CONTEXT AND METHODOLOGY

In its 8th year, the conflict in eastern Ukraine continues to impact labour market dynamics in the region. As highlighted in REACH's Capacity Vulnerability Assessments (CVAs) conducted in 2018, the 'Line of contact' has impeded access to employment in large cities currently in non-government-controlled areas (NGCA). As a result, smaller regional centres in government-controlled areas (GCA) have an increased role as employment hubs for communities in proximity to the 'Line of contact'. Further to conflict-related interruptions to employment, the COVID-19 outbreak has led to significant reductions in economic activity and employment rates across Ukraine[1]. The spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictive measures have also exposed all groups of women to higher risks of losing incomes and savings, and have significantly increased the burden of unpaid care work[2].
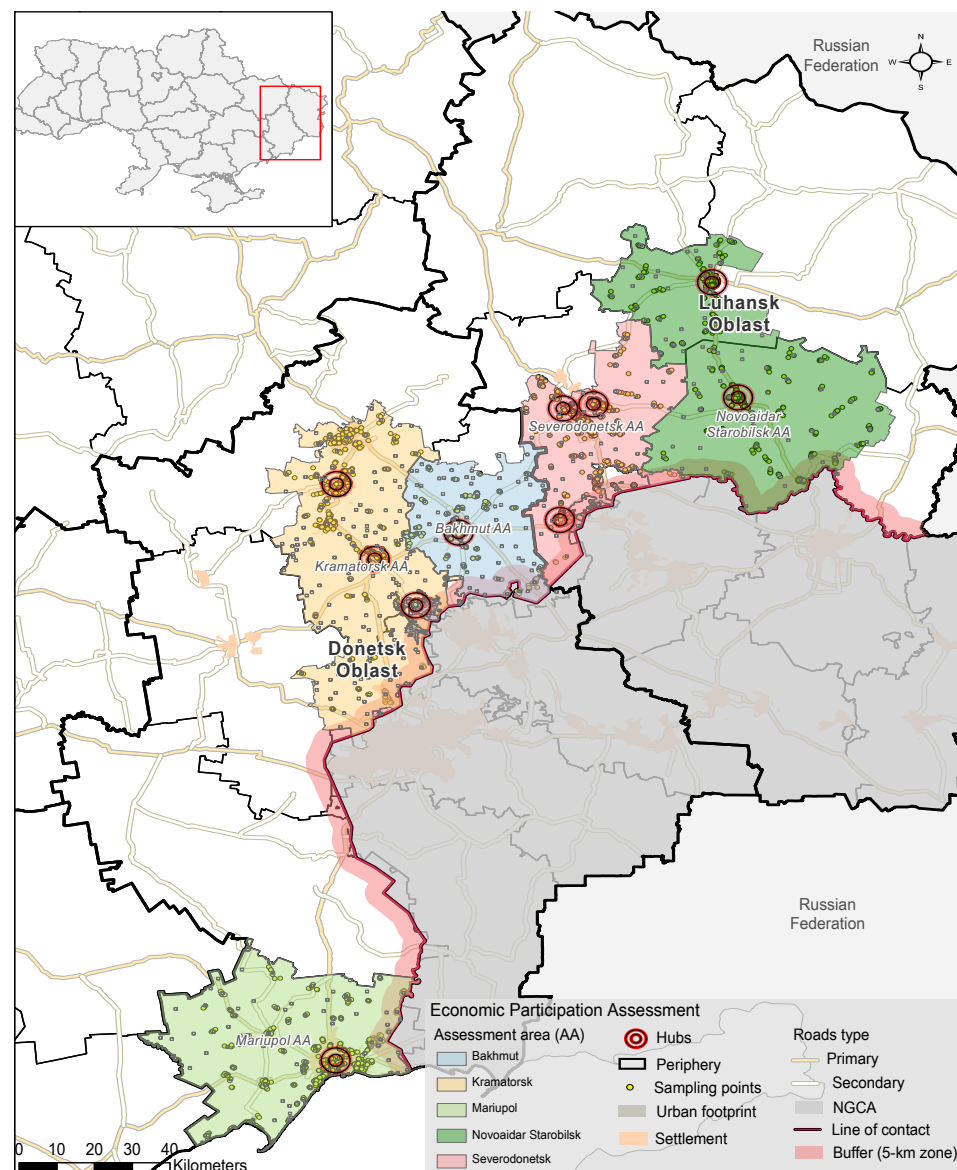
The aim of the **Economic Participation Assessment** (EPA)[3] is to provide age and sex disaggregated data to assist in identifying barriers to labour market engagement for particular subpopulations in five assessment areas in eastern conflict-affected oblasts (coverage map to the right). Secondarily, the assessment seeks to identify opportunities / emerging sectors that may aid in increasing their labour force participation. To assess these aspects of the local labour market, IMPACT crafted a complex multi-mode research design exploring issues from the perspective of the general population with a focus on categories such as: job seekers, employers, employment service providers, and decision makers in each of the five areas (further details in the full activity terms of reference). In this factsheet, only results of the quantitative component of the assessment are presented. These[4] may be used to adjust local labour and economic policy, build the capacity of Employment Centres[5] to assist population groups traditionally marginalised within the labour market, or formulate livelihoods interventions targeting women, youth or pre-pensioners in the five assessment areas.

Findings draw from the household survey conducted between 21 May and 14 June 2021. It comprises a total of **3,026 households** (representing 8,953 members) sampled by using stratified simple random sampling of eligible households. In order to be considered eligible, households had to have at least one member of working age (15-70 years old). Data were collected via Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI). Findings are generalizable at the strata level with a 95% confidence level and a 5% margin of error. This factsheet is built on the disaggregated findings across the five assessment areas covered under the EPA and offers an overview of selected indicators in relation to the employment status, the barriers and challenges to employment and intentions to change of the three targeted sociodemographic population groups: women, youth (15-24 years old) and pre-pensioners (50-59 years old). Specifically, it aims at understanding the very conditions relevant to each groups in engaging in the local workforce as well as identifying variations across assessment areas and labour market dynamics between rural-urban areas (hubs and peripheries).

FINDINGS

- Pre-pensioners were much more likely to report having a chronic illness or a disability; and a higher proportion of unemployed pre-pensioners reported not to be looking for work due to health reasons (30%, versus 4% for unemployed household (HH) members of working age (15 - 70 years old).
- Young people (15-24 years old) tended to be much more often not officially employed compared with any other group.
- Women reported to be involved in taking care of their household (non-income generating activity) almost twice more than any other group (21%, versus 12% for all members); they also reported to a much greater extent than other groups be unemployed due to childbirth or care of children.
- The lack of relevant vacancies was a key factor reported by all groups to explain unemployment and associated barriers.
- Young people have expressed more than any other group intentions to change their current occupation in the 12 months following data collection (38%, versus 29% for employed HH members of working age); they also reported to be unemployed to look for a better job more than others (21%, versus 15% for unemployed HH members of working age).
- Findings point towards unique situations experienced by different population groups, and suggest targeted support to meet the needs expressed by each.

Map of Assessed Areas in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (GCA)

Economic Participation Assessment

Assessment area (AA)		
Bakhmut	Hubs	Roads type
Kramatorsk	Periphery	Primary
Mariupol	Sampling points	Secondary
Novoaidar Starobilsk	Urban footprint	NGCA
Severodonetsk	Settlement	Line of contact
		Buffer (5-km zone)

0 10 20 30 40 Kilometers

IMPACT
Shaping practices
Influencing policies
Impacting lives

SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE[6]

3,026 assessed households

8,953 household members

2,069 **female** heads of households **(68%)**

4,713 **female** household members **(53%)**

196 **young** heads of households **(6%)** aged 18-24 years

945 **young** household members **(10%)** aged 15-24 years

605 **pre-pensioners** heads of households **(20%)** aged 50-59 years

1,170 **pre-pensioners** household members **(13%)** aged 50-59 years

Proportion of working age household members by type of reported vulnerability

Vulnerability status amongst HH members	Women	Youth	Pre-pensioners	Overall[7]
None	61%	79%	57%	**63%**
Chronic illness	13%	5%	17%	**11%**
Disability	6%	3%	11%	**6%**
Internally Displaced	7%	7%	6%	**7%**
Single parent	6%	1%	1%	**3%**

Other household characteristics by head of household	Women	Youth	Pre-pensioners	Overall
Average household size	3	3	2	**3**
Average age of household members	36	19	54	**34**
Average number of working age people per household	2	3	2	**2**
% of households without a working member	2%	2%	2%	**2%**

6. Findings presented in this factsheet may not include answers such as "Do not know" or "Decline to answer" and total percentages may therefore not sum to 100%.
7. Findings for "Overall" refer to all five assessment areas.
8. Figures between brackets show the subset size corresponding to the number of HH members belonging to the referred group concerned by the question.
9. This question allowed multiple answers.
10. This includes number of 'full-time employed', 'part-time employed', 'season worker', 'self-employed' and 'freelance' household members.
11. The indicator **'Youth not in employment, education or training (NEET)'** presents the share of young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET), as a percentage of the total number of young people in the corresponding age group, by gender. In Ukraine in 2017 NEET was 16.47%, The World Bank.
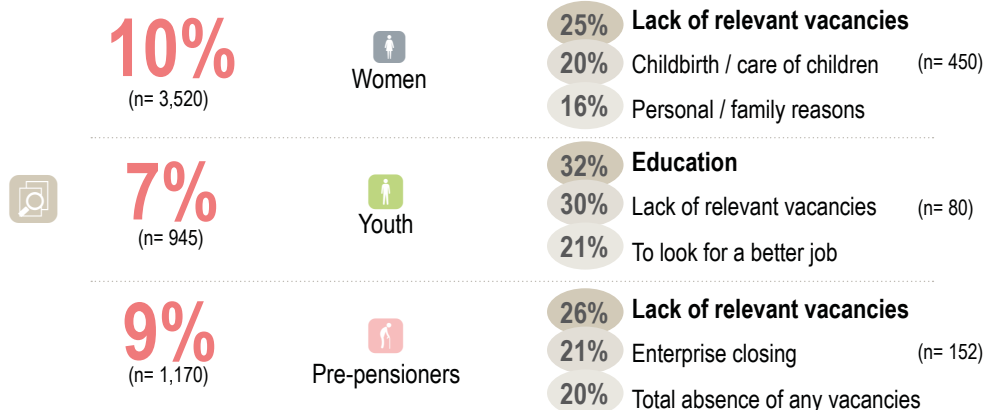12. Values ringed by coloured box are 1 standard deviation above the average for the demographic group.
13 This doesn't include number of currently self-employed household members.
14. The concept of informal employment defined as "all remunerative work" (i.e. both self-employment and wage employment) that is not registered, regulated or protected by existing legal or regulatory frameworks, as well as non-remunerative work undertaken in an income-producing enterprise, from International Labour Organization.

EMPLOYMENT PROFILE

Most commonly reported employment status of household members aged 15-70, at the time of data collection[8,9]	Women (n= 3,520)	Youth (n= 945)	Pre-pensioners (n= 1,170)	Overall (n= 6,559)
Employed[10]	55%	27%	67%	**63%**
Taking care of household	21%	6%	11%	**12%**
Studying or training	9%	66%	0%	**11%**
Youth not in employment, education or training (NEET)[11]	-	13%	-	**13%**

Most commonly reported **sector of employment** at the time of data collection, among household members reportedly employed[8,12]

	Women (n= 1,973)	Youth (n= 237)	Pre-pensioners (n= 774)	Overall (n= 4,019)
1 Industry mining and processing	13%	11%	20%	**21%**
2 Wholesale and retail trade	24%	21%	15%	**17%**
3 Education	15%	9%	11%	**9%**

Other employment indicators for household members between 15 and 70 years of age, at the time of data collection[8]	Women	Youth	Pre-pensioners	Overall
% of household members reported to **have been registered with State Employment Services** at any time in the past[13]	39% (n= 3,257)	7% (n= 613)	38% (n= 1,117)	**32%** (n= 5,973)
% of unemployed household members who were **employed prior to the COVID-19 outbreak**	41% (n= 450)	27% (n= 80)	47% (n= 152)	**47%** (n= 745)
% of household members who were **not officially employed**[14] (among employed members)	17% (n= 1,973)	40% (n= 237)	19% (n= 774)	**22%** (n= 4,019)
% of household members who have previously **tried to set up a business**[13]	14% (n= 3,257)	8% (n= 613)	23% (n= 1,117)	**17%** (n= 5,973)

UNEMPLOYMENT PROFILE AND BARRIERS

Percentage of unemployed and looking for work household members

10%
(n= 3,520)
Women

7%
(n= 945)
Youth

9%
(n= 1,170)
Pre-pensioners

Among reportedly unemployed household members, the **main reported reasons for unemployment** were[8,9]

- 25% **Lack of relevant vacancies**
- 20% Childbirth / care of children   (n= 450)
- 16% Personal / family reasons

- 32% **Education**
- 30% Lack of relevant vacancies   (n= 80)
- 21% To look for a better job

- 26% **Lack of relevant vacancies**
- 21% Enterprise closing   (n= 152)
- 20% Total absence of any vacancies

Average period of unemployment, among household members reportedly unemployed[8]

Average period of unemployment	Women (n= 450)	Youth (n= 80)	Pre-pensioners (n= 152)	Overall (n= 745)
Less than three months	14%	22%	14%	**17%**
More than 1 year	61%	33%	66%	**57%**

Proportion of **economically inactive**[15] household members aged 15-70, at the time of data collection

Women (n= 3,520) — **35%**

Youth (n= 945) — **66%**

Pre-pensioners (n= 1,170) — **25%**
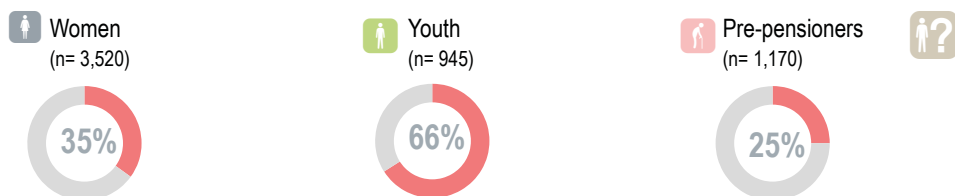
HOUSEHOLD ECONOMIC PROFILE

Percentage of HHs by average monthly HH income reported as above or below the national **average**[16] in Ukrainian hryvnia (UAH):

- Below 14,000 UAH
- Above 14,001 UAH

Overall (n= 3,026 households) — **63%**   25%

Percentage of HHs having respectively a woman, a youth or a pre-pensioner as head of the HH by average monthly HH income reported as above or below the national **average**[16] in Ukrainian hryvnia (UAH):

Women (n= 2,069) — **73%**   18%

Youth (n= 196) — **61%**   25%

Pre-pensioners (n= 605) — **74%**   15%
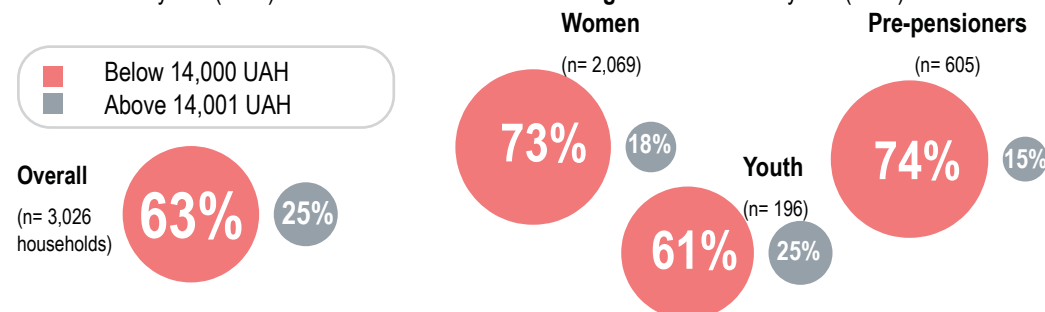
INTENTION TO CHANGE (AMONG MEMBERS WITH AN OCCUPATION)[8]

29% of household members who were reportedly in paid/ unpaid employment[17] or who were performing home duties (n= 4,722) **expressed an intention to look for a (new) job** in the 12 months following data collection.

- **29%** Women (n= 2,606)
- **38%** Youth (n= 293)
- **20%** Pre-pensioners (n= 887)

For over half **(52%)** of the concerned household members, **getting a better pay** was the main reason for **expressing an intention** to change employment, with no statistically significant differences among groups.

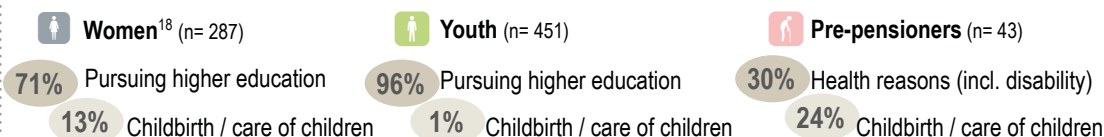## NO INTENTION TO CHANGE (AMONG MEMBERS WITH NO OCCUPATION)[8]

40% of household members who were reportedly unemployed or studying (n= 1,406) **did not express an intention to look for a job** in the 12 months following data collection.

- **37%** Women (n= 757)
- **63%** Youth (n= 699)
- **24%** Pre-pensioners (n= 154)

Among the household members with **no intention** to search for a new job, the **main reported reasons** by groups were[8]:

Women[18] (n= 287)
- 71% Pursuing higher education
- 13% Childbirth / care of children

Youth (n= 451)
- 96% Pursuing higher education
- 1% Childbirth / care of children

Pre-pensioners (n= 43)
- 30% Health reasons (incl. disability)
- 24% Childbirth / care of children

IMPACT Shaping practices Influencing policies Impacting lives