

Humanitarian Situation Monitoring: Evolution of Needs (July-October 2024)

December 2024 | Ukraine

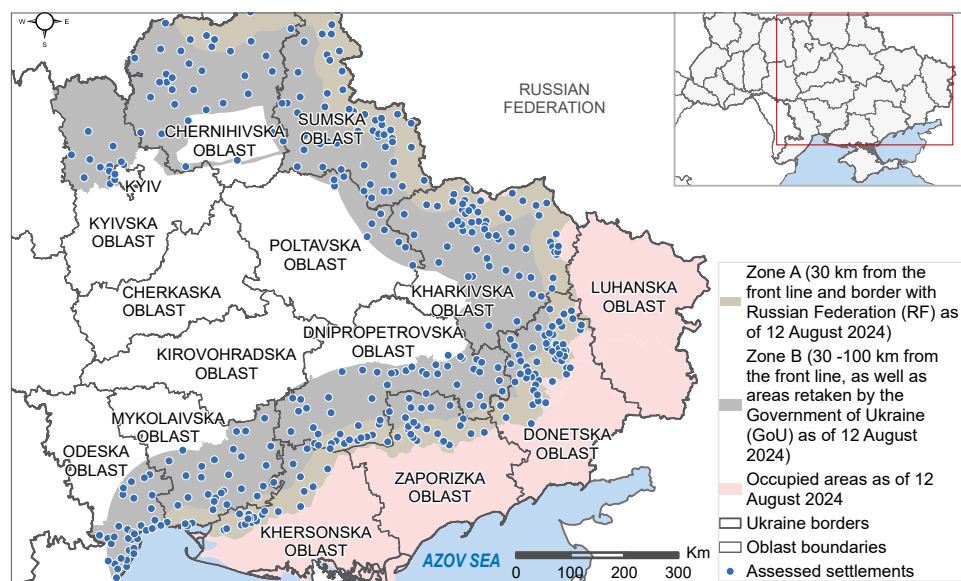
Key Messages

- The **humanitarian situation in settlements within 100km of the frontline/border worsened somewhat between July and October 2024 in all sectors except WASH**, with needs becoming reportedly more severe. More settlements were identified to have some level of unmet needs in two or more sectors, although the **severity of these needs remained generally low - with the exception of Donetsk and Kharkivska**.
- The **situation greatly deteriorated in Donetsk: while unmet sectoral needs were already present in the oblast in July, they became more severe over time** as the security situation deteriorated. The severity of vulnerability across two or more sectors remained very high only in Donetsk, with **possibly life-threatening needs in multiple sectors identified in frontline settlements in both oblasts**. For other assessed oblasts, while vulnerability across two or more sectors generally increased slightly, HSM recorded an improvement of the situation in certain sectors (drinking water, housing in Khersonska).
- Unmet protection needs remained the most widespread and severe sectoral needs in all assessed oblasts**, by far. Unmet protection needs were the main drivers of multisectoral needs for residents of settlements assessed by HSM.

Context & Rationale

Given the dynamic nature of the humanitarian situation in Ukraine, ongoing monitoring is essential to enable a comprehensive assessment of the needs and their severity among the affected populations, and to ensure that humanitarian response plans remain aligned with the situation on the ground. In line with the primary objective of REACH's Humanitarian Situation Monitoring (HSM) of providing up to date multisectoral data on the evolution of community-level humanitarian needs to enable monitoring of change over time, this brief provides an **overview of the humanitarian situation and overall vulnerabilities** in 395 assessed settlements 0-100km from the frontline and border with Russia over the past three rounds of data collection: **Round 17 in July 2024, Round 18 in August 2024 and Round 19 in October 2024.**

Map 1: settlements assessed by HSM from Round 17-19 (July-October 2024)



Jump to section:

1. Multisectoral needs
2. Food security & livelihoods
3. Protection
4. WASH
5. Health
6. Shelter & NFI
7. Accountability to Affected Population

More comprehensive findings on humanitarian needs can be accessed in HSM's [Dashboard for Government-controlled areas](#).

Multisectoral needs

Multisectoral SVI scores

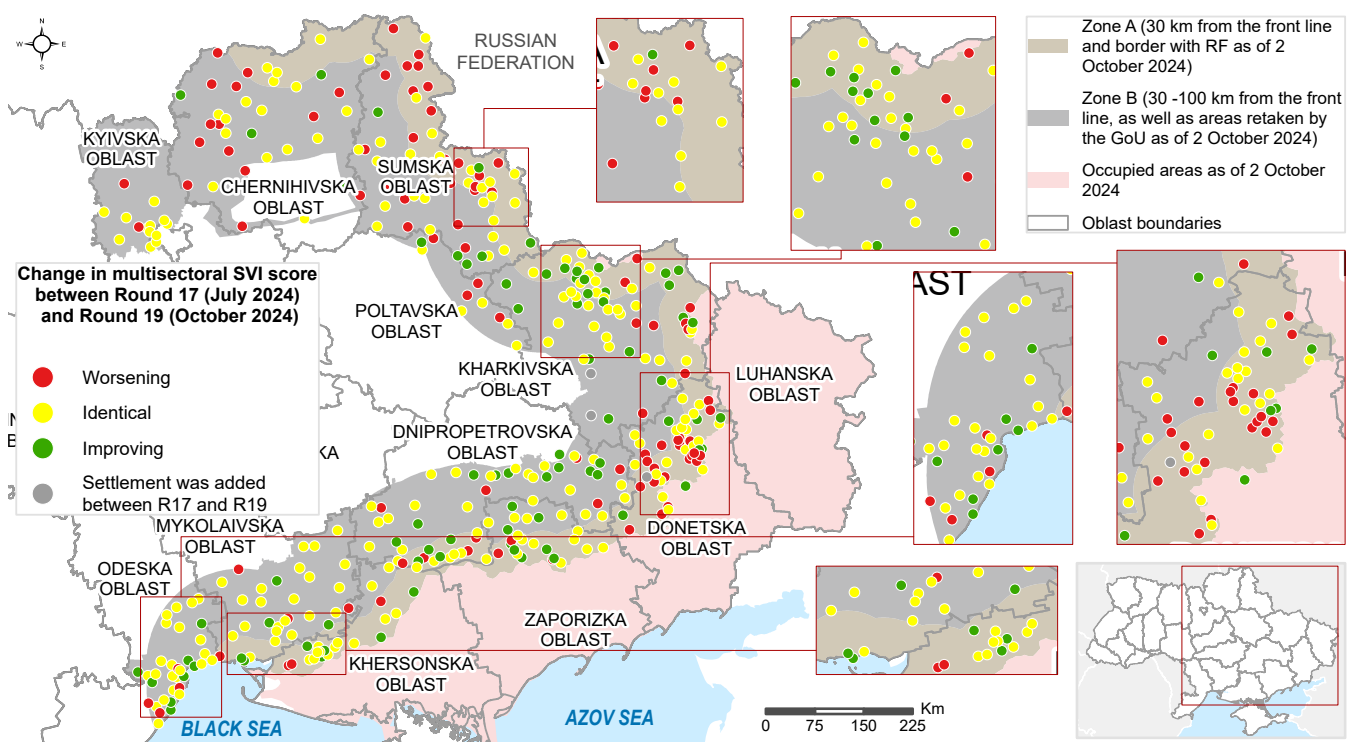
HSM Settlement Vulnerability Index (SVI) is a framework based on HSM indicators to determine the severity of vulnerability at the settlement level. The SVI framework requires the calculation of individual composite scores for each sector, followed by a calculation of an inter-sectoral composite score as the final Settlement Vulnerability Index. More details on the SVI can be found in Annex 2.

Multisectoral needs remained widespread but rarely severe in settlements 0-100km from the frontline/ border (with the exception of settlements in Donetsk oblast), with the overall humanitarian situation slightly deteriorating between July and October 2024.

Indeed, **HSM recorded a slight increase in both the prevalence and severity of multisectoral vulnerability:** in July 2024, **81%** of assessed settlements were identified to have some level of multisectoral vulnerability (at least "stress" multisectoral SVI score), compared to **86%** in October 2024. The oblasts with the largest proportion of settlements vulnerable to multisectoral needs were Dnipropetrovska, Donetsk, Kharkivska, Khersonska and Zaporizka oblasts. **The severity** (SVI score of "extreme" or "extreme+") **was limited to Donetsk and Kharkivska oblasts**. In Donetsk, the number of assessed settlements with "extreme" or "extreme+" level of multisectoral vulnerability almost doubled, from **24%** (12/49) to **41%** (20/49) between July and October.

This indicates that residents of frontline oblasts are increasingly vulnerable to needs across two or more sectors, with residents in frontline settlements of Donetsk and Kharkivska having possibly life-threatening unmet needs in two or more sectors.

Map 2: evolution of multisectoral SVI scores of assessed settlements between July and October 2024



Drivers of multisectoral needs

Sectoral vulnerability scores

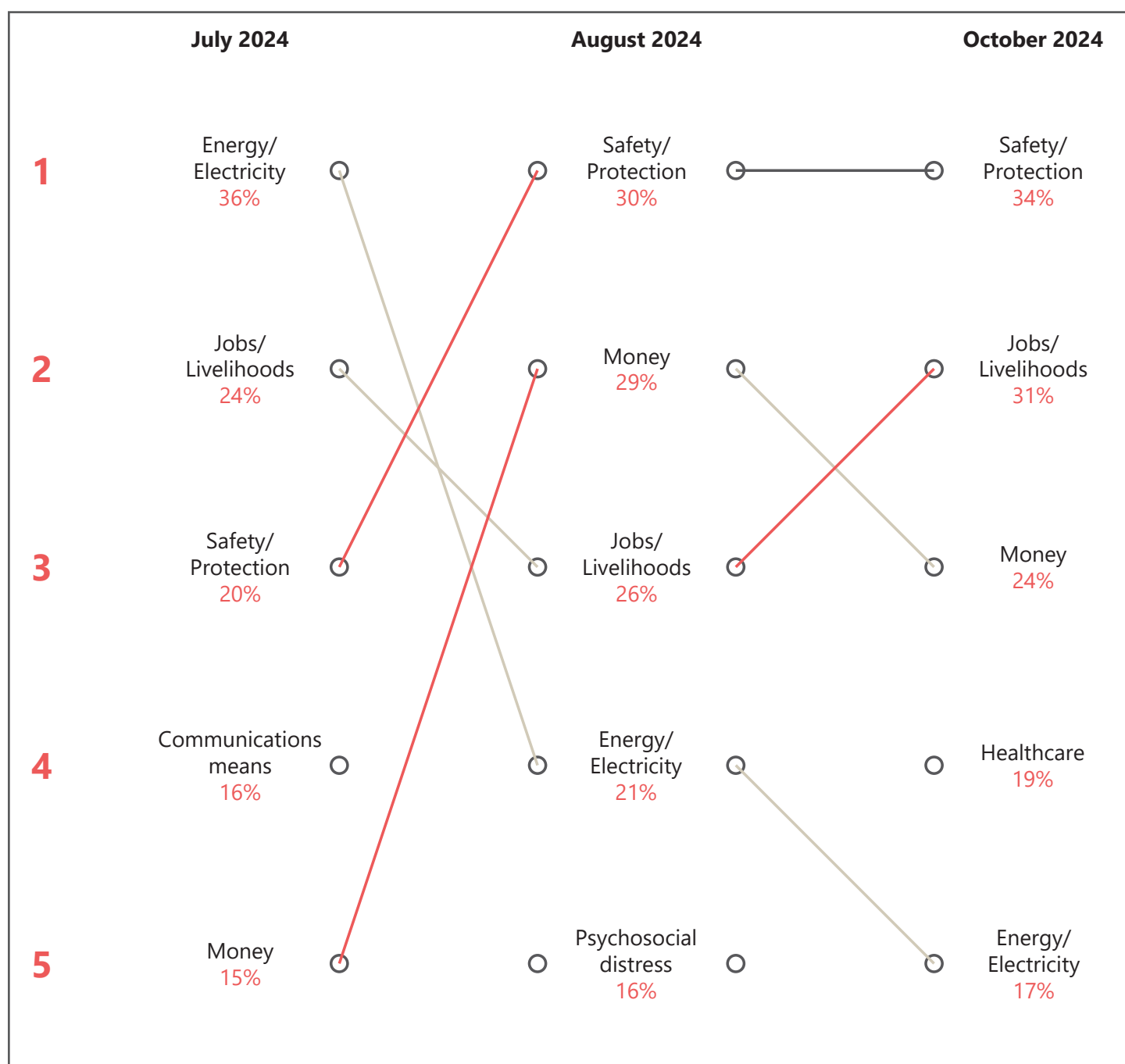
As consistently observed with previous rounds of data collection, vulnerability to **multisectoral needs was mainly driven by vulnerability in protection**, and **to some extent in the food security & livelihoods and shelter & NFIs sectors**. With the exception of some settlements (almost all exclusively located in Donetsk and Kharkivska) with severe unmet drinking and technical water needs, the WASH sector generally did not contribute much to multisectoral vulnerability, while few unmet needs related to education were reported (and rarely contributed to multisectoral needs). A boxplot of sectoral vulnerability scores and how they compare to the multisectoral SVI score for October 2024 can be found in Annex 1. Drivers of sectoral vulnerability scores are detailed in the related sectoral analysis below.

Priority unmet needs

Key informants were asked to choose up to five priority unmet needs in their community. Not selecting a particular option does not necessarily mean that the need is non-existent in the settlement – it could also mean that the need is comparatively less urgent.

The most commonly reported priority unmet needs remained mostly consistent between July and October 2024, with safety/protection, jobs/livelihoods, energy and income/money being consistently reported amongst the top five unmet needs in assessed settlements. Notably, the percentage of settlements reporting safety/protection concerns increased by 14 percentage points between July and October, while access to energy (electricity, heating, etc.) consistently decreased by 19 percentage points. Access to jobs/livelihoods and income/money continued to remain challenging, highlighting the persistent challenges residents of assessed settlements face securing the financial means to meet their basic needs.

Figure 1: the five most commonly reported unmet priority needs (%age of settlements) by round of data collection

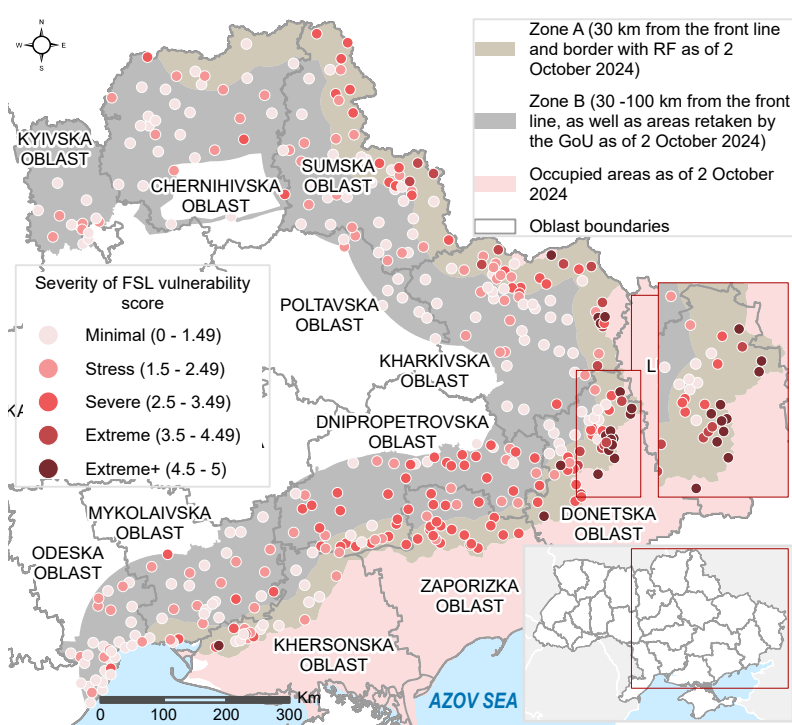


Food security and livelihoods (FSL)

FSL vulnerability score

Residents in around half of assessed settlements were identified to be vulnerable to FSL needs (FSL vulnerability score of "stress" or above), and this proportion remained consistent between July and October 2024. The prevalence of settlements vulnerable to FSL needs was consistently high in Dnipropetrovska, Donetsk, Kharkivska, Mykolaivska and Zaporizka oblasts. However, while the proportion of settlements vulnerable to FSL needs remained stable, the **FSL situation in certain settlements deteriorated, as evidenced by an increase in the severity of FSL vulnerability**. Between July and October 2024, the percentage of settlements with "extreme" or "extreme+" level of FSL vulnerability increased by 6 percentage points, though it was limited to Donetsk and Kharkivska oblasts. In Donetsk, "extreme" or "extreme+" levels of vulnerability increased from 20% to 39% between July and October, and in Kharkivska from 2% to 18%, indicating a **deteriorating access to food, markets and NFIs in these two oblasts ahead of winter**.

Map 3: FSL vulnerability scores, as of October 2024



Vulnerability to FSL needs was mostly driven by insufficient access to food: 20 settlements in Donetsk and five in Kharkivska were identified to have over 25% of residents not able to access sufficient food in October, with all settlements located within 30km of the frontline. To some extent, it was also driven by residents resorting to more extreme coping mechanisms to meet their basic needs when they had insufficient money.

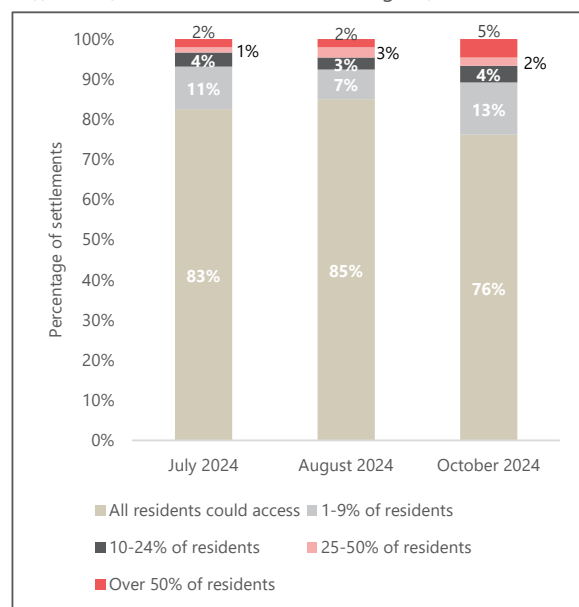
Access to food

Unmet food needs became more widespread and severe between August and October 2024, possibly driven by increased fighting in Donetsk¹ and the onset of winter conditions.

The prevalence of settlements with food needs (at least 1-9% of residents cannot access sufficient food) **slightly increased** between July and October 2024, with **24%** of settlements reportedly having some level of food needs in October (**17%** in July). The prevalence of food needs varied a lot by oblast: residents of settlements in Dnipropetrovska, Donetsk, Kharkivska and Zaporizka were more frequently reported to have some level of food needs, **with the prevalence increasing a lot between July and October in Donetsk** (from **40%** to **62%** of assessed settlements) **and Dnipropetrovska** (from **26%** to **47%**). This worsening access to food in these oblasts was mainly driven by the lack of financial resources (in both oblasts) and of functional stores (in Donetsk).

The severity of food needs (at least 25% of residents cannot access sufficient food) **was high only in Donetsk, where it nearly doubled between July and October** (from **21%** to **40%** of assessed settlements). **This once again confirms the worsening humanitarian situation in Donetsk, even as humanitarian organizations cover the oblast well** (47/50 assessed settlements in the oblast reportedly received food assistance in the 30 days prior to data collection in October). KIs from a REACH-IOM Rapid Needs Assessment in Donetsk in November 2024 noted that while "the population heavily relies on food kits, as they make up the majority of their diet", the amount distributed was often insufficient to meet the needs of all people². **This reliance on humanitarian assistance, coupled with increasingly reported unmet food needs, suggests (1) food assistance (regardless of the modality)³ should continue to be provided in the near future and (2) the amount should constantly be reassessed** to ensure all residents in need are included in the response, especially in light of population movement in frontline areas.

Figure 2: %age of residents who could not access sufficient food in the settlement (%age of settlements)



Barriers to accessing sufficient food most frequently related to financial issues: across rounds and oblasts, “lack of money” was reported in **24%** of settlements with unmet food needs, and “high prices” in **23%**. However, across rounds and oblasts, KIs could not reach a consensus on the main barriers in 26% of settlements with unmet food needs.

Access to markets

The prevalence of settlements with some level of markets needs (at least 1-9% of residents could not access markets) **slightly increased between July and October 2024**, from **25%** to **30%** of assessed settlements. Settlements in Dnipropetrovska, Donetsk, Kharkivska and Zaporizka were more frequently identified to have some level of markets needs - these oblasts were also the ones with the most widespread unmet food needs, confirming a link between access to markets and access to food items.

Similarly to the barriers to accessing food, KIs in 33% of assessed settlements with unmet market needs could not reach a consensus on the main barriers across rounds and oblasts. In the other settlements, **KIs most frequently reported that markets were too far away (23%** of settlements with market needs across rounds and oblasts), **and that there were no available markets in the settlement (22%)**.

Access to financial services

Similar to unmet food needs, while the prevalence of needs for access to financial services (at least 1-9% of residents cannot access financial services) remained stable between July and October 2024, **the severity** (at least 25% of residents cannot access financial services) **slightly increased**: the percentage of assessed settlements where most people reportedly could not access financial services increased from **4%** in July to **12% in October 2024**, with the greatest increase in Donetsk (19 percentage points increase), Kharkivska (14 percentage points) and Sumska (14 percentage points). Shrinking access to financial services and markets may have an impact on access to food and increase reliance on in-kind assistance, as reported above.

Protection

Protection vulnerability score

Protection remained by far the sector where residents in all assessed settlements encountered the most significant obstacles in meeting their needs. The prevalence of vulnerability to protection needs (protection vulnerability score of "stress" or above), as well as the severity of the vulnerability ("extreme" or "extreme+" scores), were consistently very high between July and October - especially compared to other sectors. Close to four out of five assessed settlements were identified to be vulnerable to unmet protection needs in all rounds of data collection between July and October 2024, with almost all assessed oblasts (except for Chernihivska, Poltavaska and Sumaska) having consistently at least 70% of assessed settlements in the oblast identified to be vulnerable to protection needs. Similarly, the severity of needs was high - and increased between July and October: the proportion of assessed settlements identified as having "extreme" or "extreme+" levels of vulnerability rose from 57% in July to 69% by October.

Vulnerability to protection needs was mostly driven by key informants reporting safety and security concerns about attacks on civilian facilities (for "extreme+" level of vulnerability), and exposure to armed violence, presence of landmines/UXOs, threat of missile attack and housing/land being used for military purposes (for "extreme" level of needs).

Protection concerns

The most commonly reported safety and security concerns at settlement-level remained consistent between July and October 2024, with the deterioration of the security situation in Ukraine⁴ reflected by an increased percentage of settlements where KIs reported safety and security concerns: for example, the prevalence of the two most frequently reported safety and security concerns ("threat of missile attack" and "exposure to armed violence/shelling") increased by 13 and 9 percentage points respectively. Similarly, KIs reporting no safety or security concerns in the settlement decreased by 11 percentage points: in July, one in four settlements reportedly did not face any safety or security concerns; in October this decreased to one in ten assessed settlements.

Map 4: protection vulnerability scores, as of October 2024

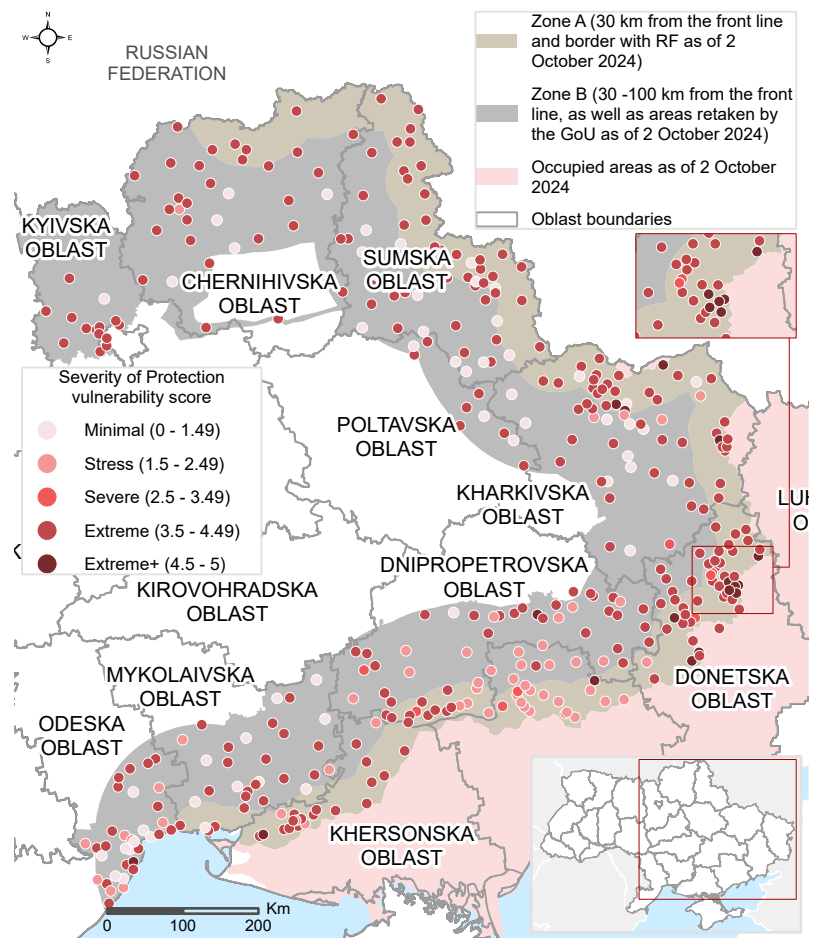


Figure 3: most frequently reported safety and security concerns, %age of settlements

	Threat of missile attack	Exposure to armed violence/shelling	None	Damage or destroyed property	Lack of/inadequate conditions of bomb shelters	Social tension in the community	No consensus	Housing and/or land is used for military purposes	Presence of landmines/UXO	Trauma or psychosocial distress
July 2024	48%	28%	25%	14%	12%	8%	11%	6%	5%	6%
August 2024	65%	40%	16%	18%	11%	15%	8%	11%	11%	6%
October 2024	61%	37%	13%	15%	14%	7%	9%	6%	6%	7%

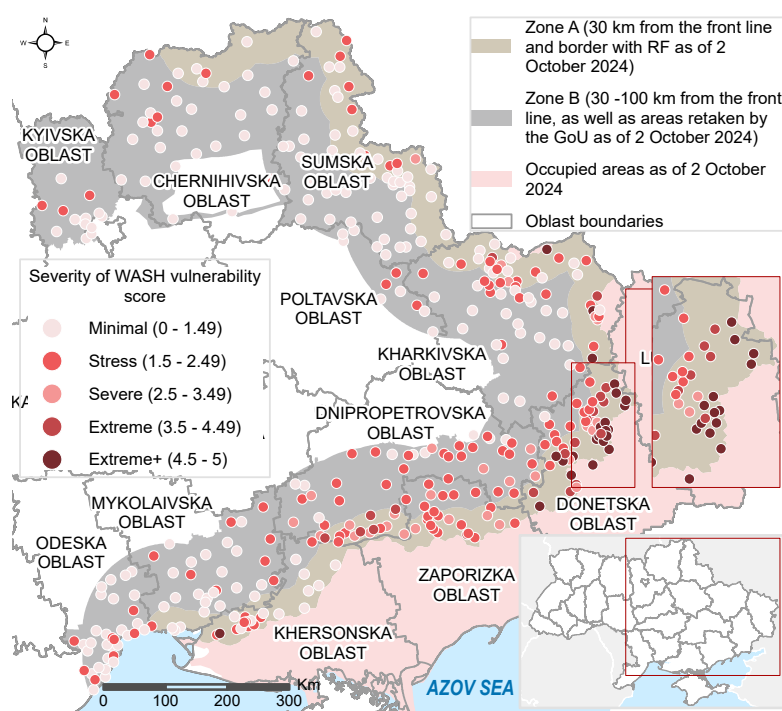
Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

WASH vulnerability score

With the exception of Donetsk oblast, vulnerability to WASH needs (WASH vulnerability score of "stress" or above) greatly decreased in almost all oblasts between July and October, with a 24 percentage points decrease overall (from 75% of assessed settlements to 51%). In particular, the prevalence of WASH vulnerability decreased a lot in Mykolaivska (63 percentage point decrease, Sumska (43 points decrease) and Odeska (32 points decrease). Vulnerability to WASH needs persisted in Donetsk however, where the prevalence did not decrease and the severity of vulnerability increased: from 41% of assessed settlements in the oblast having "extreme" or "extreme+" level of WASH vulnerability in July, this rose to 59% of assessed settlements in October 2024.

Vulnerability to WASH needs was mainly driven by limited / lack of access to of drinking water (and to some extent, technical water) in settlements with "extreme" or "extreme+" WASH vulnerability scores. For settlements with less severe levels of vulnerability, the main driver was disruption to centralized water supply, with more regular access in Mykolaivska, Sumska and Odeska driving the needs down. In Mykolaivska specifically, access to drinking and technical water also reportedly improved, further driving vulnerability down. Inaccessibility of toilets was rarely a driver of WASH vulnerability, with the exception of a few settlements.

Map 5: WASH vulnerability scores as of October 2024

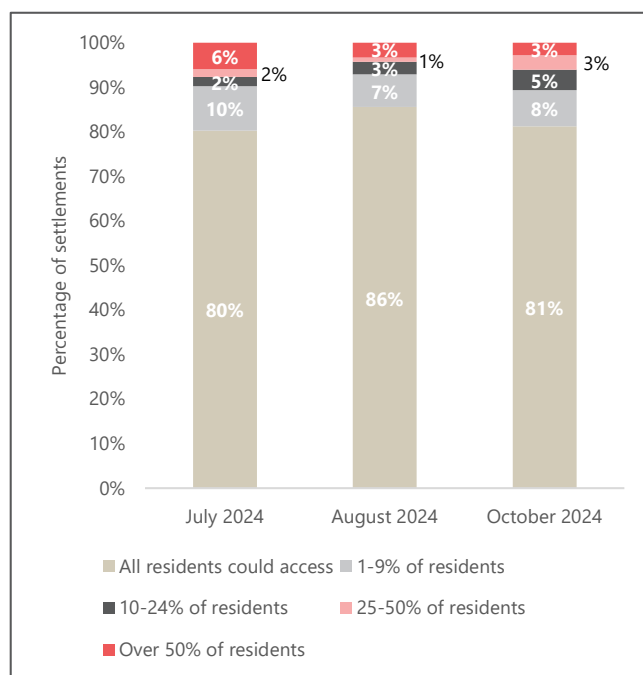


Access to drinking water

Unmet needs for access to sufficient drinking water remained relatively rare (around 20% of assessed settlements had at least 1-9% of residents facing this need), rarely severe, and stable between July and October 2024. The prevalence and severity of unmet needs varied a lot by oblast however: Donetsk and Zaporizka stood out as the oblasts with the highest percentage of settlements with unmet needs for access to sufficient drinking water (at least a majority of assessed settlements in both oblasts between July and October), although the more severe needs (at least 25% of residents cannot access sufficient drinking water) were limited to Donetsk oblast. Additionally, in Donetsk, the severity of needs greatly increased in later months: assessed settlements where at least 25% of residents could not access sufficient drinking water rose from 25% in August to 46% in October.

The most commonly reported barriers to accessing drinking water were related to damage or destruction of centralized water supply, especially in frontline oblasts (Donetska, Kharkivska and Khersonska): across rounds and oblasts, KIs in 33% of settlements reported "breakdown/damages to water network" as a barrier to accessing drinking water. Similarly, in 25% of assessed settlements "breakdown/damages to water pumping stations" and in 21% of settlements "breakdown/damages to water treatment stations" were reported as a barrier. In line with the lack of energy/electricity being frequently reported as a priority unmet need, "no electricity or backup power" was reported as a barrier in 26% of assessed settlements.

Figure 4: %age of residents who could not access sufficient drinking water in the settlement (%age of settlements)



Health

Health vulnerability score

Vulnerability to health needs (health vulnerability score of at least "stress") **remained widespread but rarely severe in assessed oblasts**. Both the prevalence and severity (health vulnerability score of "extreme" or "extreme+") remained stable between July and October 2024, with around half of settlements identified to be vulnerable to health needs. The prevalence of health vulnerability varied a lot by oblast, with most residents vulnerable to health needs living in settlements in Dnipropetrovska, Donetsk, Kharkivska and Zaporizka.

As with other sectors, **vulnerability to health needs became increasingly severe in Donetsk**: in July, **29%** of assessed settlements in the oblast were identified to have an "extreme" or "extreme+" health vulnerability score; this rose to **59%** of assessed settlements in October 2024. This indicates a rapidly deteriorating situation regarding vulnerability to health needs in the oblast, with residents in most settlements of the oblast now experiencing or at risk of facing extreme unmet health needs.

Vulnerability to health needs was driven by a variety of factors depending on the settlement. In some settlements, unmet needs related to accessing healthcare facilities (and the type of healthcare facilities unavailable) drove vulnerability up, while in other settlements it was mostly driven up by unavailability of medicines.

Access to healthcare services

Unmet needs for access to healthcare services (at least 1-9% of residents cannot access healthcare services) **were reported in a minority of assessed settlements, with a slight increased between July and October 2024** (from **21%** to **26%** of assessed settlements). The severity of unmet needs (at least 25% of residents cannot access healthcare services) remained low but doubled between July and October 2024, from **4%** of assessed settlements to **8%**. This higher severity of needs remained mostly confined to Donetsk (and to some extent Kharkivska): in Donetsk, the percentage of settlements reporting that over half of the residents could not access healthcare services rose from 18% in August to 32% in October 2024.

Across rounds and oblasts, **KIs in many settlements had difficulties agreeing on the main barriers to accessing healthcare**: each round, KIs could not reach consensus on the main barriers in around 30% of settlements, possibly highlighting that barriers to accessing healthcare are multiple and complex in these settlements or that they are not knowledgeable enough about health issues, and therefore a settlement-based approach or interviews with health experts should be prioritized to answer them. Settlements where KIs could not reach consensus were mostly located in oblasts further from the frontline.

Map 6: Health vulnerability scores as of October 2024

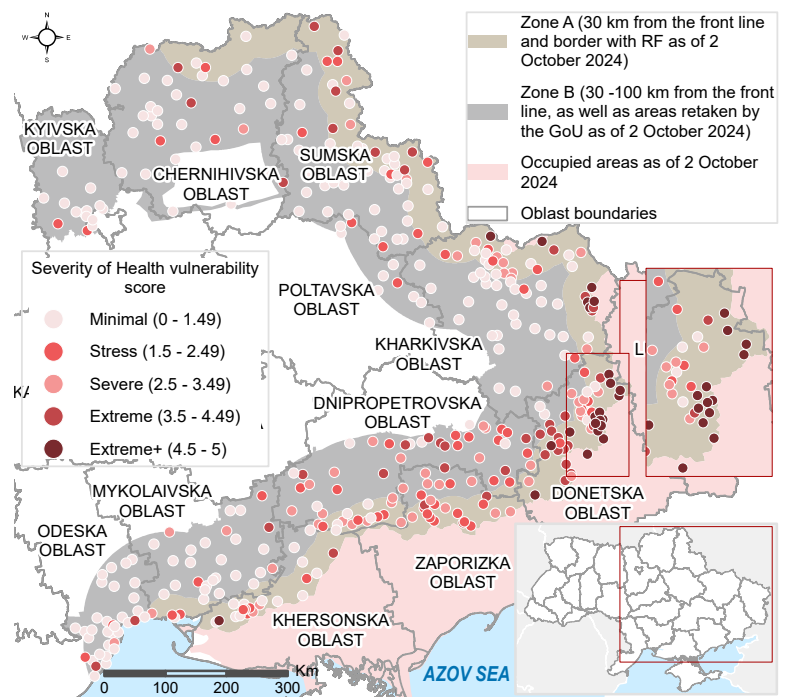
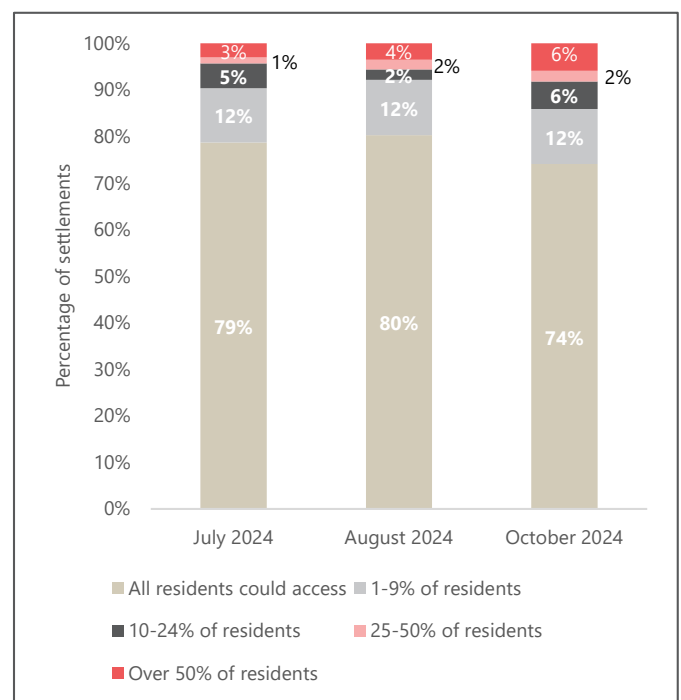


Figure 5: %age of residents who could not access healthcare in the settlement (%age of settlements)



In contrast, **in the oblasts with the most prevalent or severe unmet health needs** (Donetska and Kharkivska), **KIs agreed more often on the main barriers to accessing healthcare:**

- In **Donetska**, the most frequently reported barriers were the **cost of medicines** (around **40%** of settlements with unmet health needs between July and October) and the **lack of functional healthcare facilities** in the settlement (**32%** of settlements with unmet health needs in October, with an increase of eight percentage points since July). The absence of healthcare facilities suggests mobile teams or support accessing healthcare facilities in neighbouring settlements would be the most useful healthcare assistance in Donetska.
- In **Kharkivska**, the most frequently reported barriers changed a lot overtime: while **44%** of settlements with unmet health needs reported the **cost of medicines in July**, this decreased to only **5%** in October. Conversely, the **reported lack of functional healthcare facilities in the settlement rose from 13% to 50% of settlements** with unmet health needs between July and October, and the **reported shortage of medical personnel from 3% to 20%**. While it needs to be triangulated, this reported change in barriers suggests settlements with unmet health needs in Kharkivska should be increasingly supported by mobile teams - especially as the presence of qualified medical personnel appears to be decreasing.

Shelter and Non-Food Items (SNFI)

SNFI vulnerability score

The **prevalence of assessed settlements with some level of SNFI vulnerability** (at least "stress" SNFI vulnerability score) **remained consistent** between July and October 2024, at close to **60%** of assessed settlements. **However, the severity of needs** ("extreme" or "extreme+" scores) **slightly increased** (from 9% in July to 12% in October), mainly driven by a large increase in severity in Donetska (14 percentage points) and Kharkivska (10 percentage points). Increased vulnerability to unmet shelter and NFIs needs in these two oblasts is particularly concerning as they were identified as especially vulnerable to winter-related needs by REACH⁵.

Unmet needs driving the SNFI vulnerability scores were diverse: in some settlements, it was mainly driven by a large proportion of residents unable to access safe and adequate housing, while in others it was mostly driven by barriers to accessing heating.

Access to safe and adequate housing

The **prevalence of settlements with some level of housing needs** (at least 1-9% of residents cannot access safe and adequate housing) **remained stable** between July and October 2024, around **20%** of assessed settlements. **The severity of needs doubled however**, from **4%** to **8%** of settlements where at least 25% of residents could not access safe and adequate housing. This rise was mainly driven by a greater proportion of residents in Donetska frontline settlements unable to access safe and adequate housing: in August 2024, 23% of assessed settlements were identified to have at least a quarter of residents unable to access safe and adequate housing, compared to 42% of settlements in October 2024. In contrast, the prevalence of shelter needs decreased in Khersonska (from 61% of assessed settlements in July to 43% in October).

This hints at a polarized situation calling for an area-based targeted shelter response: while escalating fighting in Donetska increasingly prevents residents from accessing safe and adequate housing, reconstruction efforts in Khersonska appeared successful at restoring access to housing and could be replicated in oblasts with shelter needs and where the security situation allows.

Map 7: SNFI vulnerability scores as of October 2024

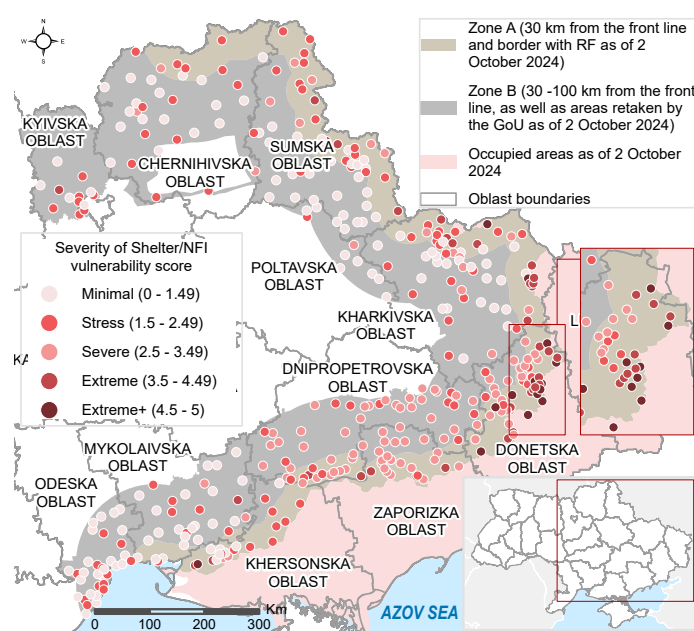
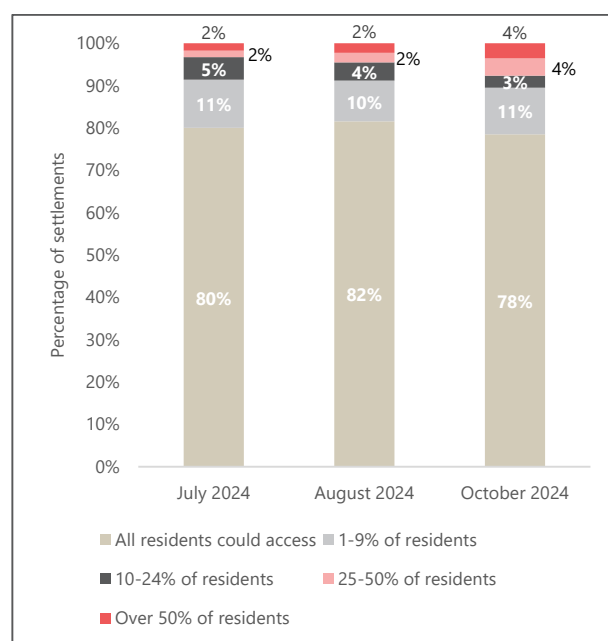


Figure 6: %age of residents who could not access safe and adequate housing in the settlement (%age of settlements)



Accountability to affected population

Assistance received

KIs in the majority of settlements reported that residents received assistance in the 30 days prior to data collection in all rounds, with the most frequent type of assistance received being food items/kits.

Other types of assistance received remained mostly consistent between July and October, although there was a decrease in settlements where KIs reported receiving drinking water - possibly linked with humanitarian partners acknowledging improved access to drinking and technical water (as noted above) in October. **Ahead of winter (October), no strong increase in receiving winterization assistance (winter clothing, solid fuel, housing repair kits/material for improving housing) was recorded**, indicating that either humanitarian partners started winterization later, KIs were not knowledgeable enough on assistance received, or there were gaps in providing winterization assistance in settlements 0-100km from the frontline and border with Russia.

Figure 7: type of assistance reportedly received by residents in the 30 days prior to data collection (%age of settlements)

	Food kits	Hygiene kits	No consensus	Housing repair kits/material	None	Nutrition	Water for drinking	Multipurpose cash assistance	Medicine	Psychosocial support	Winter clothing	Healthcare	Solid fuel for heating
July 2024	61%	28%	11%	10%	10%	6%	9%	5%	6%	5%	2%	4%	2%
August 2024	66%	36%	11%	12%	7%	12%	11%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%
October 2024	62%	28%	10%	9%	11%	9%	3%	8%	3%	2%	3%	1%	4%

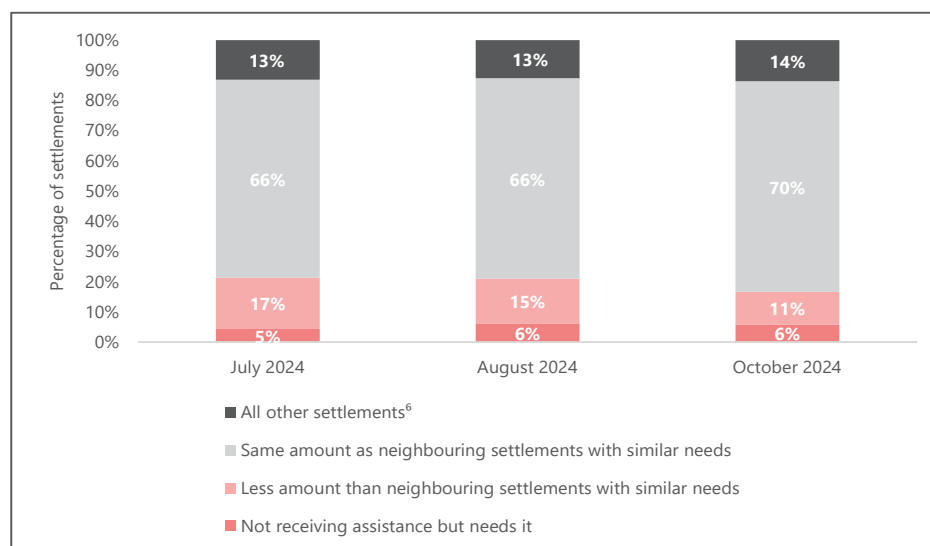
Comparative amount of assistance received

Only a minority of settlements reportedly did not receive assistance but needed it in the 30 days prior to data collection, or received less assistance than neighbouring settlements. While this does not confirm that the amount received was enough to cover the needs, it does indicate that **humanitarian partners have good coverage** (with only around 5% of assessed settlements not receiving any needed assistance in the 30 days prior to data collection every round), and **distribution of humanitarian aid is generally balanced**. The absence of consistent gaps in the response is further confirmed by the fact that only two assessed settlements were consistently identified to not be receiving assistance but needing it between July and October (Predtechyne in Donetsk and Berezanka in Mykolaivska); while only three settlements were consistently identified to be receiving less assistance than neighbouring settlements with similar needs: Novopavlivka (Dnipropetrovsk), Dachne (Odeska) and Yampil (Sumska).

The oblasts with the greatest proportion of settlements reportedly receiving no or less assistance were Donetsk, Kharkivska and Sumska - even as the first two were identified to have more acute needs. In contrast, settlements in Chernihivska, Khersonska, Mykolaivska and Zaporizka were more frequently identified to be receiving the same amount of assistance or more than neighbouring settlements with similar needs.

This suggests that while coverage of settlements in needs by humanitarian partners is generally good, there were occasional gaps in the amount of assistance delivered based on settlements' characteristics, with settlements in certain oblasts more frequently supported than others. This issue will be assessed in a further REACH assessment in early 2025.

Figure 8: comparative amount of assistance received in the 30 days prior to data collection compared to neighbouring settlements with similar needs (%age of settlements)



Endnotes

1 ACLED data shows an increase in the number of battle events recorded in Donetsk oblasts. In July 2024, 1062 battles were recorded. In August, 1082. In October, this increased to 1151. See: <https://acleddata.com/ukraine-conflict-monitor/>

2 REACH-IOM Rapid Needs Assessments are available upon request.

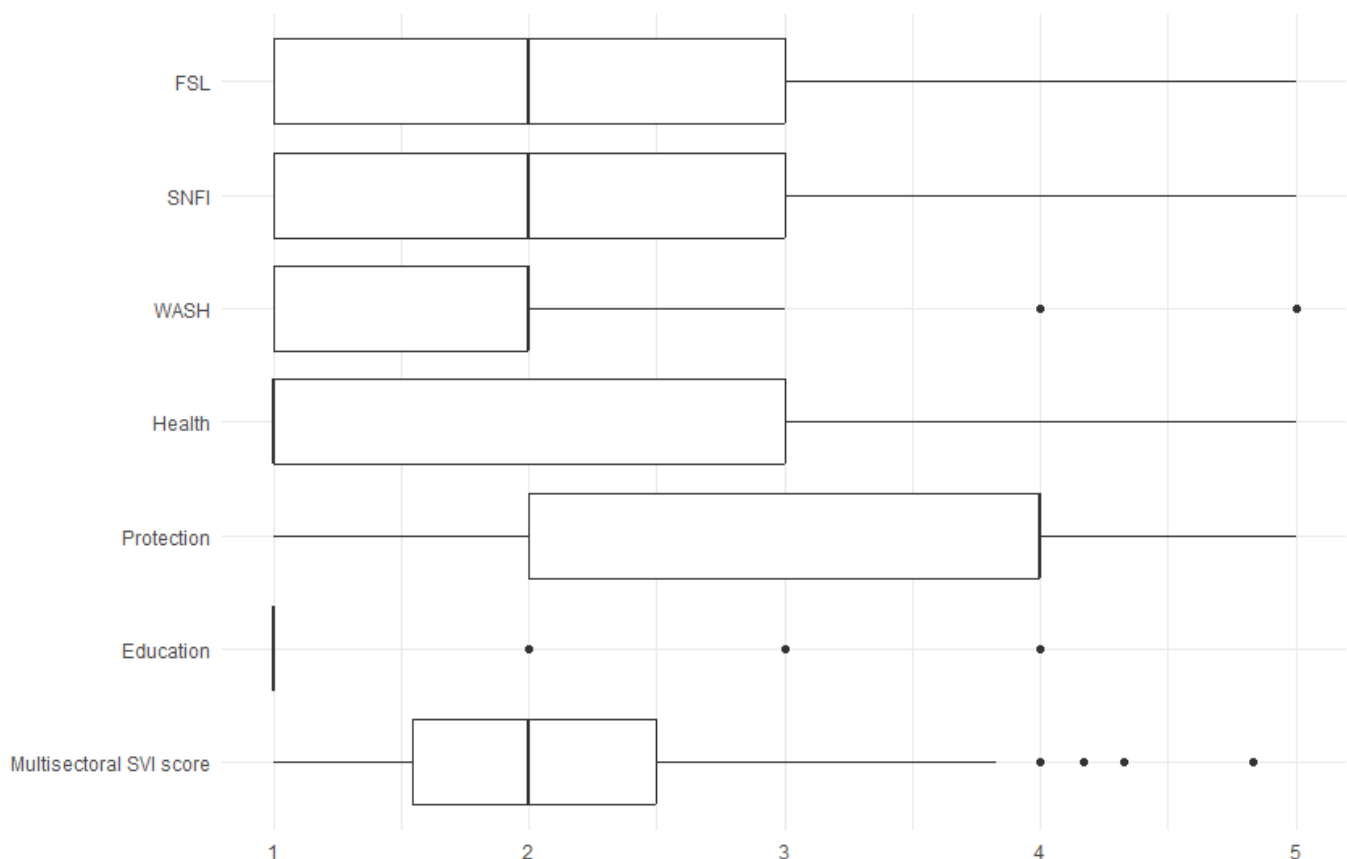
3 According to REACH's Rapid Cash Feasibility assessment in Pokrovska hromada (November 2024), a majority of interviewed residents reported receiving food aid on a regular, predictable basis. Out of 76 interviewed residents, 35 expressed preference to receive humanitarian assistance in cash, 21 both cash and in-kind, 4 only in kind and 16 had no preferences. Those who preferred cash explained that it was flexible, they could buy what they need/want or that they already had in-kind items stored. Provision of cash assistance for food (instead of in-kind) is dependent on functioning markets (functionality of markets is assessed by REACH's HSM and JMML).

4 ACLED data shows an increase in the number of conflict events in Ukraine between July and October 2024. In July, 4096 events were recorded, 4680 events in August, and 4888 events in October (mostly located in oblasts assessed by HSM). See: <https://acleddata.com/ukraine-conflict-monitor/>

5 REACH, Cold Spot Risk Assessment Winterization 2024/2025, Factsheet - June 2024, https://repository.impact-initiatives.org/document/reach/7a432729/UKR2215_Winterisation-2024-25_Cold-spot-assessment.pdf

6 Settlements where KIs reported more assistance than neighbouring settlements with similar needs, not receiving assistance but not needing it, or could not reach a consensus.

Annex 1: boxplot of multisectoral SVI score and sectoral vulnerability scores



ANNEX 2: HSM AND SVI METHODOLOGIES

Sector	Indicator
Food Security & Livelihoods	% of settlements by the level of need in relation to accessing sufficient food in the 30 days prior to data collection
	% of settlements by the level of need in relation to accessing markets to purchase goods in the 30 days prior to data collection
	% of settlements by main barriers for people to access markets in the 30 days prior to data collection
	% of settlements by main barriers to accessing food items in the 30 days prior to data collection
	% settlements by level of needs in relation to accessing cash, ATMs and banking services in the 30 days prior to data collection
	% of settlements by coping strategies used to cover basic needs in the 30 days prior to data collection
Shelter & Non-Food items	% of settlements by the level of need in relation to accessing safe and adequate housing in the 30 days prior to data collection
	% of settlements by main barriers for people to access safe and adequate housing in the 30 days prior to data collection
	% of settlements by main barriers for displaced persons to access safe and adequate housing in the 30 days prior to data collection
	% of settlements by main sources of energy most people used for heating during winter
	% of settlements by main barriers people faced in accessing heating during winter
	% of settlements by the proportion of civilian housing damaged in the 30 days prior to data collection
	% settlements by MOST people having access to non-food items (NFIs) in the 30 days prior to data collection

Sector	Indicator
Health	% of settlements by the level of need in relation to healthcare services in the 30 days prior to data collection
	% of settlements by main barriers people faced to access healthcare services in the 30 days prior to data collection
	% of settlements by types of healthcare/facilities people were unable to access in the 30 days prior to data collection
	% of settlements by the level of need in relation to medicine in the 30 days prior to data collection
Protection	% of settlements by main safety and security concerns faced by people in the 30 days prior to data collection
	% of settlements by the degree of restrictions on movement into or out of the settlement
Education	% of settlement by number of children not being able to attend
	% of settlements by modality of learning % of settlement by types of critical infrastructure damaged in the 30 days prior to data collection
WASH	% settlements by frequency of disruptions to water supply in the 30 days prior to data collection
	% of settlements by the level of need in relation to accessing drinking water in the 30 days prior to data collection
	% of settlements by the level of need in relation to accessing technical water in the 30 days prior to data collection
	% of settlements by the level of need in relation to accessing improved sanitation facilities in the 30 days prior to data collection

HSM Methodology Overview

Data collection in Government-controlled areas was conducted in August 2024 (Round 18), through phone interviews with community key informants (CKIs): representatives from local government, local non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and specific population groups (older persons, people with disabilities, children, women, internally displaced people (IDPs), returnees, and others). The number of assessed settlements was 395, divided into two geographic zones:

- **Zone A:** Areas within 30 km range from the front line at the time of sampling, as monitored by LiveUA, and the state border with the Russian Federation.
- **Zone B:** Areas within 30-100km range from the frontline at the time of sampling, as monitored by LiveUA, Areas retaken by the GoU, and raions intersecting with these areas by 50% of the raion territory.

To ensure an extensive coverage of settlements close to the frontline, and where needs are concentrated, REACH applied the following sampling algorithm:

Zone A:

- All administrative centres (including hromada, raion, and oblast centres)
- All settlements with a population over 1000 residents, as of May 2024 (IOM Frontline Flow Monitoring, May 2024)
- If updated population figures are not available: all settlements with a population over 2500 residents before February 2022

Zone B:

- All administrative centres (including hromada, raion, and oblast centres) over 1000 residents before February 2022

To account for a possible higher variation in needs in units with a larger population, the number of KIs per settlement differed for the following **3 categories**:

- **3 KIs** in every assessed settlement with a population size of 1,000-9,999*,
- **5 KIs** in every assessed settlement with a population size of 10,000 – 99,999*,
- **7 KIs** in every assessed settlement with a population size of over 100,000*.

* Population size prior to the start of the war in February 2022.

All KI responses from the same settlement were aggregated to have one data point for each variable per settlement. The **Data Aggregation Plan** used the **average approach** to aggregate the settlement responses by using a severity scale in cases of **single-choice** questions. In case of **multiple-choice** questions, the rule was to select all responses that have been reported by at least 1 out of 3 respondents, 2 out of 5 respondents, and 3 out of 7 respondents in the settlements per the relevant categories, as presented above.

The statistics presented in this brief **cannot be extrapolated to represent a proportion (%) of the population, and thus should be interpreted as indicative** rather than representative. Given the small and unrepresentative sample, these results only provide an indicative understanding of the situation in the assessed areas.

Settlement Vulnerability Index (SVI) Framework

REACH Ukraine developed this framework based on HSM indicators to determine the severity of vulnerability at the settlement level. The data utilised in the SVI's score calculation is reported by KIs referring to the situation in the whole settlement, thus does not capture specific household inputs and potential nuances within individual household situations. within individual household situations. Accounting for the different approaches, indicators used, and objectives, the current framework should not be understood as comparable with other similar frameworks, including by REACH.

The SVI framework requires the calculation of individual composite scores for each sector, followed by a calculation of an inter-sectoral composite score as the final Settlement Vulnerability Index. **The framework was updated for Round 17, based on past SVI analyses and following consultations with humanitarian partners, and therefore SVI scores before Round 17 cannot be compared with SVI scores from Round 17 onwards.**

The framework is composed of HSM indicators across six sectors: Food Security and Livelihoods, Shelter and Non-food items (NFIs), Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), Healthcare, Protection, and Education. The indicators incorporated in the calculation of sectoral scores were selected based on the information they capture regarding people's access to basic services and essential items. The indicators not incorporated in the score will still be used as part of the analysis and reporting as a way to present a comprehensive overview of the situation in the assessed settlements.

'Severity' signifies the intensity of vulnerabilities in the settlement, using a scale that ranges from 1 (minimal/none) to 4+ (Extreme and Risk of Catastrophic/Sectoral Collapse). The levels of sectoral vulnerability imply:

- **None/minimal:** Essential basic sectoral needs are met in the settlement,
- **Stress:** Borderline inability to meet basic sectoral needs in the settlement,
- **Severe:** Moderate inability to meet basic sectoral needs in the settlement,
- **Extreme:** Extreme inability to meet basic sectoral needs in the settlement,
- **Extreme+:** Collapse of basic services and/or total inability to meet basic sectoral needs in the settlement,

Sectoral vulnerability scores were calculated using the "maximum" rule, i.e. the final sectoral vulnerability score will be determined by the highest score of any composite indicator included in the sector score calculation. Individual composite indicators were assigned a score from 1 (minimal) to 4+ (extreme+), based on aggregated key informants responses in the settlement for each indicators. Sectoral vulnerability scores are calculated based on the sectoral indicators incorporated in the framework included in Annex. If an indicator cannot be recoded to 1-4+ values, it is by default given a value of 1 (Minimal).

For the multisectoral SVI score, the mean (average) of sectoral scores was calculated and rounded up if the score has a decimal of 0.5 or higher to assign it to a value (1-4+, Minimal to Extreme+).

Please refer to the Framework in Annex for more details.

Due to the included data being indicative in the scoring process, the resulting scores cannot be considered representative of the conditions within settlements and offer an approximate understanding of the humanitarian situation.

Disclaimer: Given that the SVI framework has been updated for Round 17 (July 2024) to ensure accuracy of findings, REACH advises caution against comparing sectoral vulnerability scores and multisectoral SVI scores between Rounds 8-16 and Round 17 onwards.

Key changes between the previous SVI framework (Rounds 8-16) and the current SVI framework relate to:

- **Sectoral vulnerability scores:** following an update to the HSM questionnaire in Round 17, composite indicators of every sector were reviewed. HSM team also reviewed the severity score (1-5) of response options for each indicators. Notably, all sectors now include only one indicator with "extreme+" scoring, corresponding to the worst possible sectoral outcome.

- **Aggregation rule:** sectoral vulnerability score are now calculated with the "maximum" aggregation rule, instead of the "average" (aligning with REACH MSNI approach). Indeed, HSM observed that with the previous framework, for sectors with more than two composite indicators, the "average" aggregation rule underestimated the level of sectoral needs as non-critical indicators dragged down the sectoral vulnerability score. Therefore, the current sectoral vulnerability scores gives a more accurate picture of sectoral needs for the majority of residents in the settlement.