

# Situation Overview: Area Based Assessment in the Government Controlled Areas within 5km of the Line of Contact

Ukraine, July 2017



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**REACH** Informing more effective humanitarian action

## Key Findings

### Assessed Area

The assessed area, a 5km-wide buffer along the 500km line of contact (LoC), represents an area of nearly 2,000 square kilometres. Within the area, there is an estimated population of over 200,000<sup>1</sup>, including registered internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees. The population is older than the national average as many youths and younger families have fled the area.

Throughout the 27 cities and 73 villages in the area, military activity is constant<sup>2</sup> and poses a major protection risk (Map 2). Since January 2017, 95% of clashes within the government controlled area (GCA) of Ukraine occurred within the assessed area.

### Disruption of Access to Basic Services and Markets

The LoC has disrupted health, education and market networks. Assessed settlements now access services and markets almost exclusively in the GCA (Map 3).

Although 200,000 to 400,000 people cross the LoC on a monthly basis, long lines and heavy restrictions on goods significantly reduce connectivity between large urban centres of non-government controlled areas (NGCAs) and GCA periphery settlements. Adjusting to restrictions, GCA cities and settlements formed new basic service units (BSUs) along the LoC (Map 3). The separation of large NGCA urban

centres from surrounding GCA settlements creates significant service access and delivery challenges within the assessed area, due to security concerns, lack of transport, and departure of qualified personnel.

### Protection

Local populations experience regular shelling, exposure to mines, and other risks related to explosive remnants of war (ERW). These concerns were particularly reported in South Donetsk, West Donetsk, Avdiivka and East Luhansk. The presence of military and shelling was highly reported in West Donetsk and Avdiivka, where military presence expose urban populations to conflict risks.

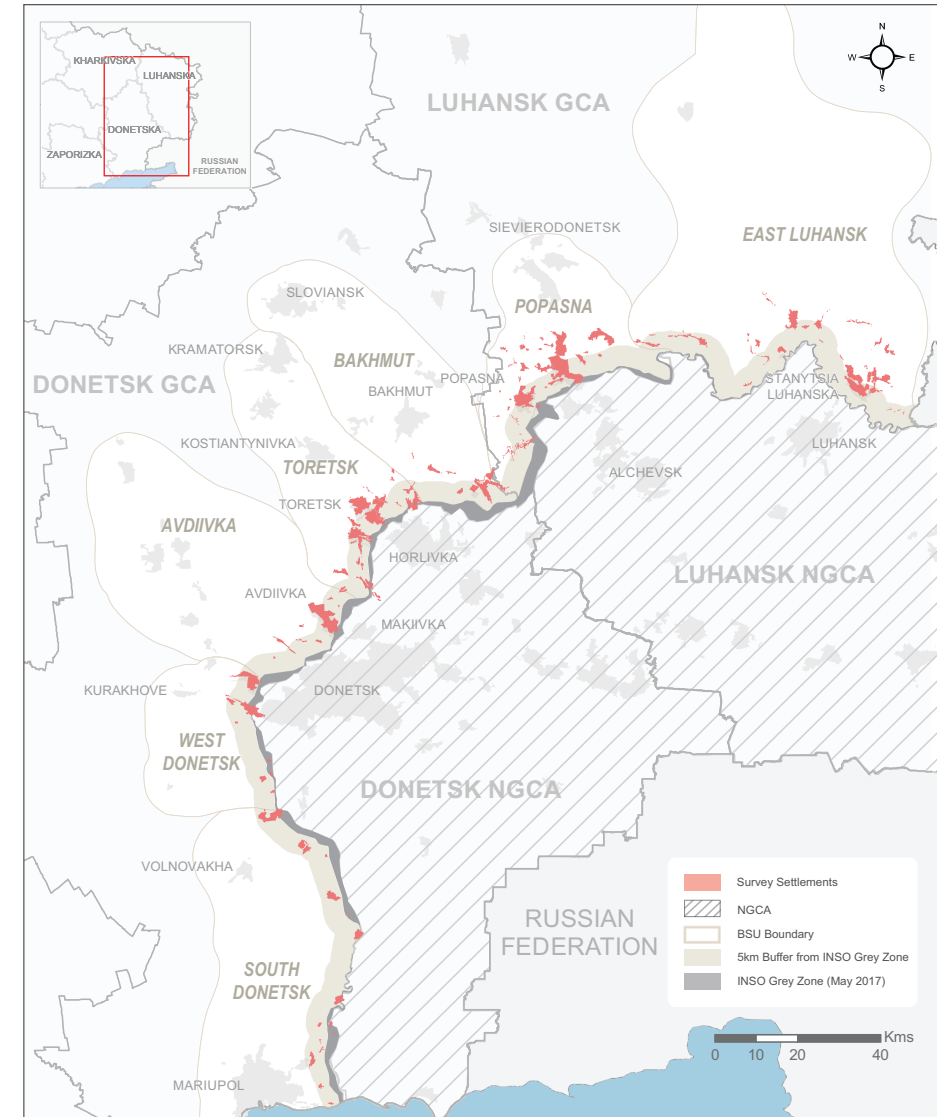
### Education

Education facilities experience regular shelling and over 15 are no longer operational. As of July 2017, 80 facilities reportedly require support with infrastructure repairs; heating; and supplies for gym, libraries and kitchens. Main access challenges were reportedly distance to facility, specifically in larger BSUs such as South Donetsk and East Luhansk, and unsafe travel to facilities, particularly within the more populated areas of West Donetsk and Avdiivka.

### Health

Two thirds of health facilities have been damaged (54 out of 81), with 38 requiring reconstruction assistance. Healthcare delivery challenges include shortages in medicines and basic supplies. Healthcare access challenges

Map 1: Area Based Assessment Settlements



<sup>1</sup> Population data was provided by the local administrations based on their official records. The range is due to significant variation between the official data and estimates provided by OCHA and WFP, which adjusts for displacement.

<sup>2</sup> International NGO Safety Organisation, 2017. Weekly Incident List. Not published.

include an overall lack of facilities, distance to care and costs. Absence of healthcare facilities was particularly reported in West Donetsk and East Luhansk. Unstable access to water, gas and electricity is widespread, with one in three facilities unable to provide 24 hour water and electricity.

### Food, Markets and Livelihoods

Pork and beef were reported as unavailable in more than half of markets. Compared to the average food basket price in Donetsk and Luhansk in September 2016<sup>3</sup>, prices are on average 6 to 10% higher within the assessed area. Self-production in vegetable gardens was identified as a primary coping strategy to market product scarcity.

Local authority representatives indicated a lack of employment opportunities as a main livelihood concern throughout all assessed settlements. However, farmers reported a lack of access to traditional markets with the NGCA as their main concern.

### Shelter

Housing and infrastructure are regularly affected by shelling. Approximately 1 housing unit in 10 is damaged and an estimated 2,700 to 5,000 people live in damaged accommodation. More than 500 houses and 60 buildings have been damaged since January 2017. Access and cost of heating is a major concern to those living both on and off the centralized heating grid. In 25 settlements living off the grid, the availability of heating fuel in local markets was reported as insufficient.

## WASH

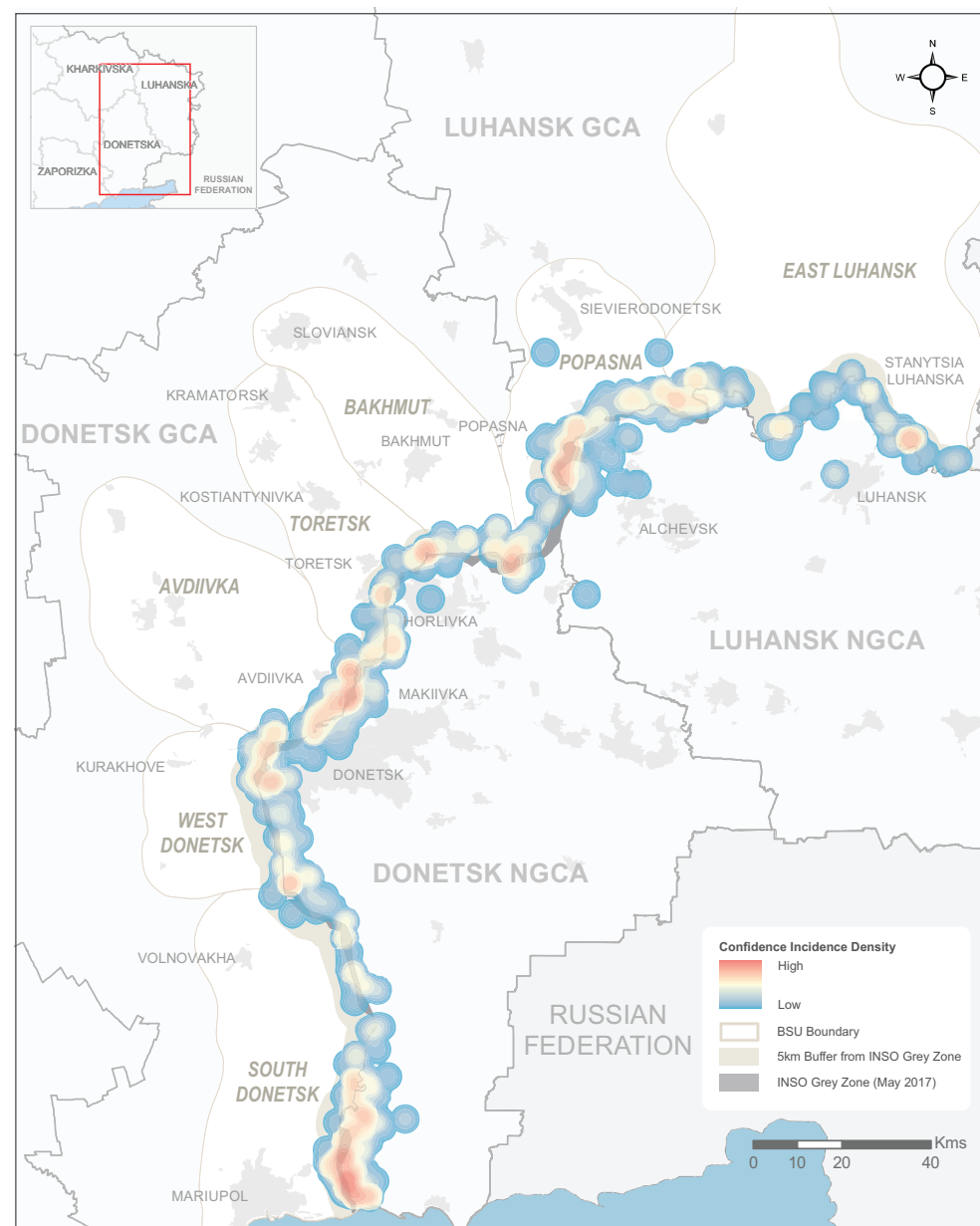
Access to drinking water is overall reported as sufficient. However, due to conflict, utility facilities are regularly hit by shelling causing widespread water, electricity and heating shortages. Water shortages predominately affect those living in urban centres who rely on piped water, as many rural areas are not connected to the municipal water and waste management networks.

### Next Steps

The area based assessment shows the current challenges faced by populations living in conflict affected areas of Donbass. It offers a tool for humanitarian and development actors to identify critical service providers to enable communities close to the LoC to meet their basic needs. It offers detailed insight about the six sectors of the assessment, i) protection ii) education iii) health iv) food v) shelter and vi) water and sanitation hygiene to understand the basic service and market networks in which aid actors operate.

The 'Grand Bargain' commits to 'engage with local and national responders in a spirit of partnership and aims to reinforce, rather than replace, local and national capacities'<sup>4</sup>. This assessment 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. This type of analysis can inform discussions around bridging development and humanitarian action.

Map 2: Density of Conflict Incidence along the LoC



<sup>3</sup> WFP, 2016. Market Update 13. Kyiv. Available [online](#).

<sup>4</sup> Inter-Agency Standing Committee, 2017. Available [online](#).

## Introduction

Conflict between Ukrainian forces and armed opposition groups broke out in eastern Ukraine in April 2014. More than three years later, fighting continues to affect civilians living along the LoC and restricts access to basic services. Restricted movements of people and goods significantly disrupt the socio-economic fabric of the area. In addition, the humanitarian and recovery response to the crisis is hampered by information gaps regarding access to basic services in settlements located along the LoC.

To fill these information gaps, REACH conducted an assessment of all 100 settlements within 5km of the LoC with two main objectives: 1. To understand how residents of settlements in the area access basic services; 2. 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. Results will be used to inform strategic planning by humanitarian and local government actors.

**Table 1: Assessment Timeline**

Month	Research Cycle
January-February	Consultations
March-April	Research Design
May-July	Data Collection
July-September	Data Analysis and Reporting

## Methodology

This assessment was designed in partnership with more than 14 agencies involved in the research design, questionnaire and product validation process. From February to August 2017, the 'community of practice' chaired by REACH met seven times to ensure regular communication with all stakeholders (Table 1).

Based on existing humanitarian community priorities and geographic proximity, the area of assessment was determined to include a total of 100 settlements within 5km of the government controlled side of the LoC. This is in part, due to heavy military presence, systematic ceasefire violations and movement restrictions, which make areas near the LoC 'areas of critical concern'.

Prior to the assessment, REACH undertook a review of available secondary data to identify information gaps. The assessment uses secondary data from the following partners: People in Need (PIN), International NGO Safety Organization (INSO), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and Shelter Cluster.

UNICEF published the 'Children of the Contact Line' report which provides a detailed analysis of needs for children in the assessed area. The INSO database was important to verify security dynamics around the LoC. Population figures were compiled using data from UNOCHA, UNICEF, UNHCR, PIN and state

statistics of Ukraine data.

PIN local needs assessments provide a detailed analysis for most assessed areas in the Donetsk oblast. UNHCR shared a settlement level dataset providing population, housing, infrastructure and protection information for 106 areas in Donetsk and Luhansk. The Shelter Cluster also provided data on damage to housing. The data reported in the BSU profiles are the official figures provided by the local administration, while the total population reported in this summary is an estimate using adjustments from key informants (KIs).

**Table 2: Primary Data Collection KIs and Enumerators**

Key Informant (KI)	# of KI surveyed/ observations
Administrators	85
Community informants	395
Health representatives	81
Education representatives	144
Direct facility observations	329
Market/store representatives	470
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,504</b>

Primary data collection took place in May and June of 2017. In total, REACH conducted 629 semi-structured key informant interviews with 85 administrators, 395 community informants, 81 health representatives and 144 education representatives, in addition to 329 direct observations by enumerators of service delivery facilities (Table 2).

Interviews were conducted in all 100 settlements. Data was collected through semi-

structured interviews collected on mobile devices by a team of 16 REACH trained enumerators. Focus group discussions (FGDs) were also conducted by 16 REACH enumerators, where they shared field observations for each assessed settlement. After the initial assessments were complete, a second round of additional data was collected on market prices and access constraints.

To establish area based basic service units (BSUs), REACH used a software called Gephi to create a network analysis of basic service access. For this analysis, each settlement was represented as a 'node' in the network. The responses on service access were used to identify 'connections' between nodes. REACH used community detection algorithms to extract sets of nodes based on the number of connections to and from each node.

### Limitations

Due to security restrictions and heavy military presence, 12 settlements were not visited by enumerators. In such cases, KIs travelled to accessible areas to meet for the interviews.

This assessment covers only the 100 cities and villages within 5km of the government controlled side of the LoC. All findings are relevant to these areas and do not apply to the wider network surrounding these communities.

Results of this assessment should be considered as indicative, rather than representative, of the situation in the assessed settlements. KI responses may not always corroborate the opinions of the population they represent.

## Basic Service Units

The major urban centres of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts are all currently within the NGCA. To understand how communities along the LoC are now organized, KIs were asked where populations accessed i) education ii) health services, including pharmacies and hospitals iii) courts and policing v) markets and shops.

Map 3 illustrates how the LoC has rearranged the community networks to be entirely within the GCA. This highlights the significant disruption of access to goods and services created by conflict. Using network analysis tools, settlements were clustered together based on their linkages to one another. Seven different basic service units were identified and proximately linked to raion boundaries<sup>5</sup>.

Assessed settlements close to the LoC exclusively access basic services and markets in urban centres within GCA. Popasna, the major city of the Popasnianskyi raion, remains a central node of activity for the 19 communities that fall within the same BSU. However, the BSUs of Avvdiika and West Donetsk are now disconnected from NGCA urban areas of Donetsk, Yasynuvata and Makiivka. Those living in Avvdiika and West Donetsk must now access services in the cities of Pokrovsk and Kurakhove.

Apart from produce trade between Stanitsa Luhansk and Luhansk city in East Luhansk, there are now no connections between the GCA and NGCA. Table 3 shows GCA cities that

have become necessary service providers to the assessed communities, many of which fall outside of the assessment scope. For example, most of the cities within the Avdiivka BSU were highly reliant on Yasynuvata (NGCA) for health services.

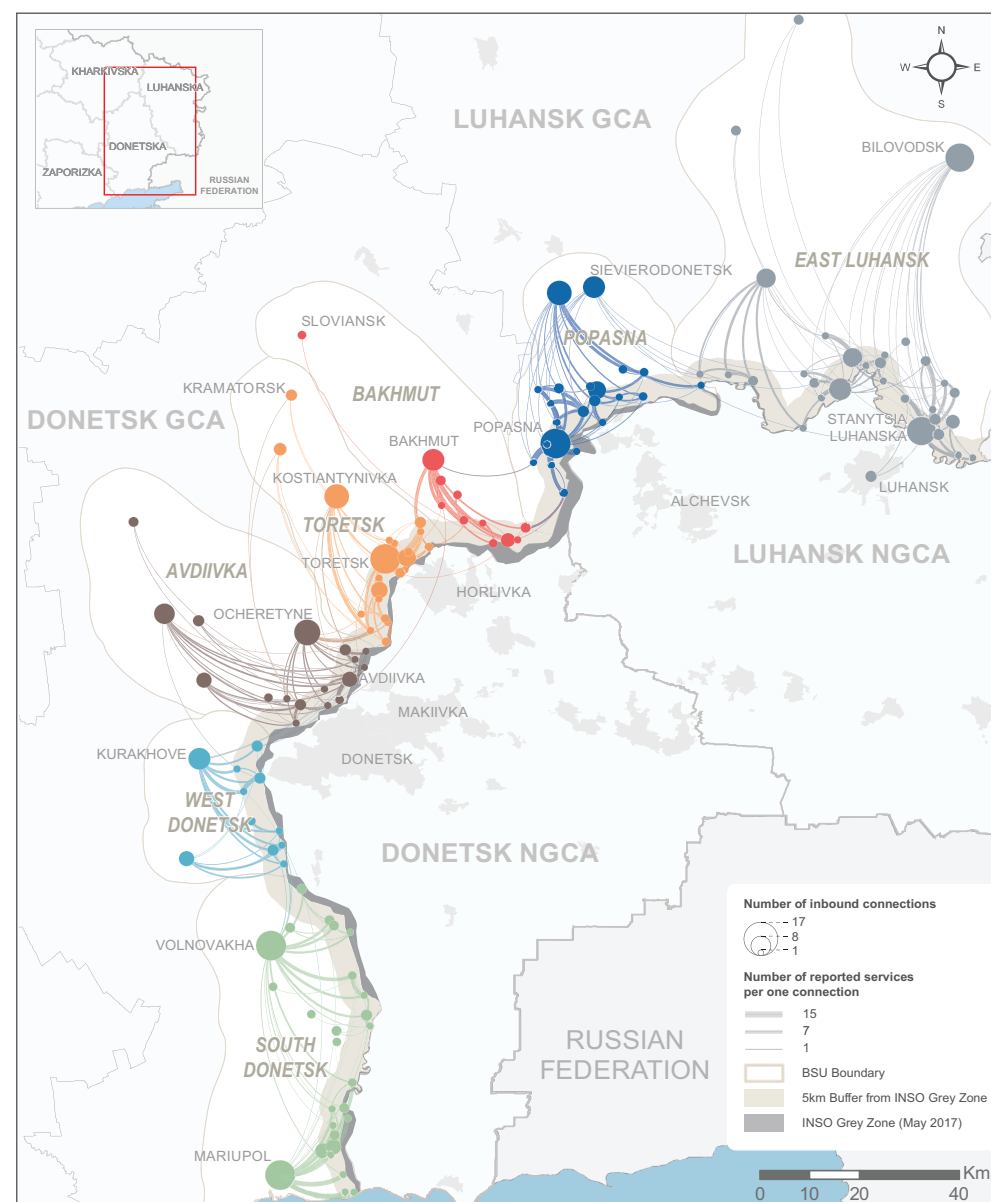
**Table 3: Top 10 service providing cities**

Service Providing City	Rank
Popasna	1
Toretsk	2
Mariupol	3
Stanytsia Luhanska	4
Volnovakha	5
Bakhmut	6
Kurakhove	7
Shchastia	8
Novhorodske	9
Hirske	10

Overall, the assessment found that communities are able to access healthcare, education, utilities and markets but restrictions of movement, unsafe roads, shelling and mines constitute key challenges for the local population.

The BSUs enable humanitarian and development actors to identify critical nodes in the provision of service delivery along the LoC. Situation overviews of each of the seven BSU identified are available to help actors understand local challenges related to service and market access by each sector.

**Map 3: BSUs near the LoC**



<sup>5</sup> The LoC crosses 10 raions which are the second level of governance after the oblasts.

**Table 4: Main characteristics and service access issues by BSU**

	South Donetsk	West Donetsk	Avdiivka	Toretsk	Bakhmut	Popasna	East Luhansk
<b>Number of administrative units<sup>6</sup></b>	17	8	9	14	6	13	19
<b>Raions</b>	Mariupolska, Volnovaskyi	Marinskyi	Avdiivska, Yasynuvatskyi	Toretsk	Bakhmutskyi	Popasna	Stanytsia Luhanska, Novaidar
<b>Population<sup>7</sup></b>	5,900	16,805	5,774	71,185	24,213	57,961	41,997
<b>Key protection concerns</b>	Mines / ERW; shelling; destruction of property	Mines / ERW; shelling; presence of military	Mines / ERW; shelling; presence of military	Shelling; mines / ERW; community tension	Mines / ERW; community tension; presence of military	Mines / ERW; community tension; shelling	Mines / ERW; community tension; destruction of property
<b>Administrative units where checkpoints control access</b>	9 out of 17	6 out of 8	6 out of 9	7 out of 14	4 out of 6	9 out of 13	13 out of 19
<b>Key education challenges reported</b>	Route to school is unsafe, distance to school is too great	Route to school is unsafe, distance to school is too great	Route to school is unsafe, distance to school is too great	Distance to school is too great, route to school is unsafe	Distance to school is too great, route to school is unsafe	Distance to school is too great, route to school is unsafe	Distance to school is too great, insufficient transport to schools
<b>Protection issues in schools</b>	Regular shelling, no access to bomb shelters, presence of mines	Presence of mines, regular shelling, insufficient psychosocial support (PSS)	Regular shelling, no access to bomb shelters, presence of mines	Regular shelling, presence of mines, no access to bomb shelters	No access to bomb shelters, presence of mines, regular shelling	Regular shelling, no access to bomb shelters, presence of mines	Regular shelling, no access to bomb shelters, presence of mines
<b>Key healthcare challenges reported</b>	Lack of healthcare facilities, cost of transport to facilities, security risks when travelling to facilities	Lack of healthcare facilities, security risks when travelling to facilities, no transportation to facilities	Lack of healthcare facilities, security risks when travelling to facilities, cost of healthcare	Cost of healthcare, lack of healthcare facilities, difficulties related to old age	Cost of transport to facilities, lack of healthcare facilities, cost of healthcare	Lack of qualified health staff, lack of healthcare facilities, cost of transport to facilities	Lack of healthcare facilities, distance to facilities, cost of transport to facilities
<b>Administrative units without running water</b>	14 out of 17	4 out of 8	7 out of 9	4 out of 14	2 out of 6	10 out of 13	13 out of 19
<b>Administrative units following bad waste disposal practices</b>	11 out of 17	8 out of 8	2 out of 9	12 out of 14	3 out of 6	10 out of 13	18 out of 19
<b>Key WASH challenges reported</b>	Cannot empty septic tank, water shortages	Water shortages, damage to infrastructure, no water supply	Water shortages, damage to infrastructure, water delivery problems	Water shortages, cannot empty septic tank	Cannot empty septic tank, water shortages	Cannot empty septic tank, water shortages	Cannot empty septic tank, insufficient water to flush toilets

<sup>6</sup> There are 85 administrative units but 100 settlements were assessed. This is due to the fact that administrative units can be composed of several settlements.

<sup>7</sup> The population figures provided in the table are based on administration reported data and are higher than the estimated figures from the assessment, which adjusts for estimated displacement figures.

## Demographics

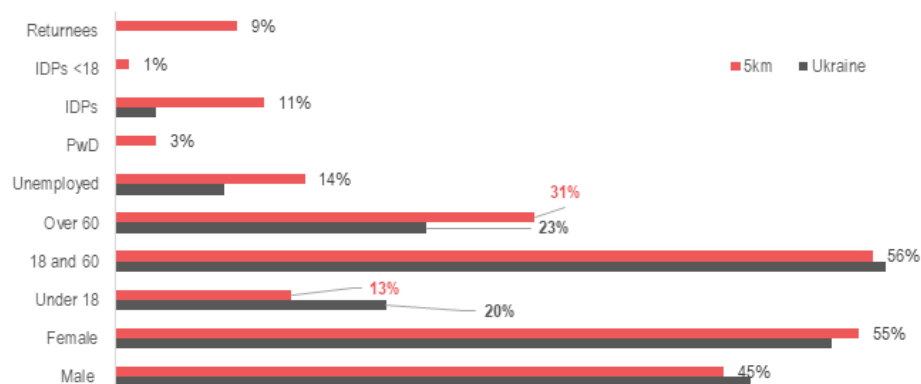
The Donbass, Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, is one of the most developed regions of Ukraine. Based on 2014 estimates, 9 cities within Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts have populations exceeding 100,000 people. The major urban clusters like Donetsk, Horlivka, Alchevks and Luhansk are now in the NGCA. This leaves many GCA peripheral areas disconnected from their pre-conflict economic and social service centres (Map 4). Several urban peripheral cities in the GCA are within the scope of this assessment including: Avdiivka, Marinka, Toretsk, Popasna and Stanitsa Luhansk.

Based on figures provided by local authorities and secondary sources, there are between 150,000 to 200,000<sup>8</sup> people living in the 100 assessed settlements. The assessed population is significantly older than the

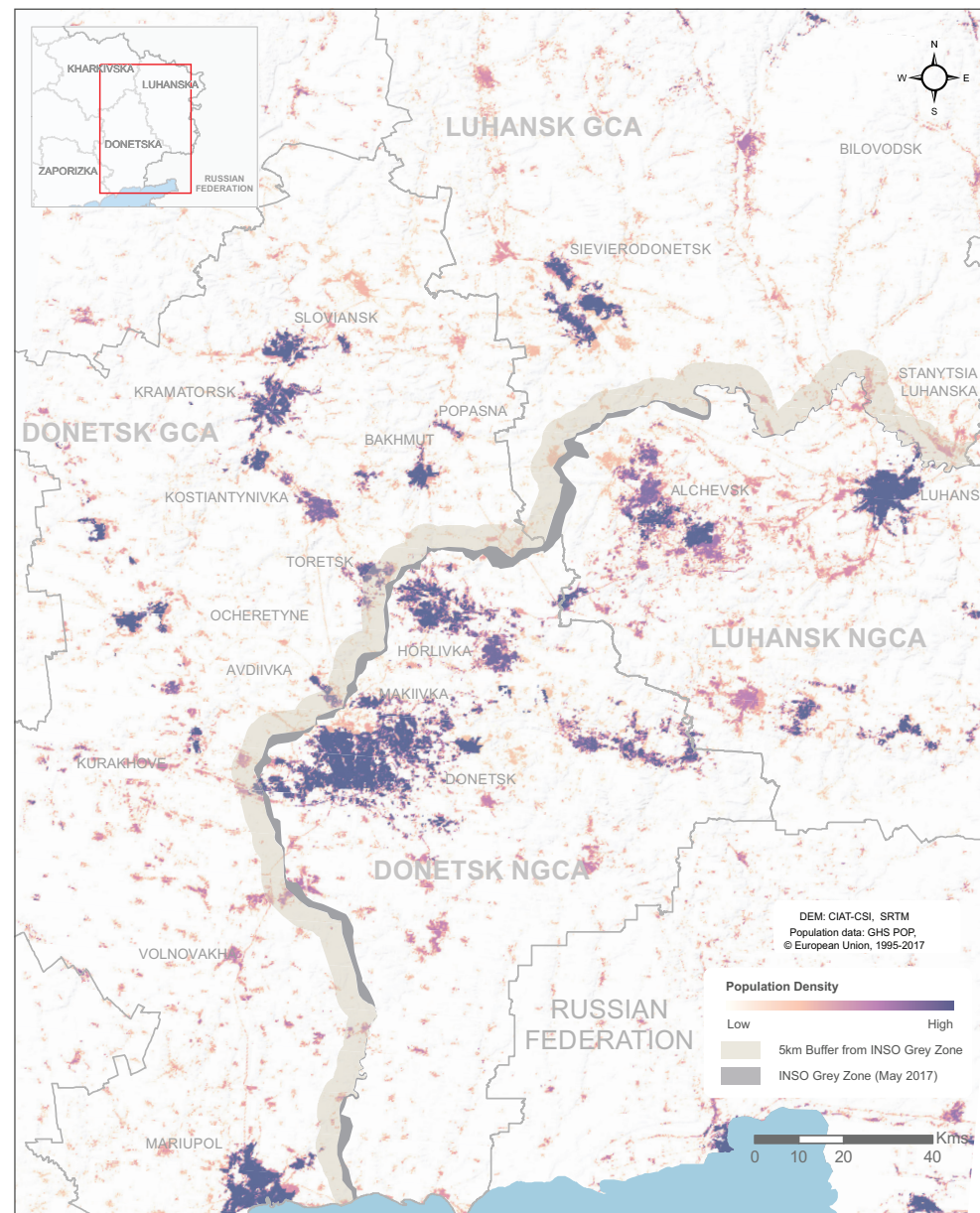
Ukrainian average, with 31% above 60 and only 13% below 18 (Figure 1). This finding corroborates observations that elderly households are less likely to resettle than younger households<sup>9</sup>. Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts also experienced youth outmigration before the conflict began.

Based on official records, more than 10% of people in these settlements are registered IDPs (according to national legislation). This represents a population of more than 20,000 people. Additionally, more than 45,000 people were reported to have left, out of which more than 23,000 have returned. The areas reporting the highest levels of ongoing displacement were Krasnohorivka, Avdiivka, Marinka, Stanytsa Luhansk, Zolote and Popasna. An estimated 1,340 to 8,000 residents have not returned to these cities as of July 2017. Data on non-registered conflict related displaced households is not available and was not reported by local authorities.

Figure 1: Ukraine Population Structure



Map 4: Population Density Distribution



<sup>8</sup> Population data was provided by the local administrations based on their official records. The range is due to significant variation between the official data and estimates provided by OCHA and WFP, which adjusts for displacement.

<sup>9</sup> International Monitoring System, 2017. Available online.

## Protection

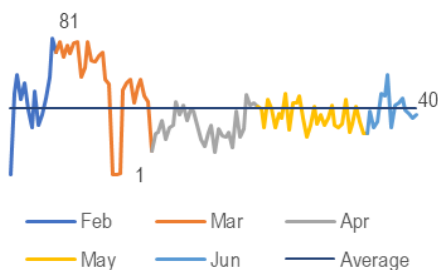
Assessed settlements are located in an area of active conflict, where deaths and injuries linked to military exchanges are regularly reported. In addition, mines and ERW constitute major security concerns for populations living in the area.

### Exposure to Violence

In total, respondents reported 218 deaths and 683 injuries in 38 and 50 communities respectively. According to the OHCHR<sup>10</sup>, between 16 February and 15 May 2017, the conflict in Ukraine caused 63 deaths and 157 injuries. These new casualties bring the total number of people killed in all of Ukraine to 10,090, of which 2,777 were civilians, since the start of the conflict in April 2014.

Settlements within 5km of the LoC are constantly affected by conflict, with an average of 40 incidents per day between February and June 2017. Numbers of daily fire exchanges

**Figure 2: # of daily fire exchange (February to June 2017)**



are steady over time and range from 1 to 81 (Figure 2). The level of violence was reportedly highest during the last week of February and the first week of March. These incidents represent 96% of all conflict related security incidents recorded in Ukraine between February and June 2017. This proportion includes 38% of all conflict related security incidents occurring within 5km of the LoC in the NGCA, 34% within 5km of the LoC in the GCA (in the assessed area), and 24% in the grey zone (Table 5).

**Table 5: % of security incidents reported by area (February to June 2017)**

Area	Percentage of clashes
5km NGCA buffer from INSO grey zone excluding INSO zone	38%
5km GCA buffer from INSO grey zone excluding INSO zone	34%
INSO Grey Zone	24%
GCA excluding INSO grey zone and 5km buffer	3%
NGCA excluding INSO grey zone and 5km buffer	1%

### Main Protection Risks

As a direct result of the active military activity, the main protection concerns reported are mines and ERW, shelling, community tensions, destruction of property, presence of military and lack of psychosocial support (PSS). In total, 74 assessed settlements reported weekly or daily shelling.

Donetsk and Avdiivka reported higher levels

of concern for shelling, reflecting the high number of security incidences recorded in these areas.

**Table 6: Most reported protection concerns (% of KIs)**

Challenges	Frequency
Mines and ERW	51%
Shelling	34%
Community tensions	30%
Destruction of property	21%
Presence of military	14%
Lack of psychosocial support	11%

Mines and ERW were consistently reported as a key concern, albeit at lower frequencies around Toretsk and Poposna, potentially indicating lower levels of perceived risk for the population. The presence of military was also more frequently mentioned in West Donetsk and Avdiivka, indicating a link between military presence/activity and exposure to armed violence.

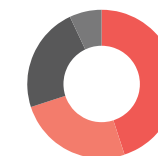
**Table 7: Settlements where KIs reported hazardous areas were unmarked**

Artemove	Novobakhmutivka	Pshenychne
Berdianske	Novoluhanske	Sieverne
Heivka	Novoselivka	Svitlodarsk
Hnutove	Novotoshkivske	Syze
Kirove	Novozvanivka	Valuiske
Lomakyne	Nyrkove	Verkhnia Vilkhova
Luhanske	Nyzhnoteple	Vilkhove
Makarove	Opytne	Vodiane
Malynove	Orlovskoe	Vyskryva
Nevelske	Pishchane	

There are remaining gaps in marking of hazardous areas. In the 85 settlements where KI reported presence of landmines, all or most of the known hazardous areas were marked. However, in 29 settlements some informants highlighted that none of the hazardous areas are marked (Table 7).

Mine risk education (MRE) is reportedly reaching local populations. Most KI (67%) said that the community had received MRE with 23% saying it was insufficient. One in four (25%) KI reported MRE was not available in their settlement and 7% are unable to provide information (Figure 3).

**Figure 3: Availability of MRE (% of KIs)**



MRE available and sufficient	45%
MRE not available	25%
MRE available, not sufficient	23%
Don't know	7%

### Concerns for Women

A total of 13 KIs from 8 settlements highlighted additional concerns for women including; cases of domestic violence, rape, intimidation, sexual harassment and survival sex, especially in households from disadvantaged economic groups.

Furthermore, 24 informants from 23 settlements were unable to answer this

<sup>10</sup> OHCHR, 2017. Report on the human rights situation in Ukraine. Kyiv. Available [online](#).

**Table 8: Settlements where KIs reported additional concerns for women**

Hirske  
 Katerynivka  
 Luhanske  
 Myronivskyi  
 Popasna  
 Stanytsia Luhanska  
 Svitlodarsk  
 Zolote

a separatist informant. The settlement in question was in an isolated area experiencing high levels of conflict.

**Community Tensions**

Community tensions with the military or IDPs were highlighted as protection concerns by at least one KI in 64 settlements. In 10 settlements there was high consensus on the presence of community tensions<sup>13</sup>. Community tensions with the military and IDPs were also reported by the enumerators. Incidents with the military involved road accidents, harassment and violence against residents, abuse of power, and alcohol abuse. Looting and requisition of houses was mentioned during the FGDs with enumerators in six settlements<sup>14</sup>.

Tensions with IDPs was mentioned in one settlement, in which frustrations were voiced around distribution of humanitarian aid and access to employment. UNHCR found that discrimination in employment, housing and education was often an issue for IDPs<sup>15</sup>.

**Psychosocial Support (PSS)**

A lack of adequate PSS was reported in 60 settlements (60% of assessed settlements). In nine settlements more than half of KIs highlighted PSS as a priority<sup>16</sup>. Issues of shelling, lack of water, inability to purchase medicines and increased alcohol consumption were factors of stress included in 'other responses'. As reported by the IAVA, 31% of households did not report any need for PSS in the area, while 57% reported no services available<sup>17</sup>.

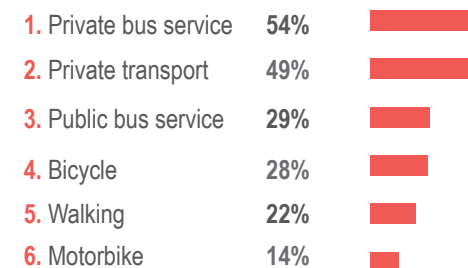
Attitudes towards mental health and PSS varied significantly. Many settlements were very receptive and aware of such support, while others did not understand why people would require PSS.

**Access to Social Services**

Social services are reportedly unavailable or insufficient in 43 settlements. Community informants were asked about the availability of pension delivery, in-home social care and registration services. They reported a lack of social service workers, long queues and high demand for administrative services as key barriers to access. These challenges also led to difficulties in obtaining social payments or making changes in registration.

In order to access social services, local inhabitants are required to travel to the closest local council. The reorganization of services due to the LoC limit the availability of public transport to local councils. Therefore, KIs reported private bus/car as the main means of transport. KIs reported the median cost transport was 70 Ukrainian hryvnia (UAH) (2.60 USD)<sup>18</sup>. Using average income figures from the IAVA, a round trip is approximately 10% of the average income.

**Table 11: Most frequent means of transportation (% of KIs)<sup>19</sup>**



question, highlighting limited availability of information on the subject. A OHCHR report published in March 2017<sup>11</sup> highlights 34 documented cases of conflict related sexual violence happening in the country on both sides of the LoC. In addition, school staff members were aware of cases of survival sex and were open to discussing the matter<sup>12</sup>.

While information on gender based violence (GBV) is difficult to collect, some data was shared by the KIs. For example, in one settlement KIs reported harassment by the military of a women suspected of being

**Table 9: Most reported concern by BSU (% of KIs)**

	South Donetsk	West Donetsk	Avdiivka	Toretsk	Bakhmut	Popasna	East Luhansk
Mines and ERW							
Community Tensions							
Shelling							
Destruction of Property							
Presence of military							
Lack of PSS			74%	4%			
	Highest				Lowest		

**Table 10: Key access constraints reported<sup>19</sup>**



**Restrictions of Movement**

Restrictions on movement of people and goods vary between areas. For example, 20 communities have entry and exit checkpoints while 9 communities face restrictions on the type of goods that can enter the area. According to the IAVA, around a quarter of households living along the LoC had to cross checkpoints in the GCA to access basic services.

<sup>11</sup> OHCHR, 2017. Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Ukraine. Kyiv. Available [online](#).

<sup>12</sup> UNICEF, 2017. Children of the Contact Line. Kyiv. Available [online](#).

<sup>13</sup> Chermalyk, Kodema, Novhorodske, Novohnativka, Stanytsia Luhanska, Staryi Aidar, Svitlodarsk, Vodiane, Voitove, Vyskryva.

<sup>14</sup> Berdianske, Hnitove, Leninske, Makarove, Nyzhoteple and Syze Chermalyk.

<sup>15</sup> UNHCR, 2017. Ukraine Participatory Assessment. Kyiv. Available [online](#).

<sup>16</sup> Artemove, Dachne, Leninske, Lomakyne, Luhanske, Novohryhorivka, Peredilske, Pervomaiske & Sieverne Berdianske, Hnitove, Leninske, Makarove, Nyzhoteple and Syze Chermalyk

<sup>17</sup> REACH, 2016. Interagency Vulnerability Assessment. Kyiv. Available [online](#).

<sup>18</sup> 1 USD=26 UAH, September 2017

<sup>19</sup> KIs could report more than one challenge.



## Education

### Student Population

More than 18,000 children are reportedly attending schools in the assessment area. This includes more than 730 registered as IDPs (4%). The proportion of IDP to non-displaced student varied between 0% and 38% depending on the school assessed.

### Education access challenges

Overall, access to education in the area was good. Challenges in accessing education varied depending on the location of the BSUs (Table 12). For large BSUs (South Donetsk and East Luhansk), distance was the most frequently cited challenge to access education services.

In the BSUs around Donetsk city, 49 settlements reported unsafe routes to education facilities due to high exposure of military exchanges. Other challenges include bad roads, lack of teachers, parents not sending children to schools after shelling episodes, and absence of heating during the winter.

### Education delivery challenges

Regarding the delivery of quality education, the most frequent challenges reported by informants were the lack of supplies, funds, inadequate facilities and lack of qualified teachings staff (Table 13). Other responses included security concerns, insufficient numbers of pupils and lack of money to pay for kindergarten.

Overcrowding did not appear to be an issue in the assessed settlements. This is in line with KI responses on low numbers of children attending school. In 14 settlements there are no children of primary school age as many families with children left the area due to high levels of conflict.

### Damage to Education Facilities

Education facilities in the assessed areas have been significantly affected by conflict. Of the 144 schools assessed, 88 were damaged and reported needing additional support. According to the Education Cluster, 55

schools in Donbass are damaged, destroyed or temporarily closed. A map developed with the Shelter Cluster in February of 2017, shows the proximity of shelling damage to schools, kindergartens near Avdiivka<sup>20</sup>. Some schools are temporarily hosting students from other damaged schools. For example,

**Table 14: Status of assessed education facilities**

Damaged, need support	83 / 144
Damaged, no need for support	30 / 144
No damage	31/144

**Table 12: Most reported education access challenge by BSU (% of KIs)**

	South Donetsk	West Donetsk	Avdiivka	Toretsk	Bakhmut	Popasna	East Luhansk
Distance							
Unsafe Routes							
Other							
No Challenges							
Cost of Attendance							
Don't Know/Unsure							
	Highest		67%	0%			Lowest

**Table 13: Most reported education delivery challenge by BSU (% of KIs)**

	South Donetsk	West Donetsk	Avdiivka	Toretsk	Bakhmut	Popasna	East Luhansk
Lack of Supplies							
Lack of Funds							
Other							
Lack of Facilities							
Lack of Qualified Teachers							
Lack of Internet Access							
	Highest		90%	0%			Lowest

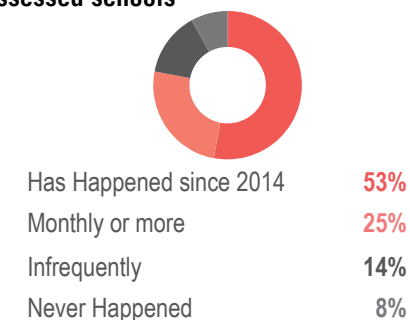
in Krasnohorivka, one facility is hosting five schools, putting pressure on the learning space<sup>21</sup>.

### Exposure to Conflict

A major concern reported by KIs is the exposure of children to shelling. More than 3,800 children in 36 facilities are reportedly exposed to monthly or more frequent shelling, including more than 500 kindergarten pupils. Bomb shelters were not available for 31 of those facilities.

The 17 facilities that are exposed to at least monthly shelling all reported insufficient access to PSS in schools to mitigate conflict induced trauma. This number is likely to be under reported as school directors might not be aware of the importance of such services.

**Figure 4: Shelling frequency reported by assessed schools**



Availability of child friendly spaces varied significantly between BSUs. Only 2% of KIs in East Luhansk reported sufficient availability areas for children, compared to 25% in Avdiivka highlighting coverage discrepancies across the assessment area.

<sup>20</sup> Shelter Cluster, Density of Shelter Damage Due to Conflict in February 2017. Available [online](#).

<sup>21</sup> Education Cluster, 2017. Krasnohorivka (Marinskyi raion, Donetsk oblast) in need of additional learning spaces. Kyiv. Available [online](#).

## Health

Before the LoC was established, specialized care was provided in Donetsk and Luhansk city, which are now inaccessible to GCA settlements. However, there are more than 80 health facilities in the assessed area, including 36 clinics, 10 hospitals, 21 feldsher-midwife<sup>22</sup> stations, and 14 other facilities providing health services to local population.

### Healthcare access challenges

The main challenges to accessing healthcare are a lack of health facilities, the cost of transport, the cost of care and security concerns (Table 15). The lack of health facilities was particularly reported in Avdiivka and East Luhansk, as these areas were closely connected to Donetsk and Luhansk cities before the conflict. In addition, according to UNICEF maps, HIV testing labs are now only available in Kharkiv for facilities in Donetsk GCA<sup>23</sup>. Disconnection between GCA peripheries and large NGCA cities is hampering access specific lab and medical services within the area.

### Healthcare delivery challenges

Health service providers reported a lack of equipment and qualified doctors and specialists (Table 16). Eleven facilities reported challenges related to damaged infrastructure. A lack of ambulances was widely reported by facilities. All of the 14 surveyed hospitals did not have enough ambulances to serve their populations. In the BSUs of Avdiivka and

East Luhansk, restricted access to hospitals in Yasynuvata and Slovianoserbsk increases pressure on the GCA health system. Toretsk and Bakhmut are now the main emergency care providers for these communities. KIs living in remote settlements highlighted the length of time to get ambulatory assistance, due to restrictions on movement and relied on mobile clinics.

Many health service units face water and electricity grid disruptions without back up sources. In total, 28 (34%) facilities have experienced electricity shortages and have no generators and 18 (22%) facilities reported

water shortages and no water storage capacity. Shortages of water, gas and electricity were especially challenging for South and West Donetsk due to their reliance on the NGCA for such utilities.

**Table 17: Utility access in facilities**

Facilities unable to provide 24h water supply	18 / 81
Facilities unable to provide 24h electricity supply	28 / 81

East Luhansk reported a lack of funding and doctors as primary issues, in particular, only a limited number of doctors were available to

provide specialized care for the elderly.

In 41 settlements, humanitarian actors delivered assistance to support health services. However, in 38 communities health coverage was reportedly insufficient. Health facilities face regular medicine and supply shortages. In total, 42 facilities reported a lack of basic medicines or essential supplies. Items most commonly unavailable included diapers, syringes, bandage materials, gloves and water tanks.

**Table 18: Status of damaged facilities**

Not fully rehabilitated	38 / 81
Fully rehabilitated	14 / 81

**Table 15: Most reported health access challenges by BSU (% of KIs)**

	South Donetsk	West Donetsk	Avdiivka	Toretsk	Bakhmut	Popasna	East Luhansk
No health facility							
High Cost of Transport							
Other							
Cost of Care							
Insufficient Transport							
Security Concerns							
			Highest	75%	2%		Lowest

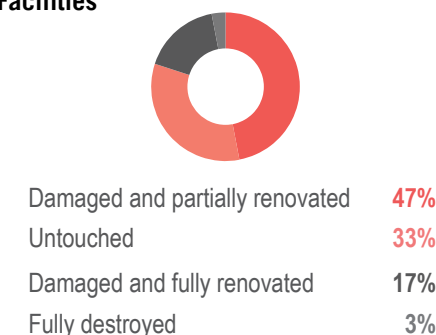
**Table 16: Most reported health delivery challenges by BSU (% of KIs)**

	South Donetsk	West Donetsk	Avdiivka	Toretsk	Bakhmut	Popasna	East Luhansk
Lack of equipment							
Lack of doctor							
Lack of funding							
Inadequate utilities							
Other							
Insufficient Supplies							
			Highest	75%	0%		Lowest

### Damage to Healthcare Facilities

In total, 54 (66%) health facilities reported conflict related damages and 38 facilities (46%) still require support. Emergency preparedness was relatively low, with 12 facilities, mostly in rural settlements, having no fire safety measures in place and no bomb shelters.

**Figure 5: Damage Condition of Healthcare Facilities**



<sup>22</sup> Feldsher-midwife stations are type of rural health facility providing basic primary healthcare and reproductive health services with medical professionals including nurses and midwives but no medical doctor.

<sup>23</sup> UNICEF, 2017. Children of the Contact Line. Kyiv. Available [online](#).

## Food Availability

Food insecurity is a growing concern in the assessed area. In 2016, IAVA approximated 13% of households in areas close to the LoC were either moderately food insecure or severely food insecure<sup>24</sup>. In addition, a survey conducted in June 2017 highlights increasing levels of food insecurity in Donetsk and Luhansk GCA compared to 2016<sup>25</sup>.

### Markets

Most markets within the assessed area are functional and sell both food and non-food items. The most frequently reported market access challenges were distance, cost of transport, high prices and security concerns. Transport as a challenge was frequently cited in South Donetsk, while security was cited more frequently in South Donetsk, West Donetsk and Avdiivka BSUs.

Beef, pork and beetroot were not available in 78%, 58% and 49% of shops respectively. The only items that were available in every

shop were salt, wheat bread, butter and boiled sausages. Food availability is better in urban settlements than in rural areas. Meat and dairy products, in particular, are much more difficult to buy from shops in rural areas.

**Table 19: % of shops missing some items**

1. Beef	78%	<div style="width: 78%;"></div>
2. Pork	58%	<div style="width: 58%;"></div>
3. Beetroot	49%	<div style="width: 49%;"></div>

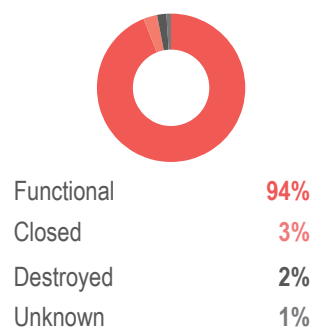
### Food Prices

When compared to the WFP average prices in Donetsk and Luhansk in September 2016<sup>26</sup>, prices for a similar basket of goods were reportedly 5% to 10% higher at the time of assessment. Although, there is significant variance between items, overall basic food commodities are more expensive in Donetsk than last year (Table 22). Self-production is reportedly common in rural area as both a livelihood source and a coping strategy. However, the cost of agricultural inputs such as tools, seeds and fertilizer was mentioned by more than 83% of community KIs.

**Table 20: Price for standard grocery basket**

Zone	Price ( UAH)
5km Zone as of May 2017	729
Donetsk GCA as of September 2016	690
Luhansk GCA as of September 2016	654

**Figure 6: Market functionality**



## Selling to Markets

The main issues to bringing produce to market were distance, lack of access to NGCA markets, problems with transportation and security concerns. The disruption of markets in West Donetsk, Avdiivka and East Luhansk was of particular importance as they were highly dependent on the main urban cities of the NGCA before the conflict. For example, 29 assessed settlements used to sell produce in Donetsk city before the conflict (Map 5 and 6).

The conflict has clearly disrupted access to the markets of the Donbass as shown by the reduced number of connections for selling produce to markets. South Donetsk saw the least change as Mariupol was the main market in the area before the conflict began.

Post conflict market flows are smaller in economic and geographic scope than they were pre conflict. And current markets in GCA have not been able to replace the lost marketplaces in NGCA.

**Table 21. Most reported challenges to accessing markets by BSU (% of KIs)**

	South Donetsk	West Donetsk	Avdiivka	Toretsk	Bakhmut	Popasna	East Luhansk
Distance							
Transport cost							
High prices							
Security concerns							
Transport availability							
No challenges							
	Highest		77%	0%			Lowest

**Table 22. Most reported challenges to selling produce by BSU (% of KIs)**

	South Donetsk	West Donetsk	Avdiivka	Toretsk	Bakhmut	Popasna	East Luhansk
Distance							
No more access to NGCA							
Transporting produce							
Security							
No problems							
Other							
	Highest		84%	2%			Lowest

<sup>24</sup> REACH, 2016. Interagency Vulnerability Assessment. Kyiv. Available [online](#).

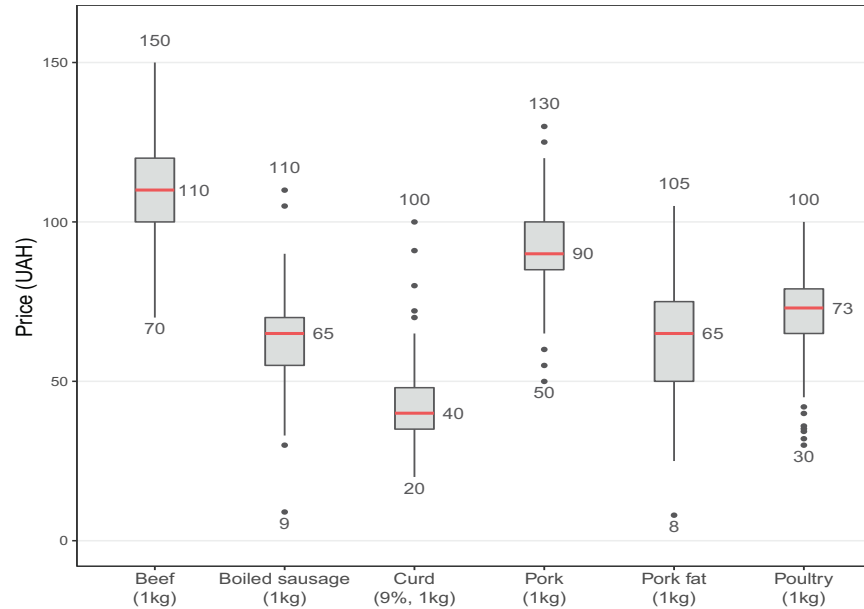
<sup>25</sup> Food Security and Livelihood Cluster, 2017. Dashboard June – July 2017. Available [online](#).

<sup>26</sup> WFP, 2016. Market Update. Kyiv. Available [online](#).

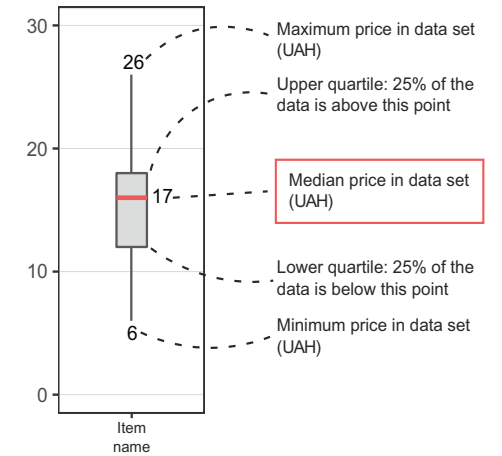
## Price Monitoring

REACH collected observations from more than 100 stores on the price for a standardized basket (established by WFP) of 28 food and basic hygiene items. Data was collected through enumerators visiting shops and recording observed prices. There was no major variance in prices between the assessed areas apart for meat based products. Beef was the most expensive food commodity, followed by pork and poultry. This data was used to calculate the average price for a food basket across the 5km area.

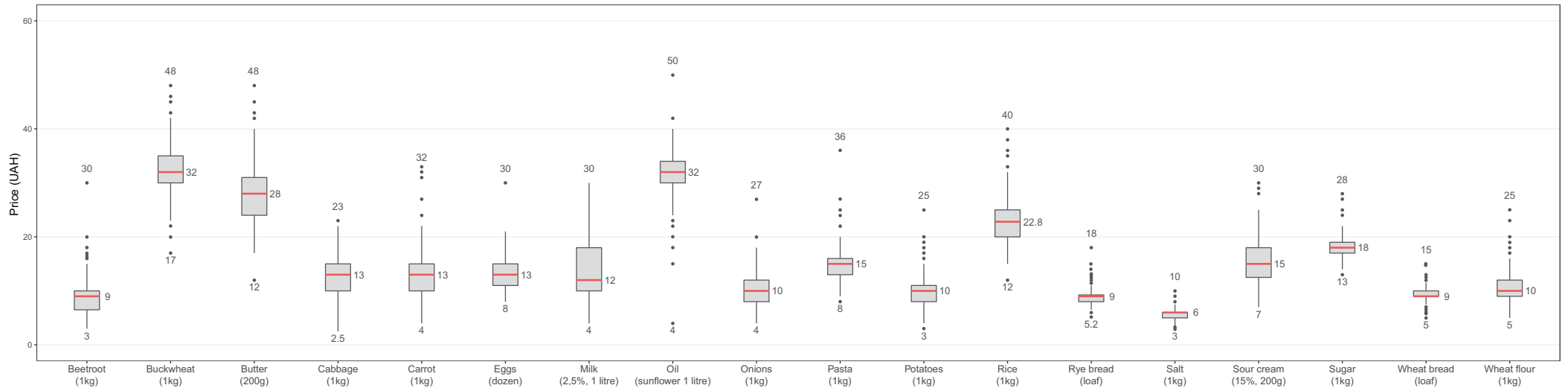
**Boxplot 1: Prices of meat and curd**



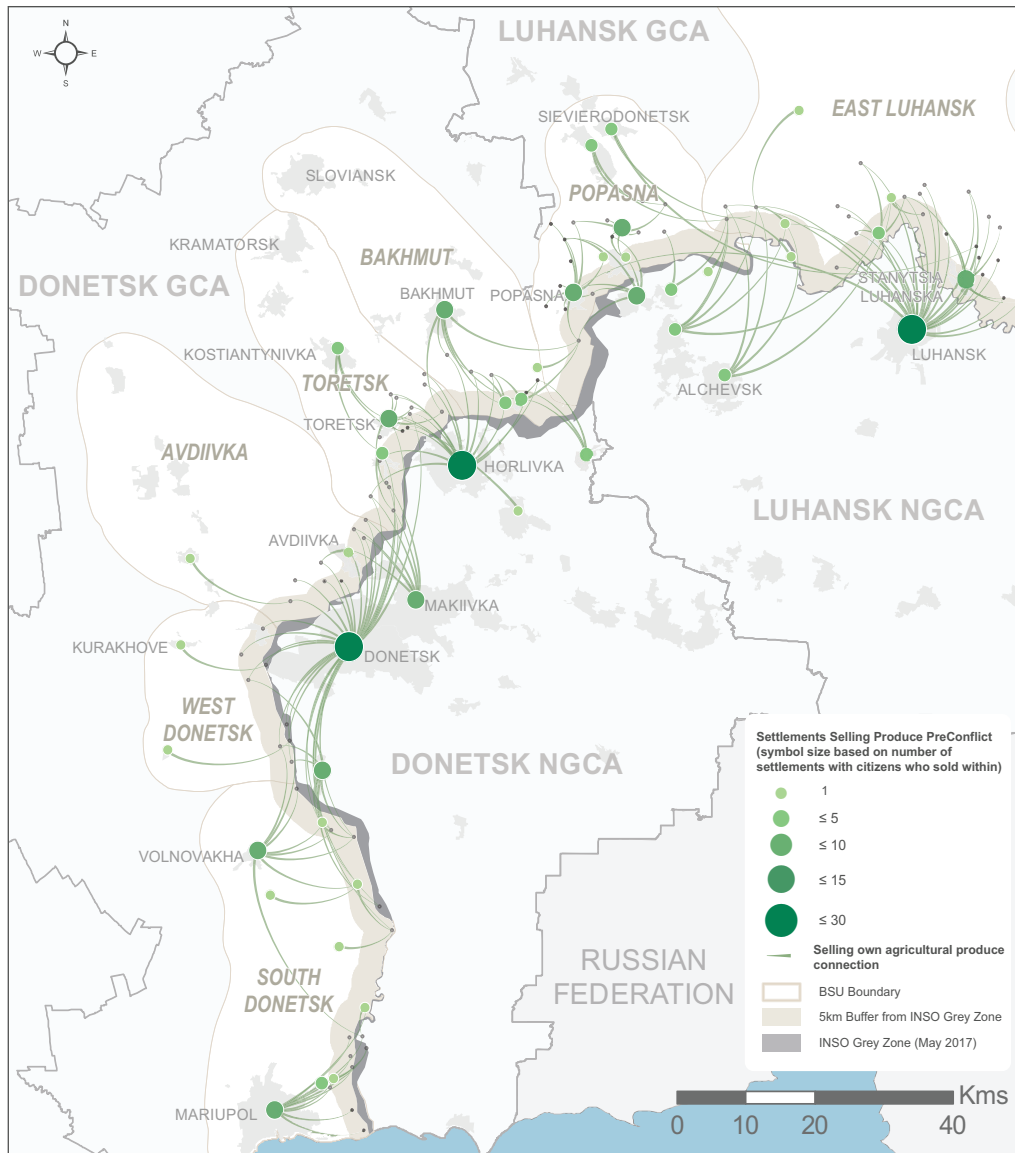
**How to read a boxplot**



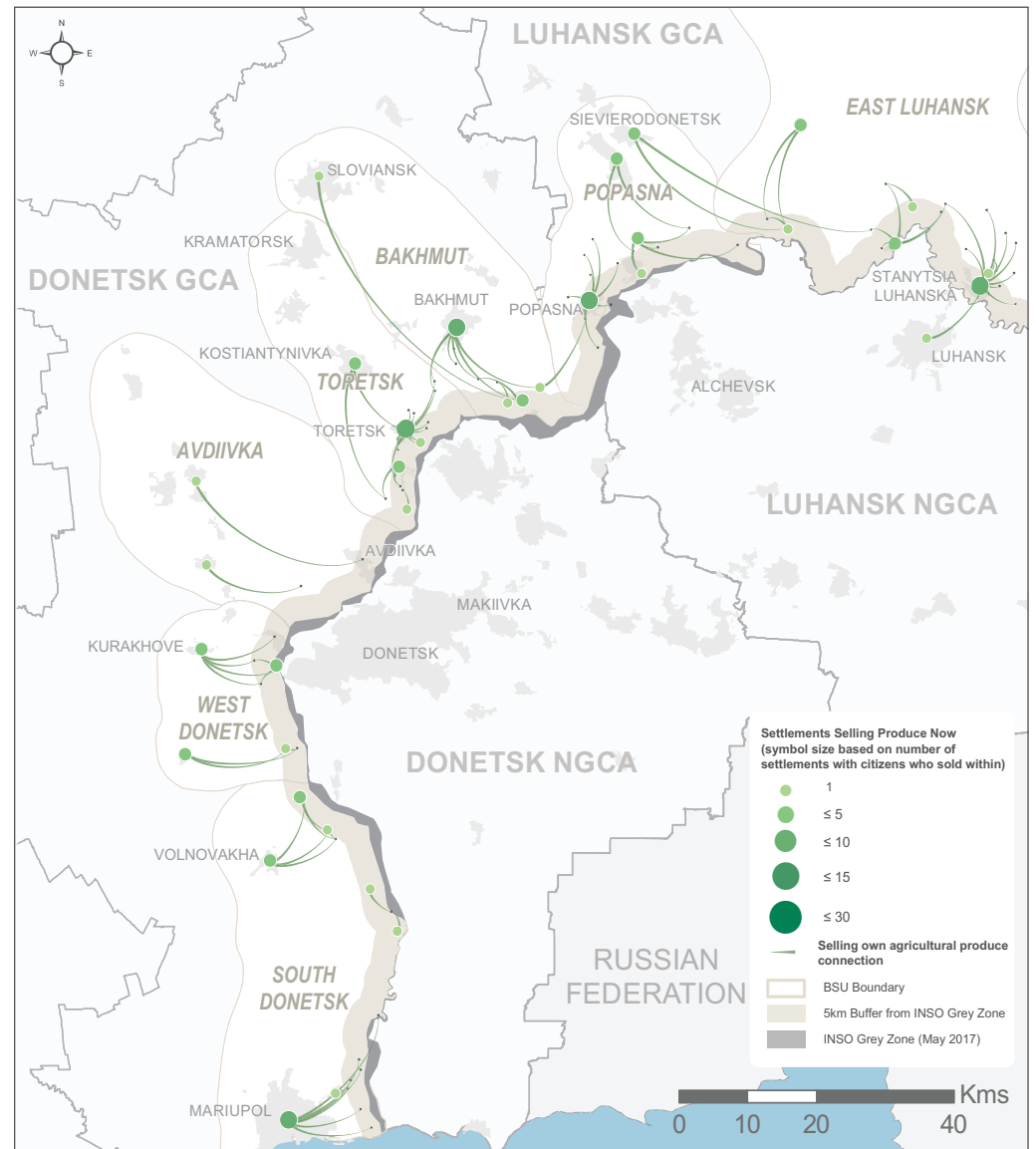
**Boxplot 2: Prices of other food items**



Map 5: Pre conflict network for selling produce



Map 6: Current network for selling produce



## Markets and Livelihoods

farming is an important source of income.

### Access to Financial Service Points (FSPs)

FSPs were available and operational in 31 settlements. The distribution of FSP across the survey area varied significantly. In the densely populated BSUs of Avdiivka, Toretsk, Bakhmut and Popasna, FSPs are less than an approximate 20-minute drive. In rural settlements, the drive times are estimated to be longer. These variations are important to consider when planning cash based intervention. The main challenges in accessing FSPs were distance, cost of travel and lack of service, especially in isolated areas.

### Sources of Income

The main sources of income reported by KIs was allowances (97%), followed by farming (46%), unstable employment (33%) and stable employment (22%) (Table 23).

FGDs on markets and livelihoods highlighted difficult conditions regarding employment in the area. Many people from assessed communities worked in cities in the NGCA before the conflict. Employment was most commonly found in larger cities such as Mariupol, Popasna and Schastia. A majority of assessed settlements are rural areas were

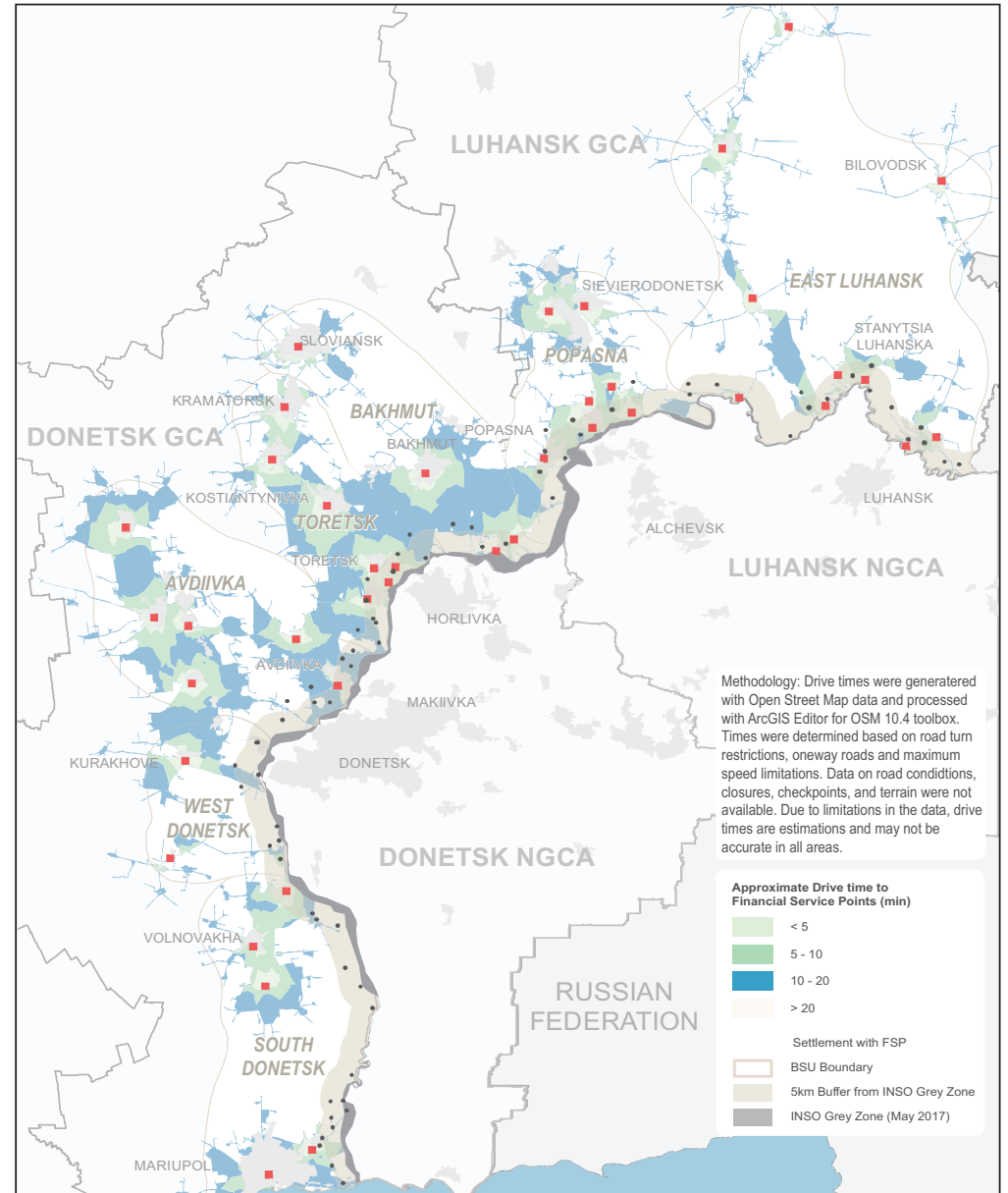
**Table 23: Reported source of income by BSU (% of KIs)**

	South Donetsk	West Donetsk	Avdiivka	Toretsk	Bakhmut	Popasna	East Luhansk
Social payments							
Farming							
Stable employment							
Unstable employment							
Family Support							
		Highest	100%	3%	Lowest		

**Table 24: Main concerns according to local administration by BSU (% of KIs)**

	South Donetsk	West Donetsk	Avdiivka	Toretsk	Bakhmut	Popasna	East Luhansk
Employment							
Security							
Health							
Infrastructure							
Education							
		Highest	100%	0%	Lowest		

**Map 7: Approximate Driving times to FSP**



## Shelter/Winterization

### Accommodation types

The IAVA showed that non-displaced populations were more likely to live in self-owned accommodation, while displaced populations were more likely to rent housing. Most informants reported rent was below 250 UAH. However, in 12 settlements, informants reported ranges from 750 to 1,500 UAH (~28-56 USD).

**Table 25: Settlements where rent prices were reportedly higher**

Artemove	Petrivka
Avdiivka	Popasna
Stanytsia Luhanska	Hirske
Komyshuvakha	Stepne
Krasnohorivka	Toretsk
Novobakhmutivka	Zolote

### Damage to Civilian Property

Civilian housing continues to face significant risk of shelling, especially in high density urban areas, such as Avdiivka and Krasnohorivka. Since January 2017, 177 incidents have occurred, resulting in collateral damages to residential property in both the GCA and the NGCA. As a result, an estimated 570 individual houses were affected, along with 57 buildings. This has led the shelter cluster to increase its forecast of damaged homes in their May 2017 factsheet<sup>27</sup>.

Based on KIs from the local administration between 2,700 and 5,000 households live in damaged shelter. Krasnohorivka KIs reported more than 1,000 households living in damaged accommodation. It is important to highlight that nine local administrations did not know or did not provide an answer, highlighting information gaps on housing conditions at the local level.

**Table 26: Number of settlements by estimated % of people living damaged shelters**

0-20%	51	██████████
21-40%	6	██
41-60%	3	█
61-80%	3	█
81-100%	5	██
Don't Know	10	██
No Data	7	██

In 4 settlements, it was estimated that 80-100% people live in damaged accommodation. In 48 settlements, KIs estimate between 0-20% of residents live in damaged houses. This data confirms the conflict is still very active and continues to affect the housing of civilians along the LoC. Small settlements in South Donetsk were particularly damaged according to enumerators.

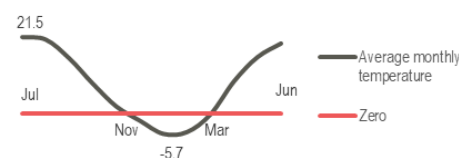
**Table 27: No. of damaged housing units by type**

Heavy	1,067
Medium	7,304
Light	9,121

### Access to Heating

Access to adequate heating was also identified as a major concern, as average winter temperatures in the region frequently are below 0 degrees Celsius from November to March (Figure 7). The most frequently reported challenges to accessing heat was price of fuel, the poor quality of fuel, and delivery problems. KIs from 88 settlements reported no centralized heating, with 67 reporting issues accessing fuel during the previous winter.

**Figure 7: Average monthly temperature in Donetsk in Celsius<sup>28</sup>**



**Table 28: Most reported challenges accessing fuel in previous winter (% of KIs)**

	South Donetsk	West Donetsk	Avdiivka	Toretsk	Bakhmut	Popasna	East Luhansk
Too expensive							
Delivery problems							
Not available							
Quality is too bad							
Other							
No problems							
	Highest		99%	0%	Lowest		

**Table 29: Settlements reporting heating shortages in the last winter**

South Donetsk	West Donetsk	Avdiivka	Toretsk	Bakhmut	Popasna	East Luhansk
Novohnativka	Krasnohorivka, Marinka, Stepne	Avdiivka	Kirove, Leninske, Toretsk	Myronivskiyi, Zaitseve	Hirske, Krymske, Nyrkove, Popasna, Vyskryva, Zolote	Petrivka, Stanytsia Luhanska, Verkhnia Vilkhova, Vilkhove

According to an energy analysis, 85 of the 150 mines in Donetsk and Luhansk are in the NGCA<sup>29</sup>. The challenges related to delivery of fuel support the notion that the LoC is disrupting fuel supply chains.

The shelter cluster estimates that the minimum recommended amount of fuel for the winter is around 5,200 UAH (~\$200<sup>30</sup> USD) with the average pension of around 1,900 UAH (~\$70<sup>31</sup>). Using a monthly average for the five winter months, more than 50% of an average pensions can be for fuel.

**Table 30: Cost of fuel for winter and average pension payment per month**

Cost of fuel for one winter month	1,040
Average pension payment per month	1,900

<sup>27</sup> Shelter Cluster, 2017. Factsheet May 2017. Kyiv. Available [online](#).

<sup>28</sup> Climate Report. Available [online](#).

<sup>29</sup> EuraCoal, 2016. Available [online](#).

<sup>30</sup> Shelter Cluster, 2017. Winterization 2017-2018 Recommendations. Kyiv. Available [online](#).

<sup>31</sup> Ukrinform, 2017. Ukraine's Pension Fund: Average pension in July was UAH 1,886. Kyiv. Available [online](#).

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

### Damage to Infrastructure

Utility infrastructure is frequently affected by conflict. Since January 2017, 30 military exchanges damaged electricity facilities and 36 hit water facilities or pipelines. This has led to significant utility shortages. Overall, 27 settlements experience daily or weekly water shortages, including cities such as Poposana, Avdiivka, Toretsk, Marinka and Krasnohorivka. In addition, 29 settlements reported weekly or daily electricity shortages.

### Water and Electricity Shortages

Electricity and water networks in the region are highly interlinked between the GCA and NGCA. Water shortages seem to affect areas around Avdiivka, West Donetsk, Toretsk and Bakhmut the most. East Luhansk did not report major problems, however, this may be due to the fact that the majority of settlements are rural and rely on local wells for water provision, rather than the municipal network.

Damage to infrastructure was more frequently cited as a WASH challenge in South Donetsk,

**Table 31: Most reported WASH challenges (% of KIIs)**

	South Donetsk	West Donetsk	Avdiivka	Toretsk	Bakhmut	Popasna	East Luhansk
Shortages							
Damage to infrastructure							
No problems							
Cannot empty septic tank							
		Highest	57%	0%	Lowest		

West Donetsk and Avdiivka. These are areas with higher levels of disruption due to violence (unsafe routes, infrastructure damage). Damages and water shortages are affecting schools and health care facilities. More than 54% of schools and 48% of HCF experience water shortages (Table 32).

Damages to infrastructure often leads to a lack of water or of heating during the winter, putting residents at risk due to the harsh weather conditions. For example, the WASH bulletin<sup>32</sup> estimates that in Avdiivka and Toretsk 18,000 and 70,000 people are at high risk of heating collapse if the water management system

**Table 32: Frequency of water shortages per facility**

	HCF	Schools
Yes, daily	11%	8%
Yes, weekly	5%	7%
Yes, infrequently	32%	39%
No	25%	43%
The facility has no water supply	27%	3%

fails. A precedent of heating system failure in 2006 in Alchevsk led to the evacuation of 120,000 people<sup>33</sup>.

### Water Source and Testing

The main source of water for the majority of settlements are wells. However, 23 communities continue to rely on water trucking as a source of drinking water. Water testing practices varied greatly between BSUs. In Toretsk, for example, all administration

**Figure 8: Waste management practices by settlement**



Inadequate waste management	53%
Good waste management	25%
Don't know	22%

**Table 33: Percentage of administration conducting water testing by BSU (% of communities)**

	South Donetsk	West Donetsk	Avdiivka	Toretsk	Bakhmut	Popasna	East Luhansk
No testing	50%	40%	57%	0%	25%	63%	80%
Testing	50%	60%	43%	100%	75%	37%	20%

**Table 34: WASH situation in assessed communities in BSU (% of communities)**

	South Donetsk	West Donetsk	Avdiivka	Toretsk	Bakhmut	Popasna	East Luhansk
Communities following bad waste disposal	50%	100%	78%	50%	50%	77%	95%
Communities without running water	33%	50%	22%	33%	33%	77%	68%

informants reported conducting water tests. Conversely, in East Luhansk, one in five local authorities reported testing water.

### Waste Management

Issues of waste management are important to highlight. According to direct observations by enumerators, waste is a major concern in 16 settlements. This included the cities of Zaitseve, and Stanitsya Luhansk. Residents complained about garbage piling up on streets and inadequate waste management facilities.

Based on KI's responses, 88 communities follow poor waste management practices. This was particularly an issue in West Donetsk and East Luhansk where a large majority of settlements followed inadequate waste management practices such as burning waste and storing it without treatment. This poses an environmental and health risk.

<sup>32</sup> WASH Cluster, 2017. WASH Cluster Ukraine Alert Bulletin. Kyiv. Available [online](#).

<sup>33</sup> UNICEF, 2015. Available [online](#).



## Partners



# INSO



### About REACH

REACH is a joint initiative of two international non-governmental organizations - ACTED and IMPACT Initiatives - and the UN Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT). REACH's mission is to strengthen evidence-based decision making by aid actors through efficient data collection, management and analysis before, during and after an emergency. By doing so, REACH contributes to ensuring that communities affected by emergencies receive the support they need. All REACH activities are conducted in support to and within the framework of inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. For more information please visit our website: [www.reach-initiative.org](http://www.reach-initiative.org).