

2023 MSNA BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 2023
UKRAINE

KEY MESSAGES

Across Ukraine, almost half of households were found to have extreme or extreme+ levels of unmet needs, driven by Protection, Health, and Livelihood indicators.

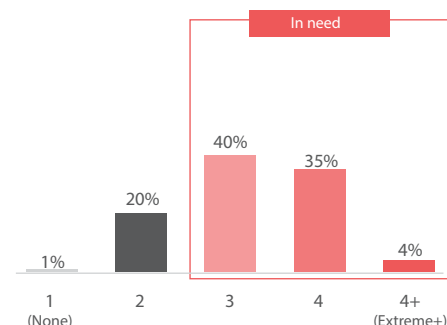
- In general, the proportion of households experiencing extreme or extreme+ levels of unmet needs in accessible raions along the frontline and Russian border (71%) was twice as high as the other assessed regions of Ukraine (34%). However, only 15% of the population of Ukraine is estimated to live in these raions with higher levels of needs, according to the latest UNFPA population estimates for Ukraine.¹
- Overall, half of households nationwide were found to have unmet co-occurring needs across 2 or more sectors. A low proportion of households (12%) were identified as having a complex extreme or extreme+ unmet needs across multiple sectors. However, this proportion was much higher in the East (23%) than other regions.
- Nationally, the sectors in which the highest percentage of households were found to have extreme or extreme+ levels of unmet needs were Protection (23%), Health (11%) and Livelihoods (10%).

Returnee (57%) and internally displaced person (IDP) (57%) households were more likely to have extreme or extreme+ levels of needs than non-displaced households (35%).

- Household profiles found to have higher than average severity of needs were households living in raions along the Russian border or frontline, households with a member with disability, returnee and IDP households, households from urban settlements, and larger households (with 3 or more children).
- 23% of households were identified with an extreme or extreme+ level of unmet protection needs, however, only 2% of those households reported receiving protection assistance. Similarly, only 11% of households with an extreme level of unmet livelihoods needs reported receiving cash assistance (10% of households were identified with an extreme level of unmet livelihoods needs).
- 36% of households reported a need for provision of medicine and 26% of households reported a need for healthcare, however, of households who reported receiving assistance, only 11% of households reported receiving health assistance.

CONTEXT. Since the escalation of the war in Ukraine in February 2022, as of October 2023, nearly 3.7 million people have been displaced internally across the country,² nearly 4.6 million displaced persons have returned to their homes,³ and more than 6.2 million refugees from Ukraine have been recorded globally.⁴ The MSNA is implemented across the whole of Ukraine with the objective of improving the understanding of the current humanitarian situation, providing a baseline of household-level needs, and an opportunity to triangulate People in Need and severity calculations underpinning the Humanitarian Needs Overview. As a result, in collaboration with WFP, REACH conducted the MSNA totaling 13,322 household interviews across 105 raions in 24 oblasts. A combination of face-to-face visits (REACH) and telephone interviews (inaccessible areas compiled by WFP) were used.

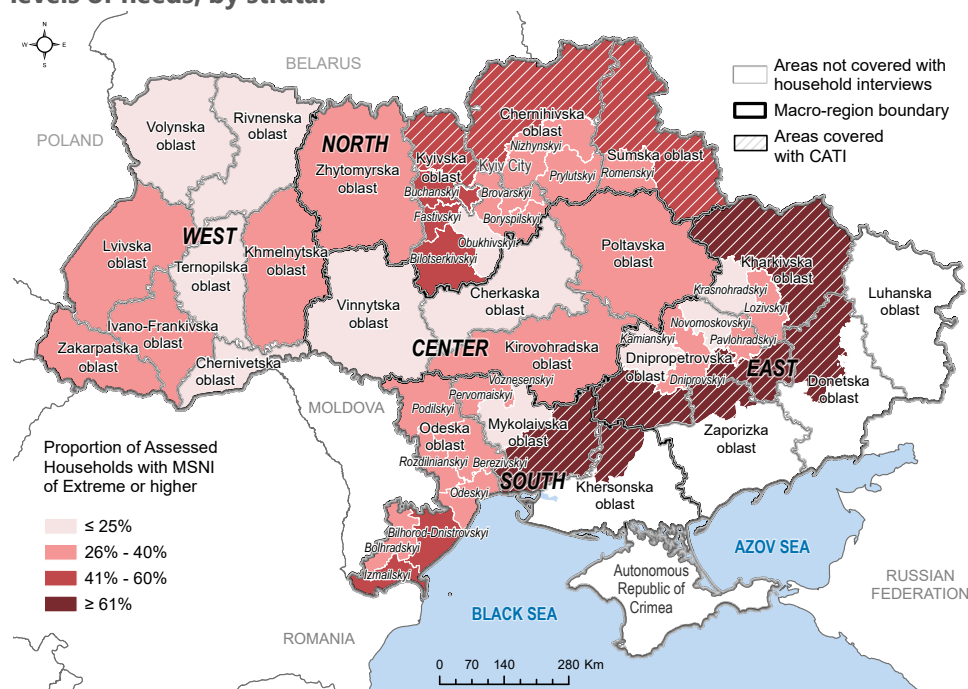
PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS PER SEVERITY PHASE⁵



23% of households were found to have extreme or extreme+ levels of unmet Protection needs

11% of households were found to have extreme or extreme+ levels of unmet Health needs

HOUSEHOLDS IN NEED BY GEOGRAPHIC AREA Percentage of households with extreme or extreme+ levels of needs, by strata:



MULTI-SECTOR NEEDS ASSESSMENT (MSNA) OVERVIEW

CONTEXT. Since the escalation of the war in Ukraine in February 2022, as of October 2023, nearly 3.7 million people have been displaced internally across the country,² nearly 4.6 million displaced persons have returned to their homes,³ and more than 6.2 million refugees from Ukraine have been recorded globally.⁴ Over the course of 2022 and 2023, the conflict has caused the destruction of and damage to houses and infrastructure, disrupting service provision and exacerbating humanitarian needs. As the situation stabilises in parts of the country and impacts appear more localised in areas close to the front line, the continued generation of multi-sectoral data is crucial to understanding the evolving humanitarian context and needs of the affected population.

Thus, at the request of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP), and in coordination with OCHA and the Cluster lead agencies, REACH implemented a country-wide Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) across all government-controlled areas (GCA) and areas outside of the control of the Government of Ukraine in July 2023. The MSNA aims to build an evidence-base for improved humanitarian programming by collecting representative, household-level data to increase understanding of vulnerable demographic groups, the scope and severity of humanitarian needs across the country, and barriers to

accessing assistance. The data and subsequent analytical outputs are intended to inform calculations underpinning, and decision-making on, the 2024 humanitarian programme cycle (HPC). While detailed findings of the MSNA were disseminated to clusters in August 2023 for use in HPC planning workshops, this summary Bulletin is intended to provide an overview of the top-line findings.

In total, 13,322 households were interviewed across 105 raions in 24 oblasts in Ukraine, including 11,427 face-to-face (F2F) and 1,895 computer-assisted telephone interviews (CATI).

To enable coverage of hard-to-reach areas, the sampling approach was comprised of three, complimentary sampling methods, with a precision of 95% confidence level and 7% margin of error across all strata in GCAs. Findings are representative at the variously stratified levels. For purposes of this bulletin, Area of Knowledge (AoK) results compiled by WFP were not used.

The findings detailed in this MSNA Bulletin are based on analysis of the Multi-Sector Need Index (MSNI) and Sectoral Living Standards Gaps (LSGs). Given the brevity of the publication, findings are aggregated to the macro-region and oblast level (see Coverage Map below).

See the methodological overview for more details.⁵

ASSESSMENT SCOPE AND GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

GEOGRAPHIC coverage by population group and data collection modality

Number of household interviews collected per macro-region

Total	13,322
Center	1,937
East**	2,081
North*	3,145
South**	2,305
West	3,855

*in this region, F2F and CATI data collection methods were used.

**in this region, F2F, CATI, and AoK data collection methods were used.

Dates of data collection:
21 Jun - 1 Aug 2023



Area of Knowledge (AoK) data compiled by WFP were not used in this bulletin.

MULTI-SECTOR NEEDS INDEX (MSNI): CRISIS-LEVEL SEVERITY

Percentage of households per severity phase:

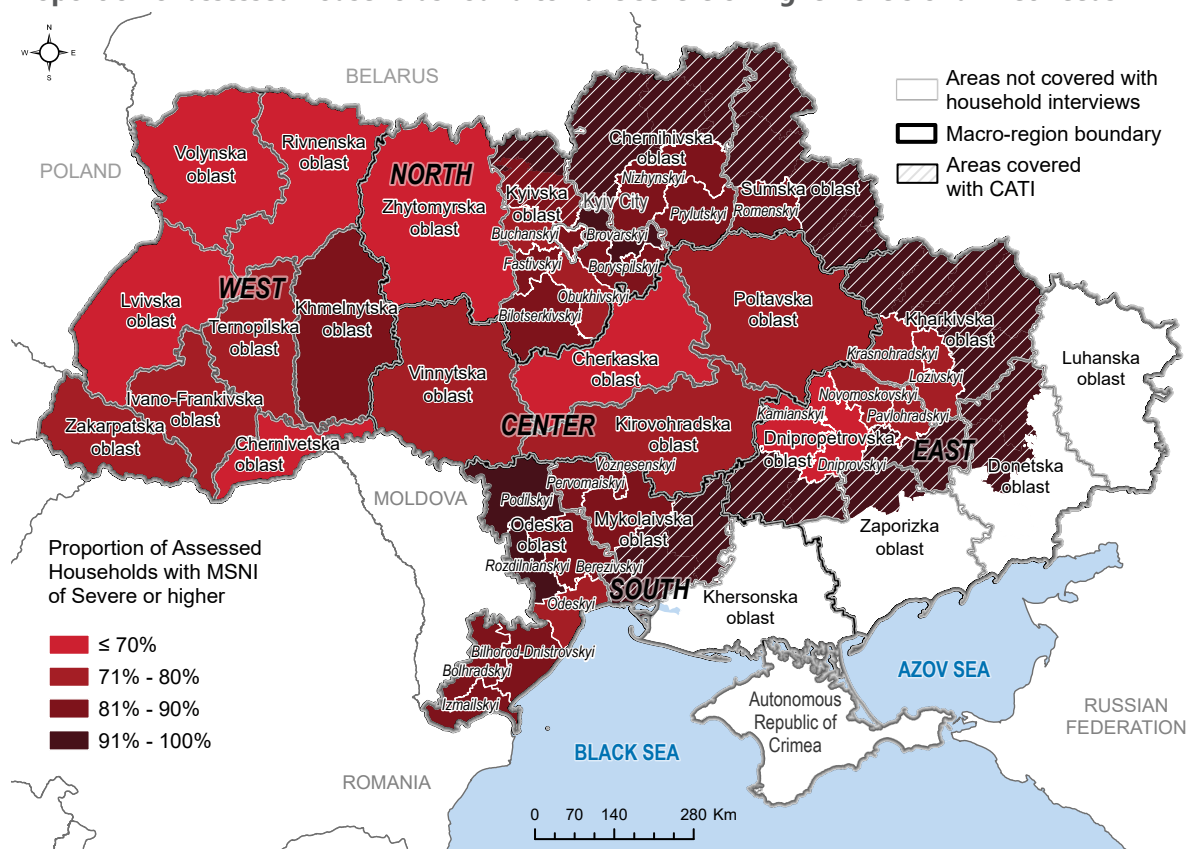
1 (None/minimal)	1%
2 (Stress)	20%
3 (Severe)	40%
4 (Extreme)	35%
4+ (Extreme+)	4%

Inneed

The MSNI is a composite indicator, designed by REACH to measure the overall severity of humanitarian needs experienced by a household. It is based on the highest sectoral severity identified in each household and expressed through a scale of 1 to 4+. Sectoral severity is determined through the calculation of sector-specific composite indicators. These sector-specific composite scores are referred to as Living Standard Gaps, or LSGs. The MSNI considers every household in need in at least one sector (severity score of 3 or more). The full methodology behind the calculation of the MSNI and sectoral severities (living standard gaps, or LSG), in accordance with the **REACH MSNA Analytical Framework Guidance**, can be found [here](#).

HOUSEHOLDS IN NEED BY GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Proportion of assessed households found to have severe or higher levels of unmet needs



MSNI SEVERITY PHASE BY POPULATION GROUP

Percentage of households by group⁵ and severity phase:

	1	2	3	4	4+
HHs living in raions along the Russian border or frontline (n=1336)	0%	5%	24%	46%	25%
HHs with at least one member with a disability ⁶ (n=3,556)	0%	4%	38%	52%	6%
Returnee HHs (n=1,254)	0%	15%	28%	46%	11%
IDP HHs (n=763)	0%	13%	30%	50%	7%
HHs with 3 or more children (n=453)	0%	15%	38%	42%	5%
Urban HHs (n=6,102)	1%	21%	35%	37%	6%

When disaggregated by selected demographic characteristics, it can be observed that the severity of needs varies by household profile (see the assessed household types in the table to the left). Amongst the analysed population groups, assessed households living in raions along the Russian border or frontline were most likely to have extreme or extreme+ levels of unmet needs (71%). This was followed by households with at least one member with a disability (58%), followed by returnee households and IDP households (57% for both), households with three or more children (47%), and households located in urban settlements (43%).

Please note that that these high levels of extreme and extreme+ needs may at least in part relate to pre-existing vulnerabilities.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND DRIVERS

Who and where are the most in need? What are the drivers of those needs?

27% of assessed households across Ukraine were found to have extreme or extreme+ levels of need in a single sector.

12% of assessed households across Ukraine were found to have extreme or extreme+ levels of co-occurring needs across 2 or more sectors.

Overall, 12% of assessed households had extreme or extreme+ levels of need across more than one sector. Among these, Protection was the sector indicating the highest level of needs. Households living along the Russian border or frontline had the highest levels extreme or extreme+ needs (71%). This was driven by high needs in Protection (52%), more specifically, driven by households reporting high experiences of safety and security incidents in the community (armed violence/shelling, presence of UXOs, and attacks on civilian facilities). This can be attributed to these regions being along the border with Russia or along the frontline.⁸

Households with at least one member with a disability had the high levels extreme or extreme+ needs (58%). This was driven by high needs in Protection (26%).

Both returnee households and IDP households had high levels of extreme or extreme+ levels of need (57% for both). This was driven by high needs in Protection (50% and 34%, respectively), more specifically, driven by the same as previously mentioned.

The highest levels of extreme or extreme+ needs are in the East and North macro-regions (57% and 47%, respectively). Within the East macro-region, the most

indicated extreme or extreme+ levels of need are in Protection (42%), Livelihoods (15%), and Health (15%). Similarly, in the North macro-region, high levels of extreme or extreme+ levels of need are driven by the following sectors: Protection (37%), Health (13%), and Livelihood (11%). The main driver for Protection is as previously mentioned. Additionally, when looking into drivers for the Livelihood and Health sectors in relation to extreme or extreme+ levels of need, for Livelihood, the main driver are households reporting uses of the emergency Livelihood Coping Strategies (LCS). For Health, the main driver for this sector are households reporting instances of unmet healthcare needs, or facing barriers to accessing healthcare or medications.

At the national and regional levels, extreme or extreme+ levels of need appear to be primarily driven by LSGs in Protection (23% of households), Health (11%), and Livelihoods (10%).

Analysis of the LSGs at the Oblast level suggests that experience of certain needs is localised to Oblasts bordering with Russia or along the frontline.⁸ For example, extreme or extreme+ levels of Shelter/Non-food items (SNFI) needs, although there was a low incidence at the national and regional level (as seen in the table below), there were certain Oblasts in which a higher-than-average proportion of households reported these concerns. This includes: Khersonska (38%), Kharkivska (20%), Mykolaivska (17%), and Donetsk (15%). The main driver for these high proportions of SNFI needs were households reporting high instances of missing non-food items (NFI) (fuel for heating, power-banks, lamps, and winter clothing). This may be attributable to lack of fuel for heating access⁹ and NFI availability¹⁰ in the markets of these oblasts.

Percentage of households in extreme (4 and 4+) need by sector:

Sector	Overall
Protection	23%
Health	11%
Livelihood	10%
Shelter and NFI	7%
WASH	6%
Education	3%
Food Security	2%

Most common pairings of severe or above needs, nationally and by household type:⁷

Population Group	Livelihood	Food Security	Health	Protection	Shelter/NFI	WASH
25% of households have a co-occurring need in both Livelihood and Health	✓		✓			
21% of households have a co-occurring need in both Livelihood and Protection	✓			✓		
18% of households have a co-occurring need in both Livelihood and Shelter NFI	✓				✓	
18% of households have a co-occurring need in both Livelihood and Food Security	✓	✓				
Subset: 54% of households with a member with a disability had co-occurring need in both Livelihood and Health	✓		✓			

The table above shows the most common "pairing" of severe or above needs across two sectors to identify the most common needs profiles. The "pairings" identified are not mutually exclusive. (i.e. There may be overlap between the categories).

The table on the left shows the proportion of households in need by sector to identify the most commonly occurring needs.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY

With 74% of households reporting the need for some form of humanitarian assistance, distinct patterns have emerged, shedding light on the diverse needs of various demographic profiles. The primary findings are as follows:

- **Healthcare disparities:**
A notable pattern arises concerning households with at least one member with a disability, where 54% of households reported a consistent need for medicines. In contrast, households without at least one member with a disability expressed a comparatively lower need at 28%.
- **Displacement dynamics:**
When examining IDP households, the data revealed distinct needs. Specifically, 16% of IDP households required rental support, and 13% needed accommodation. In contrast, these needs were comparatively lower for returnee (5% and 4%, respectively) and non-displaced households (1% and 2%, respectively).
- **Rural-Urban disparities:**
Distinct disparities emerge in settlement types, particularly concerning heating needs. Rural households are over three-times more likely (27%) to report requiring fuel for heating compared to those in urban settlements (8%).
- **Localized financial and infrastructural needs:**
Households located in raions along the frontline or Russian border confront unique financial and infrastructure challenges. They are more than six times as likely to report a need for financial assistance to repay debt (26%) and three-times as likely to require repairs to their accommodation (18%) compared to households residing away from the frontline or Russian border (4% and 6%, respectively).

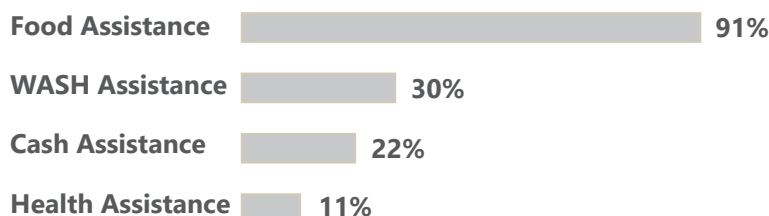
Preferred communication means with humanitarian assistance providers:

- More than one-third (36%) of households reportedly had a preference for communicating with humanitarian assistance providers by phone call.
- 27% of households reportedly had a preference for communicating face-to-face within their own homes.
- One-fifth (20%) of households reportedly had a preference for communicating by messenger apps, specifically WhatsApp, Telegram, Viber, Signal.

Types of information households wanted from humanitarian assistance providers:

1. How to get cash assistance (24%)
2. How to register for aid from the Ukrainian government or humanitarian agencies (22%)
3. How to get health assistance (20%)

Proportion of households reporting having received assistance, by the kind of assistance received, in the three months prior to data collection



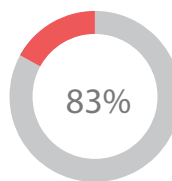
18%

of households reported having **received assistance** in the 3 months prior to data collection. This proportion of households was notably higher in the East (44%) and South (34%) macro-regions.

74%

of households reported having a **need for humanitarian assistance** of any kind. This was highest in the South (84%) and East (76%) macro-regions.

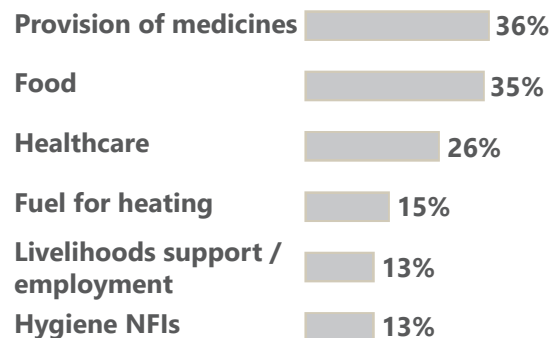
Satisfaction with aid received:



About eight out of ten of the households that reported having received assistance in the three months prior to data collection (18%) were satisfied or very satisfied with the assistance they had received.

91% of households who reported having received humanitarian assistance in the 3 months prior to data collection (between approximately March and June 2023) had received food assistance, followed by WASH (30%), cash assistance (22%), and health (11%) assistance.

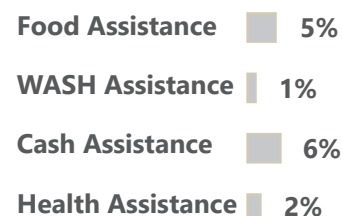
Top five priority needs reported by households (households could select more than one answer)



Preferred assistance modalities for receiving future humanitarian aid:



Proportion of households reporting dissatisfaction with received assistance, by the kind of assistance received, in the three months prior to data collection



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE MSNA WAS CONDUCTED IN THE FRAMEWORK OF:

Ukraine Assessment & Analysis Working Group (AAWG)



FUNDED BY:



WITH THE SUPPORT OF:

Ukraine Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG)



Methodology. The MSNA is implemented across the whole of Ukraine, with increased data collection levels in areas directly affected by conflict. REACH conducted the MSNA in collaboration with WFP. In total, REACH collected 11,427 face-to-face interviews, and WFP 1,895 Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI) across 11 hard-to-reach raions, totalling 13,322 household-level interviews. The sample was stratified according to raion. Raions were purposively selected taking into consideration urban and rural raions, as well as level of conflict affectedness and humanitarian needs through secondary data review. In areas directly affected by the conflict, a sample was drawn for findings representative with a 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error. In areas not directly affected by conflict a smaller sample was drawn for a 7% margin of error. The findings are only representative for sampled raions, further disaggregations to higher admin levels should be considered indicative.

Note - please refer to REACH Ukraine 2023 MSNA Methodology Overview for more details on the methodology¹¹

About REACH: REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT).

ENDNOTES

¹ United Nations Population Fund. (2023). Common Operational Dataset on Population Statistics, Ukraine 2023. Restricted circulation.

² IOM, Ukraine — Internal Displacement Report — General Population Survey Round 14, [here](#)

³ IOM Ukraine: General Population Survey - Round 14 - Snapshot Report | Population Figures and Geographic Distribution (3—25 September 2023), [here](#)

⁴ UNHCR, Ukraine Situation Flash Update #56 (13 October 2023), [here](#)

⁵ The different levels of severity can be broadly defined as follows:

- Very extreme (4+) : Indications of total collapse of living standards, with potentially immediately life-threatening outcomes (increased risk of mortality and / or irreversible harm to physical or mental well-being).
- Extreme (4) : Collapse of living standards. (Risk of) significant harm to physical or mental well-being.
- Severe (3) : Degrading living standards, with reduced access to / availability of basic goods and services. (Risk of) degrading physical or mental well-being.
- Stress (2) : Living standards are under stress. Minimal (risk of) impact on physical or mental well-being / stressed physical or mental well-being overall.
- Minimal (1) : Living standards are acceptable, at a maximum showing some signs of deterioration and / or inadequate access to basic services. No or minimal (risk of) impact on physical or mental well-being.

Further details can be found in the methodological overview, [here](#)

⁶ Disability is defined using the Washington Group definition, [here](#)

⁷ **‘Pairings’ analyse the probability that a household will have severe or higher need in 2 sectors**, regardless of the presence of severe or above needs in other sectors. For example, in the table 18% of assessed HHs, nationally, were found to have severe or above needs in Livelihoods and Food security, this subset of households may also however experience other types of severe or above need that are not considered in this analysis.

⁸ ACLED, Interactive conflict map showing near real-time conflict data, [here](#)

⁹ IOM, Ukraine - Solid Fuel Assessment | August 2023, [here](#)

¹⁰ IMPACT Initiatives, UKR JMMI Factsheet Round 18, September 2023 [here](#)

¹¹ IMPACT Initiatives, 2023 MSNA Methodology Overview, [here](#)