UKRAINE

# Analysis of Humanitarian Trends

Government Controlled Areas of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts

June 2018


OCHA

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Photo by Galyna Uvarova features REACH staff collecting data in Myronivskyi in June 2018.

## 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.
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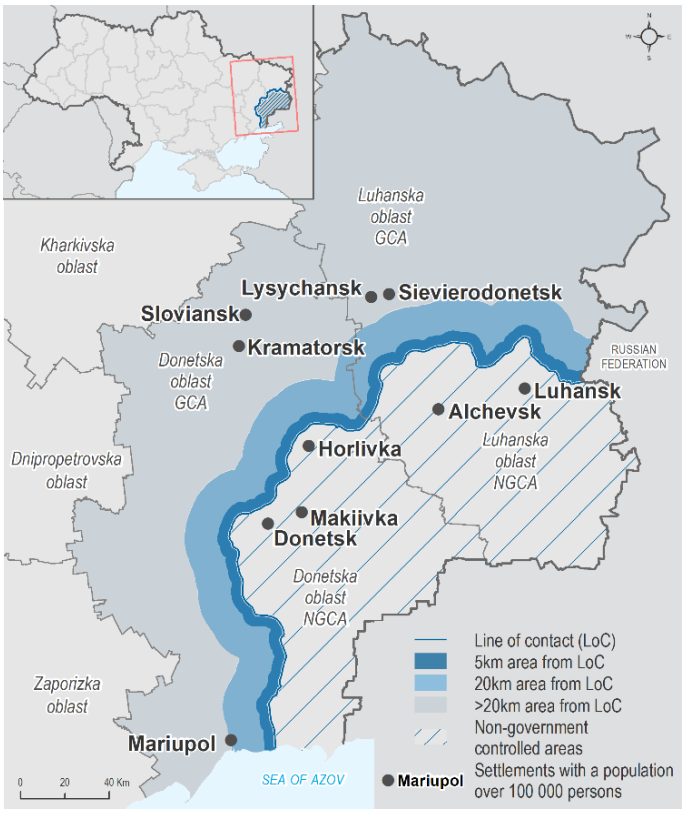
# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2019 the east of Ukraine will enter its sixth year of armed conflict. Hostilities continue around the 500 kilometre long line of contact (LoC) that divides the Donbas region of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) reported that since the beginning of the conflict, 4.4 million people have been affected by the crisis and 3.4 million people are in current need of humanitarian assistance.[1] The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) reports that between April 2014 and May 2018 there were 2,725 civilian deaths due to the conflict and estimates the number of civilians who have been injured by the conflict at between 7,000 and 9,000.[2] In 2018 alone, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported 7,070 security incidents and 217 casualties occuring in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.[3] The conflict, which has separated the region between Ukrainian government controlled areas (GCA) and non-government controlled areas (NGCA) is likely to continue in 2019 with limited perspectives of a peaceful settlement.

In 2016, 2017 and 2018, multi-sector needs assessments (MSNAs) were implemented in eastern Ukraine in collaboration with the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) and OCHA.[4] The MSNAs evaluated changes in specific sectoral humanitarian needs over time. The results of the assessments were used to inform the country HNOs and humanitarian response plans (HRPs). In order to measure changes and identify trends of multi-sector humanitarian needs assessed in previous years, and to continue informing the humanitarian programme cycle (HPC) in line with the 2018 humanitarian response plan a new round of MSNA of populations living in Donetsk and Luhansk GCA was implemented in 2018 with the support from the ICCG. The planning and design process of this humanitarian trend analysis began in early January 2018 when REACH began strategic discussion with the HCT on the overall assessment strategy followed by detailed technical discussions of the assessment within the institutional framework of the ICCG, chaired by OCHA. As a result of discussions with the ICCG and Information Management Working Group (IMWG), the 2018 assessment expanded the geographical scope to include populations living further from the LoC in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, incorporating areas beyond 20km of the LoC to identify geographical differences in humanitarian needs and align the research design to the humanitarian response plan strategy of reaching people living within 20km of the LoC. However, only data from areas within 5km from the LoC can be directly compared to all previous assessments.

**Map 1. Location of surveys collected**




The data was collected through 2,565 household surveys across GCA selected to be statistically representative of households living in areas within 5km, between 5-20km and beyond 20km of the LoC with a 95% confidence

[1] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 2018. Humanitarian Needs Overview Ukraine. Available online.
[2] OHCHR, 2018, Report on Human Rights in Ukraine. Available online.
[3] OCHA, Ukraine Humanitarian Snapshot, 03 October 2018, Available online..
[4] REACH, 2016. Inter-agency Vulnerability Assessment. Available online.
REACH, 2017. Humanitarian Trend Analysis. Available online.
REACH, 2018. Winter Assessment of Government-Controlled Areas within 5 km of the Line of Contact. Available online.

level and 5% margin of error. The assessment used a stratified sample by settlement type (rural, small urban and large urban) and by distance to the LoC. For the qualitative component of the assessment, the assessment also included focus group discussions (FGDs) with enumerators in order to document and analyse their observations of the humanitarian situation in the settlements visited.

As an additional component to the humanitarian trend analysis, this assessment adopted aspects of the Multi-Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) analytical framework developed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) to determine estimates of proportions of households with unmet needs of humanitarian assistance. The first step in this process was to discuss with cluster coordinators which indicators from the data analysis plan should be used to generate findings on households with unmet needs in the following five sectors: food security, health, education, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and shelter. An analysis of protection indicators was also conducted but not used in the calculation of households with unmet needs due to inherent challenges in measuring clear-cut household-level protection risks which should include indicators that are senstive to collect at the household level (for example exposure to domestic or military violence or exposure to mine risks).

**Table 1. List of indicators used for sectoral calculation of households with an unmet need**

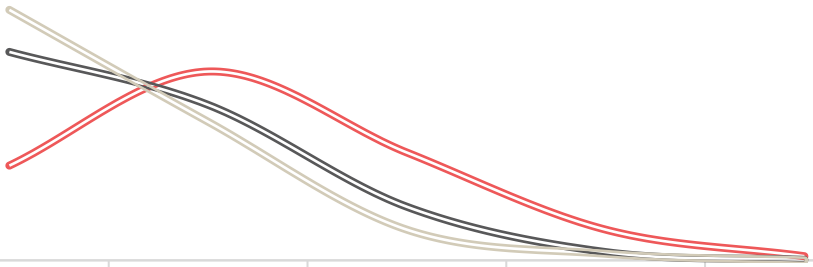
| Shelter | WASH | Education | Food security | Health |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Household living in damaged shelter | Household experiencing daily water shortages | Security concerns accessing education | Household moderately food insecure | Lack of access to basic diagnostic services |
| AND damage was caused by shelling/conflict | | OR No access to psychological services in school | OR Household severely food insecure | OR Lack of access to ambulance |
| | | OR School supplies unaffordable | | |

Following the estimation of households with unmet sectoral needs, the assessment was able to generate findings on households with unmet needs in multiple sectors. For example, the assessment was able to identify the proportion of households living in conflict-related damaged houses and experiencing difficulties in accessing healthcare. This analysis generated valuable information on the proportion of households who have overlapping needs, by stratum, in order to inform collaborative planning of humanitarian actors and encourage strategic partnerships.

**Key Findings**

The assessment found that across the entire GCA of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, **48% of households had unmet needs in at least one sector and 13% of households had unmet needs that overlapped between two or more sectors**. Moving away from the LoC, the proportion of households that had unmet needs in at least one sector decreased significantly, from 78% (<5km) to 51% (5km to 20km) to 41% (20km+). In addition, households with unmet needs were more likely to be found in rural areas, with 83% of households in rural areas within 5km of the LoC having an unmet need in at least one sector, while that proportion was 27% for residents of large urban centres furthest from the LoC (20km+). As shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2 below, **households with overlapping needs were also significantly more likely to be found in areas within 5km of the LoC, especially in rural areas** – 43% of households in rural areas within 5km of the LoC had unmet needs in two or more sectors, compared to only 2% in large urban areas furthest away from the LoC (20km+).

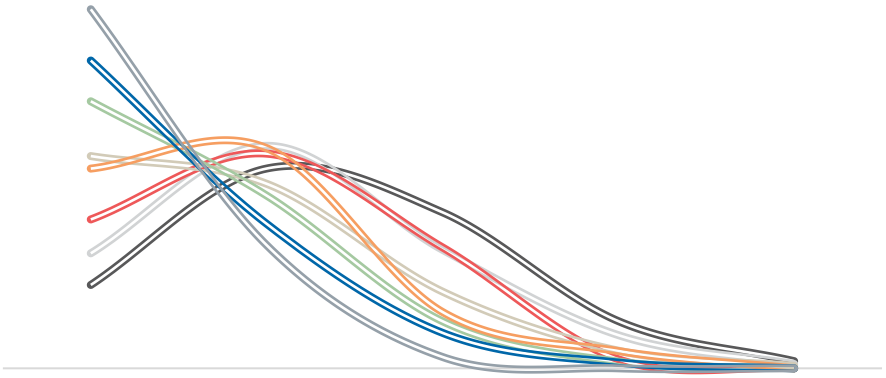
**Figure 1. Proportion of households by number of unmet needs, by distance to LoC**



| | 0 Sectors | 1 Sector | 2 Sectors | 3 Sectors | 4 Sectors |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <5km | 22% | 44% | 25% | 7% | 1% |
| 5-20km | 49% | 36% | 13% | 2% | 0% |
| 20km+ | 59% | 33% | 7% | 2% | 0% |

In terms of cross-sectoral needs, health overlapped most with other needs in areas both near to the LoC and further away. Overall, health most closely correlated with food needs, particularly in areas within 5 km of the LoC where nearly 1 in 10 households had unmet needs relating to both the health sector and food sector. In areas within 5 km of the LoC, households were also likely to have overlapping needs relating to shelter, potentially due to the concentration of security incidents that may affect shelter near the LoC.

**Figure 2. Proportion of households by number of unmet needs, by stratum**



| | 0 Sectors | 1 Sector | 2 Sectors | 3 Sectors | 4 Sectors |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <5km Rural | 17% | 40% | 32% | 10% | 1% |
| <5km Urban | 23% | 45% | 24% | 7% | 1% |
| 5-20km Rural | 30% | 43% | 25% | 2% | 0% |
| 5-20km Small Urban | 43% | 37% | 16% | 4% | 0% |
| 5-20km Large Urban | 54% | 35% | 10% | 1% | 0% |
| 20km+ Rural | 40% | 45% | 11% | 4% | 0% |
| 20km+ Small Urban | 62% | 29% | 7% | 1% | 0% |
| 20km+ Large Urban | 73% | 25% | 2% | 0% | 0% |

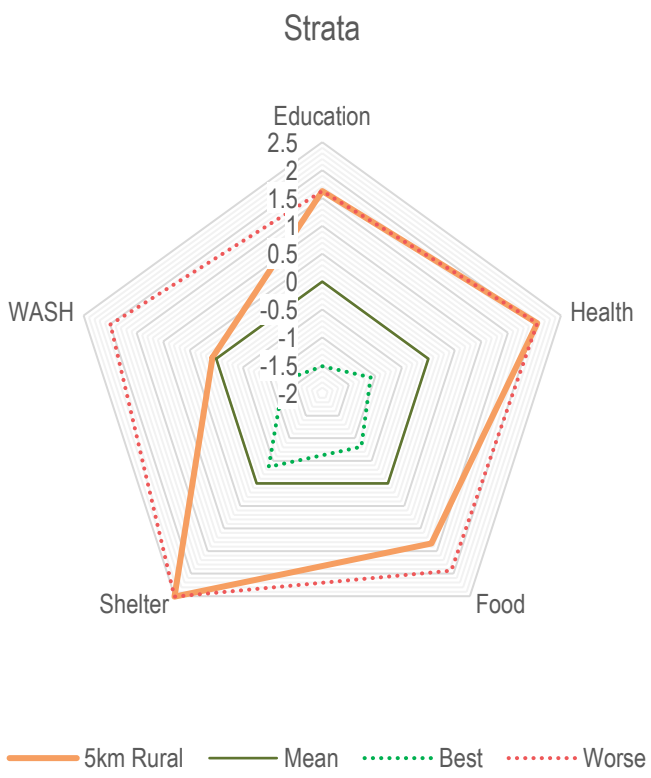
The sectoral analysis also highlighted that **populations living near the LoC were more likely to have unmet humanitarian needs in any given sector**. Indeed, households within 5km of the LoC were 50% more likely to have borderline or poor food consumption scores than the overall population, and five times more likely to live in housing with conflict-related damages. The only sector that registered more than 10% of households with an unmet need overall was health due the low levels of access to specilialized care.The high level of health assistance especially within 5km of the LoC is likely due to the disconnect of these areas to the large urban centres of NGCA.

This current distribution of needs indicates the ongoing necessity for humanitarian actors to target their interventions in the areas experiencing the greatest direct and indirect effects of conflict.

The proximity to the LoC not only **increased the number of sectors in which households had unmet needs (Figure 2) but also the extent of needs in each sector**. By standardizing the proportions of households categorized as having unmet sectoral needs (Table 2), the assessment provides a comparison of the areas that have higher than average levels of unmet needs (Figure 3). **Rural and small urban areas within 5km of the LoC had higher than average proportions of households with unmet needs in all five sectors**. **Rural areas within 5km of the LoC recorded the highest proportions of households with unmet needs in three of the five sectors** (health, education and shelter), whereas small urban centres had the highest levels of food insecurity.

Moving to the **5-20km areas** (excluding large urban centres), **the extent of needs slightly decreased** with one sector falling below the overall average. For rural areas the sector that was higher than the overall average was WASH; and education for small urban centres. Given that only 33% of rural residents rely on piped water for drinking against 60% in small urban areas, the lower proportions of households experiencing daily shortages underlines the higher impact of water system deficiencies in urban settlements within 20km of the LoC due to regular attacks on infrastructure and lack of investments in high risk areas. In the education sector the higher distance to the LoC significantly reduced the proportion of households reporting security concerns on their way to school.

Moving further away from the LoC into the **20km+ area**, at least **2 sectors drop below the average**. In rural settlements shelter and food sectors showed lower proportions of households with unmet needs, with 20km+ rural areas actually recording the lowest levels of food insecurity. The **limited fighting** that took place and **access to plots for growing food** (a common practice in eastern Ukraine), likely explain these observations. In small urban areas all sectors but food security had lower than average proportions. The **higher levels of access to basic services** in these small cities improved **health, education and WASH indicators**.




**How to read a radar chart:**

The radar chart shows each stratum's relative standardized proportion of households with unmet needs in each of the five sectors covered in the analysis. The numeric value by sector represents the number of standard deviations the stratum is relative to the overall mean. If the stratum has a value of 2 this means that the stratum is 2 standard deviations above the overall mean. Ranging from -1.5 to 2.5, a value below 0 indicates that the stratum is relatively better off than the overall proportion of households with unmet needs within the sector, while a value above 0 indicates that the stratum has higher proportions of households with unmet needs than the overall average. The red dotted pentagon indicates the 'worse' deviation in all sectors, the green dotted pentagon is the 'best' deviation, the grey pentagon is the mean while the colored pentagon shows the value of the stratum.

**Figure 3. Sectoral extent of needs by stratum**

The **large urban centres were reportedly better off in all five sectors** (with the exception for education in 5-20km due to fear of shelling and low ability to purchase all schooling equipment). **Large cities 20kms away** from the LoC had the **lowest proportions of households with unmet needs** in all sectors highlighting their comparative resilience to smaller settlements. The higher availability of services and employment in the large cities of Mariupol, Slovyansk, Kramatorsk, Severodonetsk and Lysyshansk entailed that WASH, education and health needs were overall met with higher levels of economic activity providing better economic security.

**Table 2: Households with an unmet need within each sector**

| Sector | Proportion of households categorized as having unmet needs | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | <5km | 5-20km | >20km | Overall |
| Shelter | 24% | 3% | 1% | 4% |
| Food security | 15% | 10% | 9% | 10% |
| Education | 16% | 13% | 9% | 11% |
| Health | 54% | 32% | 23% | 29% |
| WASH | 12% | 10% | 9% | 10% |

**Overall, the assessment found that there has been limited changes with regards to humanitarian needs since 2017 and that the needs of people living closest to the LoC remain the most acute**. Regular shelling, land mine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) contamination, and loss of access to key services in the major urban centres in non-government controlled areas continue to hamper households' ability to recover from conflict. The assessment found that households living in Donetsk and Luhansk are likely to be headed by a head of household that is over the age of 60 (approximately 30%) and female (22%). These population figures highlight the household level vulnerabilities that define this crisis in which a significant proportion of GCA households are headed by elderly single females. These figures contrast to the profile of displaced households for which the proportion of persons under 18 is 1.6 times higher than the national average.[5] The population distribution analysis also shows that Donetsk and Luhansk host the highest proportion of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) across the whole of Ukraine, with 37% of the IDP population living in Donetsk and 19% in Luhansk oblasts. Based on these figures, five regions of Ukraine (Donetsk, Luhansk, Kyiv, Kharkiv, and Dnipro) host 80% of IDPs, which illustrates the added burden that lies on a region already characterised as being in significant humanitarian need.

**Households living within 5km of the LoC were more likely to report protection related security concerns than populations living further away,** which is in line with the crisis profile and conflict dynamics. This has encouraged younger mobile populations to resettle to other areas, as the assessment has found that residents living closest to the LoC tend to be older. The protracted nature of the conflict exacerbates the security risks of these vulnerable households that face daily challenges in accessing critical services due to military activity, with 86% of households living within 5km of the LoC reporting shelling as a protection concern - an increase from 78% since Summer 2016.

Comparing findings to previous years, **there have been slight decrease in the proportion of households reporting damage to shelter,** likely due to a reduction in new damages**;** however, damages were still found to be a significant issue for residents within all geographic areas. Households living within 5km of the LoC were more likely to report the cause of damage as conflict related (for example, shelling), while households living further from the LoC were more likely to report lack of maintenance or weather conditions.

**In terms of humanitarian assistance, the assessment found that almost one in two households within 5 km of the LoC has reportedly received humanitarian assistance within the past twelve months**. This is significantly higher than in areas beyond the 5km areas (5-20km - 10%, and beyond 20km - 6%), highlighting significant efforts of humanitarian actors to target people closest to the LoC. When households were asked about the consultation and feedback on assistance, the proportion of households that reported being consulted about their needs or preferences has increased since 2017 (from 18% to 28% in areas within 5km of the LoC), though

[5] IOM, National Monitoring Systems Report, 2018 Available online

the proportion of households reporting the availability of a complaint mechanism did not change significantly (from 40% to 37%).

**The overall proportion of households either moderately or severely food insecure has increased** from 7% in 2016[6] to 14% in 2018 corresponding with an increase in the use of negative coping strategies and higher proportions of households with a poor or borderline Food Consumption Score. Comparing across time for areas along the LoC (<5km), the combined proportions of households affected by severe or moderate food insecurity went from 13% in 2016 to 16% in 2018. Households living in areas within 5km of LoC reported higher levels of food insecurity than in areas further away and this was most acute in small urban areas. Using a vulnerability lens of analysis, households that are single-headed, have a disabled member, are female-headed, have a member with chronic diseases, or are headed by a person aged 60 or above were more likely to be food insecure than the general population.

Since 2017 there have been some improvements with regards to access to education and healthcare, but overall, the ongoing security concerns (primary consequences of conflict) as well as the disconnection of key urban centres in NGCA (secondary consequences of conflict) continue to create challenges in accessing key services, increasing the severity of humanitarian needs.

There has been limited changes in the availability of education services reported in schools that household with children attend, however there remain ongoing issues relating to accessing education, especially in rural areas along the LoC. **Households living in 5km areas were more likely to report challenges to accessing education facilities with 34% of households reporting being unable to afford to pay for all school supplies** and more **than 50% reporting hearing shelling on their way to an education facility**.

Although the vast majority of households (93%) reported having access to a functional primary healthcare centre, access to healthcare continues to fluctuate with **a significant increase in the proportion of households reporting challenges accessing healthcare between summer 2016 and summer 2018** (from 29% to 57% respectively). Challenges were most often related to the cost of medication.

Although **there has been an overall decrease in the proportion of households reporting water shortages,** the majority of households with issues relating to the availability of water remained concentrated around areas within 5km of the LoC. Less than half (44%) of households reported being satisfied with the water available. REACH enumerators during FGDs reported that **the cost of utilities, in particular fuel for heating, were the greatest concern for households.** Conflict related risks of damage to civilian utility infrastructure is a key challenge for people living in Donetsk and Luhansk areas. From January to June 2018, the WASH cluster recorded 57 incidents affecting water infrastructure. For a total of 17 days the Donetsk Filter Station was not able to operate, putting some 350,000 people at risk of losing access to water.[7] Leaks, inability to repair damaged pipes and perilous access to these infrastructures could lead to a signifcant increase in water and utility shortages, potentially affecting the lives of millions of people on both sides of the LoC. Furthermore, the interlinkages between the water, electricity and heating systems in Donetsk and Luhansk could lead to heating cuts during the harsh winter.

The overall findings of the assessment illustrate a humanitarian situation in government controlled areas that continues to disproportionately affect residents closest to the line of contact. The gradual decrease in the proportion of households with at least one humanitarian need moving from rural to urban areas and away from the LoC clearly highlights how the disconnect of the areas along the LoC from their pre-conflict urban cores is having lasting humanitarian consquences for people living in Donetsk and Luhansk. The targeting of humanitarian assistance to these populations along the LoC remains critical to ensure that this active conflict does not furhter affect their ability to meet their basic needs. In paralell, the protracted nature of this conflict in a lower middle income country implies that working with development and recovery actors to end humanitarian need is a priority. With limited medium to long term perspectives for a peaceful settlement to the crisis, humanitarian and development actors have an opportunity to work closely together with the authorities to find sustainable solutions by reinforcing capacities of local service providers to enable them to meet the needs of conflict affected populations.

[6] REACH, 2016. Inter-agency Vulnerability Assessment. Available online.
[7] WASH cluster incident report No. 160, November 2018. Available online

# CONTENTS

## List of Acronyms

| | |
|---|---|
| **AoO** | Area of Origin |
| **CARI** | Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators |
| **DPR** | Donetsk People's Republic |
| **ECHO** | European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations |
| **ERW** | Explosive Remnant of War |
| **FCS** | Food Consumption Score |
| **FGD** | Focus Group Discussion |
| **FSA** | Food Security Assessment |
| **FSC** | Food Security Cluster |
| **GCA** | Government Controlled Area |
| **HCT** | Humanitarian Country Team |
| **HH** | Household |
| **HNO** | Humanitarian Needs Overview |
| **HoH** | Head of Household |
| **HPC** | Humanitarian Programme Cycle |
| **HRP** | Humanitarian Response Plan |
| **IASC** | Inter-agency Standing Committee |
| **IAVA** | Inter-Agency Vulnerability Assessment |
| **ICCG** | Inter-Cluster Coordination Group |
| **IDP** | Internally Displaced Person |
| **IOM** | International Organization for Migration |
| **LoC** | Line of Contact |
| **LPR** | Luhansk People's Republic |
| **MIRA** | Multi-Cluster/Sector Initial Rapid Assessment |
| **MSNA** | Multi-Sector Needs Assessment |
| **ND** | Non-Displaced |
| **NFI** | Non-Food Items |
| **NGCA** | Non-Government Controlled Area |
| **NGO** | Non-Governmental Organization |
| **NMS** | National Monitoring System |
| **OCHA** | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs |
| **ODK** | Open Data Kit |
| **OHCHR** | Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights |
| **PIN** | People in Need (NGO) |
| **UN** | United Nations |
| **UNHCR** | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| **UXO** | Unexploded Ordnance |
| **WASH** | Water, Sanitation and Hygiene |
| **WFP** | World Food Programme |

## Geographic Classifications

| | |
|---|---|
| **5 km area** | An area defined for this assessment which refers to a buffer of 5km applied from the line of contact |
| **Line of Contact** | The area separating the Government Controlled Area (GCA) of Ukraine and the Non-Government Controlled Area (NGCA) of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic and the Luhansk People's Republic |
| **Donbas** | An area encompassing the Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts |
| **Oblast** | An oblast is a type of administrative division Ukraine. It is the first level sub regional administrative region. The term is analogous to "state" or "province" |
| **Raion** | A raion is a type of administrative division of Ukraine. It is the second level sub regional administrative region. The term is analogous to "district" or "commune" |

## List of Figures, Tables and Maps

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# INTRODUCTION

The eastern region of Ukraine will move into its sixth year of armed conflict in 2019. The hostilities began in 2014 and are concentrated around the line of contact (LoC) separating the government controlled areas (GCA) and non-government controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (see Geographical Classifications). Despite two ceasefire agreements (Minsk I and II) signed in 2014 and 2015, ongoing instability continues to affect the surrounding population, sustaining humanitarian needs according to the 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO).[8] The HNO highlighted that since the beginning of the conflict, 4.4 million people have been affected by the crisis and 3.4 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance.[9] The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) reported that between April 2014 and May 2018 there have been 2,725 civilian deaths due to the conflict and estimated that the number of civilians who have been injured by the conflict is likely between 7,000 and 9,000.[10]

As the conflict is now protracted, affected populations remain vulnerable to the long term consequences of the crisis. Active conflict is most highly concentrated along the LoC, posing significant protection risks and creating ongoing humanitarian needs for these populations.

The primary effects of the conflict across GCA are significant security risks due to regular shelling, UXO and landmines causing significant damage to critical infrastructure and restrictions on movement. The LoC has also isolated much of the population from important highly populated urban centres in NGCA cutting off GCA populations from basic services, livelihoods opportunities and family and friend networks[11]. The subsequent consequences of the conflict also include continued protection concerns and food insecurity, along with challenges to accessing and providing basic services, contributing to increasing humanitarian needs in areas closest to the LoC.

In 2016, 2017 and 2018, REACH supported the implementation of four joint multi-sector needs assessments (MSNAs) in collaboration with the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG): the Inter-agency Vulnerability Assessment (IAVA) assessing multi-sector needs in 2016, the Humanitarian Trend Analysis of 2017 highlighting changes in the multi-sector needs, the Capacity and Vulnerability Assessment assessing provision and access to services, and the Winter Assessment 2018 focusing on winter related needs across both Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts in GCA within 5km of the LoC.[12] The results of the assessments were used to inform the country HNOs and humanitarian response plans. The MSNAs evaluated changes in specific sectoral humanitarian needs over time. In 2018, REACH facilitated a second humanitarian trend analysis in order to measure changes and identify trends of multi-sector humanitarian needs assessed in previous years, through a collaborative inter-cluster effort. The planning and design process of this humanitarian trend analysis began in early January 2018 when REACH began discussing details of the assessment within the institutional framework of the ICCG, chaired by OCHA.

As a result of discussions with the ICCG/Protection/WASH Clusters, this assessment expands the geographic scope of the previous assessments to include areas further than 5km from the LoC due to concerns over protection related issues affecting populations across Donetsk and Luhansk GCA and in order to identify geographic variation in humanitarian needs. Although expanding the geographic scope allows for new data to be collected on populations living further from the LoC, only data collected in areas within 5km from the LoC can be directly compared to all previous assessments.

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[8] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 2018. Humanitarian Needs Overview Ukraine. Available online.
[9] *Ibid*.
[10] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR), 2018, Report on Human Rights in Ukraine. Available online.
[11] REACH, 2017. Area Based Assessment. Available online.
[12] REACH, 2016. Inter-agency Vulnerability Assessment. Available online.
REACH, 2017. Humanitarian Trend Analysis. Available online.
REACH, 2018. Capacity and Vulnerability Assessment Yasynuvata raion. Available online.
REACH, 2018. Winter Assessment of Government-Controlled Areas within 5 km of the Line of Contact. Available online.

## Households with unmet needs and overlapping needs

This assessment has an additional component that provides estimates of households with an unmet need within each sector in order to identify households' overall sectoral need as well as overlapping humanitarian needs. The estimates highlight households with concurrent needs that could be useful for humanitarian actors to collaboratively plan and encourage strategic partnerships.

For the data analysis, REACH adopted the IASC Multi-Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) analytical framework developed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) to guide the determination of the proportions of households with overlapping needs using a set of sector related composite indicators that were agreed upon in consultation with sector (and partner) experts.

REACH worked with the ICCG and OCHA (as the chairing agency coordinating the ICCG) and humanitarian response team. For each section highlighting sectoral findings an estimate of households with unmet needs will be outlined in order to inform strategic, programmatic and operational decision making.

## Structure of the report

This humanitarian trend analysis is structured in the following way: first, the report outlines the methodology including the geographical scope, sampling strategy, data collection methods and limitations, followed by the drivers of humanitarian need and the primary and secondary effects of conflict in order to understand the scale of the crisis and the subsequent impacts. The following sections will outline the cross sector findings highlighting the overlapping needs of the population using the MIRA analytical framework. The report then presents sectoral findings including households with unmet needs estimates of the following sectors: i) Shelter, ii) Food Security, and lastly iii) access to basic services including education, healthcare and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

# METHODOLOGY

This assessment used a mixed methods approach to investigate the major trends in the humanitarian situation across the Government Controlled Areas (GCA) of Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts. It began with a secondary data review analysing ongoing and completed recent reports of REACH partners to provide context and additional analysis to identify trends.

Primary data was collected through both quantitative and qualitative methods. The quantitative component included 2,565 face to face household interviews across GCA selected to be statistically representative of households living in areas close to the LoC and up to areas beyond 20km of the LoC.

The qualitative component included focus group discussions (FGDs) with enumerators to understand the conditions in the settlements that they visited through their direct observations of these conditions. Responses from the FGDs were then compiled and analysed to understand trends relating to differences by geographic areas and settlement type.

## Population of Interest

The assessment focused on persons living in Luhansk and Donetsk Oblasts, differentiating between areas within 5km of the LoC, areas between 5 and 20km from the LoC and areas further than 20km from the LoC. Within each of these areas, the assessment further disaggregated by settlement type including strata for large urban areas (100,000 residents or more), small urban areas (less than 100,000 residents) and rural areas. The official Ukrainian classification of settlements was used to designate whether each settlement was urban or rural. As areas within 5km of the LoC have no urban settlements of more than 100,000 this generated eight different strata (see Table 4).

## Secondary Data Review

The secondary data review gathered available data from various reports provided by humanitarian actors to supplement the assessment with context. Following this, data from the previous REACH assessments was used to provide the basis for the comparative analysis across time. The following secondary data sources were used:

**Table 3: List of Secondary data used in the secondary data review**

| Year | Organisation | Assessment | Coverage |
|---|---|---|---|
| **2018** | United Nations - OCHA | Humanitarian Needs Overview | Ukraine |
| **2018** | REACH | Winter Assessment | Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, GCA 5-km zone |
| **2018** | State Statistics Services of Ukraine | Population data | Ukraine |
| **2018** | International Organisation for Migration (IOM) | National Monitoring System of the Situation with Internally Displaced Persons | Ukraine |
| **2017** | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) | Desk Research of the Surveys of IDPs | Ukraine |
| **2017** | Premiere Urgence International (PUI) | Hard-to-Reach Settlements Multisector Needs Assessment | Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, GCA |
| **2017** | Right to Protection (R2P) | Internally Displaced and Conflict Affected Populations | Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, GCA |
| **2017** | REACH | Analysis of Humanitarian Trends | Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, GCA 5-km zone |
| **2016** | REACH | Inter-Agency Vulnerability Assessment | Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, GCA and NGCA |

### Primary Data Collection

Primary data was collected through a household survey of 2,565 households in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblast GCA. Within this geographical area, households were selected through a stratified sample (95% confidence level, 5% margin of error) with the following strata, visible in Table 4. Data was collected between 11 June and 8 July 2018.

**Table 4: Household survey sample size and strata**

| | Rural | Small Urban (< 100,000 pop.) | Large Urban (> 100,000 pop.) | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *<5 km area* | 363 | 478 | 0* | **841** |
| *5-20 km area* | 265 | 472 | 220 | **957** |
| *>20 km area* | 246 | 313 | 208 | **767** |
| *Total* | **874** | **1,263** | **428** | **2,565** |

** No settlements > 100,000 in <5 km area*

In order to create a sampling frame, population data was extracted from the State Statistics Service of Ukraine and was used to weight a computerised random point selection within each region using QGIS, selecting locations for interviews based on population density. Map 2 outlines the locations of where samples were collected.

Enumerators on the ground identified the household at each selected location (or the nearest household in case the randomly selected location was uninhabited). Data was collected using the KOBO platform and enumerators were trained in the use of KOBO as well as interviewing techniques and issues of protection of vulnerable populations.

REACH also conducted FGDs with enumerators after their visits to the field in order to get qualitative data based on their direct observations. These observations included issues of security, access to services, infrastructure as well as general descriptions of each visited settlement, its population and personal stories from respondents which could reveal challenges not covered by the questionnaire.

### Data Analysis

Secondary data was analysed prior to conducting primary data collection to identify gaps and needs for the Trend Analysis assessment. This gap analysis included analysis of the comparability of data collected by the various humanitarian actors, including REACH data. Primary data was analysed using similar data analysis methodologies as the IAVA and Trend Analysis reports for consistency in indicator measurements. Primary data was entered into Excel instantaneously from KOBO. During primary data collection, REACH reviewed data daily to ensure the collection methodology was being followed by enumerators and investigate any extreme outliers or other problematic data, including ensuring the sampling methodology was carried out in accordance with the sampling plan. REACH maintained a log of any of these changes, including the cleaning of data.

### Analytical Framework

This assessment has an additional component that provides estimates of the proportion households with unmet needs in any given sector, as well as the proportion of households facing overlapping needs in multiple sectors. This was done with the aim to identify overlapping sectoral priority needs that indicate gaps in response, and to inform collaborative planning of humanitarian actors and the operational environment. For this analysis, the assessment used the MIRA framework developed by IASC. REACH identified key indicators for five sectors (food security, health, shelter, WASH and education) to define households with unmet needs based on specific and measurable criteria (see Annex 1). The indicators were developed based on bilateral consultations with cluster coordinators in September and October 2018 and based on the results of the data collection exercise completed in July 2018 and capitalizing on the assessments from 2016 and 2017. Cluster coordinators discussed with REACH

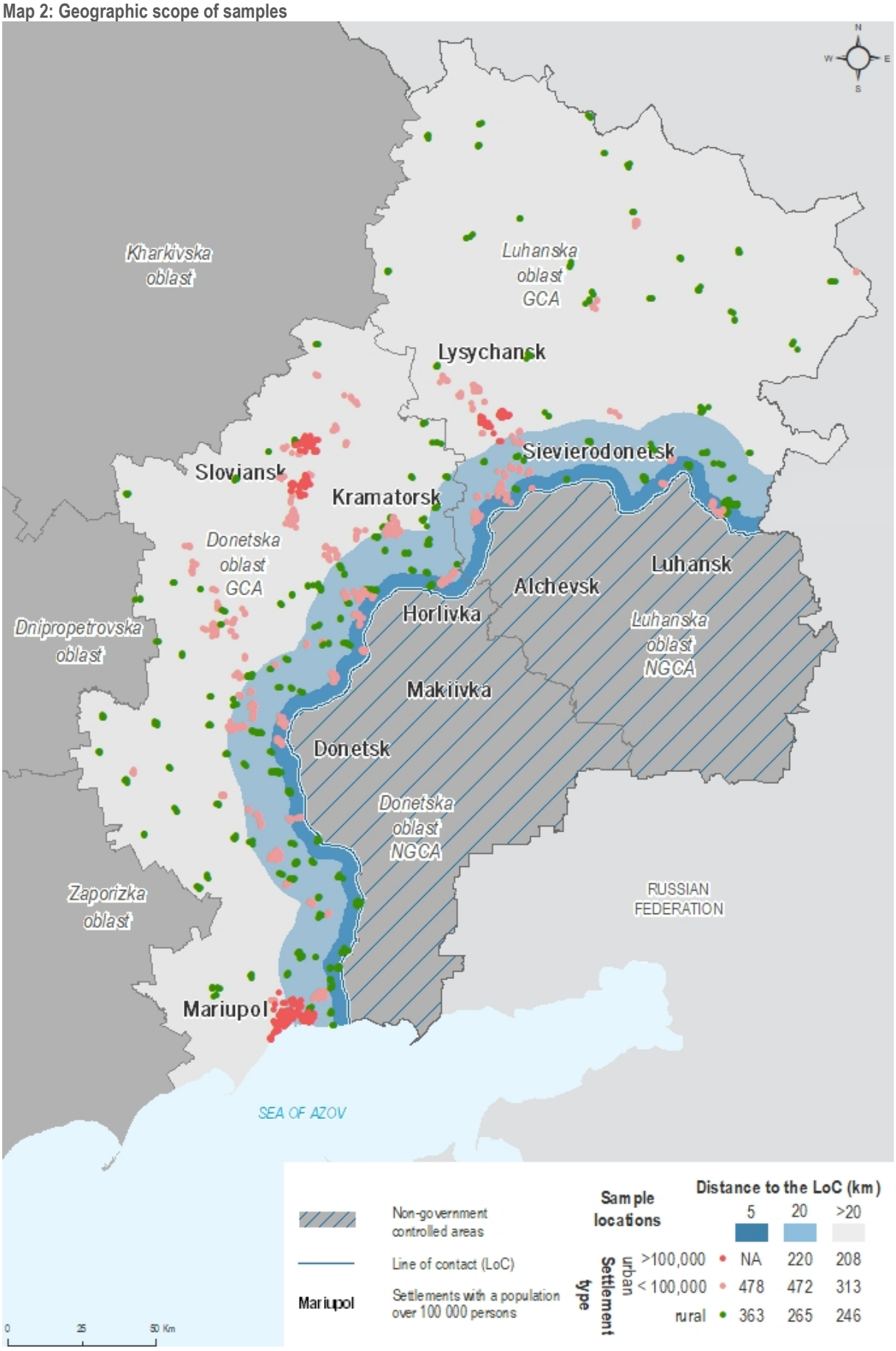
which relevant indicators to use to identify the typical household with unmet needs in eastern Ukraine, which were then tested to check the relevance of the approach. The analysis identified households with unmet needs in each of the five sectors to estimate proportions of households with unmet needs by sector and by strata. Furthermore, by overlaying sectoral needs the analysis was used to determine the proportion of households with overlapping needs, effectively showing households categorised as in humanitarian need in more than one sector. The household level data was also useful in looking at need for assistance against vulnerability of certain key categories (for example, single-headed households, female households, with children). This enables humanitarian actors to further target their assistance to the type of household most likely to have an unmet.

### Limitations

The following limitations should be considered when reading the findings of this report:

- Due to the extended geographical scope of this assessment, areas beyond 5km areas can only be compared with the 2016 data. For residents within 5km areas a three-year trend is available.
- For comparability purposes with past assessments, some additional indicators could not be monitored.
- The relatively low number of IDP households compared to non-displaced households limit the generalizability of findings on IDP households.
- Despite the data being complemented and cross-checked with secondary data review and direct observations, findings could introduce biased information since they reflect individuals' perceptions.
- The protracted conflict could potentially lead to under-reporting of risks that have become normal for the population.
- In cases where smaller subsets of the sample were used, findings may have a lower confidence level and a wider margin of error.
- The indicators used to estimate households with unmet needs had to be largely adjusted from the 2016 and 2017 assessment in order to maintain comparability to previous surveys.

Map 2: Geographic scope of samples



# SCALE OF THE CRISIS

This section identifies some of the primary drivers of the crisis followed by the primary and secondary effects that define the scale and scope of the crisis and contribute to the humanitarian needs of populations living in the area. As the conflict continues and becomes more protracted, primary effects (particularly security-related) remain ongoing, and secondary effects increase and compound as populations migrate to areas with fewer security concerns and redefine institutional needs relating to service provision.

## Primary driver of the crisis

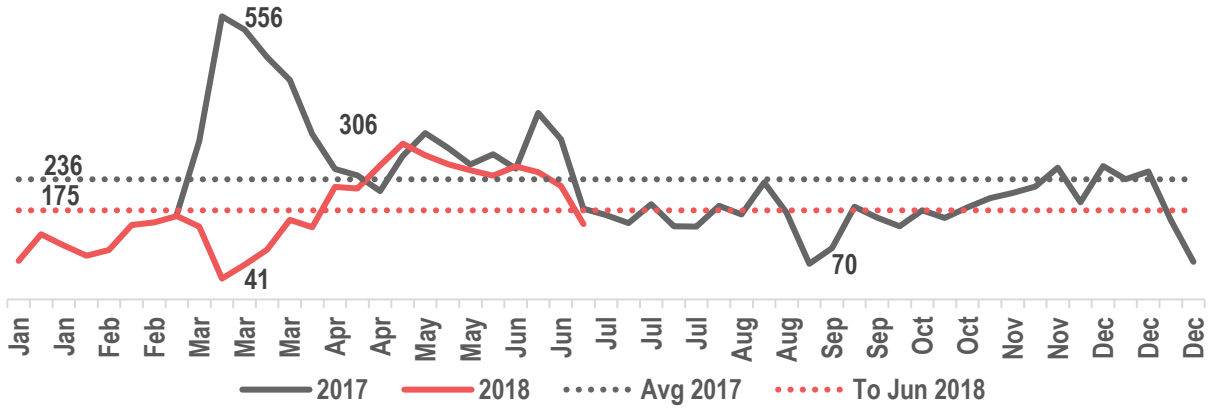
The conflict escalated when separatist forces took control of parts of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. Since then, active fighting between the government of Ukraine and separatist armed groups has oscillated for almost five years, now protracted, the most intense fighting is concentrated around areas close to the LoC. This area is highly populated driving serious humanitarian consequences for the population.

## Primary effects

The primary effects of the conflict include significant security risks due to regular shelling, explosive remnants of war (ERWs) and landmines causing major damages to critical infrastructure and restrictions in movement. In addition, the LoC has also isolated much of the population from important highly populated urban centres in NGCA cutting off GCA populations from basic services, livelihoods opportunities and family and friend networks.[13] The Area Based Assessment[14] assessed 100 settlements across GCA and found that the LoC has disrupted the delivery of basic services including health, education and market networks. The settlements assessed, that were previously serviced by larger cities in NGCA, now access services and markets almost exclusively in GCA placing extra burdens and challenges on service providers.

The below figure 4 illustrates the number of weekly security incidents within 5km of the LoC showing that 2018 has seen a lower number of security incidents on average compared to 2018, decreasing by 26% between 2017 and 2018. However, much of this difference is due to a spike in security incidents during the spring of 2017 which was absent in 2018.[15]

**Figure 4: Number of weekly security incidents within 5km of the LoC/Week between Feb 2017 - Jun 2018[16]**




Populations living in the area closest to the LoC in both GCA and NGCA are the most vulnerable to experiencing these primary effects of conflict. Table 5 demonstrates that in 2018 the vast majority (94%) of conflict-related incidents occur within 5km of the LoC on either side. Populations living further from the LoC, therefore, are less

[13] REACH, 2017. Area Based Assessment. Available online.
[14] REACH, Area Based Assessment, (ABA), 2017 Available online.
[15] UN OCHA. Humanitarian Snapshot, 2018. Available https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/ukraine-humanitarian-snapshot-18-july-2018.
[16] Ibid.

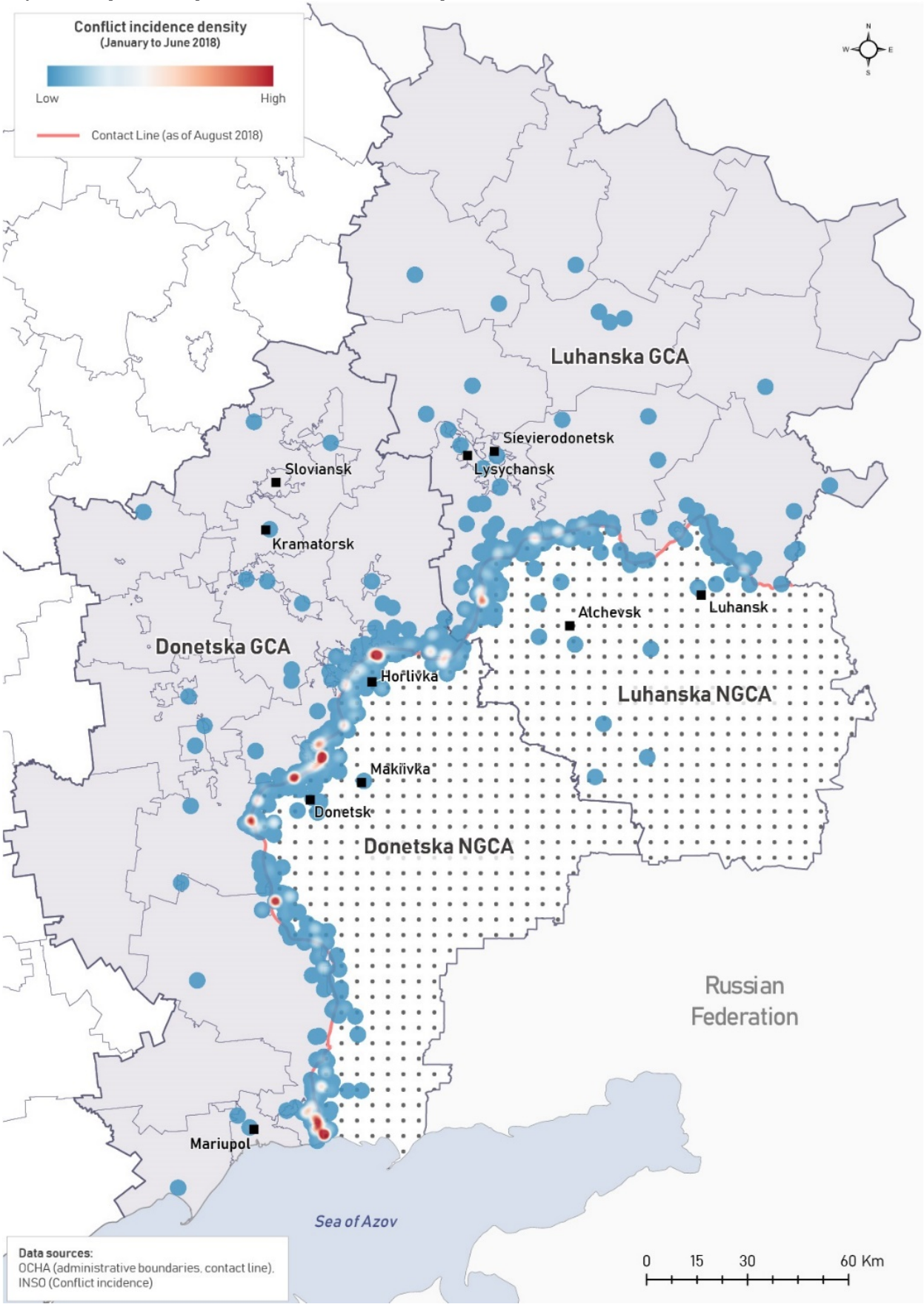
likely to be affected by ongoing primary effects of conflict, though as will be described later in this report, the secondary effects permeate further from the LoC.

**Table 5: Geographic distribution of conflict related incidents (in 2018)**

| Distance to LoC | GCA | NGCA |
|---|---|---|
| **<5km** | 44% | 50% |
| **5-20km** | 2% | 3% |
| **>20km** | 1% | 0% |

Map 3 visualises the locations of security incidents across the conflict area, showing that in GCA the intensity of the conflict is concentrated around major urban centres of Mariupol, Horlivka and Popasna. These areas are densely populated, containing approximately 600,000 people in the immediate geography of ongoing shelling and contamination by landmines and explosive remnants of war.

Map 3: Density of security incidents and areas where they are most concentrated



## Secondary effects

Although the primary effects and security concerns caused by the conflict are significantly more concentrated along the LoC, the secondary effects permeate the entire region including continued protection concerns and food insecurity, restrictions on movement, and challenges to accessing and providing basic services/transport etc.

### Protracted Displacement

One of the primary and most visible secondary effects of the conflict is the protracted proliferation of IDPs throughout Ukraine, and particularly in eastern regions. In terms of humanitarian needs, IDPs and returnees are considered to be of particular concern as a vulnerable group/part of the population. According to official registration data, IDPs are principally relocating to regions within Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts and have needs mainly relating to access to basic services, seeking livelihoods opportunities and housing. Based on data derived from the Ukrainian Ministry of Social Policy[17], Map 4 illustrates the trend of higher rates of IDPs in eastern regions, particularly Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. This concentration of IDPs suggests an additional burden on service providers located in these areas.

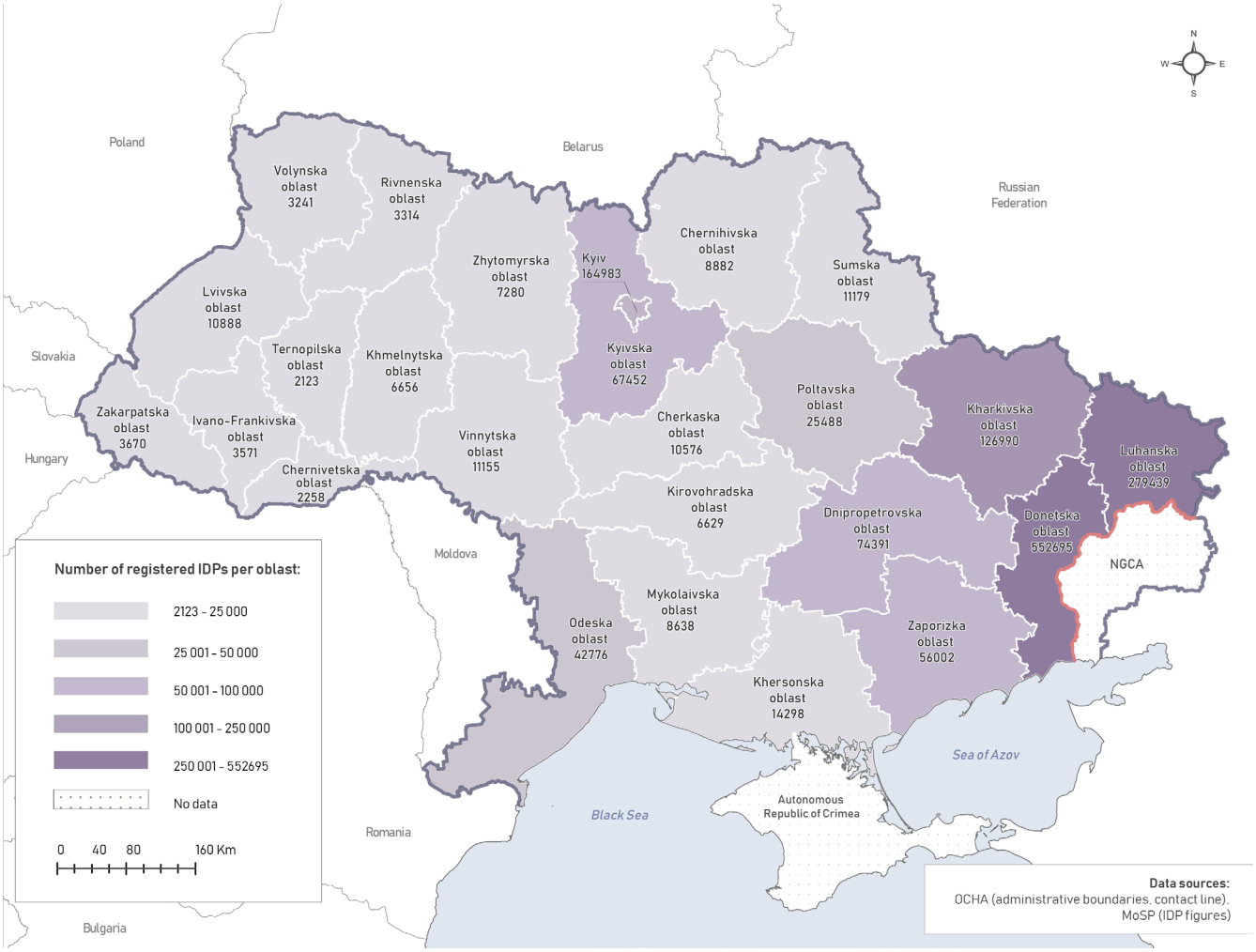
Overall, 6% of households assessed in Donetsk and Luhansk GCA reported being displaced, 4% living within 5km of the LoC and 2% living in areas between 5-20km. Of households that were displaced, the majority reported being displaced from NGCA (78%), and were more likely to have moved from Donetsk NGCA (61%) than Luhansk NGCA (17%). Comparatively, within the 5km areas, in 2017, IDP households represented 4% of the population, this has remained the same in 2018 suggesting that IDP households moving to 5km areas are not returning to their AoO. The assessment did not find any returnee households within the sample assessed.

The main pull-factors for IDP households to their current place of residence included family connections (59%), livelihood opportunities (20%), friend connections (13%), free/cheap accommodation (12%) and proximity to their area of origin (AoO) (12%). The majority (90%) of displaced households reported that they did not plan to move from their current location in the six months following data collection and almost half (46%) of displaced households reported that security concerns were one of the main reasons for not wanting to return to their AoO.

IOM's 2018 National Monitoring System (NMS) report[18] found that that women represent the majority of the surveyed IDP populations (57%). Of these women, 19% were over sixty years of age indicating the high level of vulnerabilty within IDP populations. The NMS also found that 15% of IDP households had a family member with a disability and that the majority of heads of IDP households (55%) possessed higher education qualifications. Less than half (42%) of IDPs were found to be in paid work.

[17] Data derived from Ministry of Social Policy distribution of IDPs, 2018
[18] IOM, National Monitoring Systems Report, 2018 Available online

**Map 4: Count of registered IDPs per oblast**



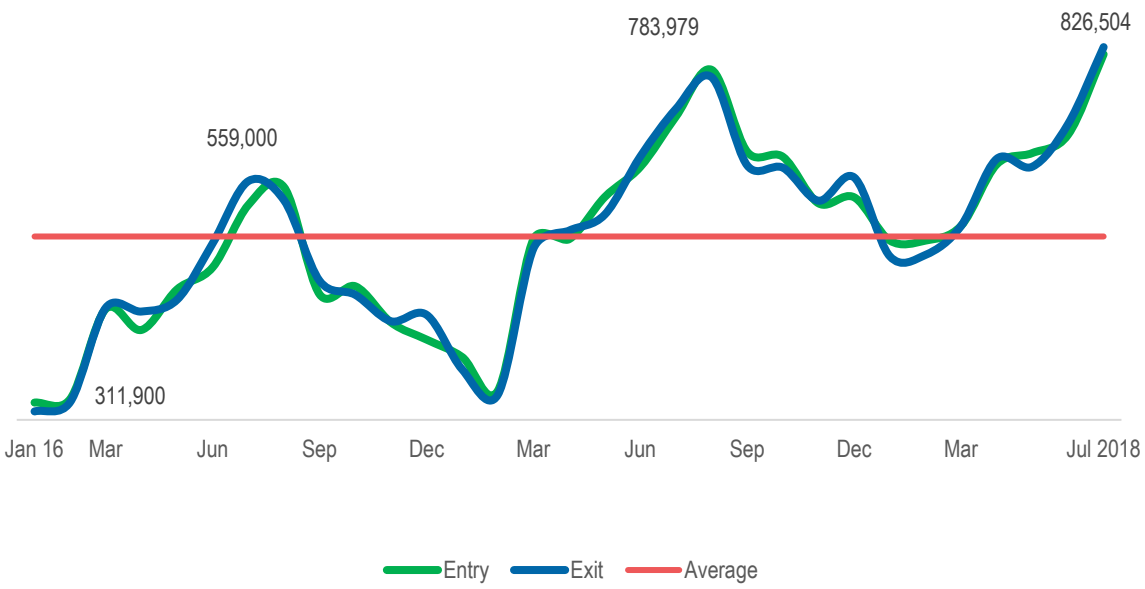

## Crossing Entry/Exit Checkpoints

An additonal secondary effect of conflict is the need for populations to cross the LoC to access services, livelihoods opportunities or family/acquaintances. Despite the restrictions on movement between GCA and NGCA separated by the LoC, monthly crossings between the two sides continue to increase, suggesting an ongoing interdependence between the two sides. Figure 5 shows these crossing trends, indicating an increase to nearly one million monthly crossings in 2018. Such increasing rates of crossings suggest that the political separation caused by the conflict has not stopped populations from commuting back and forth. This highlights the challenges the population must face to access basic services.

The Ukrainian NGO R2P conducts regular monitoring of individuals crossing checkpoints[19] between NGCA and GCA, and their reports have highlighted that in 2018, the majority of the population crossing (57%) were aged over sixty years old highlighting the significant vulnerability of those having to make such a long and difficult journey. Although households in GCA are being cut off from highly populated urban areas in NGCA putting an additional burden on services in GCA[20], the majority of individuals crossing are crossing from NGCA to GCA to visit relatives, withdraw cash, check on property or due to issues with documents. In terms of frequency of crossings, R2P found that the majority (67.81%) of individuals are crossing quarterly.

[19] R2P, Monitoring Individuals Crossing the Line of Contact, 2018, Available online.
[20] REACH, CVA, Yasynuvata raion, 2018, Available online.

Figure 5: Number of entries and exits registered at entry and exit checkpoints (EECPs) [21]




# OVERLAPPING NEEDS /INTER-SECTOR ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

## Overlapping needs

Using the calculations estimating households with unmet needs in any sector, REACH calculated the proportion of households categorised as having unmet needs within more that one sector, highlighting overlapping needs.

This section examines some of the ways in which humanitarian needs overlap amongst households living in different geographic regions. The 5 sectors that were included for analysis were Health, Food security, Education, WASH and Shelter. Across the entire GCA of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, 48% of households had unmet needs in at least one sector and 13% of households had humanitarian needs that overlapped between two or more sectors. Greater rates of overlapping humanitarian needs were noted in areas near the LoC (33% of households had overlapping needs in the 5 km area compared to 15% in the 20 km area and 9% further than 20 km). Rural areas were also more likely to experience overlapping needs, affecting 19% of rural households overall, compared to 15% of households in small urban areas and 7% of households in large urban areas.

Table 6. Number of sectors in which households had an unmet need, by stratum

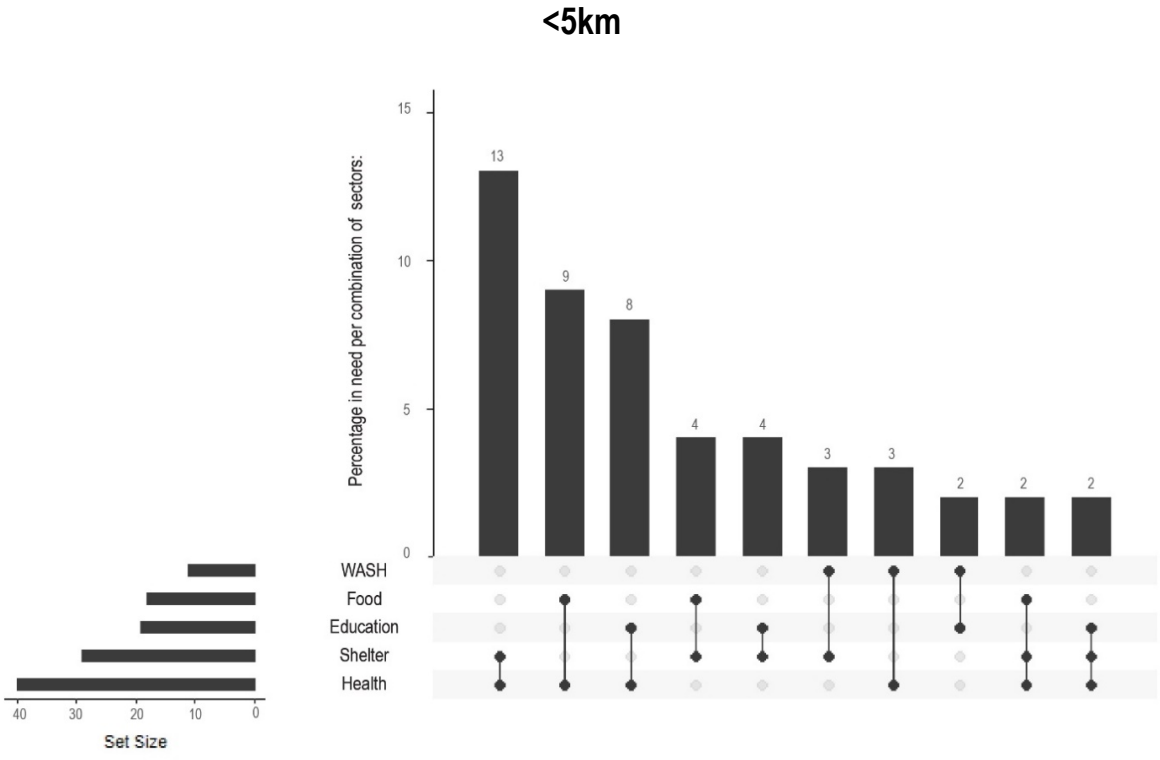
| | 0 Sectors | 1 Sector | 2 Sectors | 3 Sectors | 4 Sectors |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <5km Rural | 17% | 40% | 32% | 10% | 1% |
| <5km Urban | 23% | 45% | 24% | 7% | 1% |
| 5-20km Rural | 30% | 43% | 25% | 2% | 0% |
| 5-20km Small Urban | 43% | 37% | 16% | 4% | 0% |
| 5-20km Large Urban | 54% | 35% | 10% | 1% | 0% |
| >20km Rural | 40% | 45% | 11% | 4% | 0% |
| >20km Small Urban | 62% | 29% | 7% | 1% | 0% |
| >20km Large Urban | 73% | 25% | 2% | 0% | 0% |
| Overall | 52% | 35% | 11% | 2% | 0% |

[21] R2P, Monitoring Individuals Crossing the Line of Contact, 2018, Available online.

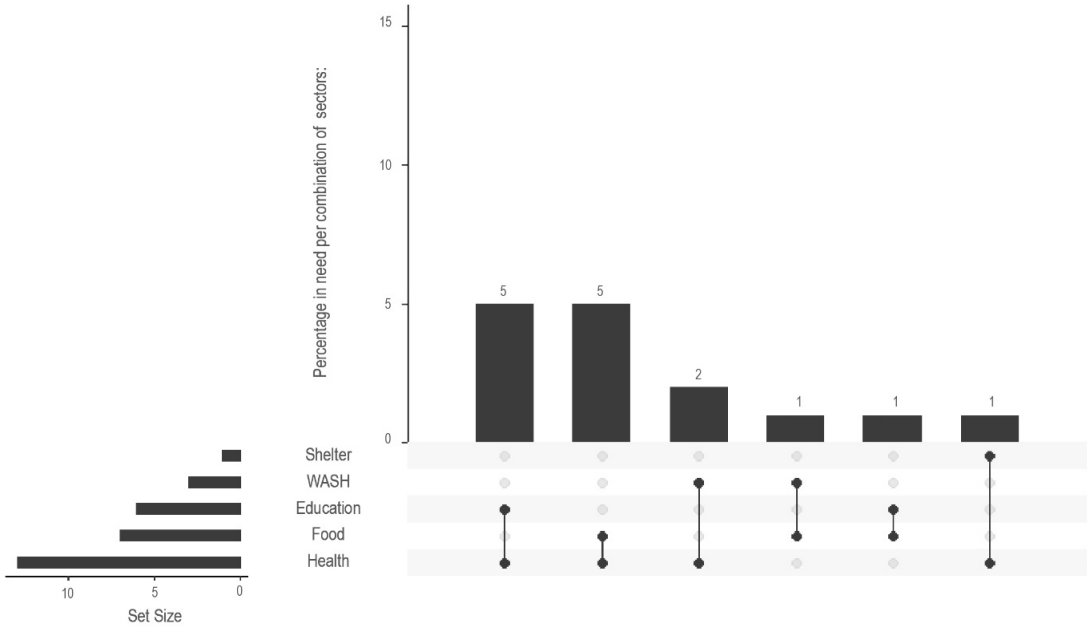
In terms of specific sectors, health overlapped most with other needs in areas both near to the LoC and further away. Overall, health most closely correlated with food needs, particularly near to the LoC where nearly 1 in 10 households had needs relating to both the health sector and food sector. In the area within 5 km of the LoC, households were also likely to have overlapping needs relating to shelter, potentially due to the concentration of security incidents that may affect shelter near the LoC. Figure 6 elaborates on some of the sectoral findings regarding overlapping needs by distance to the LoC. In each figure, columns report the proportion of households with the overlapping needs presented beneath each column and the set size represents the proportion of households with at leat one overlapping need in that sector (with unmet needs in that specific sector as well as another sector). The figures show both a greater number of overlapping sectors and greater proportion of households within many of the categories in the 5 km area.

Comparing the relative intensity of variation in the proportion of households with unmet needs between strata allows an understanding of locations with comparatively higher burdens of unmet needs in each sector and across sectors. REACH standardized the values of households with unmet needs, calculating the figure not by the proportion of households with unmet needs, but rather by the distance from the average proportion of households for each stratum. The resulting figures (Figure 7) indicate that rural and small urban areas within 5km of the LoC have higher than average proportions of households with unmet needs across the assessed sectors. Particularly, rural areas less than 5km from the LoC deviated the most from the average proportion of households with unmet needs in three of the five sectors (health, education and shelter). Small urban centres had the highest levels of food insecurity, and unmet needs relating to WASH were furthest from the average in small urban areas between 5-20km from the LoC.

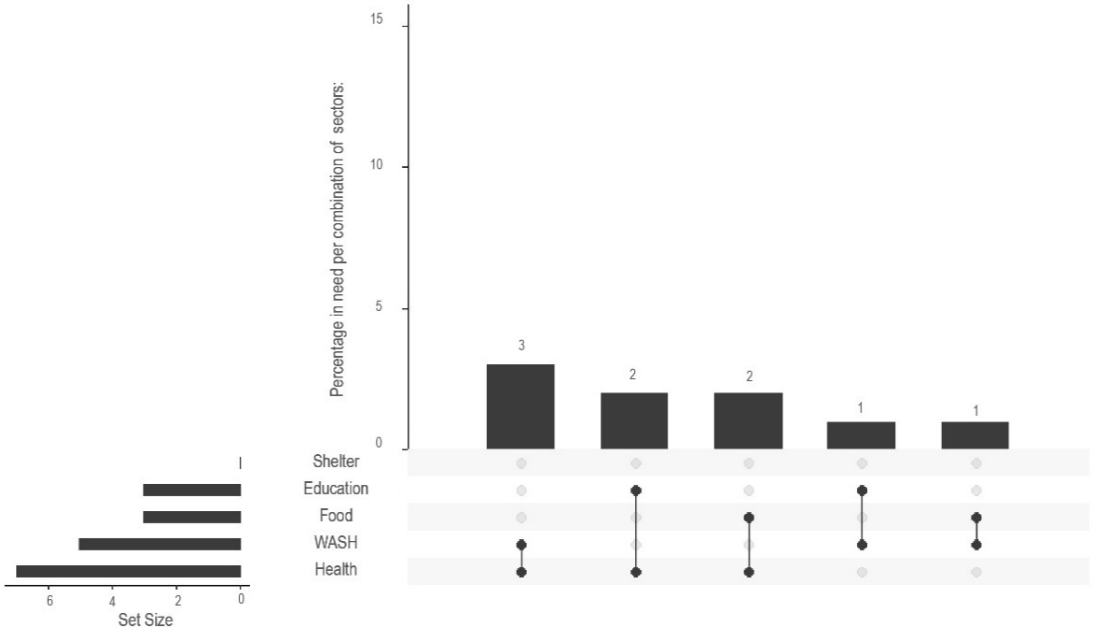
**Figure 6. Proportion of households with overlapping categories of need, by distance to the LoC**



## 5-20km


Percentage in need per combination of sectors:
15
10
5
0
5
5
2
1
1
1
Shelter
WASH
Education
Food
Health
10
5
0
Set Size

## >20km

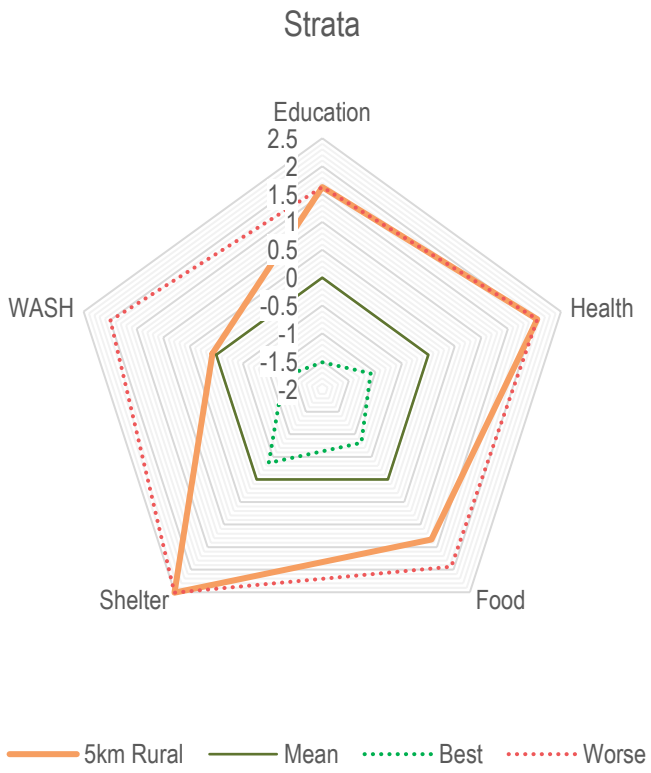

Percentage in need per combination of sectors:
15
10
5
0
3
2
2
1
1
Shelter
Education
Food
WASH
Health
6
4
2
0
Set Size

**Inter-sector analysis of needs**

The proximity to the LoC not only increased the number of sectors in which households had unmet needs (Figure 2) but also the extent of needs in each sector. By standardizing the proportions of households categorized as having unmet sectoral needs, the assessment provides a comparison of the areas that have higher than average levels of unmet needs (Figure 7). Rural and small urban areas within 5km of the LoC had higher than average proportions of households with unmet needs in all five sectors. Rural areas within 5km of the LoC recorded the highest proportions of households with unmet needs in three of the five sectors (health, education and shelter), whereas small urban centres had the highest levels of food insecurity.

Moving to the 5-20km areas (excluding large urban centres), the extent of needs slightly decreased with one sector falling below the overall average. For rural areas the sector that was higher than the overall average was WASH; and education for small urban centres. Given that only 33% of rural residents rely on piped water for drinking against 60% in small urban areas, the lower proportions of households experiencing daily shortages underlines the higher impact of water system deficiencies in urban settlements within 20km of the LoC due to regular attacks on infrastructure and lack of investments in high risk areas. In the education sector the higher distance to the LoC significantly reduced the proportion of households reporting security concerns on their way to school.

Moving further away from the LoC into the 20km+ area, at least 2 sectors drop below the average. In rural settlements shelter and food sectors showed lower proportions of households with unmet needs, with 20km+ rural areas actually recording the lowest levels of food insecurity. The limited fighting that took place and access to plots for growing food (a common practice in eastern Ukraine), likely explain these observations. In small urban areas all sectors but food security had lower than average proportions. The higher levels of access to basic services in these small cities improved health, education and WASH indicators.




**How to read a radar chart:**

The radar chart shows each stratum's relative standardized proportion of households with unmet needs in each of the five sectors covered in the analysis. The numeric value by sector represents the number of standard deviations the stratum is relative to the overall mean. If the stratum has a value of 2 this means that the stratum is 2 standard deviations above the overall mean. Ranging from -1.5 to 2.5, a value below 0 indicates that the stratum is relatively better off than the overall proportion of households with unmet needs within the sector, while a value above 0 indicates that the stratum has higher proportions of households with unmet needs than the overall average. The red dotted pentagon indicates the 'worse' deviation in all sectors, the green dotted pentagon is the 'best' deviation, the grey pentagon is the mean while the colored pentagon shows the value of the stratum.

**Figure 7. Sectoral extent of needs, by stratum**

## Demographics

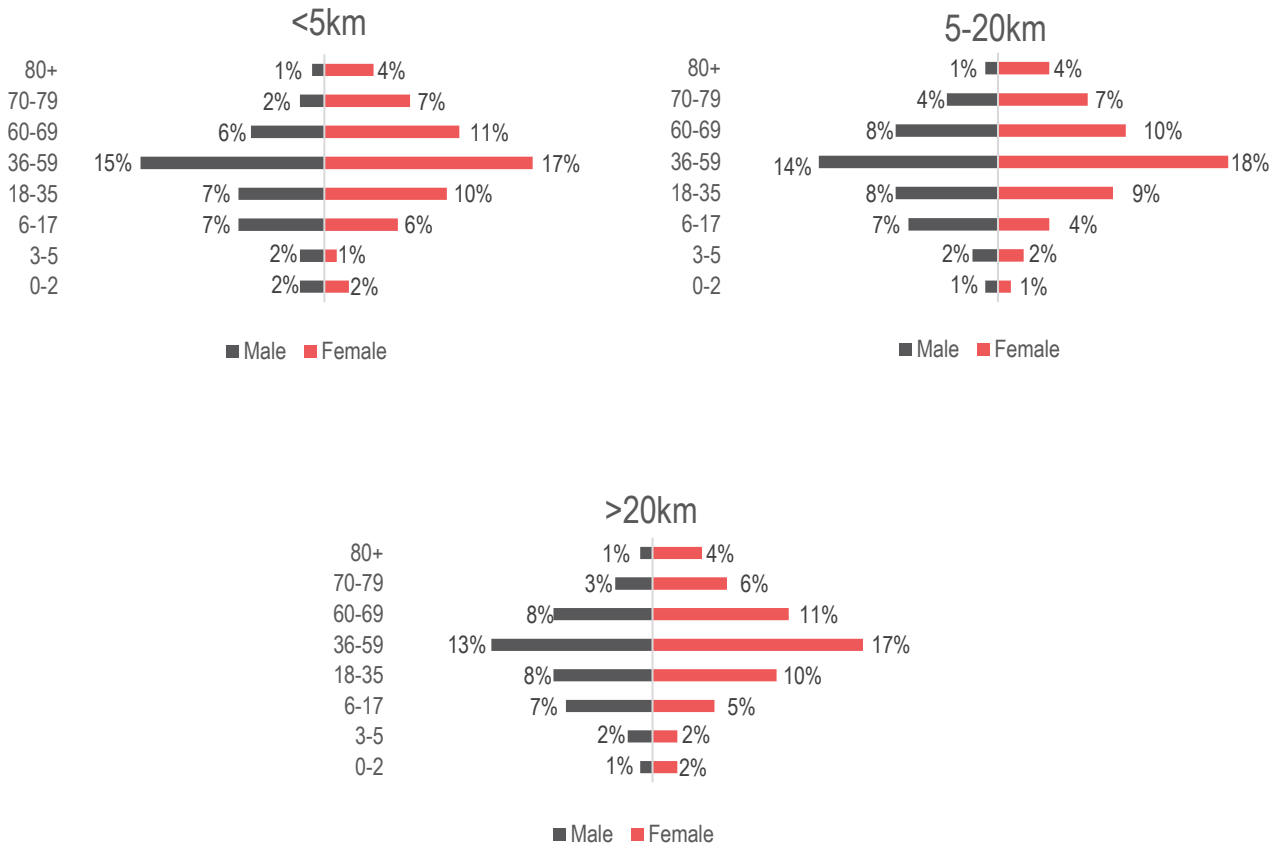
This section highlights some key demographic characteristics of the assessed population living within GCA Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, including population density analysis, gender and age household composition statistics, data for heads of households and issues relating to IDPs/displacement.

### Population Composition

Figure 8 illustrates that the population distribution by age and gender is not significantly different between areas closer to the LoC and those further away. All areas illustrate a low proportion of children and young people – compared to the rest of Ukraine – and high percentages of residents above 60 years of age, particularly women, which is represented in Figure 9. Household heads over that age represent 47% of the sample.[22] One-member households are more likely to be headed by female heads of households, especially between the ages of 60-70 (12%) and over 70 (16%), compared to 9% of one member households headed by men between the ages of 60-70 and 6% over 70. This highlights concerns that the majority of the population within these conflict affected areas is vulnerable.

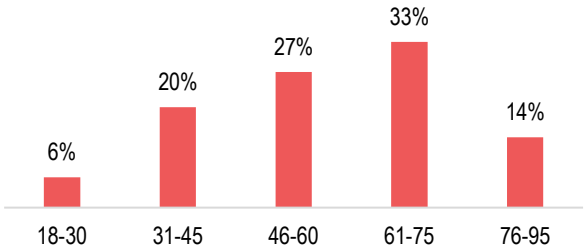
The low proportion of young populations likely corresponds to the trend of working-age and able bodied residents moving to other regions to seek employment opportunities. In areas closer to the LoC the disproportion between males and females above 60 years of age was seen to be higher than in other areas. This trend overlaps with the fact that the average age of heads of household is 60 years of age, that 34% live in one member households (alone), and are more likely to be widows (32%).

**Figure 8. Population age and gender distribution, by distance to LoC**




[22] State Statistics of Ukraine, 2018. Demographic and social statistics/population. Available online.

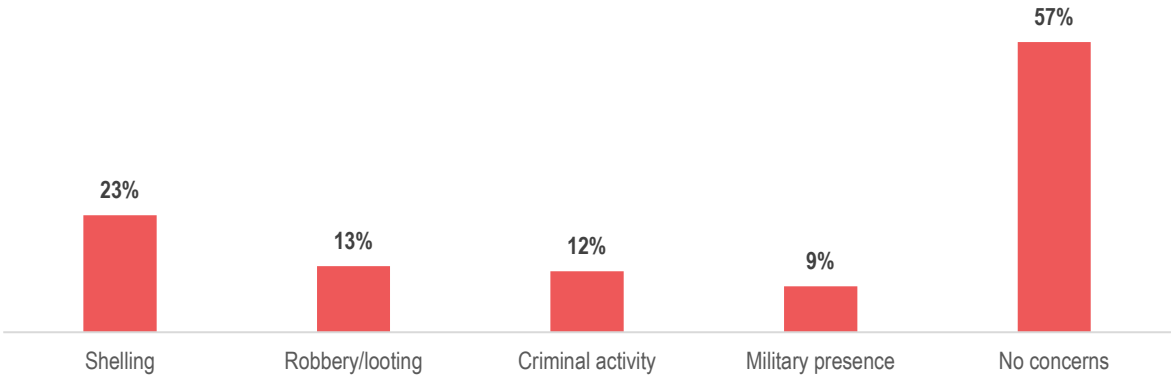
Figure 9: Age distribution of heads of household (for all households)




## Protection

As the conflict becomes more protracted, the protection needs of the population continue to deteriorate, particularly along the LoC. Populations living along the LoC are not only more likely to have a vulnerability, but also are more likely to be exposed to ongoing military exchanges and physical protection risks. This high exposure to violence as a result of the conflict may potentially have long term consequences on the wellbeing of these vulnerable groups. This section will highlight the negative consequences on protection related needs of an ongoing crisis that is driving significant security concerns and barriers to accessing basic services. This evidence will be supported by outlining the trends of deterioration of protection needs over time that are seen most acutely in areas closest to the LoC.

Figure 10: Main security concerns reported by households[23]

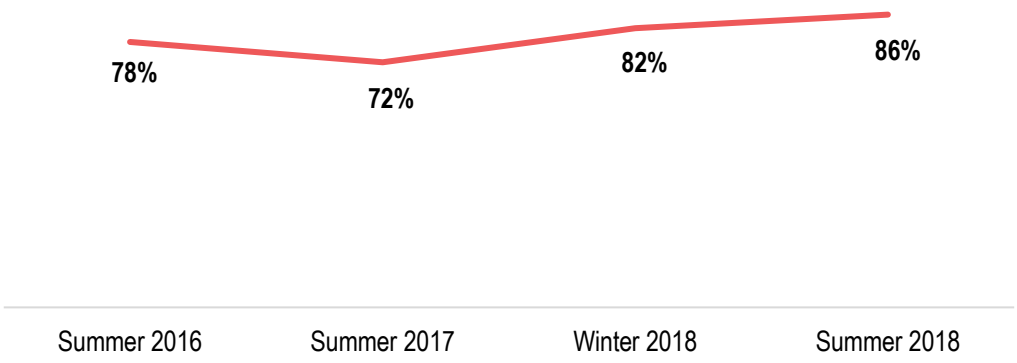



When households were asked to report their top three main security concerns, the most reported concern was shelling, which was particularly prevalent in urban areas within 5 km of the LoC (89% of households). Lower proportions of households further from the LoC reported concern for shelling (9% for areas more than 20 km from the LoC). Concern for shelling has increased somewhat in the 5 km area since REACH first assessed the situation in 2016 (Figure 11).

Nineteen percent (19%) of households reported military presence as a main security concern in areas within 5km of the LoC. Military presence was less likely to be reported as a concern by households living further from the LoC, 11% in 5-20 km areas and 7% in areas beyond 20km, respectively. Likewise, in areas more than 20 km from the LoC, 70% of households reported no security concerns whatsoever, compared with 10% of households in the 5 km area and 50% of households in the 5-20 km area.

[23] Question permitted multiple responses.

Figure 11: Proportion of households reporting shelling as a main security concern since 2016, 5 km area.




Ongoing security concerns tend to be more acute for populations living closest to the LoC, an area in which a high proportion of the population are elderly people and are becoming more vulnerable to long term consequences of the protracted conflict, such that protection risks are likely having long term physical and psychological consequences[24]. These ongoing concerns call for protection related interventions with a particular focus on mental health and psycho social support (MHPSS) to address the long term consequences of ongoing exposure to security risks particularly for elderly populations.

During FGDs, REACH enumerators reported that the majority of settlements visited where shelling was heard were areas closest to the LoC. Overall, enumerators reported perceiving a high degree of threat to life and health due to shelling in a total of 30 settlements out of 214 assessed areas. The significant presence of soldiers and military vehicles was also reported. In Krasnohorivka for example, enumerators reported regular shots, and heavy artillery being heard and that residents had reported sniper fire in the streets. In Stanitsaluhansk residents reported to enumerators that streets were being blocked due to military presence and the risk of mines.

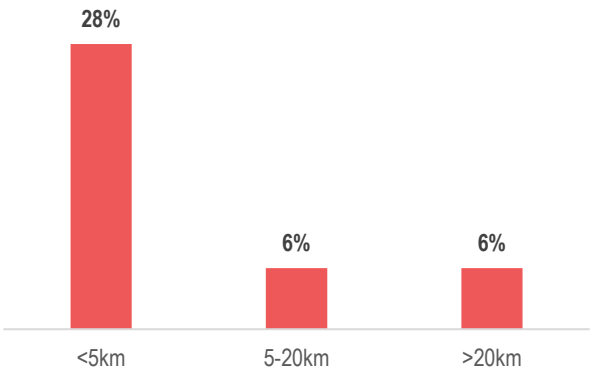
A particular concern that enumerators highlighted during FGDs was that residents noted multiple incidents of looting and the occupation of private properties without compensation. Furthermore, ECHO's humanitarian implementation plan[25] highlighted an additional concern that the significant presence of military and armed groups increases the risk of gender based violence.

### Perception of Mine Risk

REACH assessed households' perceptions of the presence of mines and unexploded ordnances (UXOs) in their communities.[26] When asked about their main security concerns, households living within 5km of the LoC were more likely to perceive landmine and UXO risk than households further from the LoC (Figure 12). In rural areas within 5km of the LoC, households were particularly likely to report perceiving the presence of both landmines and UXOs (13%). This was slightly less so in urban areas within 5km of the LoC (10%). The ongoing risk of mines has negatively affected households ability to access basic services which, over an extended period of time, increases the need for interventions in supporting service provision[27].

[24] HelpAge, Emergency protection based support to conflict affected older women and men in the GCAs locations of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, 2018. Available online.
[25] ECHO, Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIPs), 2019.
[26] The information reported does not represent the confirmed presence of mines but instead relates to household's perceptions of mine presence and how this perception affects their everyday life.
[27] REACH, Area Based Assessment, (ABA), 2017 Available online.

Figure 12: Proportion of households perceiving the presence of mines/UXOs in their community

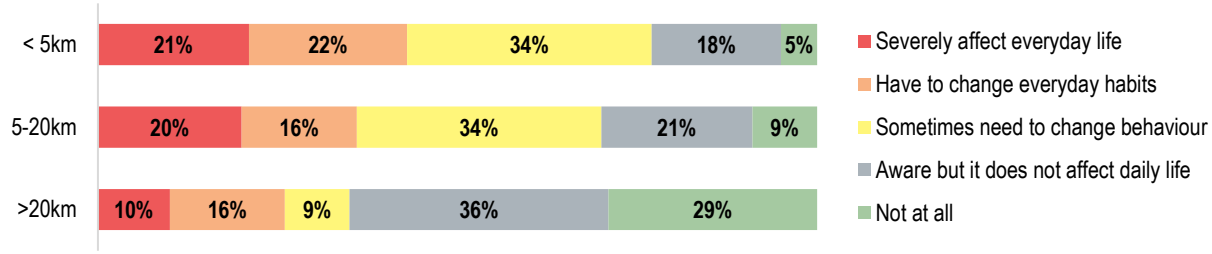



Households were most likely to perceive the location of mines to be in small urban areas (52%). The second most commonly reported location was near their household (42%), followed by agricultural land (18%), and along the road (15%).

During FGDs, enumerators reported significant protection risks relating to mines, highlighting that in Schastia settlement in Luhansk oblast, residents reported that children had found parts for mines and that mines were found in their children's playground.

Households living within 5km of the LoC were most likely to report perceiving that mines/UXO severely affected their everyday lives (21%), this was reported slightly less in areas between 5-20km (20%) and beyond 20km (10%). Indeed, 22% of households living within 5km of the LoC reported having to change their daily habits due to the risk of mines, greater proportions than further from the LoC (5-20km 16% and >20km 16%).

Figure 13: Proportion of households reporting the severity of landmines and UXO effect




A clear example of mines affecting residents' daily lives was highlighted in FGDs when enumerators reported that some households spoke of being unable to collect fire wood due to the risk of mines and potential trip wires in the forests. Amongst households that reported being severely affected, 90% reported that it was due to concern for their physical safety, 51% reported that it was due to movement and access constraints and 9% reported that it was due to economic reasons. Households living in rural areas were also more likely to report that mines/UXOs affected their daily life (22%) compared to those living in urban areas (19% in small 12% in large urban areas).

The majority of households reported that if they perceived mine risk they would most likely report it to the police (52%), 38% of households reported that they would report it to the state emergency service, and 10% reported that they would tell the armed forces Nine percent (9%) of households reported not knowing where to report information concerning mines or UXO.

Overall, a lower proportion of households living closer to the LoC reported feeling safe than households living further from the LoC. Households within 5km were more likely to report either a constant threat to life/health or a periodic threat to life/health, especially during the night (Figure 14 and 15). Those households reporting feeling absolutely safe were more likely to be living in areas further from the LoC in areas beyond 20 km from the military activity.

**Figure 14: Proportion of households feeling a constant threat to life/health by day and night, by distance to the LoC**

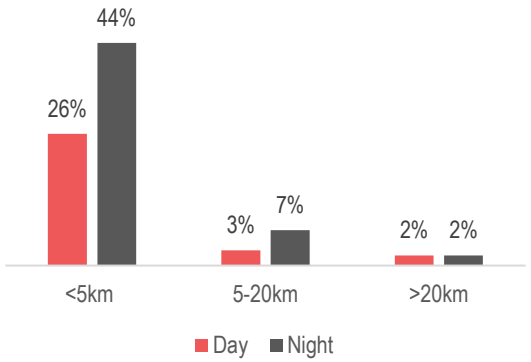



**Figure 15. Proportion of households feeling a periodic threat to life/health by day and night, by distance to the LoC**

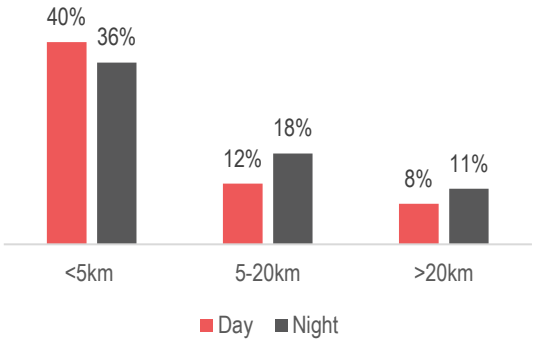



**Figure 16. Proportion of households feeling a threat to life/health rarely by day and night, by distance to the LoC**

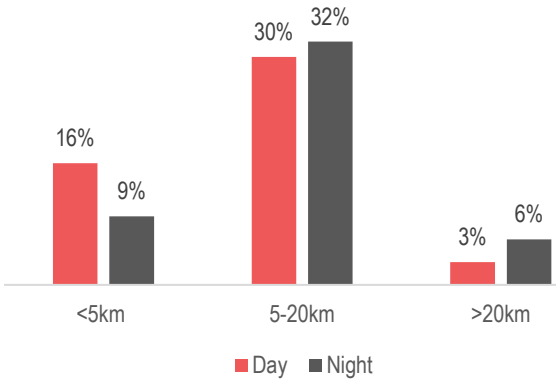
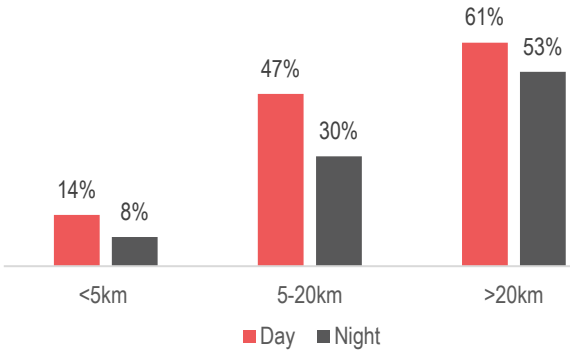



**Figure 17: Proportion of households reporting feeling absolutely safe by day and night, by distance to the LoC**




Across the conflict affected region military checkpoints were commonly found to hinder the movement of people and goods, causing barriers to accessing basic services and livelihood opportunities.[28] Households living in rural areas were more likely to have to cross a military checkpoint (24%) to access services or livelihoods opportunities than households living in small urban areas (13%), and in large urban areas (6%). Likewise, 31% of households within 5km were more likely than households living in areas between 5-20km (12%) and areas beyond 20km (10%).

While households reported needing to cross checkpoints to access a number of services, rural households and households in small urban areas were more likely to need to cross checkpoints to access healthcare, while respondents living in large urban areas were more likely to report crossing to access livelihoods opportunities.

[28] REACH, 2018. CVA Yasynuvata raion. Available online.

**Table 7: Proportion of households indicating needing to cross a military checkpoint (GCA/NGCA) in order to access services, by type of settlement**

| | Rural | Small Urban | Large Urban |
|---|---|---|---|
| Healthcare | 75% | 54% | 3% |
| Markets | 42% | 23% | 3% |
| Employment | 28% | 25% | 28% |
| Social payments | 15% | 7% | 0% |
| Education | 2% | 9% | 0% |
| Agricultural land | 1% | 1% | 15% |
| Other (specify)[29] | 8% | 21% | 50% |

Despite significant proportions of households reporting the need to cross military checkpoints to access services, the majority of such households reported that the usual waiting time at checkpoints was less than 15 minutes (79%). In terms of households' experiences of the checkpoints, 2% reported experiencing harassment and/or intimidation when passing.

### Documentation

Relatively few households (1%) reported missing documents such as national passport, property ownership documents, and marriage certificates. Missing or invalid documents may potentially affect the ability of household members to access pensions or register children in schools, and could reduce freedom of movement (if missing a passport, for example) and create barriers to legal processes. Reasons that households reported for missing documents included that the documents had been lost or destroyed, that the household had applied for but not yet received the documents, that the documents had never been issued, or that it was too expensive to renew the documents. However, these responses should be considered indicative due to the low number of responses to this question.

### Legal assistance

The need for legal assistance can be divided into two distinct categories: problems accessing justice (ex. court procedures, lawyers), and problems accessig legal documents (ex. property ownership documents, passports or single mother certificates). Across geographic areas, 7% of households reported requiring legal assistance accessing justice, and 6% of households reported the need for legal assistance in terms of the issuance of documents.

Enumerators during focus groups highlighted that respondents in several cases noted difficulties relating to documentation from NGCA, which reportedly may not be recognized or renewable in GCA. Examples included birth certificates, education qualifications and marriage certificates.

### Debt

Around one in five (21%) households reported being in debt at time of data collection. In a context where the income and the capacity to afford basic services is already low, the added burden of debt creates further vulnerabilty for households. Of these households, the main lenders were reported to be banks/financial institutions (27%), utility services (25%), family/friends (24%), and food shops (16%).

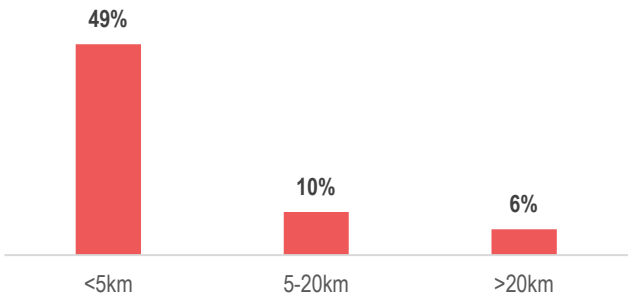
[29] Other (Specify) most frequently included respondents reporting the need to cross checkpoints to visit family or acquaintances.

## Humanitarian assistance

Almost half (49%) of households living within 5km areas reported having received humanitarian assistance in the 12 months prior to data collection (Figure 18). This was most likely reported by households living in rural areas (19%) compared to small urban areas (14%) and large urban areas (5%). This trend suggests that humanitarian actors are effectively targeting populations nearest to the LoC.

Within households reporting having received assistance in the 12 months prior to data collection, the main type of humanitarian assistance received was food (67%). Disaggregated by settlement type this was distributed most commonly in small urban areas which is in line with the food security findings that show a higher proportion of households food insecure living in small urban areas (Table 12).

**Figure 18: Proportion of households with at least one member who have received humanitarian assistance**




Amongst households in the 5km area that receive humanitarian aid, the proportion reporting a complaint mechanism to aid providers stayed approximately the same between 2017 and 2018 (40% to 37%), however the proportion of households reporting being consulted about needs or preferences increased by 10 percentage points from 18% in 2017 to 28% in 2018, indicating some level of success amongst aid actors in improving accountability to affected populations.

**Table 8: Main reported types of humanitarian assistance received, by settlement type (of households reporting receiving assistance in 12 months prior to data collection)**

| | Rural | Small Urban | Large Urban |
|---|---|---|---|
| Food | 62% | 72% | 61% |
| Cash | 15% | 13% | 17% |
| Other NFIs | 12% | 12% | 21% |
| Medical help | 16% | 6% | 20% |
| Fuel | 11% | 4% | 5% |

**Table 9: Most recent reported receipt of aid amongst households that received humanitarian assistance**

| | <5km | 5-20km | >20km |
|---|---|---|---|
| More than two months ago | 44% | 63% | 69% |
| Between one and two months ago | 28% | 18% | 16% |
| Between one and four weeks ago | 15% | 10% | 13% |
| Less than a week ago | 14% | 9% | 2% |

Households living within 5km of the LoC were more likely to have received assistance recently than households living further away from the LoC.

Lastly, the majority of households (92%) living within 5km of the LoC reported having received humanitarian assistance from an international humanitarian organization, whereas households further away from the LoC such as those in large urban settlements, reported more often having received assistance from government institutions of Ukraine. This indicates that international humanitarian organizations have a specific focus on households living within 5km of the LoC.

## Shelter

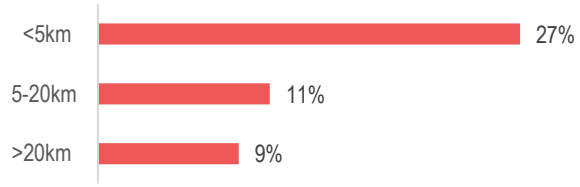
Damage to shelter and service facilities infrastructure remains a significant issue for areas closest to the LoC. Access to NFIs also remains an issue across the GCA due to challenges in availability and increasing prices, unaffordable for the majority of the population. This section will outline the impacts of the conflict on damage to shelter and households' access to NFIs. The situation relating to households living in damaged shelter found to be relatively stable compared to the previous year.

In these areas, households also experience increased barriers to accessing construction materials and limited public assistance for reparations.[30]

Overall, in terms of the types of shelter households are living in, the majority of households across GCA live in self owned accommodation (90%). Five percent (5%) of households reported living in free accommodation but pay for utilities, which is likely households occupying empty accommodation permitted by either local authorities or local home owners. Three percent (3%) reported living in rented accommodation and 1% reported living in accommodation that is hosted by someone.

In terms of damage to shelter, households living within 5km of the LoC were more likely to report that their shelter was either partially damaged or totally destroyed (29%). Two percent (2%) of households living in 5km areas reported that their shelter had been totally destroyed, between 5-20km this was 1% and no households in areas beyond 20km reported having a totally destroyed shelter. The below figure shows that 27% of households living within 5km areas have partially damaged accommodation (Figure 19).

**Figure 19: Proportion of households reporting shelter being partially damaged**




There were also differences in the level of damage to shelter within different settlement types. Households living in rural areas were also more likely to report partial damage to their shelter (17%) compared to small urban (12%) and large urban (7%).

Comparing trends over time, Figure 20 below indicates that the proportion of partially damaged or destroyed households had remained somewhat consistent, with a slight improvement during the winter, most likely due to the need to repair damages to cope with cold weather, and a slight corresponding increase again in the summer.

**Figure 20: Proportion of households reporting partially damaged or destroyed shelter in 5km area within the LoC**


The main reported cause of damage to shelter within 5km areas was due to shelling (83%), followed by lack of maintenance (21%) and weather conditions (3%) as the main cause. In contrast, areas further from the LoC were more likely to report lack of maintenance as the main cause of damage to shelter. In areas between 5-20km 68%

[30] REACH, 2018. CVA Yasynuvata raion. Available online.

of households reported lack of maintenance, 23% of households reported shelling and 14% reported weather conditions as the main cause. In areas beyond 20km, 68% of households reported lack of maintenance as the main cause of damage, 23% weather conditions and 14% due to the shelling/conflict. Overall, the findings illustrate that households closer to LoC are at greater risk of shelter damage due to the conflict and thereby greater unmet humanitarian need. Those households also experience increasing barriers to accessing construction materials and limited public assistance for reparations.[31]

The type/element of shelter that was reported as damaged did not vary significantly by distance to the LoC or settlement type. Overall, of households reporting damage, the most frequently reported type of shelter damage reported was to roofs and ceilings (59%). Over half (54%) of households reporting damage reported damage to their walls, 34% of households reported damage to their windows and 18% reported damage to their floors. The most commonly reported type of damage to households within 5km areas reported in summer 2017 was damage to windows (78%) followed by roofs and ceilings (49%), showing a shift in the type of damage reported since summer 2017 towards more foundational elements of shelter like roofs and ceilings, illustrating the impact of the protracted conflict.

There was a higher proportion (23%) of households reporting experiencing leaks in their accommodation when it rains (whether from conflict-related damage or otherwise) within 5km areas, than in areas between 5-20km (12%) and areas beyond 20km (10%). Rural households were also more likely to report leaks (18%), compared to households in small urban areas (12%) and large urban areas (8%).

During FGDs, enumerators reported seeing significant damage to schools, medical facilities and town halls mainly in areas closer to the LoC. They also reported seeing many abandoned properties being occupied by the military. In terms of why properties have been abandoned, enumerators explained that many residents seemed to have abandoned their properties due to the high cost of repairs and that many households were moving to larger settlements in order to seek employment.

With regards to displaced households, 14% living in 5km areas reported that their shelter in their area of origin (AoO) was destroyed. Between 5-20km, 9% of displaced households reported that their shelter in their AoO was totally destroyed and in areas further than 20km this was 2%.[32]

[31] REACH, 2018. CVA Yasynuvata raion. Available online.
[32] These findings should be considered as indicative only.

## Non-Food Items (NFIs)

Access to NFIs remains a challenge to households living across GCA. This is mainly related to the increasing prices and availability of NFIs and barriers to accessing NFI markets.[33]

Households were asked if they owned a set of essential NFIs and Table 10 illustrates the number of essential NFIs reported missing for at least one member with a household. It shows that households living within 5km of the LoC were less likely to own essential NFIs, especially winter shoes/boots indicating higher vulnerability in areas closes to the conflict.

**Table 10: Proportion of households reporting essential NFIs they do not have, by distance to LoC**

| | <5km | 5-20km | >20km |
|---|---|---|---|
| Winter shoes/boots | 17% | 14% | 9% |
| Warm underwear | 10% | 10% | 9% |
| Adult warm clothing | 13% | 11% | 5% |
| Bedsheets | 9% | 11% | 5% |
| Warm jacket | 8% | 9% | 4% |
| Child warm clothing | 8% | 7% | 3% |
| Mattress | 5% | 8% | 3% |
| Blanket | 6% | 7% | 3% |
| Towel | 4% | 7% | 3% |
| Socks | 3% | 3% | 1% |
| Gloves | 2% | 3% | 1% |
| Scarf | 2% | 3% | 1% |

Table 11 illustrates items that households lacked entirely, showing that households are overall less likely to have a functional AC unit, especially within 5km areas, and over half of households reporting not having a functional movable heater.

**Table 11: Proportion of households reporting missing NFIs, by distance to LoC**

| | <5km | 5-20km | >20km | Overall |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Functional AC unit | 83% | 64% | 79% | 75% |
| Functional heater (movable) | 57% | 46% | 59% | 55% |
| Refrigerator | 8% | 10% | 7% | 8% |
| None of above missing | 10% | 28% | 15% | 18% |

## Utilities

Ninety-nine percent (99%) of households reported being connected to the electricity network, with no significant difference between rural and urban settlements.

This assessment found that more than a quarter (28%) of households in small urban settlements use a centralised heating system. Central heating is used by more than half (52%) of households in large urban settlements and only 1% of households in rural settlements. Instead, these households used fuels such as gas (50%), wood (31%), and

[33] REACH, 2018. CVA Yasynuvata raion. Available online.

coal (18%). As a result, rural households are more likely to be affected by changes in prices and availability of those items.

In the winter prior to assessment, households reported having spent on average 1,471 UAH (56.31 USD) per month on the heating bill.[34] On utility bills, households reported spending on average 560 UAH (21.44 USD) per month. Considering that the median total household income from all sources was 4,200 UAH (160.78 USD), utilities and heating represent a significant proportion of household income. In general, households in large urban settlements more than 20km from the LoC reported having spent the highest amount on heating bills (1,677 UAH), likely due to the higher proportion of households reporting the use of centralized heating in this area.

Although 98% of households overall indicated no gas shortages in the 30 days prior to data collection, this assessment found that 31% of households were experiencing electricity shortages in the last 30 days (Map 5). This happened irregularly for 27% of households, but it happened weekly (minimum once a week) for 9% of households in large urban settlements within 20 km from the LoC.

According to enumerators during FGDs, paying for utilities is the biggest concern for households. Especially the cost of fuel for heating and the added barrier to accessing forests to collect wood due to the fear of the presence of mines, was reportedly a challenge.

**Households with Unmet Needs – Shelter**

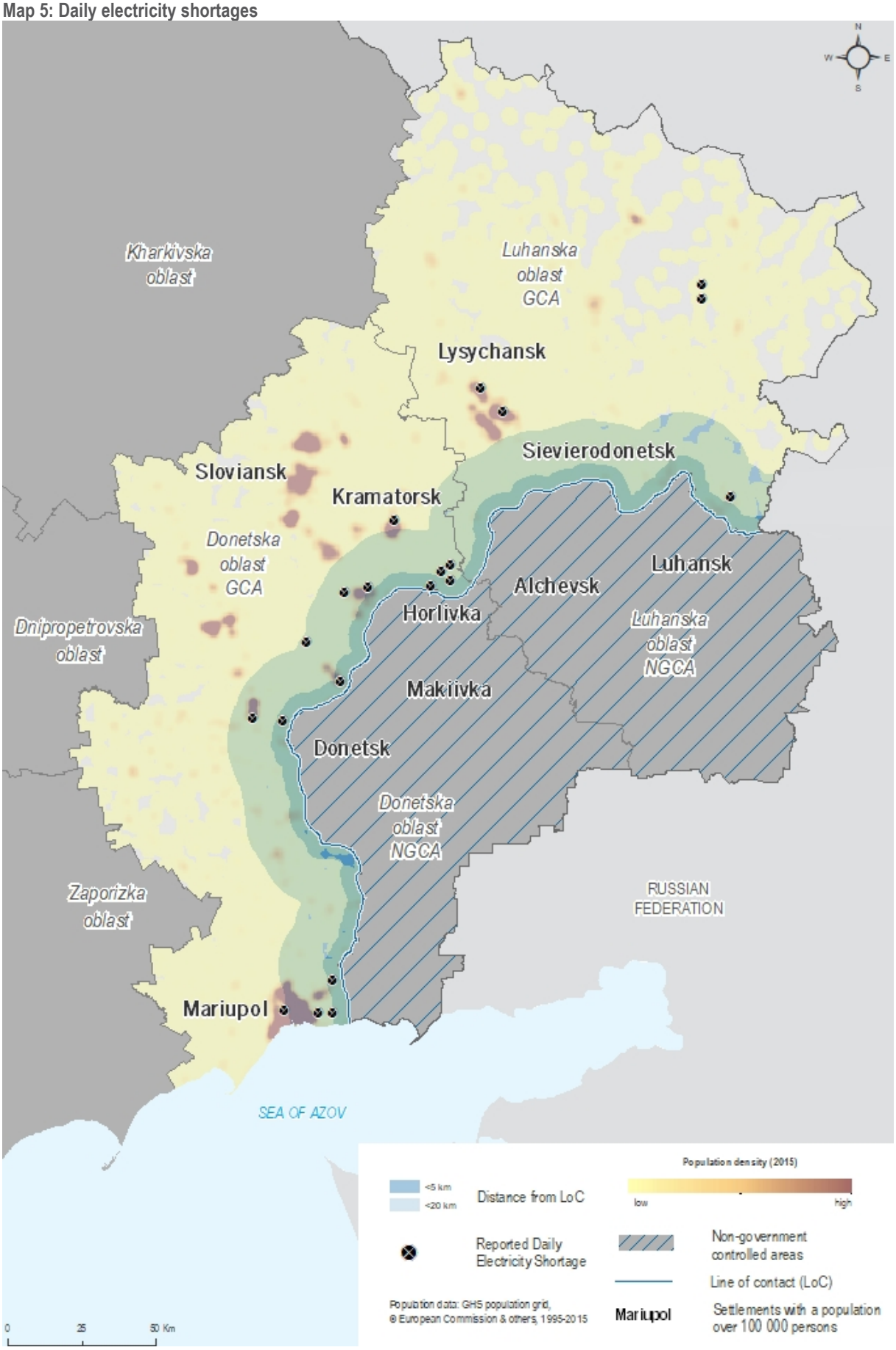
REACH provides the following technical estimates of households with unmet needs relating to shelter related humanitarian assistance based on the following indicators:

- Households living in damaged shelter
- AND damage was caused by shelling/conflict

| | Rural | Small Urban | Large Urban | Overall |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **<5 km area** | 31% | 22% | n/a | **24%** |
| **5-20 km area** | 10% | 4% | 1% | **3%** |
| **>20 km area** | 3% | 0% | 2% | **1%** |
| **Overall** | **6%** | **5%** | **1%** | **4%** |

[34] Exchange rate 1 USD = 26.12231 UAH. National Bank of Ukraine, as of 01/06/2018. Available online.

**Map 5: Daily electricity shortages**



## Food Security

This section outlines the food security situation of households living across GCA, across all geographic strata and compares trends between 5km areas from previous years. Overall, the analysis shows no significant improvement in the food security situation in the region as it continues to deteriorate due to the ongoing conflict that is increasing barriers to supply and prices of food. REACH uses the World Food Programme's (WFPs) Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators (CARI)[35].

The below table highlights that the majority of households are identified to be marginally food secure, though one in ten (10%) households was identified to be either moderately or severely food insecure, with higher proportions amongst households living in areas closest to the LoC (14%).

**Table 12: Food security index by distance to LoC**

| | <5km | 5-20km | >20km | Overall |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Food secure | 27% | 39% | 33% | 34% |
| Marginally food secure | 59% | 52% | 59% | 57% |
| Moderately food insecure | 13% | 9% | 8% | 9% |
| Severely food insecure | 1% | 1% | 0.3% | 1% |

A higher proportion of households living in small urban areas were identified to be either moderately or severely food insecure (12%) compared to households in rural areas where 8% of households were either moderately or severely food insecure and 8% in large urban areas. For households living further from the LoC, food insecurity decreases slightly.

**Table 13: Proportion of moderately or severely food insecure households, by distance to LoC and settlement type**

| | <5km | 5-20km | >20km | Overall |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rural | 13% | 10% | 7% | 8% |
| Small urban | 15% | 13% | 10% | 12% |
| Large urban | 0% | 8% | 7% | 8% |
| Overall | 15% | 10% | 9% | 10% |

Comparing trends within 5km areas, the 2016 IAVA found that the proportion of moderate or severely food insecure households was 6% in Donetsk oblast and 10% in Luhansk oblast. In March 2018 the Food Security Cluster (FSC) conducted a socio-economic trend analysis incorporating REACH food security data and found that in June 2017 there had been an increase in moderate and severe food insecurity to 15% in Donetsk, and an increase to 14% in Luhansk.[36] This increase is potentially due to the protracted conflict impacting on the increasing prices of goods, unemployment and a reduction in wages resulting in households lower levels of food security.

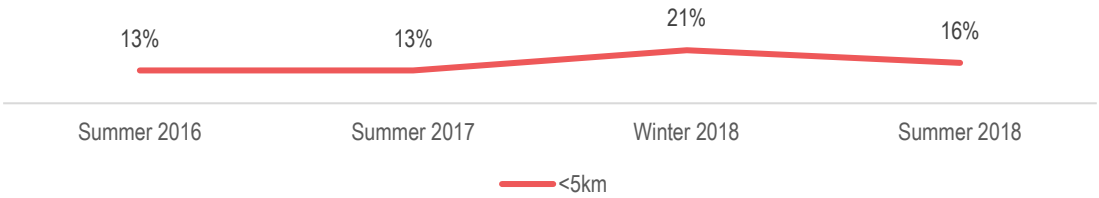
[35] The CARI methodology considers food consumption patterns, livelihoods-related coping strategies, and household spending patterns to identify households with food insecurity. More information available online.
[36] Food Security Cluster, 2018. Joint Food Security Assessment on GCA and NGCA. Available online.

Table 14: Proportion of households with poor or borderline Food Consumption Score (FCS)

| | <5km | 5-20km | >20km | Overall |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rural | 14% | 9% | 7% | 8% |
| Small urban | 16% | 14% | 11% | 13% |
| Large urban | 0% | 8% | 8% | 8% |
| Overall | 16% | 10% | 9% | 10% |

The Food Consumption Scores (FCS) further indicate a somewhat deteriorating situation over time. Since 2017, households within 5 km areas with poor or borderline food consumption scores have increased from 13% in September 2017, to 21% in February 2018 to 16% in June 2018 (Figure 21). This increase during winter is likely due to the effect of seasonality on food availability in markets and a corresponding decrease in the variety of foods consumed during the winter in Ukraine.

Figure 21: Proportion of households scoring a poor or borderline FCS between Summer 2016 and Summer 2018




**Coping strategies**

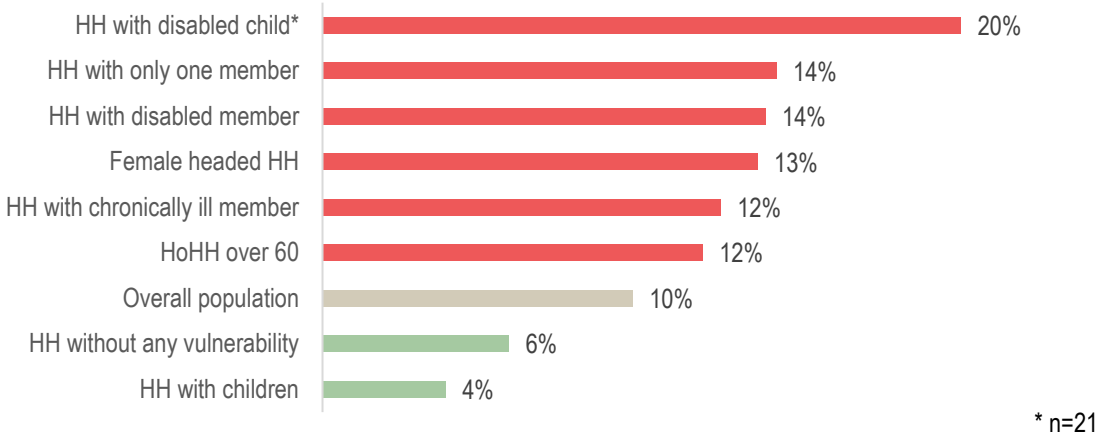
The extent to which households use coping strategies is a helpful indicator of their level of need and food security. Households were asked if they had used certain coping strategies at all in the seven days prior to data collection. This assessment found that overall, the use of coping strategies was more prevalent in areas within 5km of the LoC.

Nearly a quarter (22%) of households living within 5km of the line of contact reported borrowing food or relying on help from family/friends in the 7 days prior to data collection in 5km areas was 22%, compared to 8% in areas between 5-20km and 13% in areas beyond 20km.

Twenty-six percent (26%) of households overall reported relying on less preferred cheaper foods. Households living within 5 km of the LoC were most likely to report relying on less preferred cheaper foods (38%). Between 5-20km this was 22% and beyond 20km this was 26%. Thirteen percent (13%) of households reported eating fewer meals per day in order to cope with food insecurity. Six percent (6%) of households reported reducing the food intake of adults in the household in order to feed their children. This was likewise more prevalent within 5km areas. Enumerators during FGDs highlighted the importance of households relying on their gardens for food and that residents were fearful that during winter they would not be able to use their gardens. Overall, enumerators showed concern that the majority of residents could not meet minimum standards of living.

Applying the analysis of food security using markers of vulnerability also shows that single-headed households are 40% more likely to be experiencing moderate to severe food insecurity (14%) than the general population (10%). Other vulnerable categories that experienced higher levels of food insecurity were households with disabled members (14%), female headed (13%), with chronical diseases (12%), and households headed by pensioners (12%). On the other hand, households with no specific vulnerability (6%) and with children (4%) where less likely to be food insecure.

**Figure 22. Proportion of households that are moderately or severely food insecure, by household profile**




* n=21

## Households with Unmet Needs – Food Security

REACH provides the following technical estimates of households with unmet needs relating to food related humanitarian assistance based on the following indicators:

- Households moderately or severely food insecure (Food Security Index, WFP CARI methodology)

| | Rural | Small Urban | Large Urban | Overall |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **<5 km area** | 13% | 15% | n/a | **15%** |
| **5-20 km area** | 10% | 13% | 8% | **10%** |
| **>20 km area** | 7% | 10% | 7% | **9%** |
| **Overall** | **8%** | **11%** | **8%** | **10%** |

## Education

This section illustrates the trends in access to and quality of education across GCA. Overall, there have been some improvements in the services available at schools. However, due to the protracted nature of the conflict, there have also been increased gaps in children's attendance in school and an overall increase in barriers to accessing education facilities, especially for households living within areas closest to the LoC. Increased security concerns, costs of school supplies and a lack of teachers all contributed to these increased barriers.

Overall, 19% of households reported having members who were school aged children (6-17). Of these households, 5% reported having no access to any education facility.

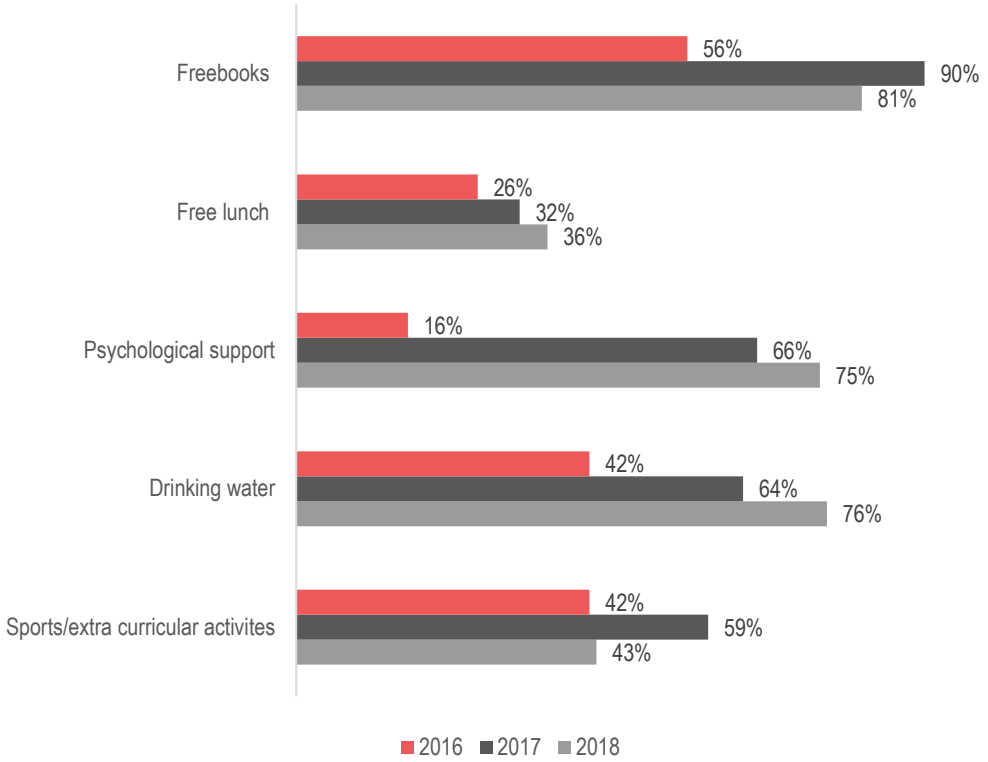
In terms of services available, households with school-age children reported a slight increase the availability of several services since previous years. The majority of households reported that their school service had medical support services (86%), free school books (77%), drinking water (71%), lunch (paid) (69%), psychological support (66%), afterschool care (56%), extracurricular activities (48%), and free lunch (40%). In terms of differences in services available, there was not a significant difference relating to distance to the LoC, but relating to settlement type there was a slight difference seen between rural, small urban and large urban areas. For example, there were slightly lower proportions of households reporting medical support available in rural areas 75%, compared to 91% in small urban areas and 87% in large urban areas (Table 15).

**Table 15: Services available in schools reported by households attending, by settlement type**

| | Rural | Small Urban | Large Urban |
|---|---|---|---|
| Medical support | 75% | 91% | 87% |
| School books (free) | 89% | 74% | 74% |
| Drinking water | 71% | 71% | 71% |
| Lunch (paid) | 73% | 70% | 66% |
| Psychological support | 46% | 72% | 69% |
| Afterschool care | 59% | 55% | 55% |
| Extracurricular activities (non-formal education) | 49% | 50% | 45% |
| Lunch (free) | 46% | 37% | 39% |
| Social-pedagogical support | 35% | 38% | 44% |
| School books (paid) | 23% | 18% | 35% |
| Education for children with disabilities | 17% | 24% | 24% |
| School bus | 47% | 10% | 2% |

In terms of trends over time, there have been some improvements, since 2016 there has been an increase in households reporting services available in school within 5km areas, as is visible in Figure 23.

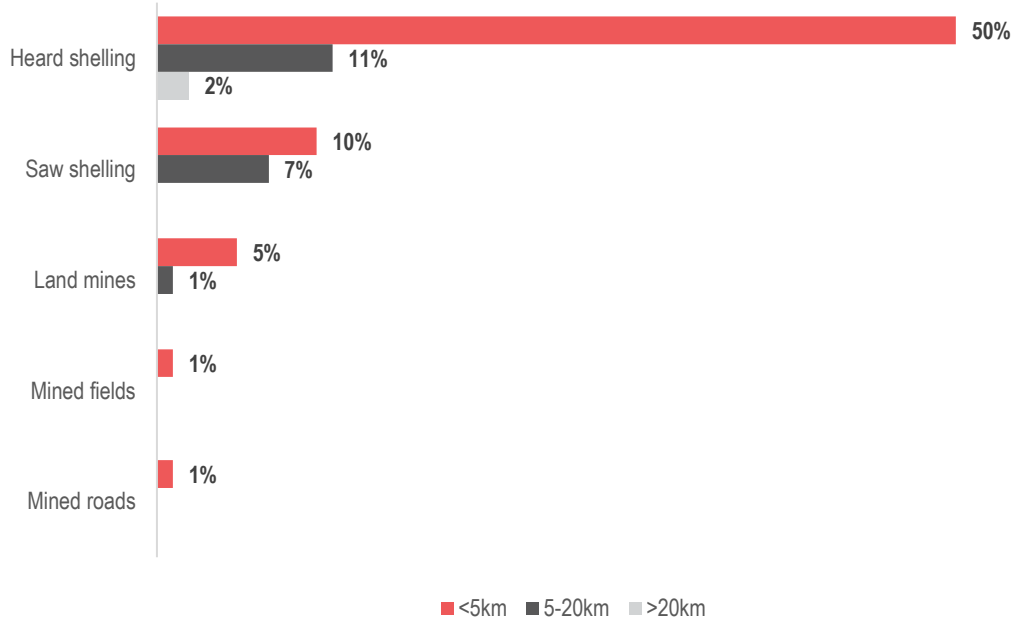
**Figure 23: Proportion of households reporting availability of services in schools along the LoC in 2016, 2017 and 2018**




In general, households living in rural areas were more likely to report problems with their school, almost half (48%) compared to 31% in large urban areas and 26% in small urban areas. The main problems reported overall were quality of teaching staff (10%), distance to school (7%), the lack of psycho social support (4%), school fees (4%), quantity of teaching staff (3%) and overcrowded classes (3%). Rural households were more likely to report distance to school as their main problem (17%), especially in areas beyond 20km (19%).

In terms of the main safety and security concerns in the vicinity of the schools, half of households living within the 5km areas reported being concerned about hearing shelling on their commute to school. Overall, the concerns over security were more likely to be reported in areas closest to the LoC (Figure 24).

**Figure 24: Most reported security concerns near education facilities by households with children attending school**



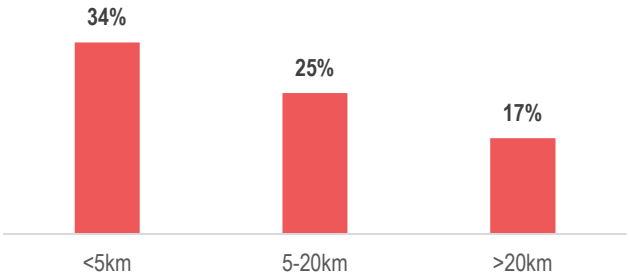

Overall, of households with members attending school, 9% of households reported having a gap in attendance for more than one month of the academic year. Households living closest to the LoC within 5km were most likely to report in a gap in attendance (17%) compared to households between 5-20km (11%) and areas beyond 20km (6%).

Of households that reported a gap in attendance, 88% reported that it was between 1-2 months, 9% reported that it was between 2-4 months and 3% reported a gap of more than 4 months. Over half of households with a gap in attendance (52%) living in small urban areas beyond 20km of the LoC reported missing between 2-4 months of school. Compared to other settlement types, households with a gap living in rural areas within 5km were most likely to report missing more than 4 months of school (23%). Health issues were the most likely to cause a gap in attendance (67%). Twenty-nine percent (29%) of households with a gap in attendance reported the gaps to be due to schools being closed. Smaller proportions of households experiencing a gap in school attendance reported the cause to be security concerns (3%), distance to schools (1%), cost of transport (1% ), damage to the school infrastructure (1%), or insufficient teaching staff (1%). During FGDs enumerators reported seeing many schools closed, especially in small settlements and that there was overcrowding in the schools that were open as a result.

Regarding security concerns, households within 5km areas closest to the LoC were more likely to report security concerns as the reason for their gap in attendance (9%) compared to 2% of households living between 5-20km areas and no households reporting gaps to be due to security concerns in areas beyond 20km areas. Enumerators reported during FGDs that it was not uncommon to see education facilities located near a military base or checkpoint.

Households closest to the LoC (within 5km) were more likely to report not being able to afford school supplies (Figure 25).

Figure 25: Proportion of households with school-aged children unable to afford school supplies, by distance to LoC




In terms of transport used to travel to school, eighty-one percent (81%) of households with school-aged children reported walking as their main way of travelling to school. Twenty-six percent (26%) of households in rural areas reported their children travelling to school using a free bus and only 3% of households in urban areas reported their children using a free bus to travel to school.

**Households with Unmet Needs – Education**

REACH provides the following technical estimates of households with unmet needs relating to education related humanitarian assistance based on the following indicators:

- Security concerns accessing education
- OR No access to psychological services in school
- OR School supplies are unaffordable

| | Rural | Small Urban | Large Urban | Overall |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **<5 km area** | 18% | 16% | n/a | **16%** |
| **5-20 km area** | 16% | 11% | 14% | **13%** |
| **>20 km area** | 15% | 8% | 5% | **9%** |
| **Overall** | **15%** | **10%** | **10%** | **11%** |

## Health

This section analyses trends in access to and quality of healthcare. As of 2014, access to and quality of healthcare have fluctuated, ever since the LoC has cut off access to facilities located in the NGCA, and households had to resort to alternative healthcare facilities in the GCA.

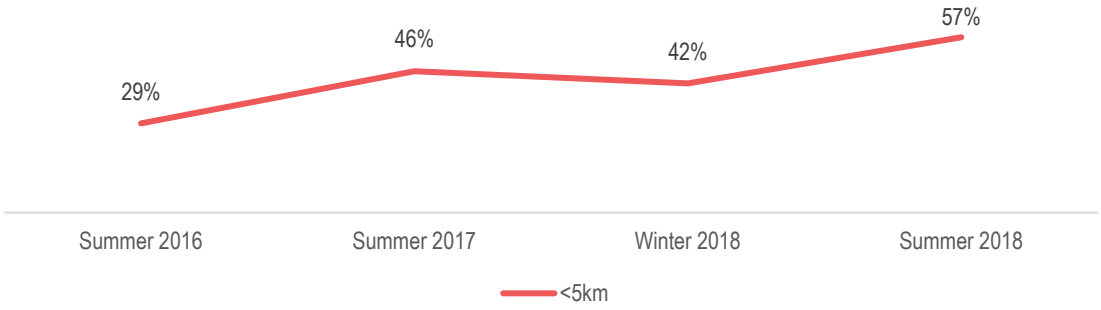
Overall, 38% of households reported having problems when accessing healthcare. The following table highlights the main reported problems households experience when accessing healthcare services indicating that the cost of medicines is the most significant difficulty for households accessing healthcare.

**Table 16: Most reported difficulties reported by households when accessing healthcare, by distance to LoC**

| | <5km | 5-20km | >20km |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cost of medicine | 57% | 77% | 80% |
| Distance to facility | 36% | 24% | 30% |
| Cost of appointment | 13% | 33% | 15% |
| Cost of travel to facility | 21% | 17% | 20% |
| Irregular presence of doctors | 17% | 22% | 17% |
| Have to pass through GCA checkpoint | 45% | 15% | 12% |
| Lack of facilities | 18% | 8% | 11% |

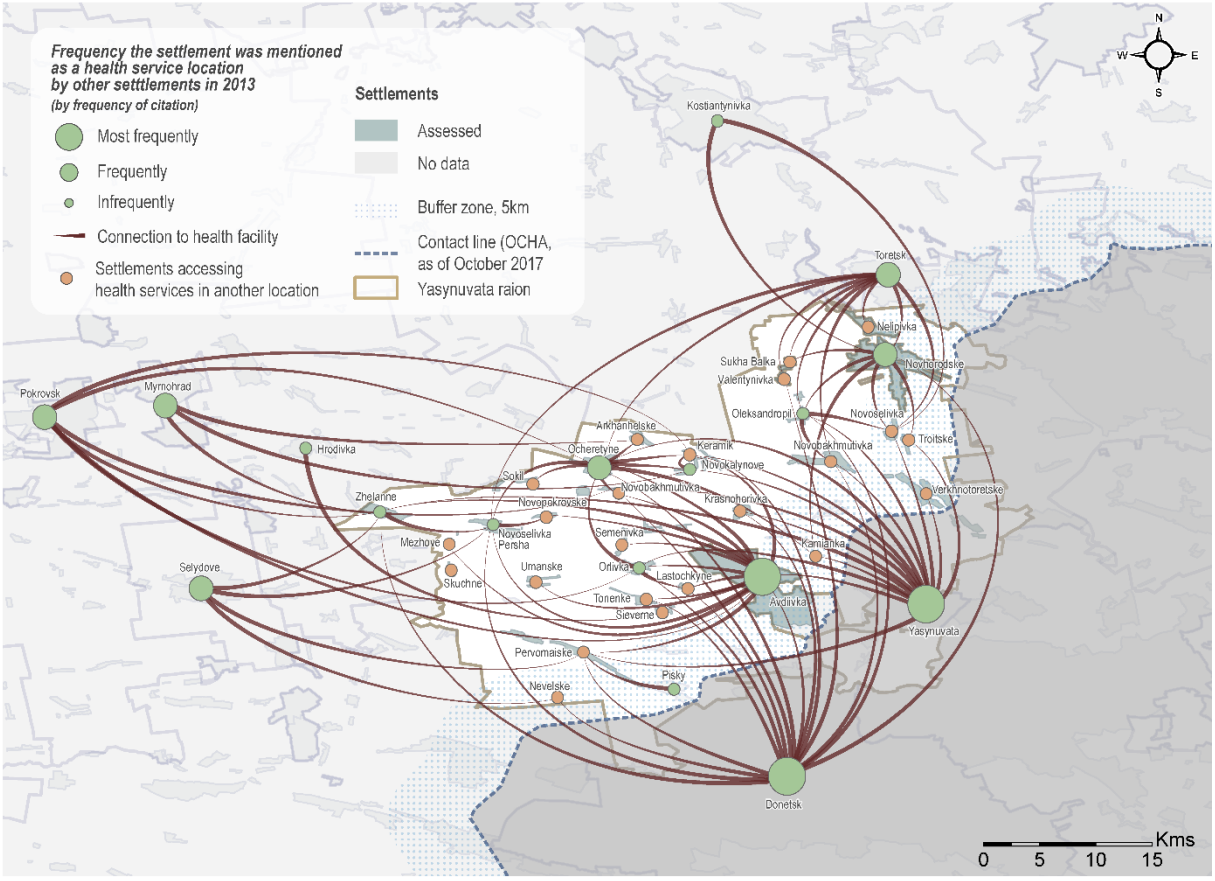
In terms of trends over time, within 5km areas, over half of households reported experiencing difficulties accessing healthcare services (57%). Figure 26 illustrates that the proportion of households reporting challenges to accessing healthcare has continued to increase since 2016.

**Figure 26: Proportion of households reporting challenges accessing healthcare over time (2016-2018)**

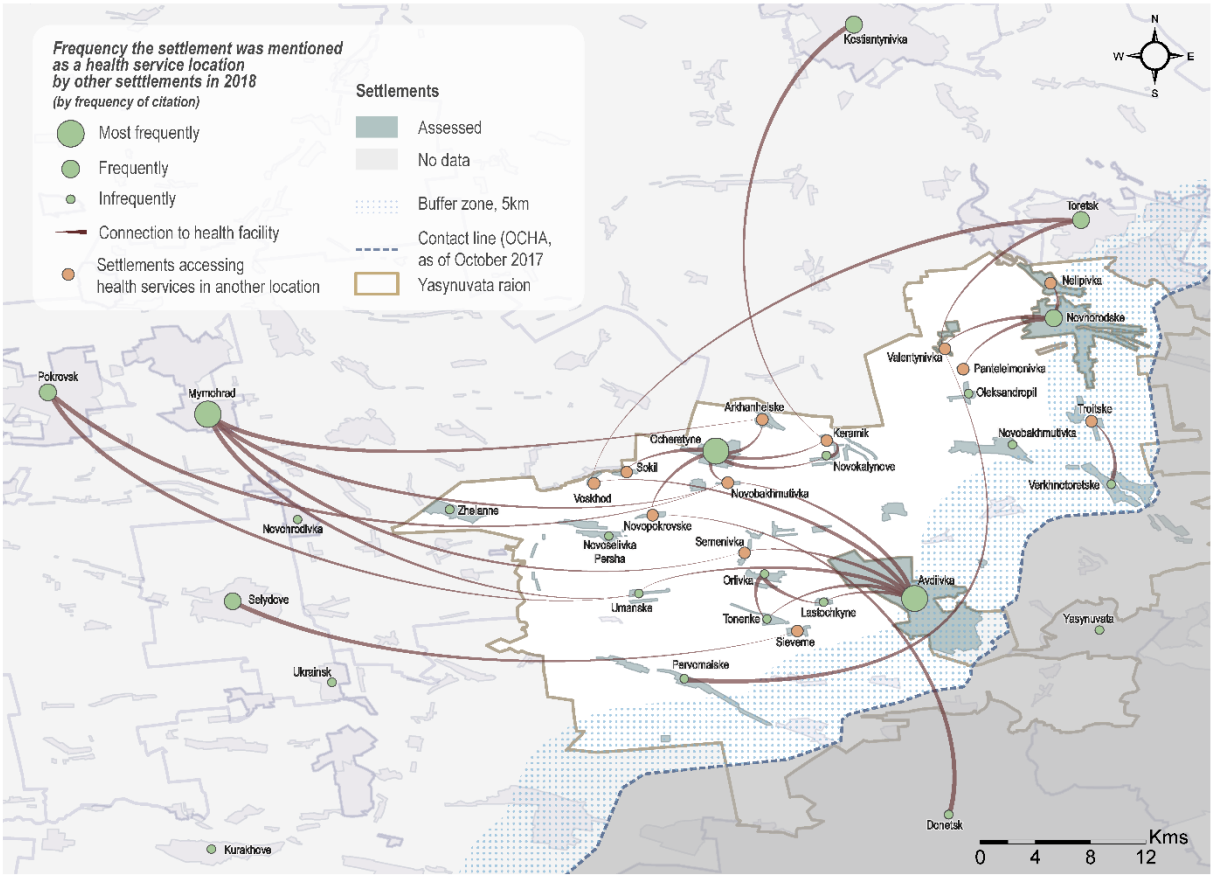



One potential explanation for why a greater proportion of households experience challenges accessing health care relates to compounding issues relating to the disruption in access to large urban centres currently located in the NGCA. The REACH Capacity and Vulnerability Assessment in Yasynuvata raion highlighted this as a challenge, as healthcare delivery networks have needed to reorient to smaller centres in GCA settlements that are ill equiped to meet increasing demand. Maps 6 and 7 show this reorientation and help to illustrate this high rate of challenges acccessing healthcare.

## Map 6. Yasynuvata raion access to healthcare 2013




## Map 7: Yasynuvata raion access to healthcare 2018



Despite the fact that 'Distance to Facility' was reported by 36% of households as a barrier, the majority of households (93%) had access to a functional primary healthcare centre within 5 km of their residence. Rural households were more likely to report specialized healthcare services to be located considerably further away, with the majority located more than 25 km from the nearest multi-specialty government hospital (55%).

There has also been an increase in urban households that are located more than 25 km away from a healthcare facility. In 2017, the proportion of households was only 8%, and in this assessment a fifth (21%) of households reported being located more than 25 km away. In light of almost half of households not knowing what the distance is towards the nearest private clinic (48%) and private multi-specialty hospital (53%), the increased distance to government-led health facilities does not necessarily mean that households will choose or have the option to go to private facilities, but rather highlights increasing challenges for households accessing government-led healthcare.

Regarding health-related vulnerabilities, a large proportion of head of households reported having a chronic illness affecting their quality of life, (18%), with 25% of rural and 21% of urban households reporting such a disability. Of households reporting a chronic illness, the majority of rural and urban households within 5 km of the LoC suffered from heart/blood pressure related diseases, highlighting a specific health risk for those living in the zone close to the LoC.

**Table 17: Proportion of head of households who have a chronic illness, by settlement type**

| | Rural | Urban | Overall |
|---|---|---|---|
| Heart/Blood pressure diseases | 55% | 64% | 48% |
| Diabetes Type 1 | 2% | 1% | 0% |
| Diabetes Type 2 | 9% | 4% | 15% |
| Tuberculosis | 0% | 1% | 1% |
| Other chronic respiratory condition | 3% | 9% | 5% |
| Cancer | 3% | 5% | 4% |
| Musculoskeletal system and joints | 32% | 28% | 35% |
| Neurology | 9% | 7% | 6% |
| Sensor diseases | 8% | 6% | 3% |
| Other | 21% | 20% | 16% |

Almost half (46%) of households reported not knowing if they have access to psychosocial services for household members. However, since 2017, within 5km areas there has been a slight increase in the proportion of households reporting having access to psyco-social services from 25% to 31% currently.

**Table 18: Proportion of households with access to psychosocial services, 5 km zone 2018, by settlement type**

| | Rural | Urban | Overall |
|---|---|---|---|
| Don't know | 47% | 51% | 46% |
| Yes, all members | 22% | 20% | 31% |
| No, no members | 28% | 24% | 18% |
| Only children under 18 | 2% | 4% | 3% |
| Refuse to answer | 1% | 0% | 1% |
| All adults over 18 | 1% | 0% | 0% |
| Only adults over 60 | 0% | 0% | 0% |

## Households with Unmet Needs – Health

REACH provides the following technical estimates of households with unmet needs relating to health related humanitarian assistance based on the following indicators:

- Lack of access to the following basic diagnostic services; X-ray, Chest photofluorography, or Ultrasound
- OR lack of access to ambulance

| | Rural | Small Urban | Large Urban | Overall |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **<5 km area** | 66% | 51% | n/a | **54%** |
| **5-20 km area** | 56% | 37% | 27% | **32%** |
| **>20 km area** | 41% | 19% | 10% | **23%** |
| **Overall** | **45%** | **29%** | **29%** | **29%** |

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

This section will outline the changes in households needs relating to access to quality water, sanitation and hygiene in which the situation has seen little improvements, and highlight the REACH technical estimates of households with unmet needs of humanitarian assistance related to WASH. In terms of centralized piped water supply, 97% of the households in large urban settlements are connected to the water network, compared to half (49%) of households in rural settlements, and merely 25% of rural households within 5km of the LoC. This indicates an added burden for those households who have to collect water from shops or markets.

Since the beginning of the conflict, recurrent shelling has caused significant damages to water pipes leading to regular water shortages, particularly in areas closest to the hostilities along the LoC. From January to June 2018, the WASH cluster recorded 57 incidents affecting water infrastructure.[37] Damage to critical water infrastructure not only effects access to safe drinking water but heavily impacts the provision of heating, water quality and sewage treatment systems. In addition, the regular shelling along the LoC inhibits the reparations of damaged water infrastructure and so over time water shortages remain a continued concern, especially during winter where the harsh weather means access to heating is even more critical, considering that central heating systems require a functioning piped water supply.[38]

Fewer than half of households reported being satisfied with the water available to their household (44%). Household satisfaction with water was reported more commonly in rural areas (60%) compared to small (46%) and large urban areas (31%). This may be due to rural households' reliance on alternative water sources like boreholes and dug wells as opposed to urban water systems more vulnerable to infrastructural damage and shortages (Table 19).

**Table 19: Main sources of drinking water, by settlement type**

| | Rural | Small Urban | Large Urban |
|---|---|---|---|
| Piped water | 33% | 60% | 52% |
| Bottled water | 11% | 17% | 40% |
| Tube well/borehole | 28% | 7% | 1% |
| Dug well | 20% | 9% | 1% |
| Water truck | 4% | 5% | 5% |
| Spring water | 2% | 2% | 1% |

Regarding drinking water treatment methods, 42% of households reported that they do not treat their water before drinking. The remainder of households report drinking water they do not treat in their home, potentially exposing households to additional risk from chemical or biological contaminants if pipes are indaequately maintained or if centralised treatment is insufficient in their settlement. Of households that do report treating their drinking water before use, 64% reported that this was mostly by boiling the water. Twenty-nine percent (29%) reported using a sand or ceramic water filter and 22% reported letting it sit and settle. There was no significant difference geographically or by settlement type in methods used in the treating of drinking water. In terms of water used for cooking and cleaning, 81% of households reported piped water as their main source. By distance to the LoC there was little geographical difference in water sources for cleaning purposes, although households living closer to the LoC were slightly more likely to report using a tubewell or borehole (Table 20).

**Table 20: Main sources of water for non-drinking purposes, by distance to LoC**

| | <5km | 5-20km | >20km |
|---|---|---|---|
| Piped water | 72% | 89% | 79% |
| Tube well/borehole | 16% | 4% | 11% |
| Dug well | 11% | 6% | 9% |

[37] WASH cluster incident report No. 13, 2018. Available online
[38] REACH, Winter Assessment of GCA within 5km of LoC, 2018, Available online.

In terms of water shortages, within the 5km areas closest to the LoC, there has been a slight decrease in households reporting daily water shortages and almost half of households assessed were satisfied with the water supplied to their household. However, disruption to critical WASH infrastructure contines as a result of the conflict, for example, the WASH cluster has reported a number of incidents in 2018 that have led to significant water shortages including a leak from a pipeline that occurred from Horlivka Filter station in Donetsk oblast (NGCA) to Toretsk city (GCA) that was subsequently closed off for 17 days by the water company Voda Donbasa.[39] The pipeline supplies water to 191,131 people, of whom, 45,049 were cut off from their water supply affecting their access to the centralised heating system.[40] In November, shelling caused damage to the Marivka pumping station in Zolote-5, a settlement along the LoC in Luhansk oblast, that pumps water wells for 200 households with water. The pumping station was closed down and water assistance was required for the affected populations.[41]

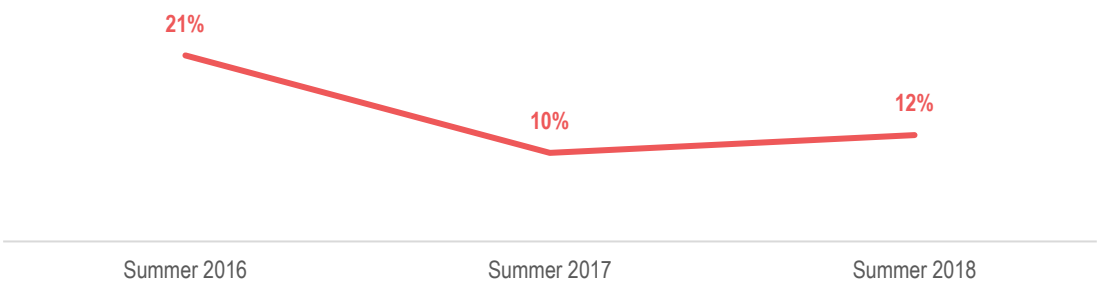
Across GCA, 12% of households reported daily water shortages (illustrated in Map 8), 6% reported shortages weekly and 25% reported experiencing shortages infrequently. In terms of distance to the LoC, households living closer to the LoC (< 5km) were more likely to report water shortages as a daily or weekly occurrence (Table 21). Since 2016, the proportion of households reporting daily water shortages has seen small but not significant improvements (Figure 27).

**Table 21: Proportion of households reporting water shortages, by distance to LoC**

| | <5km | 5-20km | >20km |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes, infrequently (irregularly) | 28% | 32% | 21% |
| Yes, daily (every day) | 16% | 11% | 12% |
| Yes, weekly (min once per week) | 11% | 7% | 5% |
| Not connected to this service | 0% | 0% | 2% |

Enumerators during FGDs highlighted that they noticed wells having dried up in summer and that residents closer to the LoC seem to be more affected by water shortages. To cope with water shortages, the most commonly reported strategy was to store water (48%), a practice that was most highly reported in large urban areas.

**Figure 27: Proportion of households reporting daily water shortages**




[39] WASH cluster incident report No. 60, December 2017. Available online.
[40] Ibid.
[41] WASH cluster incident report No. 160, November 2018. Available online.

Table 22: Proportion of households reporting water-related coping strategy, by settlement type

| | Rural | Small Urban | Large Urban |
|---|---|---|---|
| Store water | 37% | 48% | 54% |
| Clean house less often | 3% | 4% | 2% |
| Lowered drinking water intake | 5% | 2% | 1% |
| Bathe less often | 2% | 2% | 1% |

Regarding toilets, 62% of households reported having access to a flush/pour flush toilet. Forty-two percent 42% reported using a pit latrine and 8% of households were using a composting toilet. As shown in the table below, urban households were most likely to report using flush or pour flush toilets and rural households more likely to report using a pit latrine. Ninety-eight percent (98%) of households reported having a private toilet that they did not share.

Table 23: Reported toilet types, by settlement type

| | Rural | Small Urban | Large Urban |
|---|---|---|---|
| Flush or pour flush | 29% | 62% | 81% |
| Pit latrine | 73% | 43% | 21% |
| Composting toilet | 15% | 7% | 5% |

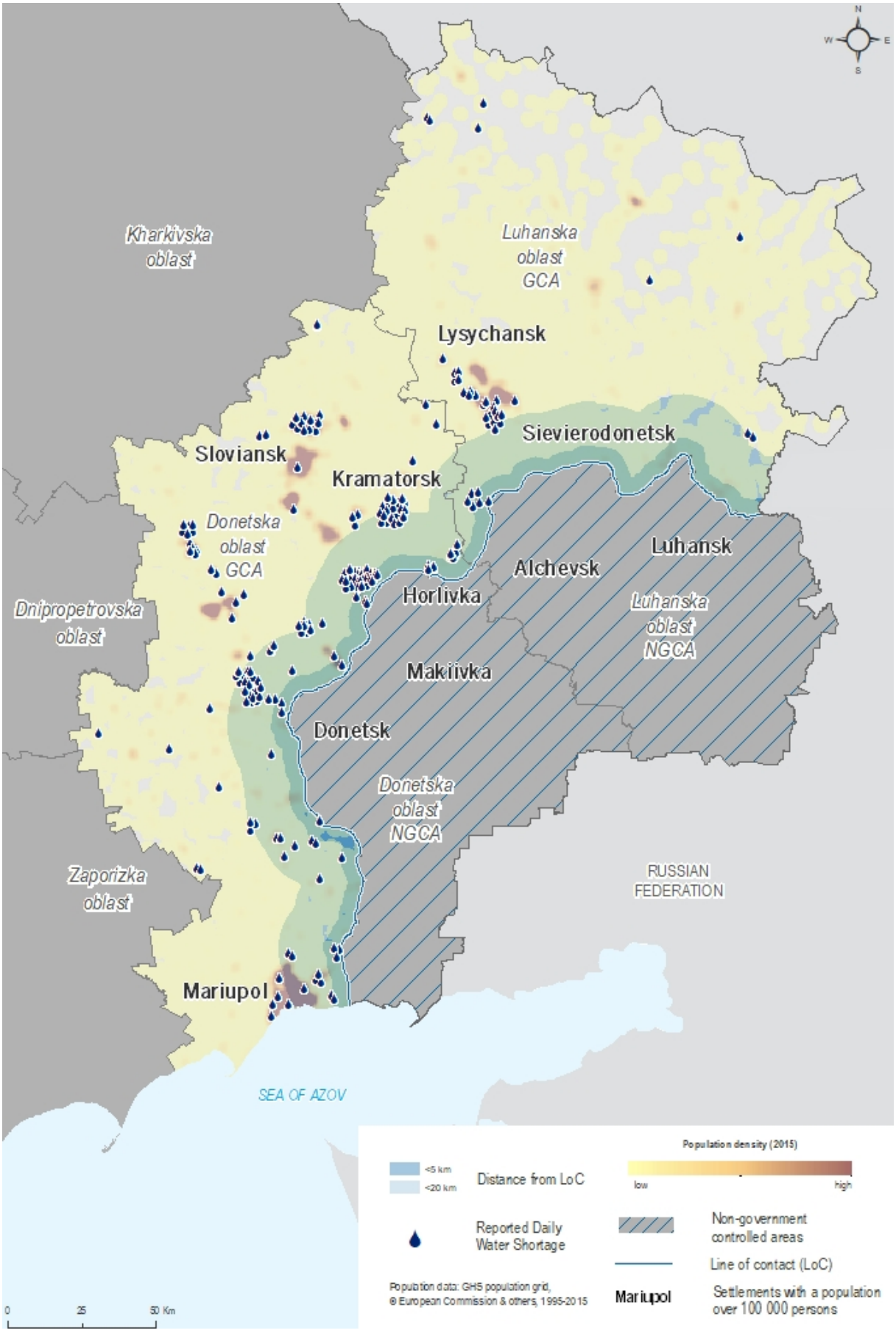
**Households with Unmet Needs – WASH**

REACH provides the following technical estimates of households with unmet needs relating to WASH related humanitarian assistance based on the following indicators:

- Households experiencing daily water shortages

| | Rural | Small Urban | Large Urban | Overall |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **<5 km area** | 10% | 12% | n/a | **12%** |
| **5-20 km area** | 6% | 16% | 9% | **10%** |
| **>20 km area** | 12% | 9% | 6% | **9%** |
| **Overall** | **11%** | **11%** | **7%** | **10%** |

**Map 8: Daily water shortages**



# CONCLUSION

This 2018 trend analysis of humanitarian needs attempts to provide aid actors in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts with both a snapshot of the current humanitarian situation as well as a contextualization of the changing dynamics of the conflict as it enters a phase of protraction in its fifth year. This year's analysis included a broader approach to data collection than the 2017 report, examining humanitarian needs not only in the areas abutting the Line of Contact that experience the greatest physical risks of conflict (within 5 km), but also areas within 5-20 km of the Line of Contact that serve as key centres in the new service-provision networks, and areas further from the Line of Contact that remain tangentially affected by changes in supply-chains, migration patterns, and decaying infrastructure.

Based on consultations with cluster experts, the assessment also included technical estimates of proportions of households with unmet needs within each sector, finding that across the GCA region of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, 48% of households had unmet needs in at least one sector and 13% of households had humanitarian needs that overlapped between two or more sectors. More specifically, REACH found that households living closer to the LoC were more likely to have overlapping needs. In addition, households with unmet needs in relation to health were most likely to have overlapping needs within other sectors. Overall, health most closely correlated with food needs, particularly near to the LoC where nearly 1 in 10 households had needs relating to both the health sector and food sector.

The findings of this assessment highlight that more than four years of conflict have continued to negatively affect populations' ability to meet basic needs, particularly by concentrating vulnerability through the outward migration of non-vulnerable populations. Furthermore, as the humanitarian situation continues to fluctuate there are ongoing needs for humanitarian assistance amongst populations that have remained in areas of active conflict, where residents face specific physical risks (particularly in the 5 km area). Areas further from the line of contact—particularly those that were traversed by the Line of Contact in the early periods of the conflict—have ongoing humanitarian needs relating both to the slow rate of recovery from active conflict, as well as due to human migration and displacement, which has increased demand for goods and services and has changed the vulnerability profile of populations living in this region. Even further from the Line of Contact, populations face effects that ripple out from the conflict area, affecting supply chains and the ability of services to cope with new and changing service delivery networks along with increased presence of IDPs. Indeed, Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts have the highest proportion of IDPs in Ukraine, with more than half of IDPs living in the region.

In terms of humanitarian needs, the assessment found deterioration in some sectors and improvement in others. Particularly, food security shows a fluctuation and overall deterioration over time since 2016 when REACH began measuring it. Shelter, on the other hand, shows some signs of improvement, particularly as a lower proportion of households in the conflict area reported living in damaged shelter. Education and Healthcare services likewise show some signs of improvement, particularly relating to the availability of services. However, significant segments of the population report remaining gaps, particularly near the Line of Contact, where one out of three households with children (34%) reported inability to pay for all needed school supplies. Likewise, the 5 km area has seen a near doubling of the proportion of households reporting difficulty accessing healthcare over time (from 29% in 2016 to 57% in 2018). This concentration in ongoing need in the areas of active conflict appears to be reflected also in the way in which humanitarian aid is distributed, with nearly half (49%) of households in the 5 km area having received humanitarian assistance in the 12 months prior to data collection, compared to lower proportions in the 5-20 km area (10%) and areas further than 20 km (6%).

With the prospect for a resolution to the conflict unlikely in the short-term, humanitarian aid actors in 2019 should closely monitor the way in which the protraction of this conflict has affected and continues to affect key vulnerable populations, particularly in the 5 km area. Regions further from the Line of Contact have additional needs relating to longer-term response planning, reconstruction and development needs that may benefit from programming that addresses both the immediate humanitarian need as well as the larger development questions facing Donbas, and indeed Ukraine as a whole.

# Annex 1:

| *Sector* | Indicator considered for sector household with unmet needs categorisation |
|---|---|
| *Shelter* | • Households living in damaged shelter<br>• AND Damage was caused by shelling/conflict |
| *Food Security* | • Households moderately or severely food insecure (Food Security Index, WFP CARI method) |
| *Education* | • Security concerns whilst accessing education<br>• OR no access to psychological services in school<br>• OR school supplies are unaffordable |
| *Health* | • Lack of access to the following basic diagnostic services; X-ray, chest photofluorography or ultrasound<br>• OR Lack of access to an ambulance |
| *WASH* | • Households experiencing daily water shortages |