions, especially for those without adequate shelter or heating, puts vulnerable populations, particularly children and the elderly, at heightened risk of pneumonia and hypothermia.

Non-communicable-disease-related mortality in Ukraine is among the highest in the European Region. It is estimated to account for 86 per cent of annual deaths, with cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes and respiratory disease the largest contributors. Chronic diseases are of particular concern in the conflict-affected area of eastern Ukraine because of the high proportion of elderly residents, many of whom have little support and live alone. In the two conflict-affected oblasts, the great majority of older people (70-87 per cent) suffer from at least one chronic disease, while 63 per cent cannot afford their required life-saving medicines. For those with chronic diseases, inaccessibility and unaffordability of healthcare and medications lead to worsening in their conditions and increased acute health events (e.g. heart attacks and strokes). Lack of medications and treatment is life threatening for patients suffering from diabetes, cancer, and cardiovascular disease.

ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL HEALTH CARE

up to 66% of health facilities within 5 km of the ‘contact line’ reported damage

50% with no access to psychosocial support

LIFE SAVING HEALTH NEEDS IN NGCA

50,000 diabetes patients

94,200 cancer patients

292 haemodialysis patients in NGCA

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES IN NGCA

4 out of 10 potential TB cases not detected

Every 2nd potential HIV case not detected

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NEED

2.2M

60% female
40% children
40% male
20% adults

SEVERITY MAP

Health and Nutrition cluster used the following indicators: # of IDPs and vulnerable population in need of essential health services, # of health facilities damaged and/or in need of essential medicines, # of confirmed TB/HIV patients who require treatment and distance to the nearest health facility. 92


92. Health and Nutrition cluster used the following indicators: # of IDPs and vulnerable population in need of essential health services, # of health facilities damaged and/or in need of essential medicines, # of confirmed TB/HIV patients who require treatment and distance to the nearest health facility.

93. UNICEF/CDC/WHO, Assessment on elderly in GCA Donetska and Luhanska Oblast and NGCA Donetsk, April 2016

94. HelpAge/UNHCR, Humanitarian needs of older women and men in GCA Luhanska Oblast, Baseline Report, October 2016
conditions, including hypertension, which is extremely common; affecting more than half of those older than 50.

The risk of communicable disease outbreaks is also increasing. This is due to frequent water supply damage and interruption, damaged heating systems, reduced calorie intake as well as overall low immunization rates, with a lack of basic childhood vaccines, including for polio and measles, in the NGCA, and vaccine distribution problems remaining unsolved in the GCA. Immunization rates have continued to decrease both nationwide and in the conflict-affected area of eastern Ukraine. Ukraine has experienced a number of outbreaks in 2016-17, including botulism, pertussis, measles, tetanus and diphtheria. While polio was halted in 2015, the country is still vulnerable. Surveillance remains weak for both vaccine-preventable and water-borne diseases. Limited data sharing still vulnerable. Surveillance remains weak for both vaccine-preventable and water-borne diseases. Limited data sharing and early notification, along with documented gaps in laboratory capacity, significantly increase the potential for outbreaks to cause greater harm and to decrease response effectiveness.

Even before the conflict, Donetska and Luhanska Oblasts were among the most affected by HIV in Ukraine. The latest available data indicates a higher prevalence of HIV in the conflict-affected oblasts. One key example is among pregnant women in Donetska Oblast, where prevalence was 0.9 per cent (the highest in the country), in Luhanska Oblast at 0.41 per cent, while the average for Ukraine was 0.32 per cent. New cases of tuberculosis continue (GCA: 1,544; NGCA: ~3,000 in 2016) at a rate generally in line with national averages, but in the context of particular challenges.

The lack of reporting by the de facto authorities in the NGCA on key epidemiological and health system indicators significantly limits proper understanding of the real health situation overall. Restriction of movement for persons and goods between the GCA and the NGCA reinforces isolation, limits supply of crucial diagnostic consumables and prevents proper maintenance of laboratory equipment. In addition, the delivery and use of standard treatment regimens for tuberculosis is unclear, especially in Luhanska Oblast). The NGOs that historically provided the bulk of HIV prevention services and follow-up with patients face considerable barriers to operations and access to the population in the NGCA. Overall system effectiveness has fallen due to damage to tuberculosis and multi-drug resistant tuberculosis diagnostics (especially in Luhanska Oblast); limited professional development opportunities for healthcare professionals; and generally inadequate funding of critical disease control programmes. Aspects such as displacement, migration and widespread multidrug-resistant (MDR) and extensively drug-resistant (XDR) tuberculosis compound systematic gaps, and contribute to the higher rate of spread of HIV and tuberculosis in the conflict-affected area. At an individual level people have limited access to testing for HIV and tuberculosis, and they have to travel long distances for care. Risk is extended by blood safety concerns and to children through mother-to-child transmission.

Residents of both the GCA and the NGCA experience difficulties accessing appropriate healthcare, especially for those living near the ‘contact line’, and in rural areas. Insecurity and disrupted transportation directly impede access. While most healthcare services are officially free of charge, real out-of-pocket costs borne by the population have increased (e.g. transport, diagnostics and medications) further diminishing the health and resilience of the population. Pharmacies are limited in areas closer to the ‘contact line’ and prices have increased for almost all drugs, creating further barriers to personal health maintenance.

Healthcare services have been significantly disrupted by the conflict. All parties have been reported to have committed attacks on healthcare by, inter alia, shelling healthcare facilities and impeding access for people and ambulances. Overall over 130 healthcare facilities still require rehabilitation. In the area within 5 km of the ‘contact line’ up to 66 per cent of healthcare facilities reported damage during the crisis; with 48 per cent of these are still in need of rehabilitation.

The health system itself faces two distinct patterns of disruption. Facilities in the NGCA and within 5-10 km of the ‘contact-line’ are isolated. They have seen many healthcare providers leave, and face impediments to procurement, delivery and maintenance, resulting in lack of medicaments and equipment; ultimately decreasing the quality of care and patient safety. This also prevents the usual process of continuing medical education to update standards, preventing advancement in the quality of care.

Meanwhile the GCA has experienced a large number of closures of primary healthcare facilities, with those still operating continuing to be cut-off from their previous specialized referral centres. Meanwhile a number of secondary-level services have also been closed due to a lack of staff and resources. The health management systems in the GCA are being reorganized as part of the current decentralization process, while at the same time having to rebuild services to baseline levels. Primary care services are fewer and further away from those in need; and often face a lack of medical staff, ambulances, and (in the areas closer to the ‘contact line’) face shortages of medications (52 per cent), electric outages (34 per cent), without generator back-up; and disruption to water supplies (22 per cent). The irregular supply of medicaments and diagnostic supplies deprive those highly dependent on their availability of lifesaving care, including insulin-dependent diabetics; those in need of haemodialysis and blood bank services; and mothers and babies requiring consumables for complicated deliveries.

The sharp increase in the number of communities now directly split by the ‘contact line’ now 25 communities, has put more people at risk. Civilian casualties sadly continue, with, until the end of September 2017, 68 civilians killed, and 315
injured: figures higher than in 2016. More than 22,000 people have been injured since the beginning of the conflict. In 2017 the risk of hazardous chemical release has become more acute, with increased shelling near storage facilities. Systems to provide emergency care for trauma, mass-casualty and chemical exposure are faced by limited resources and gaps in care, and require reorganization and skills updating. Without effective and accessible physical rehabilitation, those with debilitating injuries face years of difficulties in their daily lives and in sustaining livelihoods.

In the current setting of conflict and displacement, aggression, violence, disrupted support from social networks and incessant exposure to danger contribute to psychological stress and mental health disorders, and deteriorate social resilience. The large treatment gap among IDPs, with a 2016 study showing that 74 per cent of those requiring mental health care had not received it, continuing. The extended nature of the conflict further increases risk, with alarmingly high prevalence of anxiety (17 per cent), depression (22 per cent) and PTSD (32 per cent) among the affected population. Those with chronic and severe mental disorders (e.g. psychotic disorders) are particularly vulnerable during times of hardship, conflict and displacement, and require access to care. Psychological stress and mental health problems have also been associated with poor lifestyles and riskier behaviour (such as smoking, drinking alcohol, using drugs, consuming a less healthy diet, exercising less and having unhealthy or risky relationships).

Older people are often socially isolated and also need psychosocial support, with 33 per cent in the GCA and 43 per cent in the NGCA reportedly suffering from severe psychological distress. The stigma associated with mental disorders often deters people from seeking help. Those who do seek treatment may not know where to turn and may seek help from family doctors who do not have the knowledge and skills to help or prescribe medications without consulting a specialist. Specialized psychiatric care is limited and referral pathways weakened due to isolated and overburdened facilities, system disruption, lack of psychotropic medications and lack of training on up-to-date evidence-based interventions among professionals. Institutions for the most vulnerable psychiatric patients often place them at risk, through abuse and proximity to the ‘contact line’ with no capacity for evacuation. The negative impact on the mental and social wellbeing of the affected population will have long-term detrimental effects on the ability of conflict-affected individuals and communities to recover.

Women and girls face higher vulnerability due to crisis-induced risks such as increased exposure to violence and exploitation; with increases in gender-based violence increasing overall needs. Gender- and sexual-based violence (including conflict-related) remain significantly underreported, and are not adequately addressed through available outreach and health services. Beyond the pre-existing low capacity of sexual and reproductive health services, access and affordability has worsened in the context of physical and legislative constraints, preventing women and newborns from accessing adequate appropriate services. Obstetric and prenatal care, along with childbirth services, is lacking and difficult to access, especially closer to the ‘contact line’. Nutrition studies have identified an increase in anaemia among pregnant women living in conflict-affected areas. In the current setting of increasing food insecurity, the overall resilience of the population is expected to decrease. The health and wellbeing of those living in the conflict-affected area and of IDPs remains at risk, with a high likelihood of long-term consequences. The current state of the healthcare system in the conflict-affected oblasts faces both acute gaps and long-term systemic problems that need to be addressed in order to meet the needs of the affected and vulnerable.

**AFFECTED POPULATION**

- Some 2.2 million people living close to the ‘contact line’, in rural areas and in the NGCA, whose access to healthcare services – especially primary healthcare, mental health services and reproductive health services – is limited.
- Of these, the most vulnerable include:
  - Approximately 200,000 people living within 5 km of the ‘contact line’ in the GCA.
  - 1,600,000 people more than 60 years of age with at least one chronic illness residing in the conflict-affected area of eastern Ukraine
  - At least 200,000 people with functional limitations, disabilities and injuries, including children and IDPs
  - 27,500 women, including IDPs, in the GCA, the NGCA and along the ‘contact line’ in need of adequate maternal health services
  - The approximately 75 per cent of conflict-affected people in need of mental health and psychosocial support who do not have adequate access to care.

- Population groups in need of lifesaving healthcare for chronic conditions (non-communicable diseases) include:
  - 20,000 insulin-dependent diabetic patients in the NGCA;
  - 94,700 cancer patients in the NGCA, including children; and
  - 270 patients in need of haemodialysis in the NGCA.

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100. UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
Persons in need of support under critical diseases control programmes for communicable diseases include:

- Around 17,500 potentially unrevealed persons living with HIV in the NGCA: every second HIV case is not revealed
- Around 8,750 persons living with HIV at risk of interruption to treatment
- More than 650 potential unregistered new tuberculosis patients in the NGCA: four out of 10 tuberculosis cases are not detected; and
- The 875 MDR tuberculosis patients (more than half of all revealed MDR-TB cases) not enrolled in treatment.

**HUMANITARIAN NEEDS**

- Address the limited availability, quality and safety of lifesaving and essential healthcare services for the population in areas close to the ‘contact line’, in the NGCA and in Luhanska and Donetska Oblasts. In particular:
  - Emergency, primary health and reproductive healthcare services are unavailable or hardly accessible in many areas
  - Healthcare facilities lack sufficient human resources and necessary supplies and consumables;
  - Healthcare providers need continuous quality educations to maintain their skills and proficiency to match new system demands and implement up-to-date standards;
  - Rehabilitation care is not available for the injured and persons with disabilities at primary and secondary levels
  - The lack of medications and medical supplies is endangering life-saving care and health maintenance for non-communicable diseases (cardio-vascular, diabetes, acute respiratory and chronic diseases, and cancer);
  - Mental health care and psychosocial support are largely unavailable for the affected population due to the lack of trained care providers and non-functioning referral system, as well as legal constraints
  - Health services for GBV survivors, including post-rape care and enhanced referral pathways, are either hard-to-reach or have insufficient numbers of trained specialists. As well, survivors lack life-saving information about where to find information about SGBV services.
- Barriers to the population accessing healthcare, especially for those with limited mobility and resources to reach care, are coupled with medicines that are often too expensive to be affordable. For those with chronic diseases this can lead to significant declines in health, and an increase in acute medical events such as heart attacks and strokes.
- Systematic shortcomings increase risk and result in negative consequences for the overall health situation. These include:
  - Lack of early warning and response capacity (EWARN) and insufficient water quality monitoring and treatment for timely detection, reporting and response to avoid outbreaks;
  - Low vaccination coverage increasing the incidence and risk of communicable disease
  - Lack of basic vaccines, in particular, bivalent Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV), for routine vaccination; the vaccine supply chain is disrupted and the immunization programme is not fully aligned with international standards
  - Lack of outreach screening and early detection of tuberculosis and cancer among the population residing in areas closer to the ‘contact line’ and in the NGCA;
  - Lack of easily-accessible rapid diagnostic tests for sexually transmitted illnesses in both NGCA and GCA;
  - Lack of supplies for treatment and diagnosis for tuberculosis/MDR-tuberculosis and HIV in the NGCA, as well as insufficient technical expertise for data collection and up-to-date treatment approaches; and
  - Lack of awareness and education among the population on preventing health risks and caring for their own health contributes to the aggravation of the health status of the affected population.
OVERVIEW

Protracted situation and weakening housing security: Four years of persistent conflict in communities on the ‘contact line’ have caused damage, which has resulted in secondary damage for certain households particularly close to the ‘contact line’, according to the cluster analysis. The persistent shelling is further eroding the tenure rights of the affected population through military occupation and the impossibility of peaceful and safe use of land or premises. On the other hand, the 60 per cent of IDPs who were private homeowners before the start of the conflict are struggling to afford the rising cost of rent and utilities in their current places of residence. The winter months continue to pose a particular threat as damage and displacement – in addition to economic factors – weaken their coping mechanisms.

Damage and Repairs: Four years of continuous conflict in Ukraine has also led to over 40,000 homes incurring various forms of damage on both sides of the ‘contact line’, while approximately 25 per cent of IDPs in the GCA have inadequate shelter, putting them at risk of further involuntary displacement. Due to an extensive network of stakeholders in the GCAs in Donetska and Luhanska Oblasts, humanitarian shelter coverage has been extensive, covering 21,500 households since 2014. Despite these efforts, over 10,000 households, including a backlog of homes damaged in 2015-2016, still require repairs. Between March and August 2017, a flare up in hostilities caused new damage to over 700 homes. Analysis of the Shelter Cluster damage database reveals that the following scales of repairs are required: 33 per cent light repairs, 27 per cent medium repairs, 33 per cent heavy repairs and 7 per cent full reconstruction. Since the beginning of the crisis, only 9,000 repairs have been made in the NGCA in addition to 5,600 emergency interventions. In Non-Government Controlled Areas, lack of humanitarian access has restricted such a systematic verification of damage. Prior to the start of 2017, the conservative estimation in the absence of a systematic verification of damage was between 10,000 and 12,000 houses, though in reality the number could be two or three times higher. In Non-Government Controlled Areas since the beginning of the crisis, only 9,000 repairs have been made in NGCA in addition to 5,600 emergency interventions. In Non-Government Controlled Areas, lack of humanitarian access has restricted such a systematic verification of damage. Prior to the start of 2017, the conservative estimation in the absence of a systematic verification of damage was between 10,000 and 12,000 houses, while the number could in reality be two to three times higher.

SEVERITY MAP

103. Shelter Cluster indicators for severity map are as follows: % of population living in inadequate shelter condition threatening person integrity and dignity, % of population at life risk during the winter period, % of population in insecure tenure and potentially exposed to eviction/forced return, # of damaged houses in need of repairs, # of newly damaged houses in need of preventive measure to avoid further decay.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NEED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>0.6M</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td></td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elderly</td>
<td></td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WINTERIZATION NEEDS

- In GCA
  - 34% Donetsk urban
  - 58% Donetsk rural
  - 29% Luhanska urban
  - 43% Luhanska rural
- Stated not having enough winter supplies

COLLECTIVE CENTRES

60% of IDPs struggle to afford rising cost of rent and utilities in current resident areas
**Winterization:** The protracted conflict has dramatically depleted the affected population's capacity to winterize their homes and prepare for winter. Alarming, REACH has found in an ongoing assessment in the GCA that 58 per cent of households in rural Donetsk Oblast, 34 per cent in urban Donetsk Oblast, 43 per cent of households in rural Luhanska Oblast, and 29 per cent in urban Luhanska Oblast stated that they do not have enough supplies for the winter. The cluster analysis indicates that because of the volume of needs in the NGCA, assistance has only met 20–30 per cent of actual needs for basic winterization NFIs. In addition, the rising prices of utilities is further putting vulnerable IDPs in a situation where they elect to return to their areas of origin—both on the ‘contact line’ or in the entire NGCA under embargo—rather than pay the expense. In Donetsk Oblast GCA, the price of utilities has risen by an average of 45 per cent since the beginning of the conflict, while in Luhanska Oblast the price of utilities has increased by at least 36 per cent since the conflict began (State Statistics Donetsk and Luhanska Oblasts). In extreme cases, particularly for those residing in multi-storey buildings, where electricity is the main source of energy, the price has increased more than 2.5 times. Luhanska Oblast. Seventy per cent of returnees from the GCA to the NGCA cite ownership of private property and relief from paying rent as their primary motivation for returning to their areas of origin.

**Elsewhere in Ukraine:** According to the latest round of IOM’s National Monitoring Systems (NMS), at least 19 per cent of IDPs are not satisfied with the living space in their accommodation, indicating situations of overcrowding. This means, according to a calculation using the Ministry of Social Policy’s latest database, that 398,000 of IDPs could potentially be living in inadequate shelter and living conditions. This is corroborated by the fact that IDPs have reported sharing accommodation to save on rent or utilities. Moreover, 15 per cent of IDPs are not satisfied with the insulation and 15 per cent are not satisfied with the heating in their accommodation. As an example of this particular trend, 31 per cent of the 5,999 IDPs living in Collective Centres have unsatisfactory living conditions. In this year’s monitoring, the Shelter Cluster found that 24 per cent of the 251 collective centres were reporting risks of eviction. Not only is this a trend for IDPs living in Collective Centres, but it also could continue to increase for the most economically and physically vulnerable IDPs.

**Housing, land, and property challenges and lack of longer term durable solutions puts the population at further risk of displacement:** Despite the fact that nearly 75 per cent of IDPs intend to remain in their current location, they continue to struggle to afford the price of rent and utilities, or even to invest in their own homes. Over a quarter of the IDPs fear involuntary displacement and return either to the NGCA or to areas of active conflict due to the high cost of living in the. This risk of involuntary displacement only increases with time, and the current institutional framework has been unable to cope with the legal and housing challenges that the displaced find themselves faced with. In addition, the Government of Ukraine has yet to develop an overall strategy for compensation and overall restitution, leaving many families unable to recover from unexpected financial losses or to secure insurance, while the ways forward for tenure and compensation are unclear for those whose property has been lost or damaged in the NGCA. Shelter humanitarian agencies will require the necessary resources to continue mainstreaming tenure monitoring to document destruction to homes in order to better support protection actors to ensure the affected population’s housing security.

**AFFECTED POPULATION**

Identify affected populations in need of humanitarian assistance based on the analysis in the overview as above:

- 15 per cent of elderly people require repairs and support with preparing for the winter;
- 5 per cent of IDPs require shelter suitable for their disability needs;
- The average profile of those been forced to return involuntarily to the NGCA and frontline areas of active shelling is women over 60 years of age; and
- 18 per cent of those whose homes were damaged are unemployed making both purchasing of winter items and purchase of construction materials difficult.

**HUMANITARIAN NEEDS**

- A minimum of 10,000 houses need repaired in 2018 (all kinds and both side of the ‘contact line’ for conflict-affected host communities and returnees. There are 3,500 to 4,500 damaged homes remaining in the GCA while in the NGCA needs for repairs will continue for several more years.
- 100,000 IDP households are considered to be critically vulnerable and unable to cope with winter in various ways.
- 10,000 IDPs and households whose houses have been damaged are in need of renewal of basic NFIs (principally blankets and bedding).
- A minimum of 5,000 newly damaged households are in need of acute assistance and renewal of shelter interventions, in case of return on both side of the ‘contact line’ including punctual flare up similar to February 2017.
- A minimum of 10,000 households will require assistance in case of eviction and/or extreme vulnerability with monetized shelter assistance (cash for rent or similar).
• 8,000 households require essential repairs to their utilities network and basic infrastructure to increase resilience in conflict-affected communities institutions (health facilities and schools), while not veering into longer-term development issues caused by deterioration because of lack of maintenance.
For schools, the situation in eastern Ukraine remains volatile. The conflict continues to affect children, educators and the education system on a regular basis, more acutely in the areas concentrated along the ‘contact line’, with other areas in the east withstanding the cumulative, widespread impacts of the war.

More than 220,000 children and teachers in the east are in immediate need of safe and protective schools to learn and recover. In settlements near the ‘contact line’ students face disruption to their education and have endured prolonged fear, conflict-related distress and trauma that negatively affects their well-being, their learning, and for teachers, their ability to teach.

Further from the ‘contact line’, hundreds of thousands of students and teachers require education support to cope with the ongoing, harmful impacts of the conflict. An estimated 703,000 students and teachers in more than 3,500 education facilities continue to suffer from sustained personal, social and economic effects of the conflict now in its fourth year.

As a result of the conflict, the education system has splintered, worsening pre-existing education conditions. Significant gaps in learning, temporary school closures, shortages of qualified teaching staff, shortages of education and leaning materials, the high cost of education for families, and the lack of programmes to address psychosocial needs all continue to contribute to a deterioration in the quality of education. Access to early childhood education for children under 6-7 years of age, who are particularly vulnerable, continues to be problematic, as does access for children with inclusive education needs. In consultations, stakeholders also

### Education Facilities Damaged

- **34** education facilities damaged / destroyed by shelling in 2017 (as of November)

### Number of People in Need

| M | 0.7 | 53% female | 91% children | 9% adults |

### Severity Map


#### Overview

- **53%** female
- **47%** male
- **91%** children
- **9%** adults

#### Attacks on Education

1 out of 3 schools reported safety and security concerns
expressed the need for non-formal after school programmes, and concern for youth who need preparation for the job market through vocational, professional and skills training.

For children near the ‘contact line’, access to education is hampered by security risks from continual shelling, the prevalence of UXOs and mines near or on the commute to school, and damage to or deterioration of education facilities. Children commute along unsafe routes to access their education, and distance to school is another key concern among many communities. Water and electricity shortages occur at many schools along the ‘contact line’, and some schools are not adequately prepared for winter conditions.

In May and June 2017, 36 education facilities (within 5 km of the ‘contact line’ on the GCA side) reported experiencing shelling at least once a month, or even more frequently. One in three schools in Donetsk and Luhanska Oblasts (GCA) reported safety and security concerns, including military presence nearby, landmines or UXOs near or on the way to schools, and the need to cross checkpoints. All schools and kindergartens within 5 km of the ‘contact line’ (GCA) in particular reported security concerns due to regular shelling.

Military use of education facilities during 2017 has been verified, and dozens of cases of military presence near schools have been reported to the Education Cluster. Severe mine and UXO accidents involving children have also continued in or near schools. More than 150 schools reported concern about proximity to military activities and 62 schools reported UXOs near the schools as a security concern. In multiple towns along the ‘contact line’ school directors have reported to UNICEF that schoolgirls were involved in ‘survival sex’ for money.

Attacks on schools continued on a regular basis in 2017. Since the beginning of 2017, at least 56 educational facilities were directly impacted by continuous hostilities, affecting the education and wellbeing of thousands of children and teachers. Of these, at least 34 schools were damaged by shelling and at least 22 had to close for a period, disrupting education for days or weeks. Schools damaged in 2017 are in addition to more than 740 education facilities damaged between 2014 and 2016, many of which are still not fully repaired.

In one school attack alone, at the end of May, heavy shelling damaged two vocational education facilities and one school in Krasnohorivka; a city that was already suffering from the closure of three of its four kindergartens and three of its five standard schools as a result of conflict damage. The total number of schools damaged in 2017 in the NGCA is 22. In May, a kindergarten in Dokuchaievsk (NGCA) and a school in Mariinka (GCA) experienced damage from shelling that occurred while children were at school. Not all the education facilities that are regularly exposed to shelling have adequately equipped or accessible bomb shelters or safe spaces to take cover in during bouts of shelling. In the ECS, 65 per cent of schools within 15 km of the ‘contact line’ (GCA) reported either that they do not have a proper safe space or bomb shelter, or if they do have one, it is not adequately equipped.

In May and June 2017, more than 80 operational schools (within 5 km of the ‘contact line’ on the GCA side) required additional repairs and support. In October 2017, 94 education facilities further from the ‘contact line’ were in need of a certain level of rehabilitation for reasons related to the conflict. In the GCA, an additional 578 education facilities reported the need for some level of rehabilitation for other reasons. From consultations, at least 130 schools damaged in the conflict in the NGCA are still in need of repairs.

Fifty-eight per cent education facilities surveyed in May and June 2017 reported experiencing power shortages, and 49 per cent reported water shortages. Seventy-five education facilities evaluated their water quality as poor (not usable for drinking and cooking even after filtering and boiling) and five reported that no access to water at all. Many schools still contend with issues of winterization, including heating. In the survey, 363 education facilities reported a need to repair or rehabilitate heating systems.

Children, learners, 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 accrue. Most schools (52 per cent) in the May and June 2017 survey reported children in need of psychosocial services because of the impact of the conflict on their wellbeing or ability to learn. Meanwhile, children from nine out of 10 schools (in the 5 km zone on the GCA side) are in urgent need of psychosocial services, including clinical services and non-clinical programmes such as art therapy.

A majority of schools reporting in May and June saw a need for additional content and education programmes that address security, personal and the social effects of the conflict on communities and individuals. Ninety-four per cent of surveyed schools reported the need for a range of resilience strengthening life skills programmes – including conflict sensitivity, peace promoting content and coping skills. Seventy-three per cent of the schools indicated a need for continued Mine Risk Education.

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115. REACH, Area Based Assessment, 2017
117. UNICEF, The Children of the Contact Line in Eastern Ukraine: an assessment of the situation of children and their families living in Government Controlled Areas along the contact line in the east Ukraine conflict zone, June 2017.
118. Education Cluster, Needs Survey in Government Controlled Areas of Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts, 2017
119. UNICEF, The Children of the Contact Line in Eastern Ukraine: an assessment of the situation of children and their families living in Government Controlled Areas along the contact line in the east Ukraine conflict zone, June 2017.
120. The 2017 Education Cluster Needs Survey only reflects data from schools surveyed in GCA Lugansk and GCA Donetsk. Of the 22 cases of school attacks, five are unverified
121. REACH, Area Based Assessment, 2017
122. Education Cluster, Needs Survey in Government Controlled Areas of Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts, 2017
123. Education Cluster, Needs Survey in Government Controlled Areas of Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts, 2017
124. Education Cluster, Needs Survey in Government Controlled Areas of Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts, 2017
125. UNICEF, The Children of the Contact Line in Eastern Ukraine: an assessment of the situation of children and their families living in Government Controlled Areas along the contact line in the east Ukraine conflict zone, June 2017, and Education Cluster Survey.
126. Education Cluster, Needs Survey in Government Controlled Areas of Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts, 2017
127. Education Cluster, Needs Survey in Government Controlled Areas of Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts, 2017
128. Education Cluster, Needs Survey in Government Controlled Areas of Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts, 2017
129. Education Cluster, Needs Survey in Government Controlled Areas of Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts, 2017
130. Education Cluster, Needs Survey in Government Controlled Areas of Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts, 2017
Teachers, who continually care for students themselves, require psychosocial and pedagogical support. In 41 per cent of education facilities surveyed, school officials reported that the conflict is affecting staff members’ wellbeing or ability to work effectively. Now more than ever, as teachers are called upon to address the multi-layered impacts of conflict in their classrooms, updated teaching methods such as the child-centred 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. Forty-eight per cent of schools reported that some teachers need additional capacity building or pedagogical support to address the impact of conflict on education. Most frequently mentioned areas for capacity building were psychosocial support to address the impact of conflict on education. Most frequently mentioned areas for capacity building were psychosocial issues, life skills, and conflict-sensitive education.

Forty-eight per cent of schools reported that some teachers require psychosocial and pedagogical support. In 41 per cent of the schools, updated teaching methods such as the child-centred 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. Forty-eight per cent of schools reported that some teachers need additional capacity building or pedagogical support to address the impact of conflict on education. Most frequently mentioned areas for capacity building were psychosocial support (39 per cent) and life skills education (30 per cent).

Migration of teachers to find work elsewhere has also left some schools with insufficient number teachers, or without teachers for particular subjects.

Children in the NGCA are of particular concern, as protracted conflict is putting a generation of school graduates at risk of diminishing opportunities to continue higher education outside the NGCA and to enter the job market. The Ukrainian authorities do not currently widely recognize the education certification issued by the de facto authorities, although efforts are being made to facilitate opportunities for these students to attain certification in Ukraine.

Each year the conflict continues, a larger number of students complete their secondary education in the NGCA without widely recognized certificates. Many learners fear that the graduation certificates issued by the de facto authorities in the NGCA will not be recognized, and hence they will not have access to higher education or certification for studies they have completed. For these graduates, access to the job market outside of the NGCA is likely to be limited.

Children and youth seeking education outside the NGCA face many obstacles, especially to access higher education. Some children are obliged to cross the ‘contact line’ to attend school, or take extra exams to receive secondary graduation certificates or to continue from ninth to tenth grade. Others seeking to enter university need to take arduous steps including obtaining documentation, studying extra subjects, enrolling in distance learning and bearing the burden of costs associated with crossing the ‘contact line’ to take exams. Although programmes have been initiated in the GCA to facilitate the process of distance learning and exams to enter university, it is likely that relatively few learners who want to access education in GCA, or take national exams to enter university, are able to do so. Consultations point to the need for support to facilitate these processes and further analysis of the issue to identify additional solutions.

Socioeconomic difficulties have resulted in resorting to negative coping mechanisms, such as removing children from kindergarten. Some families simply cannot afford education fees, in the context of a general economic decline in Donetska and Luhanska GCA and decreased purchasing power for families. Education costs are reportedly high within 5 km of the ‘contact line’. All these factors affect the ability of families in the East to meet the costs of education. In 49 per cent of schools, at least one in four children need support with education materials in order for families to afford the cost of education.

A total of 358 schools reported needing elements of inclusive education in their facilities, ranging from adaptation of facilities for the physically disabled to appropriate content and curriculums. Teachers need capacity built for inclusive education, and many specialized items and aspects of specialized support are required for inclusive education. A majority of kindergartens within the 5 km zone (GCA) report an increase in speech problems due to the conflict, in a context where very few facilities have speech therapists. Directors tend to attribute this rise to a combination of factors including psychosocial distress and changed parenting patterns. In some locations, kindergartens reported having had access to speech therapy before the conflict (sometimes as staff members and sometimes as visiting or part-time therapists) but this service is no longer available.

**Affected Population**

An estimated 703,000 school children and teachers in Donetska and Luhanska GCA and NGCA are affected and in need of assistance. These include children and teachers in kindergartens and vocational schools.

220,000 children and teachers 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.

**Humanitarian Needs**

Children need safe, protective learning spaces that are well equipped, and teachers who can deliver quality education while addressing the various layered and longer-term effects of the conflict. As the fourth school year since the conflict erupted continues, school officials and policy makers need support for policies and planning processes that address the impact of the conflict.

As hostilities continue, urgent needs include conflict-related repair of education facilities (including water and sanitation facilities), provision of key education materials and supplies, essential school equipment and training for teachers and students in psychosocial support, non-formal education and life skills. In the most vulnerable schools the need

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127. Education Cluster, Needs Survey in Governmental Controlled Areas of Donetska and Luhanska oblasts, 2017
128. UNICEF, The Children of the Contact Line in Eastern Ukraine: an assessment of the situation of children and their families living in Government Controlled Areas along the contact line in the east Ukraine conflict zone, June 2017, and Education Cluster, Needs Survey in Government Controlled Areas of Donetska and Luhanska oblasts, 2017
129. Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, Joint Food Security Assessment, September 2017
130. REACH, Area Based Assessment, 2017
131. Education Cluster, Needs Survey in Government Controlled Areas of Donetska and Luhanska oblasts, 2017
132. Education Cluster, Needs Survey in Government Controlled Areas of Donetska and Luhanska oblasts, 2017
remains to improve school safety, continue raising mine awareness, address protection risks associated with nearby military activities, and ensure readiness for harsh winters in schools that are not yet adequately prepared. The lack of kindergartens, especially near the ‘contact line’, persists, and more places are urgently needed for these children to learn. Access to inclusive education and specialized provision for these students are needed. At the same time, advocacy for equal access to education, appropriate accreditation for studies, and the signing and implementation of the Safe Schools Declaration continues to be a priority as children are regularly affected by attacks on schools. Specific needs include:

**Access and Facilities**

- Conflict-related repair and rehabilitation, of an estimated 300 damaged facilities;
- School materials for 115,000 children and students;
- Equipment for at least 738 schools (GCA only);
- Address the administrative barriers to enrolment, testing and certification; and support more wide acceptance and validation of certificates of learning attainments for 76,000 students from the NGCA;
- Further analysis and advocacy on equal access to and wider recognition of learning attainment for students in the NGCA;
- Increased access for the most vulnerable students, including children of kindergarten age, learners with disabilities, and unaccompanied minors;
- Inclusive curriculum, textbooks, learning resources, and specialists including speech therapists; and
- Increased access to afterschool programmes, vocational schools and professional training for youth.

**Quality Learning**

- Provision of psychosocial support to students, including non-clinical, stress reduction activities such as art therapy;
- Provision of psychosocial and pedagogical support for teachers;
- Improved distance learning and mixed modalities, especially for schools close to the ‘contact line’;
- Formal and non-formal life skills education programmes, curriculum and other content promoting peace, resilience, coping skills, stress reduction, conflict sensitivity, and non-violent communication; and
- Capacity building for teachers and education staff on psychosocial issues, life skills, conflict sensitive education, the child-centred approach and other updated methodologies, coordination, Education in Emergencies, emergency preparedness and school safety.

**Safe Schools**

- Tailored safe school programmes; safe transport for learners with security risks on the school commute taking account of military activity nearby;
- Continuous mine risk education for all children, teachers and parents;
- Policies and planning processes to promote safe schools, protective environments in schools, conflict-sensitive approaches and emergency preparedness;
- Provision and equipping of bomb shelters or safe spaces for the most vulnerable education facilities; and
- Advocacy and technical assistance for signing and implementation of the Safe Schools Declaration.
In 2017, with greater availability of information, the humanitarian partners were better able to assess the situation in the GCA and areas along the ‘contact line’. Undertakings such as the Joint Food Security Assessment by the Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) Cluster, the IOM’s National Monitoring System in Ukraine, as well as the Trend Analysis and Area Based Assessment (ABA) conducted by REACH have contributed to a better understanding of the humanitarian situation in the GCA, and hence a better-informed response strategy. With the support from the Global Health Cluster and WHO, the Health and Nutrition Cluster in Ukraine is rolling out the Health Resources Availability Monitoring System (HERAMS), which will provide the basis for further monitoring of the health situation on the ground. However, difficulties continue in filling the information gap with specific issues such as gender-based violence (GBV), and the psychosocial and mental health impact. In the NGCA, the availability of information on the humanitarian situation remains limited due to access constraints. The humanitarian community has access to patches of information, partially provided by the Humanitarian Country Team-led multi-sector needs assessment carried out by REACH. As the humanitarian situation evolves and the types of needs change in some parts of the GCA, the humanitarian community has recognized the necessity to foster stronger linkages between humanitarian and recovery activities where applicable, calling for an ‘innovative’ approach to analysing the interplay between the impact of the conflict and longer-term interventions.

*This figure represents the number of organizations operating across Ukraine and sharing information on their activities with the Clusters from January to September 2017.
### NUMBER OF ASSESSMENTS BY LOCATIONS AND BY SECTOR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Protection</th>
<th>Shelter/WASH</th>
<th>Food Security &amp; Livelihoods</th>
<th>Health &amp; Nutrition</th>
<th>Food Security &amp; Livelihoods</th>
<th>Nutrition</th>
<th>Protection</th>
<th>Shelter/WASH</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>36</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>72*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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)*
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 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 will 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, and so on). 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-fits-all’ approach, the methodologies used in other humanitarian contexts can be learned from to support development of one that can be applied to the context in Ukraine, taking into account its particularities, (such as the availability of relevant datasets, planning timeframe, and so on). For this purpose, two examples have been examined – one from Yemen (HNO 2017) and the other from Colombia (HNO 2017) – together with the global technical guidance note (2015).133

A thorough study of both examples and additional technical guidance from the OCHA HQ’s Coordinated Assessment Support Section (CASS) suggest the potential for adapting the Yemen methodology to systematize and further enhance the rigour of the Ukraine HNO 2017 methodology, which also followed the global guidance.

The proposed 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, two types of domains are proposed – 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 will also be scaled from 0 to 5.
- Calculations will be made at each and every geographic unit (at rayon level for Luhanska and Donetska 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 then 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 will be 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 will not be taken into calculation to avoid inactive weighting.

**Formula:**

\[
\text{Composite index } \theta = (\text{Max scale}) \times \left(\frac{D_1}{D_1 \text{ max}} \right) \times \left(\frac{D_2}{D_2 \text{ max}} \right) \times \left(\frac{D_3}{D_3 \text{ max}} \right) \]

**Proposed outputs**

A composite severity map, based on colour-coded scaling of 1-5, will results from the composite index value for each geographical unit (rayon level for Donetska and Luhanska Oblasts; and Oblast level for the rest of the country.)

The proposed outputs would not substitute or replace a ranking and/or analysis of severity of sector-specific needs, but serve 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.
