UKRAINE

Analysis of Humanitarian Trends

Government Controlled Areas of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, 5km Zone

September 2017

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 aims 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.
You can contact us directly at: geneva@reach-initiative.org and follow us on Twitter @REACH_info.

SUMMARY

The humanitarian crisis in eastern Ukraine continues after more than three years of regular conflict in the Donbas. As of November 2017, an estimated 4.4 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance and 10,000 have died as a consequence of conflict[1]. The line of contact (LoC) between government controlled areas (GCA) and non-government controlled areas (NGCA) has stabilized but regular armed clashes are still common within 5 km on both sides. The populations living within this region continue to experience significant disruption to their daily lives due to the many challenges created by the ongoing fighting.

Since the start of conflict, a number of humanitarian actors have conducted independent and multilateral assessments to guide their decision making. To support them, REACH has conducted a number of assessments on humanitarian vulnerabilities in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts finding that areas close to the LoC experience higher levels of humanitarian needs due to disruptions of services and exposure to conflict. This report builds on these and other assessments in order to provide a picture of the evolving humanitarian landscape in Donbas, focusing on the area near the LoC through a household survey, focus group discussions with enumerators and extensive tracking of indicators from other humanitarian actors across time. The data collected through 562 household surveys is representative of the population in the 5 km area with a 90% confidence interval and 7% margin of error.

The assessment finds an evolving and deteriorating humanitarian situation along the LoC. While certain sectors such as education (particularly access to educational services) have seen improvements, others, including economic security, have seen significant declines since 2016.

Specifically, this report points to households continuing to face protection risk due to active shelling in densely populated areas around the LoC. While households are reporting improvements in the overall security situation, exposure to conflict is a regular concern for three in four households living in these areas. At the same time, economic security has reportedly deteriorated. This could be due to increased prices of goods and services, as well as fewer employment opportunities within the area. A lack of employment opportunities could lead to further and more frequent employment-related travel by workers both within the GCA and to other regions of Ukraine, or engagement in negative coping strategies such as dangerous or illegal work. The economic deterioration relates closely to decreased food consumption scores and increased barriers to accessing healthcare, often due to the high cost of care and distance to healthcare facilities. Education indicators have improved both in terms of enrollment and educational services provided in schools. Finally, the assessment finds both improvement and deterioration in several water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) indicators, showing that progress in some areas may be at least partially offset by backsliding in others, particularly visible in the reduction in the proportion of households experiencing water shortages correlating with an increase in households using untreated water sources.

The findings from this report indicate a need for aid actors to focus on economic security along the LoC, alongside continued assistance in other sectors. Access to livelihoods have been disrupted not only due to ongoing fighting, but also by the restriction of movement of goods and services between communities in the GCA and large urban centres located in the NGCA[2].

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[1] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 2017. Report on the human rights situation in Ukraine. Available online.
[2] REACH, 2017. Area Based Assessment. Kyiv. Available online.

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CONTENTS

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List of Acronyms

DPR	Donetsk People's Republic
ECHO	European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
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 Planning Cycle
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IAVA	Inter-agency Vulnerability Assessment
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LoC	Line of Contact
LPR	Luhansk People's Republic
MSNA	Multi-Sector Needs Assessment
ND	Non-Displaced
NFI	Non-Food Items
NGCA	Non-Government Controlled Areas
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NMS	National Monitoring System
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODK	Open Data Kit
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme

Geographical Classifications

5 km zone	A zone defined for this assessment which refers to areas with significant reported incidents, less than 5 km from the LoC.
LoC	The area separating the Government Controlled Areas (GCAs) of Ukraine and the Non-Government Controlled Areas (NGCAs) of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic and the Luhansk People's Republic.
Area along the LoC	Refers to the 5 km zone, see above.
Donbas	The area encompassing the Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts.
Oblast	An oblast is a type of administrative division of 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".

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INTRODUCTION

In May 2014, the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) and the Luhansk People's Republic (LPR) declared independence, marking the beginning of the conflict in Donbas. Since then, more than 1.6 million residents living near the line of contact (LoC) have been displaced to other areas of Ukraine and the Russian Federation[3]. Despite numerous attempts to broker ceasefire agreements between the warring parties, active conflict in highly populated areas of Ukraine led to the establishment of a preliminary response plan from the United Nations (UN) to meet the needs of displaced and conflict affected populations. Over the past three years, various assessments from the clusters, World Bank and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were conducted, which focused on the five eastern oblasts of Donetsk, Luhansk, Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia and Kharkiv, as well as communities hosting internally displaced people (IDPs). These assessments evaluated humanitarian needs in order to inform response and recovery plans. As of 2017, the UN estimates that there are some 2.4 million people in need in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, including approximately 1 million IDPs in the GCA[4] and more than 10,000 civilian and military casualties[5].

In 2016, REACH supported the implementation of a joint assessment endorsed by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). More specifically, under the umbrella of the HCT and with support from the technical assessment working group, REACH implemented an inter-agency vulnerability assessment (IAVA)[6] in the GCA and a multi-sector needs assessment (MSNA)[7] in the NGCA, focusing on Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts. The results of the assessment were used to inform the humanitarian needs overview (HNO)[8], humanitarian response plan (HRP)[9], and by the Food Security Cluster (FSC) in their extensive food security assessment[10] that measured changes in food security in GCA and NGCA and highlighted major deteriorations in food security in Donbas. In parallel, assessment contributions from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the World Bank and a number of NGOs led to a significant increase in the availability of information. Given the success of the consultations held in 2016 for IAVA, REACH used a similar methodology in this trend analysis report.

This assessment aims to enable humanitarian actors to understand the changing humanitarian needs over time. Due to different methodologies, sampling frames and questionnaires, the ability to compare data to that of partners' assessments was limited. To address this gap, REACH conducted an extensive secondary data review of partners' assessments in 2015, 2016 and 2017, selecting and comparing data when possible and complementing it by a small household survey in the areas prioritized under the HRP. The findings can inform humanitarian donors and agencies on the importance of continued engagement in eastern Ukraine.

The report is structured in the following way: section one outlines the methodology that includes data collection methods and limitations. The next section highlights cross-sectoral findings that provide information on the population living within 5 kilometres (km) of the LoC as well as results on household satisfaction with humanitarian aid received. The report then presents sectoral results covering i) protection, ii) economic security iii) food security, iv) housing and winterization needs, and finally v) access to critical services including education, healthcare and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

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[3] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 2018. Humanitarian Needs Overview. Available online.
[4] OCHA. 2017. Humanitarian Response Plan. Available online.
[5] OHCHR. 2017. Report on the human rights situation in Ukraine. Available online.
[6] REACH, 2016. Inter-agency Vulnerability Assessment. Kyiv. Available online
[7] REACH, 2016. Multi-Sector Needs Assessment of the NGCA. Availably by request.
[8] OCHA, 2017. Humanitarian Needs Overview. Available online.
[9] OCHA. 2017. Humanitarian Response Plan. Available online.
[10] Food Security Cluster, 2017. Food Security Assessment. Available online.

METHODOLOGY

Methodology Overview

This study used a mixed-methods approach to investigate the major trends in the humanitarian situation in the region 5 km from the LoC. First, the study conducted a secondary data review of information available from all stakeholders to identify and analyse trends across time. It included the identification of systemic gaps in the available data from a longitudinal and geographic perspective. Second, the study involved the collection and analysis of primary data to fill in the gaps identified during the secondary data review.

The secondary data assessment was conducted by REACH to identify research documents and indicators across reports and timeframes. The primary data collection included a limited survey of 546 households. They were sampled to provide a statistically representative depiction of households along the LoC, which have been identified as having the highest humanitarian needs in the region. The sample was then stratified by urban/rural settlement type and oblast in order to better understand the geographical differences in needs.

Following household data collection, REACH conducted focus group discussions (FGDs) with enumerators in the field 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 populations of interest in this study are defined as:

- All residents of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts within 5 km of the LoC, including those living in both urban and rural settlements.

Within the area along the LoC in each oblast, populations were stratified by urban and rural settlement types as per the groupings used during the IAVA[11] and the Shelter Cluster/REACH assessment[12] over the last two years. The area along the LoC was selected for specific assessment due to the severe impact of the conflict in this region as identified by the REACH Area Based Assessment[13].

Secondary data review

The secondary data review included a comprehensive, systematic survey and analysis of the indicators listed in the various reports from humanitarian actors since 2015 to identify and compare data across timeframes and geographic regions. The available data was then reconciled with the findings of IAVA 2016 and subsequently with the data collected by REACH along the LoC in 2017 to identify available trends and gaps in the data.

Table 1. List of assessments utilised in the secondary data review

Year	Organization	Assessment	Coverage
2015	ACAPS	Ukraine Multi Sector Needs Assessment – Final Report – March 2015	Five Oblasts of Eastern Ukraine, GCA and NGCA
2015	REACH	Shelter and NFI Needs Assessment	Five Oblasts of Eastern Ukraine, GCA
2016	REACH	Inter-agency Vulnerability Assessment	Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, GCA and NGCA
2016	IOM	National Monitoring System of the Situation with Internally Displaced Persons	Ukraine
2017	FSC	Food Security Assessment	Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, GCA and NGCA
2017	REACH	5 km Zone Household Survey	Area 5 km from the LoC, GCA

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[11] REACH, 2016. Inter-agency Vulnerability Assessment. Kyiv. Available online.
[12] Shelter Cluster, 2015. Shelter & NFI Needs Assessment. Kyiv. Available online.
[13] REACH, 2017. Area Based Assessment. Kyiv. Available online.

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Map 1. Geographic scope of utilized assessments
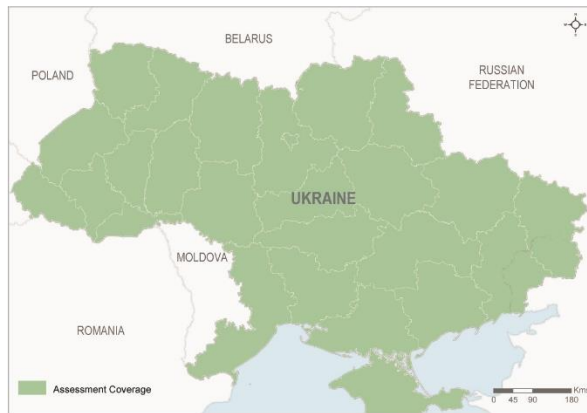
Figure 1. IOM National Monitoring System of the Situation with IDPs 2016

Figure 2. ACAPS Multi Sector Needs Assessment 2015

Figure 3. REACH Inter-agency Vulnerability Assessment 2016

Figure 4. REACH Shelter and NFI Needs Assessment 2015

Figure 5. FSC Food Security Assessment 2017

Figure 6. REACH 5km Zone Household Survey 2017

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Primary Data Collection

Primary data was collected using a household survey of 546 households along the LoC in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts between 4 and 13 September 2017. This area was identified by earlier assessments as the region with the highest level of persistent and ongoing humanitarian needs.[14] Within the region, households were selected through a stratified sample (with a 90% confidence interval and a 7% margin of error for each stratum) with the following strata:

Table 2. Household survey sample size and strata.

a1Pcode	Stratum 1	Stratum 2	SAMPLE
UKR14	*Donetsk Oblast*		*266*
UKR14	Donetsk Oblast	Rural	129
UKR14	Donetsk Oblast	Urban	137
UKR44	*Luhansk Oblast*		*280*
UKR44	Luhansk Oblast	Rural	140
UKR44	Luhansk Oblast	Urban	140
Total			**546**

More specifically, population data was taken from the official population data provided by the State Statistics Services of Ukraine[15]. In order to create a sampling frame, this data was used to weight a computerized random point selection within each region using QGIS to select locations for interviews based on population density within each stratum. Enumerators on the ground identified the household at each selected point, or the nearest household in case the randomly selected location was uninhabited.

Data was collected using the KoBo platform. 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 to provide data about security, infrastructure, markets, and other directly observable items in all assessed communities.

Data Analysis Plan

Secondary data was analysed prior to conducting primary data collection to identify gaps and needs for the primary data collection. This gap analysis included an analysis of the comparability of data collected by the various humanitarian actors, including previously collected REACH data.

Primary data was analyzed with the objective of creating consistent indicators with the IAVA 2016 report to allow for direct comparison across the two reports.

Primary data was entered into Excel instantaneously from KoBo. During primary data collection, REACH reviewed data daily to ensure that the methodology was being followed and to investigate any extreme outliers or other problematic data. This also included ensuring the sampling methodology was carried out in accordance with the sampling plan. REACH maintained a log of any of these changes, including cleaning of data.

Limitations

The following limitations should be kept in mind while reading the report:
- The limited scope of data collection due to the priorities of the humanitarian community limit the generalizability of the findings to the 5 km area along the LoC.
- A lack of comparability between indicators and samples from other aid actors limit direct longitudinal comparison in some instances.

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[14] REACH, 2017. Area Based Assessment. Kyiv. Available online.
[15] State Statistics of Ukraine, 2017. Demographic and social statistics/population and migration. Available online.

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- The need to keep the same questions as IAVA 2016 for comparability purposes limits the ability to monitor additional indicators.
- Relatively low numbers of IDP households living in the area 5 km from the LoC reduces the statistical generalizability of data on IDP households when compared to IAVA 2016, which included IDP households as a strata of the sample.
- The protracted nature of the conflict potentially leads respondents to under-report risks as they become normalized.
- Although the data has been cross-checked with secondary findings and direct observations, findings are self-reported, potentially introducing reporting bias.

Inter-Sectoral Findings

Population

This section examines some of the demographic characteristics of the population along the LoC, including population statistics and data about heads of household. As illustrated in the population pyramids below (Figure 1-2), the area along the LoC has a population with low percentages of children and young people, and high percentages of residents above 60 years of age, particularly older women. The trend towards older populations is potentially the result of working-age residents moving to more economically active regions as disruptions in markets have reduced employment opportunities in the area most affected by conflict. Urban households appear to have a higher proportion of children and youths, while rural populations are more likely to have a higher proportion of residents over the age of 60.

Figure 1. Population pyramids for rural and urban households, 5 km area 2017
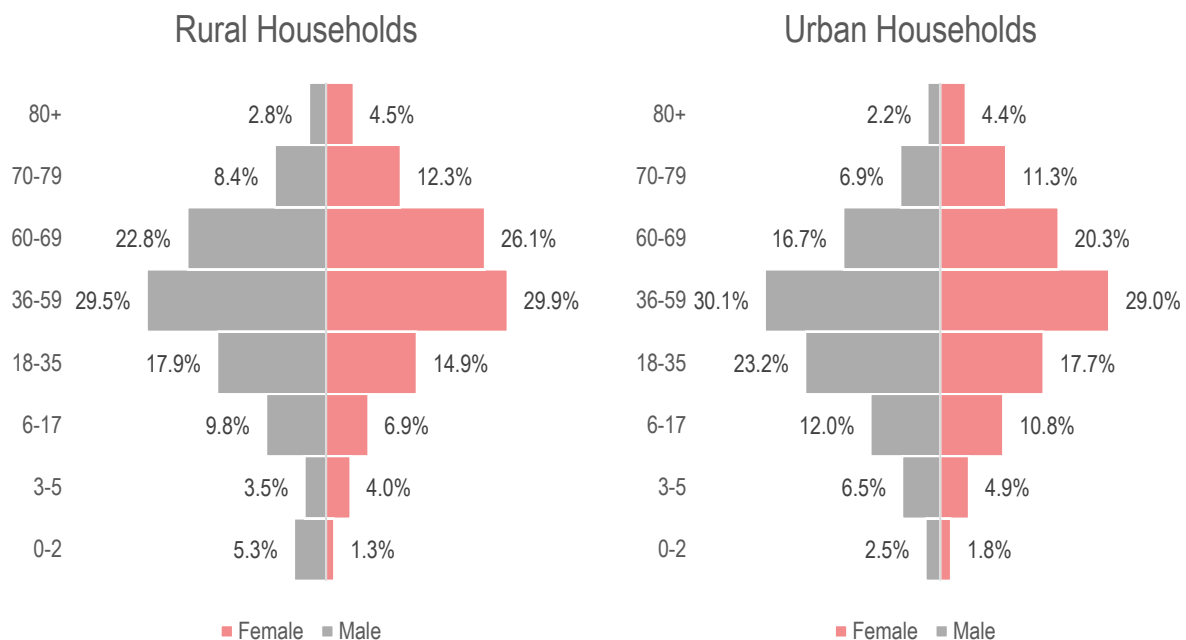
The age of heads of household demonstrates this trend towards an older population in the area, with a median of 59 years old (60 for rural households and 58 for urban households) and the largest number of heads of household between the ages of 60 and 75 years. Heads of household are approximately evenly divided between male and female, with 51% of households headed by a man and 49% headed by a woman, with little variation between urban and rural households.

Figure 2. Age distribution of heads of household, 5 km area 2017
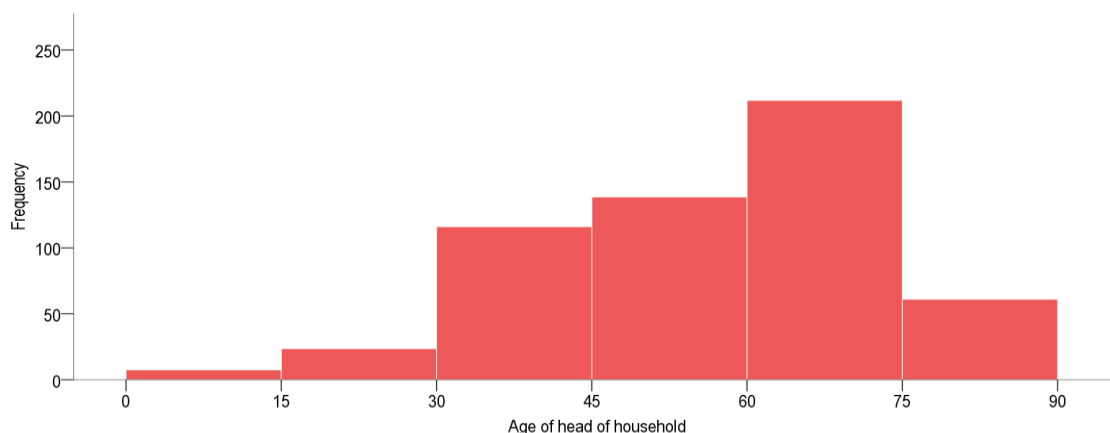
IDP households represented 4% of the population of the 5 km area. However, with only 23 IDP households interviewed as part of this assessment, more detailed findings on IDP households should be viewed as indicative rather than representative of the total IDP population. Donetsk Oblast had a significantly higher proportion of IDP households than Luhansk Oblast, potentially due to the closer proximity of settlements in Donetsk Oblast to urban centres in the GCA (Map 2). Somewhat surprisingly, rural settlements reported higher rates of IDP households than did urban settlements within the 5 km area. Furthermore, IDP households were more likely to be male-headed than female-headed.

Figure 3. Percentage of IDP households by household location, 5 km zone 2017
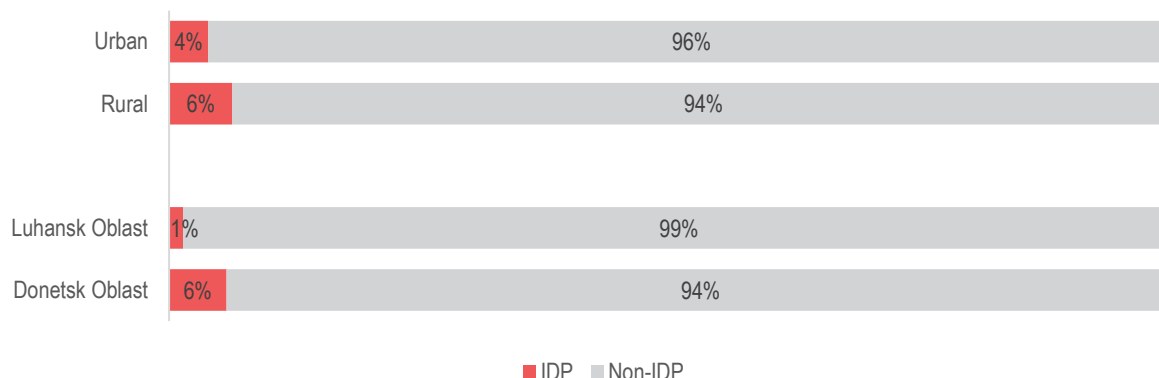
Figure 4. Percentage of IDP households by head of household gender, 5 km zone 2017
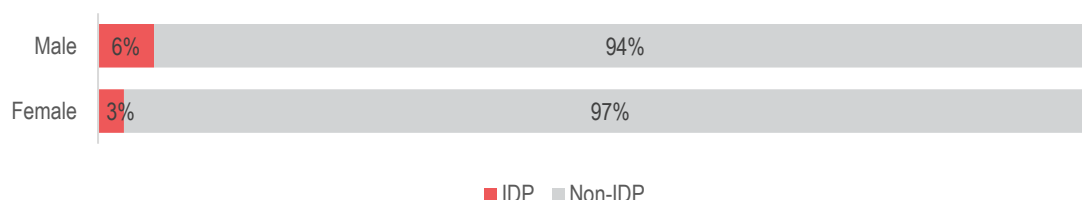
Humanitarian Assistance

Humanitarian assistance has reportedly reached 63% of households within 5 km of the LoC in 2017, which aligns with the priorities set in the 2017 HRP. Rural populations were more likely to have received assistance (75%) than urban households (60%). Across both urban and rural areas, there was significant difference in coverage by oblast between Donetsk (71%) and Luhansk (49%).

By far the largest most common type of assistance received by households was food aid, with the vast majority of households (more than 90%) reporting having received such support. Higher proportions of rural households reported receiving support in the form of cash (13% rural, 5% urban) as well as receiving fuel support to cope with the winter (14% rural, 5% urban).

Table 3. Reported type of humanitarian assistance received between January and August, 2017

	Total	Donetsk Oblast	Luhansk Oblast	Rural	Urban
Food	93%	91%	99%	89%	95%
Non-Food Items (NFI) excluding fuel, winterisation and agriculture items	22%	21%	23%	29%	20%
Fuel	7%	8%	4%	14%	5%
Skilled agriculture, fishery, forestry support	7%	10%	0%	24%	2%

Cash	7%	8%	3%	13%	5%
Medical help	5%	3%	10%	6%	5%
Other (specify)	3%	3%	1%	3%	2%
Winter items	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%
Education	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%
Water	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%

Overall, the majority of households were satisfied with the humanitarian assistance they received in 2017 prior to data collection. Specifically, 93% of households reported either full or partial satisfaction. The top three reasons reported by households that were partially or completely unsatisfied were that the aid was not enough (70%), of poor quality (26%) or of the wrong type (9%).

Figure 5. Household satisfaction with humanitarian aid, 5 km zone GCA
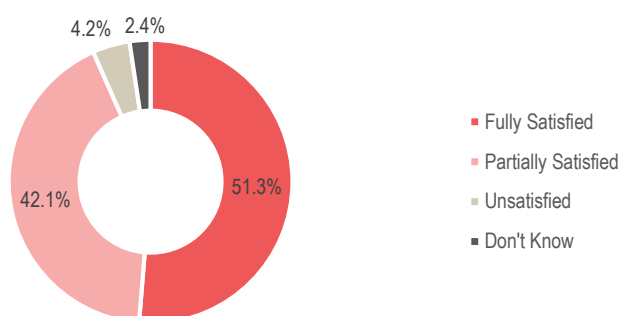
Rural areas reported higher levels of satisfaction with humanitarian assistance received – 69% of households were fully satisfied and 27% expressed partial satisfaction. In urban areas, there were higher levels of partial satisfaction (46%).

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Map 2. Population Density of GCA and NGCA

RUSSIA

UKRAINE

BILOVODSK

SIEVIERODONETSK

LUHANSK GCA

SLOVIANSK

KRAMATORSK

STANYTSIA
LUHANSKA

BAKHMUT   POPASNA

ALCHEVSK   LUHANSK

KOSTIANTYNIVKA

TORETSK

LUHANSK NGCA

OCHERETYNE

DONETSK GCA   HORLIVKA

AVDIIVKA

MAKIIVKA

DONETSK

DONETSK NGCA

RUSSIAN
FEDERATION

VOLNOVAKHA

DEM: CIAT-CSI, SRTM
Population data: GHS POP,
© European Union, 1995-2017

Population Density

Low   High

5km Buffer from INSO Grey Zone

INSO Grey Zone (May 2017)

MARIUPOL

SEA OF AZOV

0   10   20   30 Kms

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PROTECTION

This section examines the trends in protection issues over the conflict, particularly in the area 5 km from the LoC. Of particular concern is ongoing shelling, landmines and unexploded ordnances (UXO), though as the conflict matures, residents in the area 5 km from the LoC have likely become increasingly accustomed to these dangers, which can potentially contribute to under-reporting of ongoing risks. There has been some reduction in the reported need for legal assistance, though a high case-load remains due to the large area affected. Access to pensions appears not to be a significant issue in the 5 km zone, and only 1.5% of households that receive pensions reported any missed payments in the three months prior to the assessment.

Although 95% of armed clashes in Ukraine occur within 5 km on either side of the LoC, households' perception of the security situation in the 5 km area appears to have improved over the year prior to the assessment, though there is significant variation between settlements. As noted during FGDs, some communities (such as Komyshuvakha, Petropavlivka) are largely unaffected by conflict, while others continue to experience frequent shelling and landmine presence (such as Lebedynske, Berdianske, Sopyne and Troitske).

The vast majority (71%) of households along the LoC believe that their personal safety has improved over the year prior to the assessment, a particularly notable change compared with data from 2016, in which 61% of households reported a security deterioration[16]. While majorities across all strata reported improvement, the rate was lower in Luhansk Oblast where 62% reported improvement, and in rural areas where 63% reported improvement.

Figure 6. Perception of the change in the security situation in the year prior to the assessments
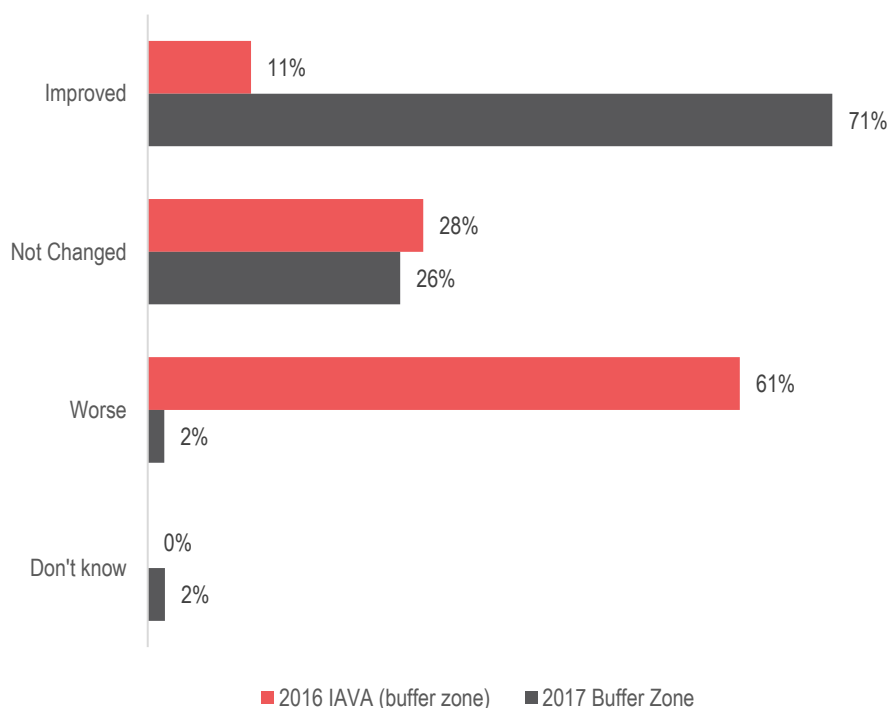
Legend: ■ 2016 IAVA (buffer zone) ■ 2017 Buffer Zone

Improved: 11% / 71%
Not Changed: 28% / 26%
Worse: 61% / 2%
Don't know: 0% / 2%

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[16] REACH, 2016. Inter-agency Vulnerability Assessment. Kyiv. Available online.

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Map 3. Frequency of shelling along the LoC as reported by assessed households
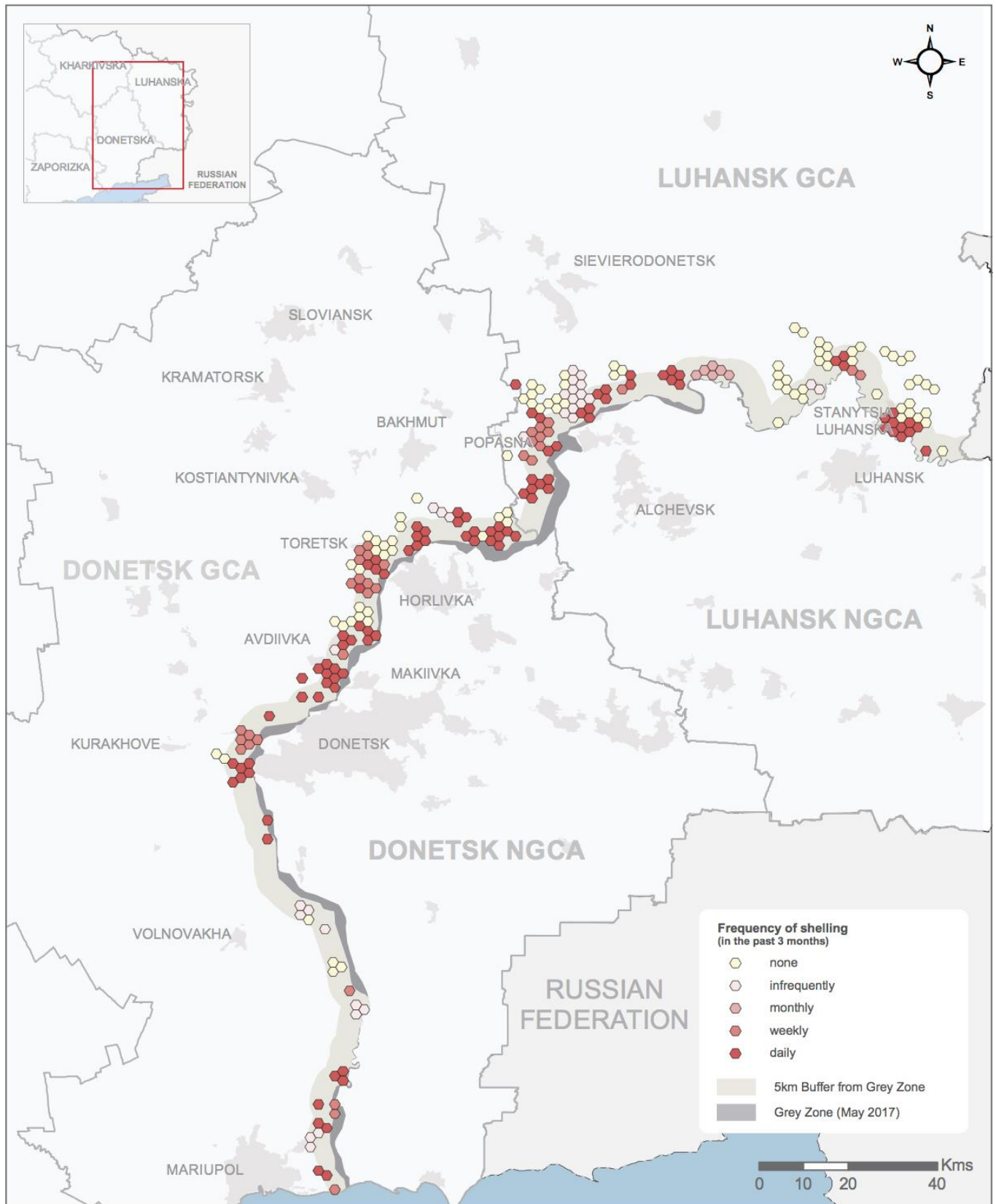
Despite this perceived improvement over time, households still reported significant security concerns, particularly relating to ongoing shelling along the LoC. This issue is significant across oblasts and in both rural and urban communities, though it was highest in rural areas, where 80% of households reported concern about shelling. Households in rural areas also reported the highest rate of concern about landmines and other UXOs, with nearly 43% and 48% respectively citing them as safety issues. Aerial threats appear to affect Luhansk Oblast significantly less than Donetsk Oblast.

Table 4. Reported household security concerns, 5 km zone 2017

	Total	**Donetsk Oblast**	**Luhansk Oblast**	**Rural**	**Urban**
Shelling	72%	71%	72%	80%	70%
Other UXOs	35%	30%	44%	48%	32%
Landmines	27%	22%	36%	43%	24%
Aerial threats	24%	34%	7%	24%	24%
No Concerns	15%	16%	13%	7%	17%

Across the entire 5 km area, just above half (51%) of households reported seeing landmines or other UXO in their community, with higher rates in Luhansk Oblast (59%). Landmines and UXO were more frequently reported in urban areas, although rural residents may be at greater risk, as 62% of the rural households that reported seeing landmines/UXOs had actually seen them near their household.

Table 5. Reported locations of landmines and UXO (of households who saw them), 5 km zone 2017

	Total	**Donetsk Oblast**	**Luhansk Oblast**	**Rural**	**Urban**
Urban areas	69%	68%	72%	45%	76%
Near household	43%	42%	46%	62%	38%
Agricultural land	14%	17%	8%	25%	12%
Near rivers/streams/dams	7%	9%	3%	9%	6%
Grazing land	5%	6%	3%	6%	5%
Elsewhere	2%	1%	4%	4%	1%

From a social protection perspective, a large percentage of households (66%) reported at least one member receiving income from pensions. Of those, very few households reported having missed pension payments in the three months prior to the assessment, with only 0.4% and 1.5% of female-headed and male-headed households, respectively, who received pensions reporting having missed a payment respectively.

2017 has seen a reduction in reported household need for legal assistance. In 2016, 15% of households in the 5 km area reported the need for legal assistance, compared to only 9% in 2017. The need was only slightly higher in urban areas (10%) and Donetsk Oblast (10%).

ECONOMIC SECURITY

This section examines trends in economic security in the GCA of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts. As the conflict continues in a prolonged state, pressure on household income continues to build. This pressure is the result of high rates of unemployment and loss of access to many of the sources of livelihoods that were available before the conflict began. Reduced economic activity has led to a corresponding reduction in household income and spending, as households resort to coping mechanisms to make ends meet.

Access to markets and livelihoods continue to be a significant issue in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, especially along the LoC where disruptions have been the most pronounced. In 2015, 53% of households in the GCA and 63% in the NGCA reported challenges purchasing food in the market, due to access, availability, cost or other barriers[17]. The 2016 IAVA found that 20% of households in the Donetsk and Luhansk GCA had difficulty accessing markets, of whom 61% of IDP households and 53% of non-displaced households (ND) cited price as the prohibitive factor and 55% of IDP and 44% of ND households, respectively, cited transportation issues[18]. This compares to 21% of households in the 5 km area in 2017 who reported problems accessing food markets. The World Bank reports that there has been some convergence between the socio-economic status of IDPs and NDs, however they note that this convergence is due to a socio-economic deterioration of both populations rather than an improvement of the IDP economic situation[19].

Figure 7. Household primary income source in 2016 and 2017
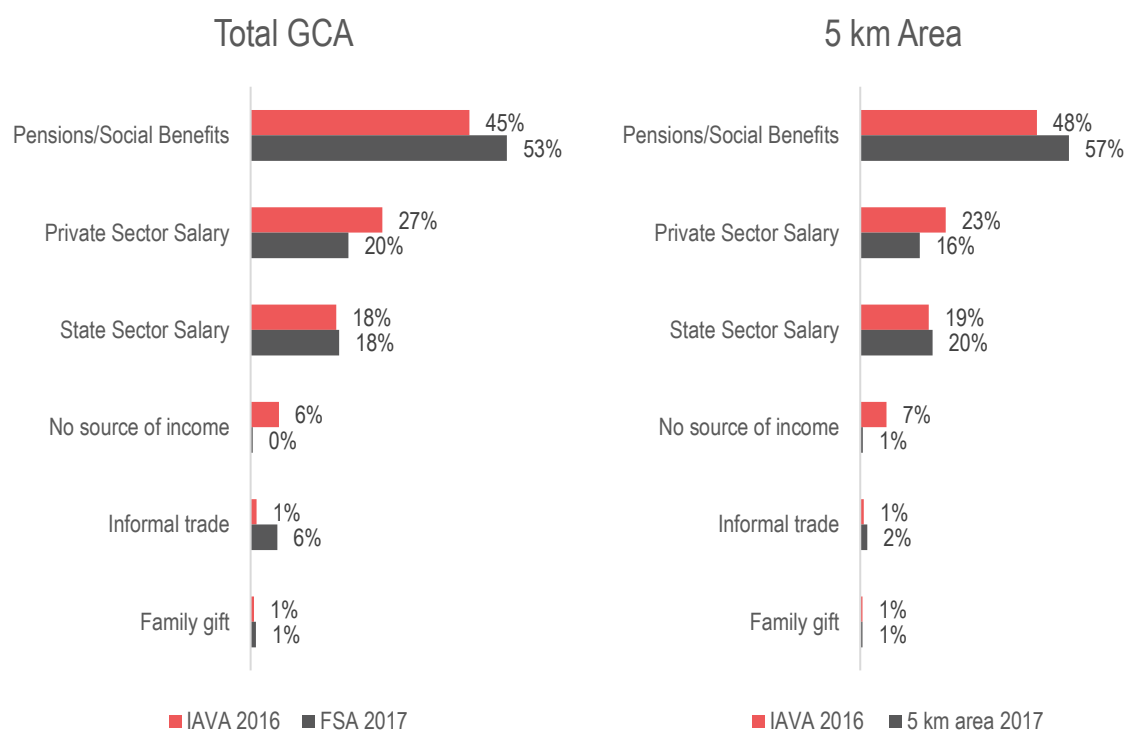
The 2016 IAVA report and 2017 Food Security Assessment (FSA) report used similar methodology and question phrasing in their assessment of primary sources of income, and conclusions can therefore be drawn longitudinally about trends in primary household income sources.

The percentage of households relying on pensions and social benefits (including IDP payments) increased from 45% to 53% between 2016 and 2017, while the percentage of households receiving income from private sector salary decreased from 27% to 20%. A similar proportion of households relied on state sector employment. A lower

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[17] ACAPS, 2015. Ukraine Multi-Sector Needs Assessment Report. Available online.
[18] REACH, 2016. Inter-agency Vulnerability Assessment. Kyiv. Available online.
[19] World Bank, 2017. Summary Report. Available online.

proportion of households reported having no income (from 6% to 0.4%) and a higher proportion reported engaging primarily in informal trade (from 1% to 6%).

Reliance on pensions and social benefits was even higher in the 5 km zone than in other areas of the GCA. This corresponds with lower proportions of households reporting reliance on employment in the private sector as their primary income source. High reliance on pensions can be explained by the high proportion of retired heads of household (53%), especially in rural areas where 60% of households are headed by a retired person. Within the 5 km zone, rates of unemployment of heads of households are highest in rural areas.

Table 6. Employment status of head of household, 5 km zone 2017

	Total	Donetsk Oblast	Luhansk Oblast	Rural	Urban
Retired	53%	54%	51%	60%	52%
Employed	33%	30%	37%	20%	35%
Unemployed	13%	14%	10%	20%	11%
Physically unable to work	2%	2%	1%	0.4%	2%

A lack of demand for employees was the most reported reason for head of household unemployment (20%), followed closely by a lack of means of transport (18%) and low salaries (17%). Disaggregating further, more households reported a lack of demand (39%) as well as lower salaries for employees (32%) as contributing factors to unemployment in Luhansk Oblast than in Donetsk Oblast. FGD participants noted that people in rural areas often look for work in urban areas, and many of those that cannot find appropriate work increasingly resort to dangerous or illegal work such as woodcutting on mined land or agricultural activity in proximity to NGCA armed actors. Rural households reported lack of transportation as a much larger driver of unemployment in rural areas (31%) than urban areas (14%).

Table 7. Perceived reasons for head of household unemployment (of households with unemployed head), 5 km zone 2017

	Total	Donetsk Oblast	Luhansk Oblast	Rural	Urban
No Demand	20%	13%	39%	16%	22%
No transport to jobs	18%	18%	18%	31%	14%
Low salaries	17%	12%	32%	18%	17%
Crossing checkpoints in GCA	9%	9%	9%	12%	8%
Livelihood assets destroyed	9%	10%	4%	7%	9%
Place of work is insecure	9%	9%	7%	10%	8%
Lack of skills	5%	2%	13%	3%	6%
Discrimination	4%	6%	0%	3%	5%
Lack documentation (ex. Passport, birth certificate)	2%	3%	0%	1%	2%

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Map 4. Access points between GCA and NGCA, September 2017[20]

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FOOD SECURITY

This section examines trends in food security in the GCA and more specifically in the 5 km area around the LoC. The analysis shows a deterioration of the food security situation in both regions. The majority of food security assessments were conducted in the summer months and the deterioration of the food security situation likely does not consider the additional potential burdens of the seasonality of food availability, as summer months in Ukraine feature a greater diversity of available food products in markets, potentially influencing food consumption patterns.

With the increasingly tenuous economic situation along the LoC, households have become less food secure and have reduced the diversity of their diets over the last year. The 2017 FSA report found that since 2016, the proportions of moderate and severe food insecure households have increased from 6% to 15% in Donetsk Oblast and 10% to 14% in Luhansk Oblast GCA[21]. The report hypothesizes that the significant increase has several potential factors, including increasing food prices, higher costs of consumer goods, unemployment, decreasing wages, and a reduction in humanitarian assistance.

The 2017 REACH 5 km area household assessment utilized the World Food Programme's (WFP) Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators (CARI) methodology to calculate food consumption scores for households living near the LoC[22]. Since last year, the rate of households near the LoC with poor or borderline food consumption scores has increased from 11%[23] to 14%. Furthermore, 48% of households are spending more than half of their expenditure on food, which in the CARI framework contributes to lower levels of household food security.

Table 8. Comparison of household food consumption scores across time

Food Consumption Score	August 2016 (IAVA 5 km area)	June 2017 (FSA GCA Rural)	September 2017 (5 km area)
Poor	1.9%	2.3%	2.3%
Borderline	8.9%	11.4%	11.2%
Acceptable	89.2%	86.4%	86.5%

Table 9. Share of household expenditure on food, 5 km zone 2017

Share of household expenditure on food	Percent of households
Less than 50%	52%
50%-65%	28%
66%-75%	16%
More than 75%	5%

The increasing proportion of food insecure households can be partly attributed to building pressure on food markets caused by the ongoing reduced access to large cities in the NGCA. A higher proportion of rural households reported difficulty accessing food markets than urban households, with 48% of rural households in the 5 km area reporting problems accessing food markets, compared to only 15% of urban households. Such barriers to market access were primarily due to difficulty physically accessing markets for rural populations (cost of transport was reported by 55% of rural households, lack of transport by 51%) as well as the high price of goods for urban populations (42%). Over a fifth of both urban and rural households with problems accessing food markets reported crossing checkpoints as a barrier to access, though more detailed explanation of the barrier posed by checkpoints remains to be researched.

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[21] FSC, 2017. Joint Food Security Assessment. Available online.
[22] WFP, 2015. Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators (CARI). Available online.
[23] REACH, 2016. Inter-agency Vulnerability Assessment. Kyiv. Available online.

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Figure 8. Reported barriers to food market access, 5 km zone 2017
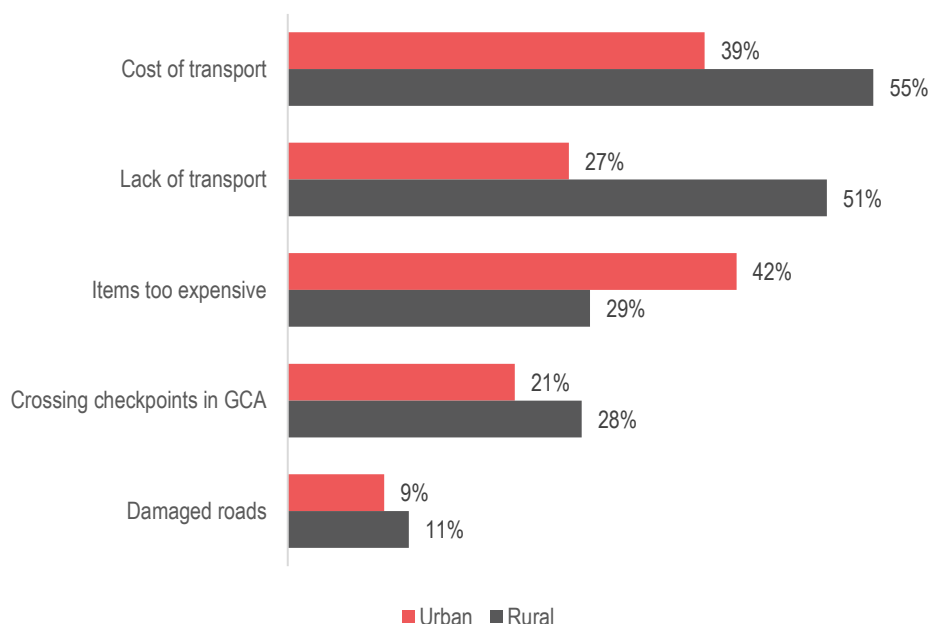
Despite a greater proportion of rural households reporting barriers to accessing food markets, there was very little variation in food consumption patterns between urban and rural populations along the LoC (see Tables 10-11). The data was similarly uniform when disaggregating by oblast. 2016 IAVA assessment found little variation between food consumption patterns between IDP and ND households in the GCA, implying relatively uniform food consumption patterns across many strata of the population in the conflict area.

This trend was also highlighted during FGDs with enumerators, which concluded that physical market facilities can only be found in larger settlements. Enumerators noted that in some smaller communities, "portable shops," or trucks carrying produce for sale, provided food and NFI products to smaller settlements.

Table 10. Number of days key food groups were consumed in the seven days prior to the assessment by rural households

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cereals	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	6%	2%	90%
Roots	0%	0%	1%	2%	3%	9%	2%	83%
Vegetables	0%	1%	3%	7%	5%	11%	3%	71%
Fruit	8%	4%	13%	15%	6%	14%	2%	39%
Meat	18%	23%	25%	12%	2%	9%	1%	10%
Eggs	8%	4%	13%	16%	8%	14%	3%	34%
Pulses	74%	9%	11%	3%	1%	1%	0%	1%
Dairy	18%	9%	16%	17%	7%	12%	3%	17%
Oil	4%	3%	6%	4%	5%	4%	2%	73%
Sugar	2%	1%	4%	3%	5%	8%	1%	77%
Condiments	1%	0%	0%	2%	0%	1%	1%	94%

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Table 11. Number of days key food groups were consumed in the seven days prior to the assessment by urban households

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cereals	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	6%	0%	92%
Roots	0%	0%	1%	6%	5%	9%	2%	77%
Vegetables	0%	0%	4%	8%	8%	9%	4%	67%
Fruit	6%	3%	16%	18%	7%	14%	4%	33%
Meat	16%	23%	22%	14%	6%	9%	1%	8%
Eggs	8%	9%	17%	21%	7%	14%	4%	19%
Pulses	76%	9%	10%	3%	1%	1%	0%	0%
Dairy	13%	15%	18%	20%	5%	11%	3%	16%
Oil	3%	0%	4%	5%	5%	8%	2%	73%
Sugar	6%	1%	4%	4%	3%	4%	0%	78%
Condiments	2%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	95%

HOUSING

This section examines trends in availability, access to and quality of shelter. Housing remains a significant issue in the area near the LoC due to ongoing shelling and damage to property. The percentage of households reporting such damage appears to have increased slightly in the last year, though most damage to accommodation reported was centred around windows and roofs of dwellings, which may be easier to repair than structural damage.

Shelter

Access to adequate shelter remains a pressing issue, especially in the period approaching winter as the capacity of households to cope with cold weather comes into question. Across the 5 oblasts of eastern Ukraine, the 2015 Shelter and NFI assessment reported that 55% of households that rented housing lacked adequate resources for renting shelter, and 20% reported insufficient protection from inclement weather[24]. This problem appears to be much greater with regards to thermal insulation for IDP households: 53% of IDP households in the eastern Ukrainian oblasts reported having insufficient insulation, and a slightly higher proportion in rural areas at 56%.

Data for 2016 is less disaggregated, giving us a larger picture of the issue with IDPs, but lacking the detail in many cases to make direct comparisons across timeframes. Nationally, IDP households appear to have fared slightly better, with 15% reporting dissatisfaction with the thermal insulation of their living space and 14% reporting problems in the heating systems[25]. Overall, 14% of IDP households reported dissatisfaction with current living space conditions across Ukraine. This is significantly less than the 28% reported the year before, but over a wider geographic scope, including areas with better infrastructure and weatherization in western Ukraine[26].

Shelter Type

In contrast to the five oblasts of eastern Ukraine, where between one half and two thirds of households rent their housing[27], the vast majority of households in the 5 km area live in self-owned accommodation (94%). This trend held true for all disaggregations, with over 90% of households owning their accommodation across urban and rural areas in both Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts. Furthermore, 91% of households had a Ukrainian-government recognized contract to prove property ownership or a formal rental agreement. This trend also held strongly across oblasts and settlement types, with rural households being slightly less likely to have a legalised contract (88%).

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[24] Shelter Cluster, 2015. Shelter & NFI Needs Assessment. Kyiv. Available online.
[25] National Monitoring System, 2016. Available online.
[26] ACAPS, 2015. Ukraine Multi-Sector Needs Assessment Report. Available online.
[27] Shelter Cluster, 2015. Shelter & NFI Needs Assessment. Kyiv. Available online.

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Table 12. Reported accommodation types, 5 km zone 2017

	Total	Donetsk Oblast	Luhansk Oblast	Rural	Urban
Self-owned accommodation	94%	93%	96%	92%	94%
Rented accommodation	4%	5%	1%	2%	4%
Free accommodation, paying utilities	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%
Hosted by someone	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%

A much higher rate of IDP households reported renting housing than ND households, with 38% of IDP households surveyed living in rented accommodation and 32% living in free accommodation, compared to 2% and 1% of ND households, respectively. As with previous IDP data from the area along the LoC, this statistic is indicative but not generalizable due to the low total number of IDP households in the sample. However, a 2016 assessement found that 61% of IDP households across the GCA rented their accomodation[28]. UNHCR's 2017 participatory assessment highlighted that IDPs often struggle to find appropriate housing and face discrimination, especially for households with multiple members[29].

Table 13. Reported accommodation types, 5 km zone by household status

	ND	IDP
Self-owned home	97%	21%
Rented accommodation	2%	38%
Free accommodation, paying utilities	1%	32%
Hosted by someone	0.2%	3%
Other	0.1%	5%

Shelter Conditions

Despite the apparent improvement in the overall perception of the security situation, more households reported partial damage to their accommodation in 2017 than in 2016, from 27% to 35%. This trend generally held for all strata examined, with urban households tending to have less damage to their shelter than rural ones. No urban households reported living in accommodation that was completely destroyed compared to 0.3% of rural households. Enumerators in the field reportedly observed high proportions of destroyed and abandoned property in many of the settlements that experience frequent shelling.

Figure 9. Reported damage to shelter, 5 km zone 2017
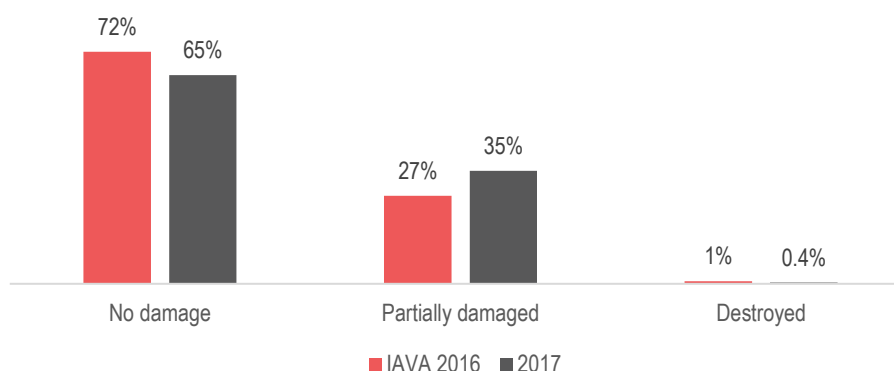
The type of shelter damage reported by households also showed little variation based on oblast or settlement type. Windows were the most frequently damaged component of shelter, with 78% of partially damaged housing reporting problems with windows. About half of households with damaged shelter (49%) reported roof damage, with higher

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[28] REACH, 2016. Inter-agency Vulnerability Assessment. Kyiv. Available online.
[29] UNHCR, 2017. Participatory Assessment. Available online.

percentages in rural areas (63%). Few households reported damage to floors, electrical wiring or water pipes in their accommodation.

Table 14 Damage to shelter by household location, 5 km zone 2017

	Total	Donetsk Oblast	Luhansk Oblast	Rural	Urban
Windows	78%	79%	77%	79%	78%
Roof / ceilings	49%	52%	45%	63%	45%
Walls	31%	31%	31%	30%	32%
Doors	22%	27%	13%	19%	23%
Floors	5%	6%	3%	3%	5%
Other Damage	4%	5%	2%	4%	4%
Electrical wiring	2%	2%	3%	1%	3%
Water pipes	1%	0%	3%	1%	2%

NFIs and Winterisation

Access to NFIs also continue to be a significant issue for populations living near the conflict area. In 2015, 45% of households in the 5 eastern Ukrainian oblasts had problems accessing NFIs[30]. Additionally, a strong correlation between income levels and access to NFIs[31] could become a problem in winter months, as lower income households have less financial resources to acquire the NFIs needed for safe winterization and personal insulation. This issue is particularly important considering that 98% of households with problems accessing NFIs cited a lack of financial resources as the primary barrier[32].

IAVA found that many of these NFI needs persisted in 2016, with both IDP households and ND households reporting significant gaps in access to the NFIs necessary for winter months in Donetsk and Luhansk GCA, and 29% of IDP households and 11% of ND households reported lacking winter jackets for at least one member of the household. Likewise, 32% of IDP and 16% of ND households lacked sufficient warm undergarments, 28% of IDP and 12% of ND households had an inadequate number of shoes, and 12% of IDP households and 4% of ND households did not have blankets[33]. While this assessment was conducted before the winter season, there is doubt about the capacity of households to purchase needed NFIs, especially rural and low-income households due to the additional cost and burden of travelling to settlements with functioning markets.

Along the LoC, the 2017 household survey found that the situation regarding access to NFIs has deteriorated compared to 2016. While a lower proportion of households reported lacking a movable heater (65% to 49%), a higher proportion of households lacked winter boots (21% to 35%), warm jackets (19% to 28%) and a warm blanket (5% to 13%) for all members of their household.

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[30] ACAPS, 2015. Ukraine Multi-Sector Needs Assessment Report. Available online.
[31] Shelter Cluster, 2015. Shelter & NFI Needs Assessment. Kyiv. Available online.
[32] ACAPS, 2015. Ukraine Multi-Sector Needs Assessment Report. Available online.
[33] REACH, 2016. Inter-agency Vulnerability Assessment. Kyiv. Available online.

Figure 10. % of households lacking NFIs for at least one member in 2016 and in 2017, 5 km zone

Movable heater — IAVA 2016: 65%, 2017: 49%
Winter boots — IAVA 2016: 21%, 2017: 35%
Warm jacket — IAVA 2016: 19%, 2017: 28%
Warm blanket — IAVA 2016: 5%, 2017: 13%
Bed sheets — IAVA 2016: 7%, 2017: 9%
Towel — IAVA 2016: 4%, 2017: 7%
Mattress — IAVA 2016: 9%, 2017: 5%

■ IAVA 2016 ■ 2017
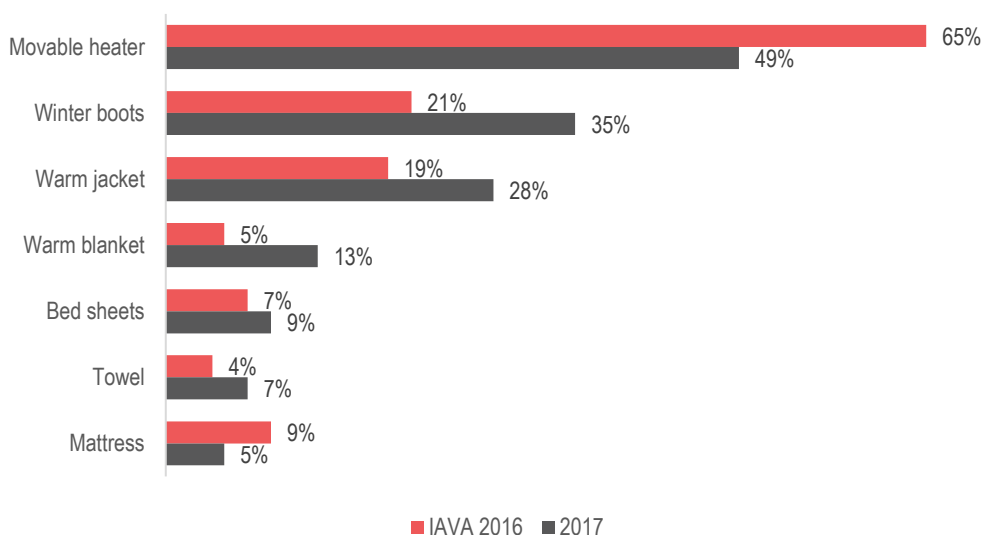
The proportion of households reporting a lack of NFIs was more pronounced in Luhansk Oblast than in Donetsk. In Donetsk Oblast, two-thirds (67%) of households reported having all necessary NFIs, compared to less than half (47%) in Luhansk. For example, households in Luhansk Oblast were more likely to lack access to winter boots (49%) for at least one member of their household than those in Donetsk Oblast (27%). Likewise, households in Luhansk Oblast were more likely to lack access to warm jackets (35%) for all household members than in Donetsk Oblast (24%). Disaggregating by settlement type yields no significant difference in access to NFIs.

Table 15. Households lacking NFIs for all household members by oblast and settlement type, 5 km zone 2017

	Total	Donetsk Oblast	Luhansk Oblast	Rural	Urban
Winter shoes/boots	35%	27%	49%	36%	35%
Warm jacket	28%	24%	35%	26%	29%
Blanket	13%	13%	13%	14%	13%
Bedsheets	9%	8%	12%	12%	9%
Towel	7%	8%	5%	8%	7%
Mattress	5%	5%	4%	9%	4%
Don't know/NS	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%
Household has all items	60%	67%	47%	58%	60%

Moderate proportions of the households assessed also reported a lack of other household items, the most common being kitchen/dishwashing soap and shampoo. These reported needs varied little between oblasts and settlement types, and more than half of households in the 5 km zone reported not needing any of the additional NFIs.

Table 16. Households reporting lack of the following NFIs by oblast and settlement type, 5 km zone 2017

	Total	Donetsk Oblast	Luhansk Oblast	Rural	Urban
Kitchen / dishwashing soap	35%	36%	34%	37%	35%
Shampoo	30%	27%	36%	34%	30%
Sanitary products	8%	8%	7%	9%	7%
Child diapers	4%	5%	3%	3%	4%
Adult diapers	3%	2%	4%	3%	3%
None needed	56%	59%	52%	54%	57%

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ACCESS TO SERVICES

Education

This section examines trends in access to and quality of education in Eastern Ukraine and the conflict area. The education sector has seen improvement in several key areas with a higher proportion of households enrolling their children than had intended and improved access to services in schools, both in rural and urban areas of the 5 km area. Significant protection issues persist due to shelling near schools, with 80 education facilities requiring infrastructure repairs and 15 that were non-functional at the time of assessment.

In 2014, prior to the conflict, school enrollment rates across Ukraine were 98% for children aged 6-14 and 59.9% for children aged 15-17[34]. More recent data for overall school enrollment rates in the NGCA, especially in and around the conflict area, are not currently available.

These high rates of school enrollment appear to have decreased at the beginning of the conflict, and recuperated somewhat in the years that followed. The Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) In March 2015 reported that only 68% of households in the GCA of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts were capable of sending all of their school-aged children to school[35]. In the same region, 20% of schools were damaged or non-functioning at the time and 74% of schools in areas of frequent fighting were damaged. Data from 2016 IAVA show that 94.6% of households with school-aged children sent at least one child to school in the previous school year, implying an improvement in access to education over the period of time since the 2015 report[36]. Indeed, it was found that nationally, in 2016 only 3.2% of IDP households faced situations in which education was fully unavailable, with an additional 14.7% noting that it was available with complications[37]. The IAVA data shows that non-attendance rates for pupils in the urban areas were higher (6.8%) than in rural areas (4.4%) in the Donbas GCA, potentially reflecting the greater risk of damage to schools and other infrastructure in urban areas.

In 2016, only 78% of households in the 5 km zone indicated that they planned to send all of their school-aged children to school in the following year. In 2017, however, 92% of households reported that they had sent their school-aged children to school, therefore 14% of households did not plan to send their children to school but ended up sending them.

Figure 11. Household intent to enroll all children in school for the 2016-2017 school year vs. reported enrollment following the completion of the year, 5 km zone

Intent to enrol (2016)	78%
Children enrolled (2017)	92%

While there are many potential interpretations of the increase in enrollment, 2017 data show significantly improved services in schools in the 5 km zone from the year before, including more schools providing sports/extracurriculars, drinking water, heating, psychosocial support, free lunch and free books. Adequate heating in school facilities has particularly increased. In 2016, 53% of ND and 36% of IDP households reported a lack of adequate heating in school facilities in the Donetsk GCA, and 15% of ND and 12% of IDP households in Luhansk GCA. Looking more closely at the area along the LoC, in 2016, 58% of households reported having suitable heating available at schools, a proportion which increased significantly to 90% in 2017. Heating was not the only concern of households with children in school. Availability of psychosocial support has also improved dramatically over the last year, from only

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[34] ACAPS, 2015. Ukraine Multi-Sector Needs Assessment Report. Available online.
[35] Ibid.
[36] REACH, 2016. Inter-agency Vulnerability Assessment. Kyiv. Available online.
[37] National Monitoring System, 2016. Available online.

16% of households reporting in 2016 that there was adequate psychosocial support available in schools to 66% in 2017.

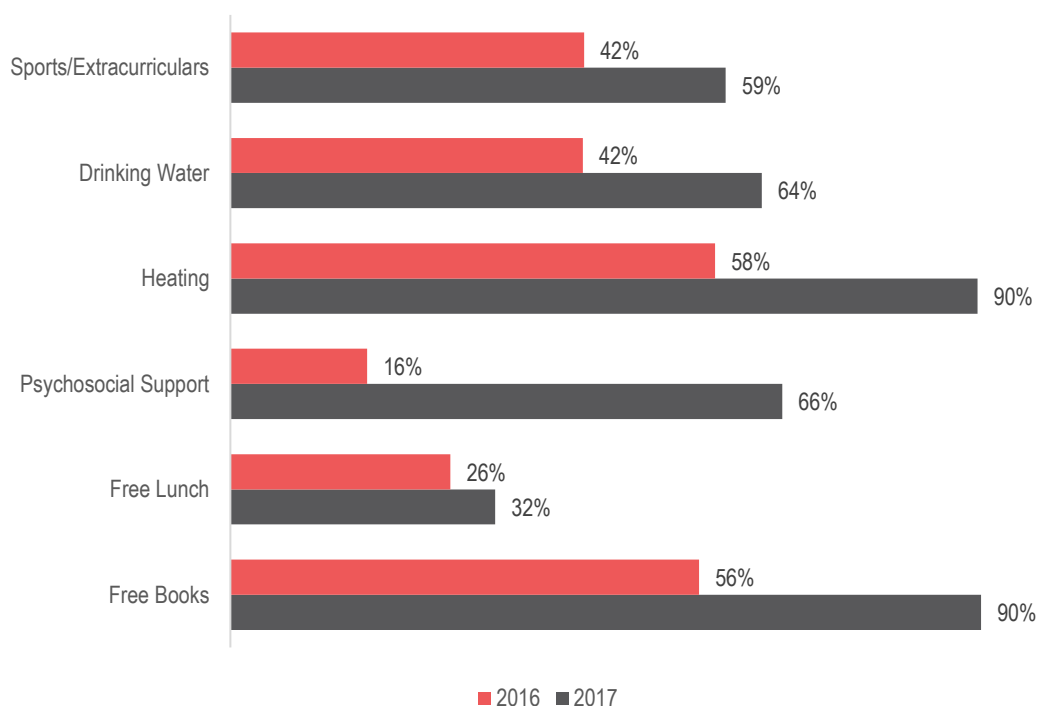**Figure 12. Availability of services in schools along the LoC in 2016 and 2017**

	2016	2017
Sports/Extracurriculars	42%	59%
Drinking Water	42%	64%
Heating	58%	90%
Psychosocial Support	16%	66%
Free Lunch	26%	32%
Free Books	56%	90%

■ 2016 ■ 2017

Table 17. Reported availability of school services by oblast and settlement type, 5 km zone 2017

	Total	Donetsk Oblast	Luhansk Oblast	Rural	Urban
Functional toilets	95%	92%	98%	95%	95%
School books (free)	90%	85%	97%	87%	90%
Heating	90%	83%	99%	91%	89%
Lunch (paid)	68%	71%	64%	62%	69%
Psychosocial support	66%	73%	57%	62%	67%
Drinking water	64%	60%	68%	70%	63%
Afterschool care	60%	68%	49%	52%	61%
Sports and extracurricular activities	59%	60%	59%	60%	59%
Safe playground	43%	47%	38%	37%	44%
Lunch (free)	32%	26%	39%	45%	30%
School books (paid)	23%	28%	15%	14%	24%
Don't know/NS	2%	4%	0%	3%	2%

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Healthcare

This section examines trends in access to and quality of healthcare. Populations in rural areas across Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts and both urban and rural households along the LoC continue to face barriers to accessing quality healthcare. This issue is exacerbated by the LoC cutting off access to facilities that are located in the NGCA, increasing both cost and distance for households to access other healthcare facilities located in the GCA.

Access to and quality of healthcare facilities have fluctuated since 2014. In 2015, 31% of households of the GCA and 32% of households of the NGCA faced problems accessing healthcare in the 30 days preceding the assessment in the area covering all 5 eastern oblasts of Ukraine[38]. Accessibility of care was a greater barrier than availability, with 73% of those households with problems accessing healthcare citing accessibility as an issue in the GCA and 89% citing accessibility in the NGCA. This issue was compounded by a lack of medicine, with 81% of rural households in the 5 oblasts noting insufficient medicine available.

The IAVA assessment from 2016 showed some signs of improvement, though this improvement appears to have deteriorated again in 2017. IAVA reported that 25% of the IDP population of the Donetsk and Luhansk GCA still experienced difficulties accessing healthcare. The issue was less pronounced for the ND population at 17%. In rural areas, 31% of IDP and 37% of ND households reported issuess in 2016, compared to up to 67% of all rural households surveyed in the 5 km zone in 2017. Likewise, in urban areas, 18% of IDP and 16% of ND households reported problems accessing healthcare in 2016, compared to up to 41% of all urban households surveyed in the 5 km zone in 2017[39].

Figure 13. Percent of households reporting problems accessing healthcare by oblast and settlement type, 5 km zone 2017
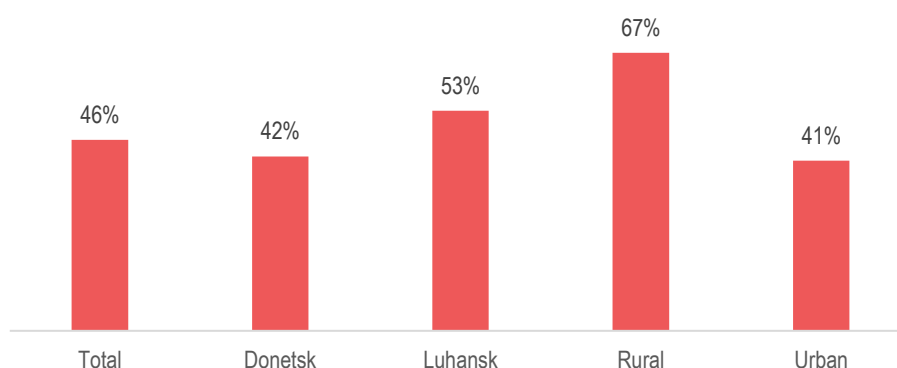
The 2016 National Monitoring System (NMS) for IDPs report cited similar obstacles to accessing healthcare for IDPs residing in the 5 eastern oblasts last year[40]. That report noted that 41% of IDP households in the 5 oblasts of eastern Ukraine reported healthcare either being fully unavailable or available with complications. This proportion is significantly higher than the one reported in the IAVA 2016 report, however it is difficult to assess the underlying cause of this discrepancy due to populational, geographic and methodological differences between the assessment. The NMS report covers the entirety of the eastern portion of the country, whereas the IAVA report covers the Donetsk and Luhansk GCA, and the 2017 assessment only covers the 5 km zone near the LoC. Furthermore, differences in questionnaire design may contribute to some of the variations in the findings between the assessments.Overall, however, it appears to be clear that significant segments of the population, particularly IDP and rural households, remain without adequate access to healthcare, meaning that significant challenges remain.

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[38] ACAPS, 2015. Ukraine Multi-Sector Needs Assessment Report. Available online.
[39] REACH, 2016. Inter-agency Vulnerability Assessment. Kyiv. Available online.
[40] NMS, 2016. Available online.

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Along the LoC, where travel is more hazardous and physical obstacles due to the conflict constitute additional barriers, there has been an increase in reports of difficulty accessing healthcare between 2016 and 2017, from 29% to 46% of households reporting that at least one household member had difficulty in 2017. This trend remains more of an issue in rural areas and in Luhansk Oblast, which tends to have fewer urban settlements.

Figure 14. Percentage of households reporting difficulty accessing healthcare, 5 km zone
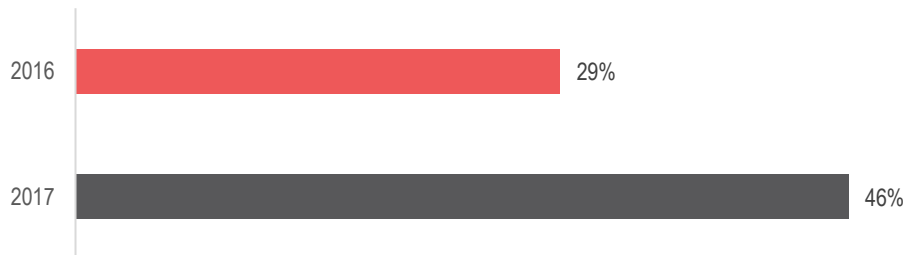
Examining reported barriers to healthcare access, more than half (51%) of households who reported problems accessing healthcare cited distance to facilities as a contributing factor, and 37% reported the cost of travel to facilities as an issue. The cost of medicine, however, remained the most reported barrier to healthcare access in the 5 km zone in 2017, reported by 74%. This coincides with the deterioration in the economic and food security situation, despite improvements in the security context of the region.

Figure 15. Reported barriers to healthcare access (of households that reported problems), 5 km zone 2017
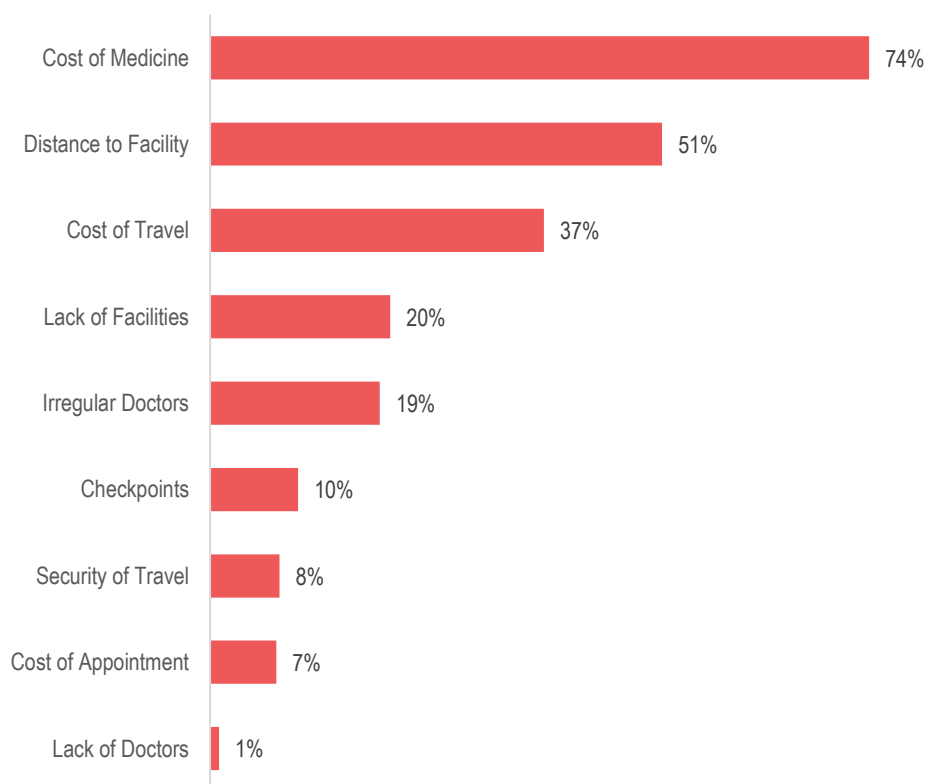
Despite access issues being a strong contributor to barriers to healthcare access, the majority of households in both urban (93%) and rural (70%) areas reported at least some functional medical facility within 5 km of their residence. For rural households, more specialized healthcare services are located significantly further away, with the majority of rural households located over 25 km from the nearest multi-speciality government hospital (53%). A lower proportion of urban (39%) households than of rural households (86%) reported issues relating to large distances to access specialized healthcare services.

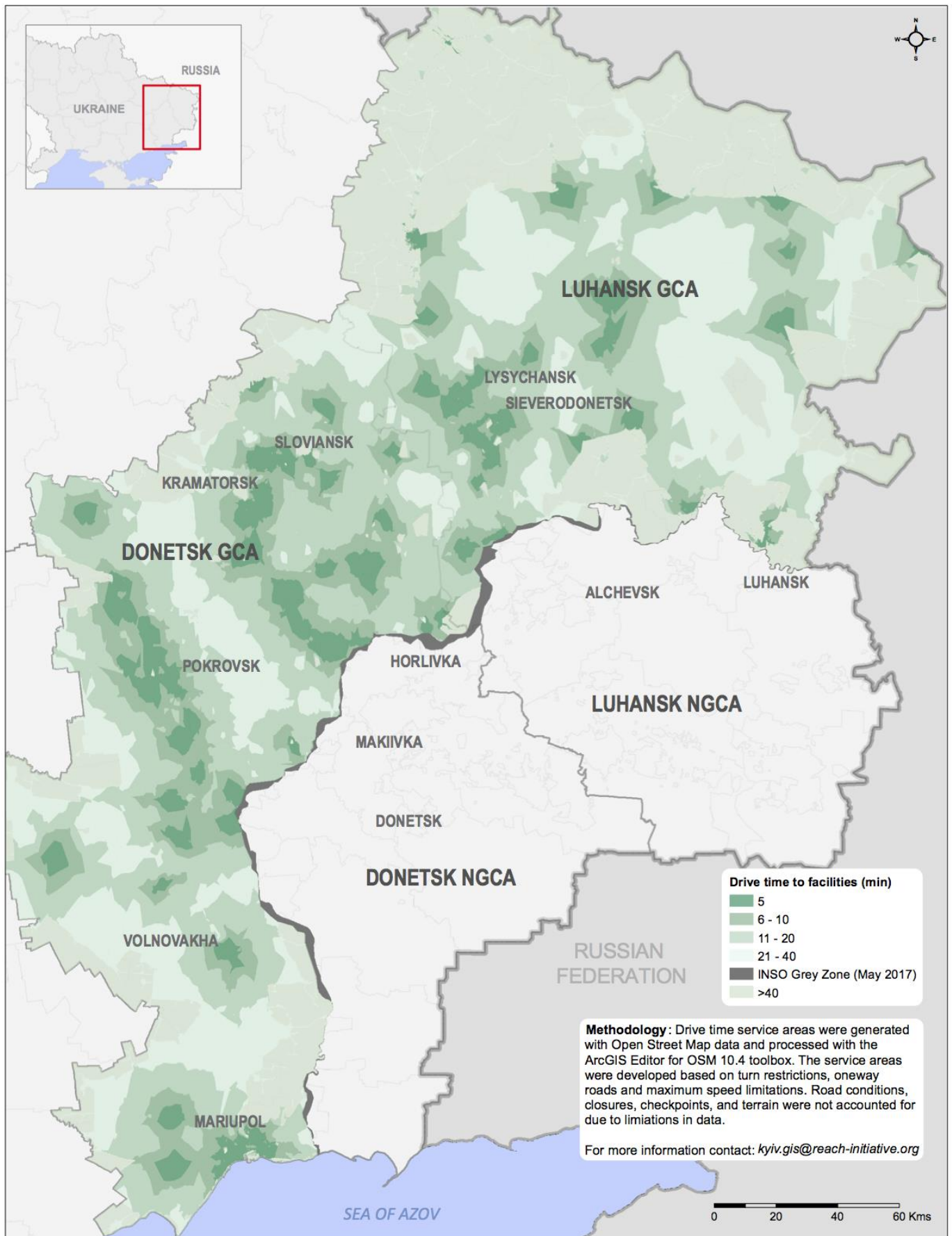**Map 5. Travel time to nearest medical facility, GCA**

Table 18. Distance to nearest functional healthcare centre, 5 km zone 2017

	Total	Donetsk Oblast	Luhansk Oblast	Rural	Urban
0-5 km	89%	93%	82%	70%	93%
5-10 km	6%	4%	11%	16%	4%
10-15 km	1%	1%	1%	3%	0%
15-20 km	1%	1%	1%	3%	1%
20-25 km	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%
Over 25 km	1%	0%	3%	5%	1%
Don't know	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%

Table 19. Distance to nearest private clinic, 5 km zone 2017

	Total	Donetsk Oblast	Luhansk Oblast	Rural	Urban
0-5 km	23%	24%	23%	1%	28%
5-10 km	7%	3%	14%	9%	6%
10-15 km	4%	3%	5%	3%	4%
15-20 km	1%	2%	1%	3%	1%
20-25 km	7%	6%	8%	5%	7%
Over 25 km	20%	18%	23%	39%	16%
Don't know	39%	46%	26%	41%	38%

**Table 20. Distance to nearest functional government multi-speciality hospital, 5 km zone 2017**

	Total	Donetsk Oblast	Luhansk Oblast	Rural	Urban
0-5 km	58%	59%	58%	6%	69%
5-10 km	9%	8%	12%	17%	8%
10-15 km	4%	3%	5%	7%	3%
15-20 km	5%	5%	3%	6%	4%
20-25 km	7%	6%	8%	10%	6%
Over 25 km	16%	17%	14%	53%	8%
Don't know	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%

Table 21. Distance to nearest private multi-speciality hospital, 5 km zone 2017

	Total	Donetsk Oblast	Luhansk Oblast	Rural	Urban
0-5 km	13%	20%	1%	0%	16%
5-10 km	1%	1%	1%	3%	1%
10-15 km	2%	2%	0%	0%	2%
15-20 km	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%
20-25 km	6%	5%	7%	3%	6%
Over 25 km	33%	22%	53%	50%	30%
Don't know	44%	48%	38%	43%	45%

Along with increased barriers to access, a slightly lower proportion of households reported having members with disabilities, though this decrease falls within the margin of error. Despite a reduction 17% of households still reported having at least one disabled household member.

Figure 16. Number of disabled members per households, 5 km zone 2017
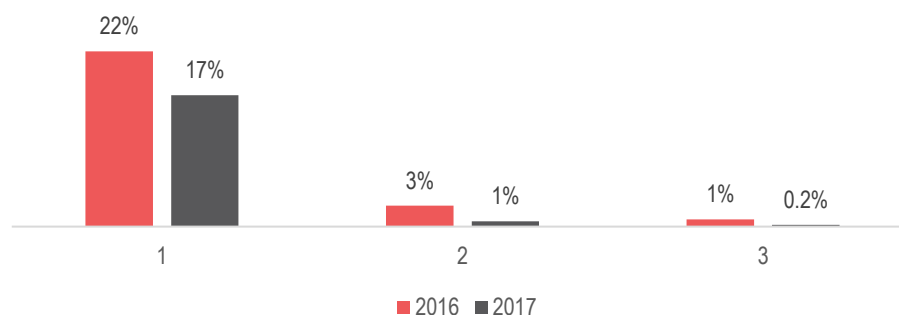
Most households do not know if they have access to psychosocial support for household members, though a higher proportion of households know about access for children than adults. Given the increased exposure to conflict and potential psychosocial trauma along the LoC, raising awareness of psychosocial services available to households could prove beneficial.

Table 22. Percent of households with access to psychosocial services, 5 km zone 2017

	Total	Donetsk Oblast	Luhansk Oblast	Rural	Urban
Don't know/NS	57%	56%	58%	62%	56%
No	10%	9%	11%	9%	10%
Only adults over 18	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Only children under 18	8%	10%	5%	5%	9%
Yes, all members	25%	24%	26%	24%	25%

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

This section examines trends in the WASH sector. Water shortages appear to be decreasing, with the percentage of households reporting daily water shortages half of what it was one year ago. However, a lower proportion of households are relying on piped water supplies, and there has been an increase in the percentage of households relying on untreated and unpurified sources of drinking water.

Data suggests that household access to water may be improving after a deterioration up until 2016, though issues around access to water remain significant. In the 2015 MSNA report, 82% of households in the 5 oblasts of eastern Ukraine reported always having access to safe drinking water, with a minority experiencing minor or major cuts, and around 6% with no access at all to safe drinking water[41]. Data from the 2016 IAVA report shows only 64% of the households in Donetsk and Luhansk GCA never experiencing shortages of water, with 30% reporting weekly shortages, 10% reporting daily shortages and 22% reporting infrequent shortages[42].

Along the LoC, a slightly smaller proportion of households experienced water shortages in 2017 (47%) than in 2016 (50%), however there has been a significant reduction in the proportion of households experiencing daily water shortages from 21% to 10%. This reduction goes with an increase in the proportion of households that sometimes experience cuts, though the overall trend (considering both daily and less frequent cuts) is towards a decreased incidence of water shortages over the last year.

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[41] ACAPS, 2015. Ukraine Multi-Sector Needs Assessment Report. Available online.
[42] REACH, 2016. Inter-agency Vulnerability Assessment. Kyiv. Available online.

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Figure 17. Proportion of households reporting the following water shortage incidence in 2016 and 2017, 5 km area
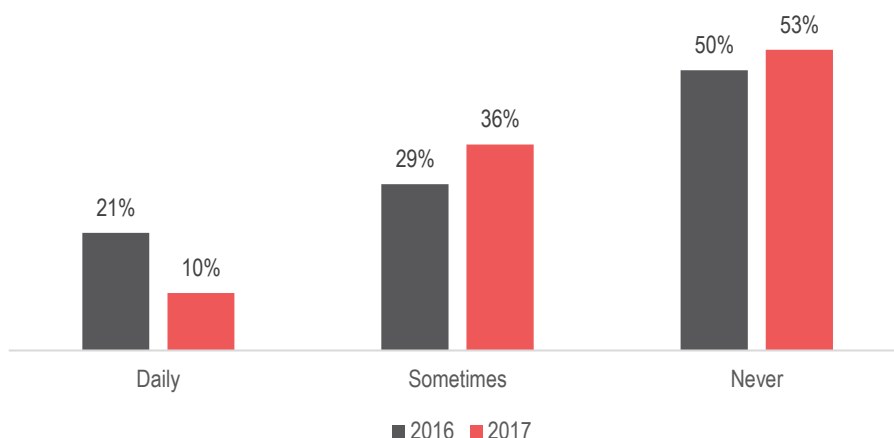

In 2017 in the 5 km area, higher proportions of households in Donetsk Oblast (50%) than in Luhansk Oblast (13%) and urban (40%) rather than rural (19%) households reported water shortages, likely due to rural populations' higher reliance on decentralised water sources. Though still the most prevalent source of water, the proportion of households reporting reliance on piped water as their primary water source decreased over the last year from 62% of households to 48% of households. Over the same period a higher proportion reported primary reliance on water trucks and dug wells as primary water sources, with the remaining sources being used at relatively similar levels as primary water supplies.

Table 23. Water shortage incidence rates by oblast and settlement type, 5 km zone 2017

	Total	Donetsk Oblast	Luhansk Oblast	Rural	Urban
No shortages	42%	34%	56%	24%	46%
Infrequent shortages	24%	31%	12%	10%	27%
Daily shortages	8%	12%	1%	8%	8%
Weekly shortages	4%	7%	0%	1%	5%
Not connected to water network	21%	15%	31%	56%	14%
Don't know	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%

Figure 18. Primary water source reported by households in 2016 and 2017, 5 km area

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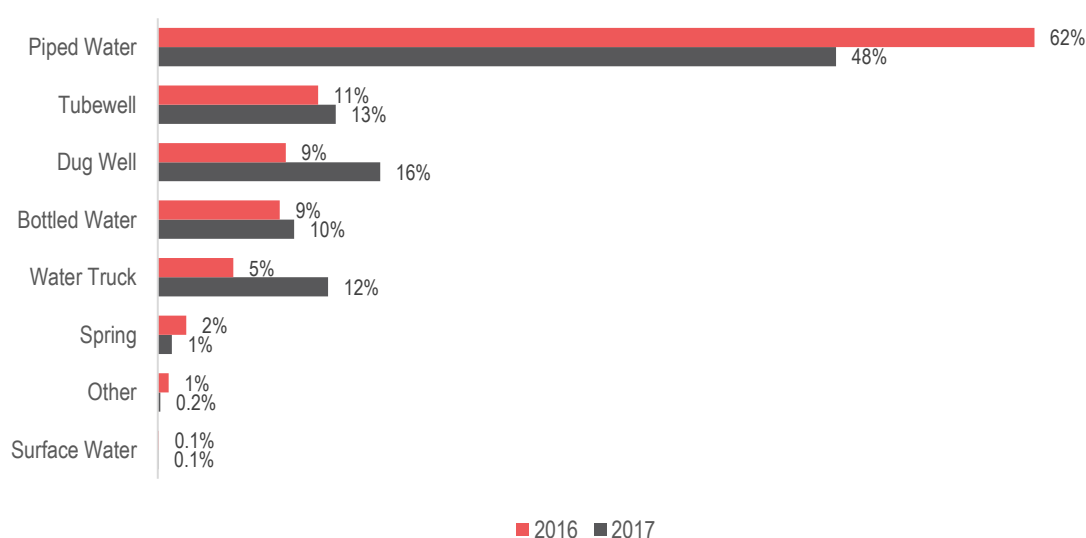
Further disaggregating primary water sources reveals the variation in primary water sources by settlement type, with less than one quarter of rural households using piped water as their main source of drinking water, compared to more than half of urban households. A significantly lower proportion of households in Donetsk Oblast reported reliance on boreholes as their primary water source (4%) than in Luhansk Oblast (28%), and a higher proportion reported using bottled water as their primary source in Donetsk Oblast (13%) than in Luhansk Oblast (4%).

**Table 24. Household water sources by oblast and settlement type, 5 km zone, 2017**

	Total	**Donetsk Oblast**	**Luhansk Oblast**	**Rural**	**Urban**
Piped water supply	48%	51%	43%	23%	54%
Dug well	16%	17%	14%	29%	13%
Tubewell/borehole	13%	4%	28%	32%	9%
Water truck	12%	14%	9%	9%	13%
Bottled water	10%	13%	4%	7%	10%
Spring water	1%	1%	2%	0%	1%

Figure 19. Percentage of households using untreated/unpurified drinking water, 5 km area 2016-2017

Along with an increase in the proportion of households using dug wells as their primary source of water there has been an increase in the percentage of households that are using untreated and unpurified drinking water. In Luhansk Oblast 5 km zone, just over half of households (51%) are using untreated drinking water. In rural areas, 53% of households reported using untreated drinking water. Donetsk Oblast and urban areas show lower proportions of households reporting reliance on untreated and unpurifies drinking water, with 24% and 30% respectively reporting using untreated drinking water.

Figure 20. Percentage of households using untreated/unpurified drinking water, 5 km zone 2017

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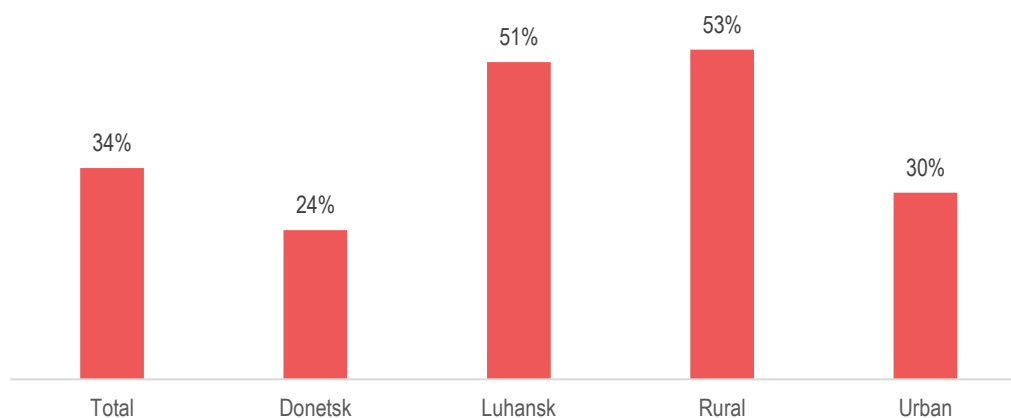
CONCLUSION

The trend analysis aims to allow humanitarian actors to understand the changing humanitarian needs over time, utilising significant secondary data review along with a limited household survey in the area along the LoC and FGDs with enumerators. While limited in scope in terms of primary data analysis, the findings of the assessment underline the importance of monitoring the situation in the Donbas to inform humanitarian decision makers.

After more than three years of conflict, active fighting and disruptions in services caused by the LoC continue to affect the population's ability to meet basic needs. Specifically, the results of the assessment show continued i) protection risks along the LoC, ii) significant deterioration in the economic security of households leading to increased food insecurity and iii) disruption of access to basic services due to regular damage to infrastructure. Along with these deteriorations, some sectors have seen improvement, particularly in education, where access to educational services has increased significantly, and WASH, which shows improvement in some areas and deterioration in others. These findings highlight the importance of continued humanitarian action to support populations living in areas of active conflict, and increased commitment from development actors to improve service delivery for conflict affected communities experiencing barriers to accessing basic services due to the conflict.

In 2018 the humanitarian community in Ukraine should closely monitor the situation in Donbas as the conflict continues. The data from 2017 confirmed that needs continued to increase due to the protracted nature of the crisis and the remaining conflict related risks affected the millions of people on both sides of the LoC. These risks are unlikely to disappear in the near future and a hastened departure of humanitarian actors in eastern Ukraine could significantly increase the vulnerability of conflict-affected households. This analysis shows that the crisis in Donbas can be summarized in three main geographies requiring different approaches to aid: the GCA areas close to the LoC, other GCA areas of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts and the NGCA. Local authorities showed professionalism and leadership by quickly responding to the needs of the population during the January-February uptake in violence in Avdiivka, signalling an opportunity to increase cooperation and partnership with Ukrainian authorities to potentially reduce the burden on humanitarian organizations in the GCA. Nonetheless, the disruption of basic service networks and active conflict near the LoC is putting pressure on local service providers and administrations.

The increased commitment to a 'new way of working'[43] and the 'humanitarian-development nexus' in humanitarian forums in Ukraine provide an interesting opportunity to adjust the aid strategy in Donbas to provide comprehensive assistance to competent local authorities to meet both the immediate and long term needs of populations in GCA. This process should be informed by strong evidence to clearly understand current gaps in local authorities' capacities to meet needs of their populations. Through joint analysis with development and humanitarian aid agencies these gaps could be supported until local service providers are able to meet these needs. This provides a potential way forward in bridging humanitarian and development action in the GCA.

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[43] OCHA, 2017. A new way of working. Available online.

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ANNEXES

Annex 1: Questionnaire. Available: http://bit.ly/2o0846N

Annex 2: List of Assessed Communities: http://bit.ly/2EpIK1r

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