

Winter Vulnerability Profiles of Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) Beneficiary Households

March 2023 | Ukraine

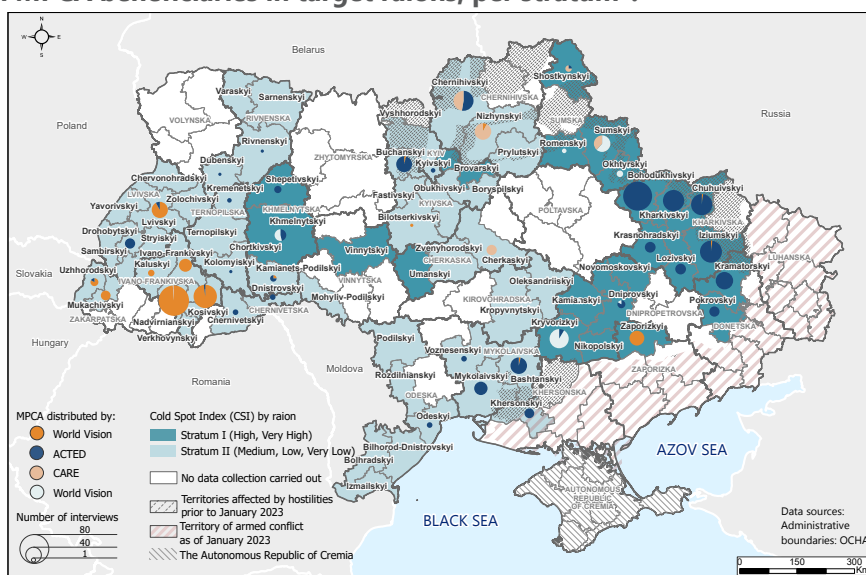
CONTEXT & RATIONALE

In the context of the winterisation efforts for the 2022/2023 winter season, [REACH's Cold Spot Assessment](#) identified so-called "Cold Spots". These are raions where harsher winter-related hazards compound with susceptibilities (eg., internal displacement; presence of older persons; etc.) and Lack of Coping Capacity (e.g., infrastructure damages caused by hostilities), particularly impacting people who already are in a vulnerable position.

This assessment, conducted in March 2023, focuses on the winter vulnerabilities of households (HHs) which received

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) from the Ukraine Response Consortium (composed by ACTED, World Vision, R2P and CARE) during the previous winter. Developed through consultations with the Cash and the M&E Technical Work Streams, it explores whether and how the MPCA was spent on winterisation items, and beneficiaries' perceptions of its effectiveness. The aim of this assessment is to provide an evidence base for the targeting and distribution of future winter-related MPCA, across areas with different levels of vulnerabilities and winter risk.

Map 1: Interviews with MPCA beneficiaries in target raions, per stratum*.



REACH's Cold Spot Index (CSI), conceived as a risk-assessment tool, assigned different levels of winter-related risks to raions. To assess whether these lead to heterogeneous MPCA beneficiaries' profiles or winterisation expenditures, two groups of raions, or Strata, were identified. Stratum I, in blue, comprises "cold" raions (where an higher CSI score is observed), whereas Stratum II, in lighter blue, comprises "warm" raions (with lower scores).

KEY MESSAGES

- In Stratum I, 45% of respondents reported that their basic needs went unmet**, 40% that their house was not adequate for winter, and 34% that it was damaged by the conflict. The main winter-related challenge was paying for heating: **33% spent the MPCA on buying solid fuel, especially in rural areas**, whereas 40% reported not facing any winter-related challenges.
- In Stratum II, the majority of HHs (68%) indicated they were displaced**, and 54% reportedly included infants or children. **MPCA was spent on utilities payments (42%) - mainly in urban areas - and on warm clothes or shoes (30%).**
- Only 21% of HHs relied on formal income** - other sources included humanitarian and government assistance. MPCA fully or partially covered the basic needs of 76% in Stratum I and 82% in II, and the winter needs of 73% and 79%.
- Cash assistance was the preferred assistance modality for winter-related needs for 89% of respondents, followed by utilities bills** (I: 5%; II: 4% - higher for rural residents), **home repairs** (4%; 3%) and **food** (2%; 4%).

METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

The population of interest was **Ukraine Response Consortium MPCA's beneficiary HHs**. Contact data was provided by partners through randomly chosen samples of their distribution lists. Beneficiaries **who received the MPCA between December 2022 and March 2023** were contacted for the study. Field work was then conducted by IMPACT in March 2023.

A mixed-methods methodology allowed to interview a comparable number of respondents across the two strata to allow for an **in-depth examination of the different dynamics, vulnerabilities and expenditures found across areas with different levels of winter-related risks**.

It comprised two components:

- for the **quantitative component**, 774 individual interviews with beneficiary households were carried out by phone:
 - 390 in Stratum I;
 - 384 in Stratum II.
- for the **qualitative component**: 22 interviews with key informants representing raion-level local authorities were finalised, half of which in person:
 - 10 in Stratum I;
 - 12 in Stratum II.

Executive Summary

Risk profile of Stratum I

Raions in Stratum I comprised those with a higher CSI, where harsher winter conditions, but also more acute vulnerabilities and lower levels of coping capacity were ascertained by REACH before the beginning of 2022/2023 winter season. Indeed, this assessment found **high levels of needs, a worsening economic situation, fragile housing conditions and widespread destruction caused by the conflict**.

To begin with, almost half of respondents reported not being able to meet their basic needs. **Employment patterns and the economic situation were also described as worsening**, both due to the destruction caused by the conflict and due to the fact that a considerable number of people either fled or was mobilised. Indeed, slightly **higher numbers of people above 60 years old** were present in this Stratum, as people with illnesses or mobility issues often decided not to flee their habitual place of residence, even when it was affected by the conflict or occupied by Russian forces. These raions were **severely affected by direct conflict damage**, such as shelling, artillery fire or bombardments. **Infrastructural facilities**, such as the electricity and utilities grid, were often targeted, as well as private housing. Although most local authorities reported being able to carry out the most essential repairs before the height of the winter season, **access to heating and warm water was a widespread issue**.

A particularly severe situation was found among **HHs living in rural areas** (whose percentages were higher in this stratum), where **private housing's winter adequacy was usually lower**, people living in remote locations had issues accessing humanitarian and government aid, and services were less often available.

Moreover, most HHs made use of **solid fuel for heating, which underwent significant price increases and supply line challenges**. As such, notwithstanding the delivery of in-kind aid for heating, **HHs still reported heating as their main winter-related challenge**, and in rural areas people resorted to collecting firewood in nearby woodland.

Risk profile of Stratum II

Stratum II raions were characterised by lower levels of winter-related risk, nonetheless, winter challenges were present in this area as well, and **specific dynamics related to displacement constituted an added source of vulnerability**.

Indeed, the **majority of interviewed HHs in this stratum reported being displaced**, living more frequently in rented accommodation, followed by IDP-specific housing. As westward displacement in Ukraine has been consisting primarily of mothers fleeing with their children, beneficiaries in this stratum included **significant numbers of infants and children, and of single female-headed HHs**.

Most IDPs reported receiving governmental and humanitarian aid based on their status, however only one in five HHs reported relying - at least in part - on formal income. Moreover, some tensions were observed in areas with high prevalence of IDPs regarding employment, often caused by a **mismatch of skills between the prevalently industrial East and the West**. While Stratum II was on average less affected by the conflict, **damages to the electric and utilities grid were still registered, alongside with scheduled electricity cuts**. This caused several issues related to heating and impacted IDP children who were following online classes. Some HHs reported relying on **electrical heaters**, often installed in order to diversify power sources, however this process was sometimes unregulated by local authorities, which might result in issues monitoring their usage. Moreover, **difficulties in facing the costs of heating bills were reported as the main winter-related challenge**.

VULNERABILITY PROFILES

Demographics of respondents

Demographic data was collected from MPCA beneficiary HHs across the two strata in order to understand whether different winter-related risk dynamics are present.

In Stratum I, older people made up a slightly bigger proportion of respondents (Figure 1), which results in age specific needs but also in the widespread reception of pensions. Moreover, people above 45 years-old were also more often living in rural locations.

As shown in Figure 2, in both strata female respondents made up the majority of the sample. However, **more female respondents were observed in Stratum II** (82%, vs. 74% in Stratum I).

Figure 1: Respondents' age

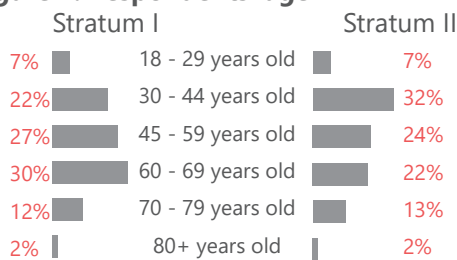
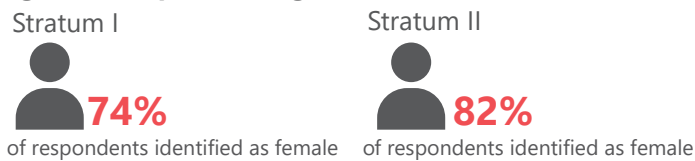


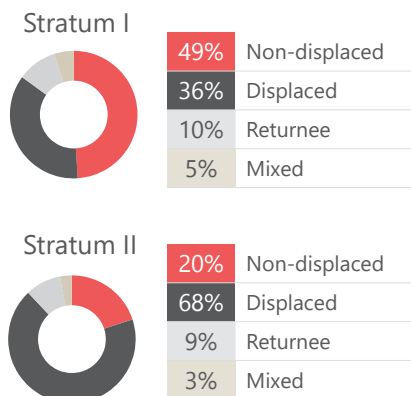
Figure 2: Respondents' gender



Displacement Patterns

The assessment registered self-reported displacement status in order to shed light on the differences in MPCA expenditures and winter vulnerabilities, which will be presented in the next sections. There is a stark variation between the two strata, with **much higher numbers of internally displaced people (IDPs) found in Stratum II, where 68% of HHs reported being displaced (Figure 3).** On the other hand, **in Stratum I, respondents most often reported being non-displaced (49%).**

Figure 3: % of HHs reporting on their displacement status



In fact, interviews with local authorities confirm that **displacement took place from eastern to western raions**, which largely corresponds to a move from the "colder" raions in Stratum I, to the "warmer" ones in Stratum II. These findings are also in line with the IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)¹, which consistently reported a general westward movement. Nevertheless, as indicated by KIs, **the main urban centres in Stratum I also experienced substantial IDPs inflow**, mostly intra-raion². This type of movement has been motivated by winter, as people moved towards major urban centres, where heating, utilities and services were more easily accessible.

Generally, KIs reported that for IDPs hosted in their communities the **main reason for fleeing their habitual residence was active fighting or shelling in the area and occupation by Russian forces**, followed by destroyed housing, lack of functioning utilities and difficulties with heating. **Winter was usually dismissed as primary reason for westward movement**, as it was described as warmer than usual.

Concerning returnees' movement, **some KIs reported that since the beginning of 2023, the number of IDPs in their communities started to decrease.** According to the HHs survey, in Stratum I 10% of respondents reported having returned, while 9% reported their return in Stratum II. IDPs **tended to relocate to their area of habitual residence shortly after it returned under the control of the Government of Ukraine.** Other factors such as the level of damage to the usual residence, the resumption of utilities, or a difficult living situation as IDPs (such as facing high rent or not finding suitable job opportunities) were described as secondary reasons. **As such, in case new areas become accessible in the near future, this might cause significant numbers of returns, even during the 2023/2024 winter season.**

The issue of returnees presents complex challenges for MPCA targeting and delivery. Indeed, a few KIs reported that **it was difficult to maintain records on the IDP community**, as government allowances' beneficiaries often failed to communicate their return or their further movement. Similar issues might arise in connection to humanitarian MPCA, as HHs movement might cause registration difficulties, or the sudden ineligibility of beneficiaries.

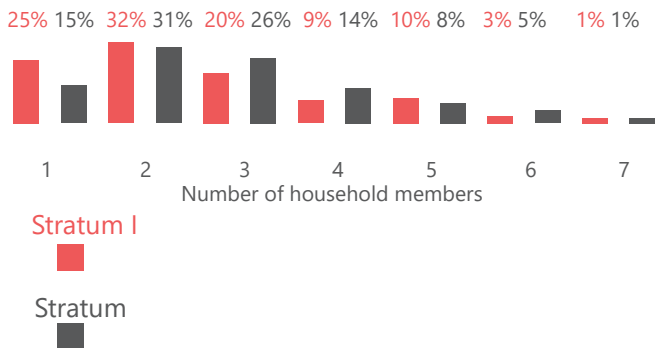
Household Characteristics

Household characteristics, such as its size and whether it is located in a urban or rural area are important measures of susceptibility, which can increase the challenges posed by the winter season, especially in conflict-affected areas.

First, **the most common household size was 2 people**, as seen in Figure 4. Belonging to an HH comprising more than 3 members, which is considered a source of vulnerability, was reported by 23% of respondents in Stratum I and by 28% in II. Single-person HHs might also be vulnerable and have specific needs; **25% of respondents belonged to single-person households in Stratum I**, whereas the percentage was 15% in Stratum II.

Second, **in Stratum I, 51% reported living in urban households**, 47% in rural and 3% in peri-urban; whereas **in Stratum II, 60% lived in urban locations**, 38% in rural and 2% in peri-urban. As it will be reported in following sections, considerable differences in heating sources and winter-related assistance were found in rural and urban settlements. For instance, a few KIs reported that **delivering aid was more difficult in remote areas**, and that **heating, electricity and services were less available**. As such, future assistance targeting winter-related risks could be tailored to the different needs of HHs living in urban or rural settlements.

Figure 4: % of HHs reporting on household size



Household Characteristics

In order to capture variations in the basic needs of beneficiaries, which can explain different levels of MPCA expenditures, data on households vulnerabilities was also collected. It is important to note that MPCA beneficiaries are expected to be characterized by higher levels of vulnerabilities than the rest of the population. This data can also help in verifying cash assistance's targeting. It is possible to discern interesting patterns among the two strata, some of which can be explained by the observed displacement dynamics.

First, beneficiaries were asked to report on the presence of HHs members in a vulnerable position in their household. As it can be seen in Figure 5, **the presence of older people, people with disabilities and chronically ill people is very similar across the two strata**, notwithstanding different displacement patterns. Indeed, KIs reported that it was **difficult for older people**

Figure 5: % of HHs reporting members in a vulnerable position*

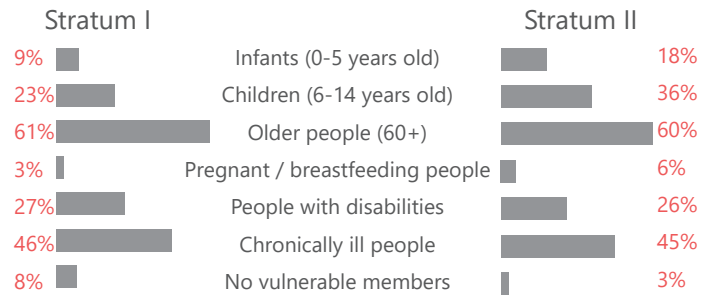
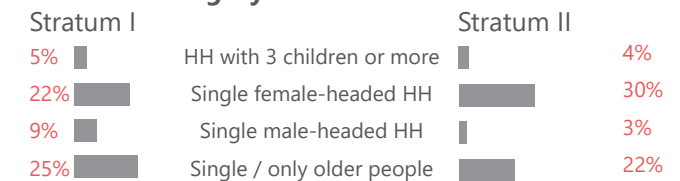


Figure 6: % of HHs reporting to belong to a vulnerable category*



and chronically ill people to move, as such they often remained in conflict-affected areas.

However, the influence of displacement patterns can be seen when comparing the number of HHs reporting to include infants and children: **Stratum II HHs comprised more infants and children (54% vs 32% in Stratum I)**, and **more pregnant and/or breastfeeding people (6%, vs, 3% in Stratum II)**. In fact, displacement mostly involved mothers moving westward with their children, whereas men often stayed behind and enlisted. Indeed, in Figure 6 it can be seen that there was an **higher number of single male-headed HHs in Stratum I (9% vs 3% in II)**, whereas **single female-headed HHs were more often found in Stratum II (30%, vs. 22% in Stratum I)**.

Relevant to MPCA targeting, KIs confirmed that **older people were the most vulnerable in their communities**, especially when they could not move or refused to evacuate conflict-affected areas. Others pointed to **people with disabilities, people who lived alone, families with many children, single mothers, low-income families and people living in remote villages** as the most in need of assistance.

All of these categories were targeted by state and / or humanitarian allowances, as the next section will elaborate on, however some KIs mentioned that **non-displaced people who became unemployed because of the conflict were rarely eligible for aid**.

Moreover, another KI highlighted that conflict and displacement increased the **need for psychosocial services** in their community, which remained unmet.

WINTER-RELATED VULNERABILITIES

Income, Needs & Employment

Income sources constitute an important factor in gauging HHs' capacity to cope with winter and can offer some insight into respondents' degree of dependence from state or humanitarian aid.

Most HHs reported that **assistance from NGOs or from the Government was among their sources of income.**

This points to the fact that social protection, humanitarian aid and MPCA often **tended to overlap**, with people in a position of vulnerability receiving funds from many different sources. However, it is fundamental to consider that **public allowances have not been adjusted to the rising cost of living**, as reported by a few KIs. As such, an overlap of aid might not necessarily result in the fulfilment of basic needs or winterisation preparations.

Among respondents, **only 21% relied on formal income** in the 3 months prior to the interview (Figure 7). While the percentages are quite uniform across the two strata, results by type of location differ: **less HHs living in rural settlements reported relying on formal income** (Stratum I: 20% and II: 17%), which highlights yet another source of fragility for HHs residing in rural areas.

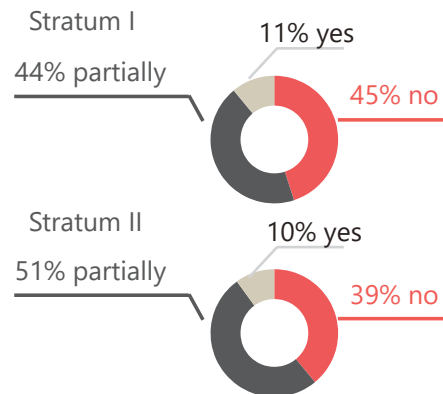
Moreover, **less displaced HHs reported relying on formal income**: 14% in Stratum I and 16% in II. On the other hand, in Stratum II high percentages of respondents reported receiving state allowances, which also include IDPs specific aid, as such, it seems that high percentages of displaced people were receiving State aid as well.

Lastly, **single female-headed households also reported lower reliance on formal income** (15% in Stratum I and 17% in II). As such, for these categories MPCA can be assumed to be more crucial in preparing for winter.

In Stratum I, 45% of HHs reported not being able to meet their basic needs, which highlights a widespread situation of vulnerability (Figure 8). Most respondents indicated that their unmet needs were **medical expenses, followed by utilities, clothing and food** (Figure 9).

Indeed, as WHO reports, winter is expected to increase health-related morbidity and mortality³, especially in the older population, which in Ukraine is present in the highest proportion of the world for a humanitarian setting⁴.

Figure 8: % of HHs reporting on their perceived ability to meet basic needs



Employment data collected from KIs also points to the widespread presence of serious economic issues, which contribute to the low level of reported formal income.

In Stratum I, many evoked a worsening economic situation due to the closing of businesses, the destruction of marketplaces or enterprises, and a reduced number of working-age people.

"The economic situation got worse, the occupation had a huge impact, the city was looted, people left. Small and medium-sized businesses stopped working by almost 90%".

KI in Kherson

Some KIs reported that **power cuts damaged industry**, whereas others reported that **agriculture was hindered by the presence of mines**. In some communities with a **higher numbers of IDPs**, KIs lamented that they were not eager to find work, which points to the **existence of some tensions**. On the other hand, a KI explained that there is often a mismatch of skills, as IDPs tend to come from industrial areas, in which average wages were considerably higher as well.

These dynamics contribute to the decrease in employment opportunities, making HHs less able to cope with higher than normal expenses, as it is often the case in the months preceding winter.

Figure 7: % of HHs reporting on their sources of income in the 3 months prior to the interview*

	Cash assistance from NGO / humanitarian organisation	State cash assistance (disability, child, IDP allowance)	Pension	Other types of state support	Formal Income	Support from friends / family	Cash assistance UN agency
Stratum I	77%	47%	64%	36%	21%	9%	12%
Stratum II	82%	74%	60%	37%	21%	10%	8%

Figure 9: % of HHs reporting on their unmet needs*

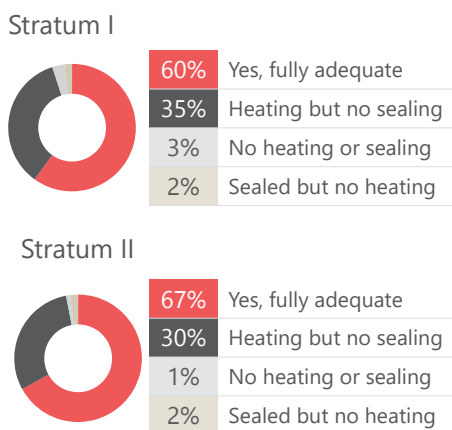
	Sample	Medical expenses	Utilities	Clothing	Food	Heating fuel	Hygiene items	Rent	Shelter repair material	NFIs	Education
Stratum I	346	62%	57%	26%	26%	17%	12%	8%	10%	6%	2%
Stratum II	344	58%	44%	30%	28%	13%	13%	14%	9%	8%	5%

* Multiple answers allowed

Adequate living conditions

Housing types varied considerably across the two strata (Figure 10), mostly due the different displacement patterns, which contributed to varying levels of winter risk. In **Stratum I**, where less beneficiaries reported being displaced, up to **62% of them lived in their own flat or house**, with the percentage rising to **77% in rural settlements** (vs. 48% in urban). Notwithstanding, **the percentage of housing fully adequate for winter** (that is, having both a heating source and being properly sealed) **was slightly lower** than in Stratum II (60% vs. 67%), a result mostly driven by the lower average adequacy of rural households (Figure 11). On the other hand, in **Stratum II**, 33% indicated living in rented accommodation and 21% in IDP housing. At the same time, **the majority of respondents reported their housing to be adequate for winter**.

Figure 11: % of HHs reporting on whether their housing is adequate for winter



Sources of heating

Sources of heating varied depending on the type of location and among strata. Moreover, conflict-driven disruption to the utilities infrastructure caused respondents to further diversify sources of heating, leading to the use of mixed sources, and to the adoption of temporary and makeshift solutions which might cause safety and environmental concerns in the near future. **First, gas and wood fire heating were more prevalent in Stratum I** (Figure 12), **especially in rural households** (for gas: **56%** vs. 48% in urban HHs; and for wood fire: **63%** vs. 23% urban). The widespread use of wood fire in rural areas (which is observed in Stratum II as well) is particularly significant as it raises **respiratory health concerns**, and it could also cause **environmental issues** if not adequately regulated. Several KIs reported that **individuals started to collect firewood by themselves, when woodland was nearby**.

This seems to be occurring due to rising solid fuel prices (**20% of HHs in Stratum I reported not being able to face heating costs**) and to the disruption of supply lines due to the conflict, as coal supply lines were interrupted due to the Russian occupation in areas of coal refinement.

On the other hand, in **Stratum II the use of electric space heaters** was reported by 24% of respondents - **more than double the respondents in Stratum I** (11%). Indeed, KIs reported that both individuals and businesses possessing centralized heating systems tended to install electric or solid fuel stoves; **which was only in some cases formally allowed by raion level authorities**. This dynamic needs to be monitored as electric heaters can pose safety risks, especially considering that a significant portion of HHs in this stratum was hosted in IDP sites.

Finally, respondents highlighted affordability challenges: **20% of HHs in Stratum I, and 16% in Stratum II reported not being able to face heating costs**. Nevertheless, especially in Stratum I, KIs reported that stoves and solid fuel were delivered and heating expenses allowances distributed to people in need by public authorities or humanitarian organisations⁵.

Figure 10: % of HHs reporting on their housing type

	Own house or	Rented house or flat	Hosted by relatives or friends	IDP housing (free of charge)	IDP housing (paying)	Others (renting a room, shared room)
Stratum I	62%	20%	10%	3%	3%	2%
Stratum II	27%	33%	9%	11%	10%	10%

Figure 12: % of HHs reporting on their source(s) of heating*

	Gas heating	Wood fire	Central heating	Electric space heater	Other solid fuel	Other (kerosene, propane air conditioner...)
Stratum I	52%	42%	21%	11%	5%	2%
Stratum II	48%	35%	23%	24%	6%	3%

* Multiple answers allowed

Conflict-related damage

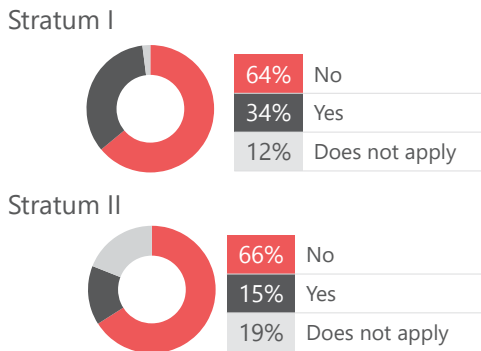
Damages to private houses caused by the conflict (direct fighting, artillery or shelling) can lead to increased vulnerability when facing winter, as damaged houses could lack proper insulation and owners might have to face additional maintenance costs.

As expected due to being mostly located in the East, **HHs in Stratum I more frequently reported damage to their houses** (34%, vs 15% in Stratum II), as seen in Figure 13.

KIs in Stratum I also tended to outline more **damages to infrastructural facilities, with a consequent disruption of utilities**. In areas previously occupied by Russian forces, KIs reported more widespread destruction.

On the other hand, a few raions in Stratum II were not affected by direct conflict damage, which might be a factor to consider when planning MPCA.

Figure 13: % of HHs reporting whether their dwelling was damaged by the conflict



Due to the timeline of the conflict, most damages from shelling took place in the last months of 2022, as such **many local authorities reported that key infrastructures were repaired before the height of the winter season**. In areas closer to the front line, where shelling was ongoing at the time of the interview, KIs reported that repairs proceeded continuously.

"Villages where 1000-1200 people lived are now almost completely abandoned".
KI in Bohodukhivskyi

Local authorities reported **receiving funds from Government and oblast authorities, or from humanitarian organisations and foreign governments** (especially, Poland, France, Germany, and U.S.). Some KIs explained that materials were delivered to citizens, who then proceeded to repair their own houses; others - especially KIs from areas in which there were more consistent damages - explained that the authorities had more discretion over the use of the funds, and decided whether it was worth to repair heavily damaged housing or it was better to build anew.

"Approximately 80% of the city center was destroyed or damaged during the hostilities: no heating was available, the factory and market were destroyed completely".
KI in Izium

Winter-related assistance

The last measure of vulnerability that will be taken into account is the extent to which HHs received winter-related assistance other than MPCA. This type of data could support efforts at de-duplication, and provide more complete information regarding the remaining winter-related needs of beneficiaries.

As seen in Figure 14, most HHs reported receiving some type of winter-related assistance. It consisted of food or **in-kind assistance** (Figure 15): specifically, KIs mentioned that their community received stoves and heating devices, warm clothes and blankets, solid fuel or allowances to purchase it, insulation or construction material, hygiene items and medical assistance.

Figure 14: % of HHs reporting whether they received winter-related assistance

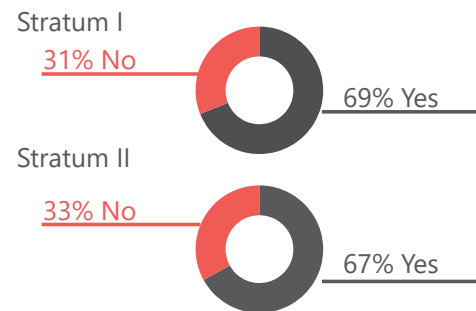


Figure 15: % of HHs reporting on the type of winter-related assistance received*

	Sample	Food assistance	In-kind assistance	Home repair assistance	Other
Stratum I	270	92%	40%	2%	3%
Stratum II	259	90%	53%	4%	4%

Nevertheless, the targeting of beneficiaries varied across raions. Generally, KIs suggested that most aid went either to IDPs or to vulnerable people - as identified by raion and hromada authorities. According to HHs survey data, **HHs living in rural locations received in-kind assistance more often than those in urban settlements** (74% in Stratum I and 73% in Stratum II).

Displaced HHs also reported receiving assistance more often than on average; whereas **returnees had significantly lower rates of winterisation-aid**, indeed, targeting approaches and issues in keeping track of their movements made this group particularly difficult to reach. Lastly, **female headed HHs, and HHs with 3 or more children indicated receiving assistance more often than other vulnerable categories**, especially in Stratum I.

While most KIs reported being satisfied with the assistance received, some **KIs reported that NGOs rarely directly coordinated with raion-level authorities**. This not only led to some inefficiency, but also resulted in local authorities being unaware of the organisation active in their territories, which is an issue especially for organisations mostly delivering MPCA, which tends to be a scarcely visible activity.

* Multiple answers allowed

WINTER-RELATED VULNERABILITIES

MPCA expenditure

Before delving into differences in MPCA expenditures for winterisation items, it is worth examining the main winter-related challenges, as reported by respondents.

In Stratum I, HHs more often reported not being able to afford heating expenses, winter items and shelter repairs (Figure 16). First, challenges in affording heating were already highlighted in previous sections, and prevalently affected beneficiaries in Stratum I, as stark increases in prices were registered - especially for solid fuel. Second, the higher incidence of conflict-related damage can be expected to result in an increased need to pay for shelter repairs.

Figure 16: % of HHs reporting on their main winter-related challenges*

	Cannot afford heating expenses	Cannot afford winter items	Cannot afford shelter repairs	Frequent power cuts	No such challenges faced
Stratum I	40%	19%	16%	12%	40%
Stratum II	27%	12%	12%	21%	48%

In Stratum II, respondents were also concerned about heating expenses (albeit in lower percentages), followed by frequent power cuts. Indeed, many KIs reported that electricity cuts were the main challenge during winter, as most areas were interested by scheduled outages. This was reported to be an issue especially for older people, people with reduced mobility, and IDP children following online classes. **In Stratum II, 50% of respondents reported experiencing electricity cuts often or sometimes**, whereas the percentage in Stratum I was 43%. Local authorities were provided with generators which were used in order to set up "invincibility points" open to the public. On the other hand, a very low percentage of respondents reported owning generators: **only 9% of beneficiaries in Stratum I and 8% in Stratum II reported owning a generator.** However, in rural areas these percentages were slightly higher: 13% in Stratum I, and 14% in Stratum II.

Moreover, **somewhat high percentages of respondents reported not facing any winter-related challenges.** This might seem surprising, however, as also seen when explaining movement decisions, **respondents tended to attribute their difficulties to the conflict instead of winter per se.** This could be a factor to consider for communications relating to upcoming winterisation aid.

In any case, as seen in Figure 17, the majority of HHs indicated spending MPCA on some type of winter-preparedness item. **In Stratum I, HHs most often reported spending MPCA on payments for heating fuel**, which is consistent with the findings reporting higher usage of solid fuel in Stratum I, with the related affordability and availability issues.

On the other hand, **in Stratum II payment for utilities was the most chosen answer**, as the heating infrastructure was usually functioning and electric heaters were also more widely reported. This was followed by expenses **for adults' and children's warm clothes and shoes.** Indeed, as briefly mentioned in the previous section, in-kind aid was most often delivered to Stratum I raion, an approach in line with recommendations agreed upon by humanitarian organisations and coordination clusters⁶. In addition, considering the higher percentage of displaced people in this Stratum, more HHs might have had the necessity of buying new winter clothes, in case they did not have the chance of bringing those with them when fleeing their habitual place of residence.

Expenses for blankets, quilts and heating appliances were more rarely reported by interviewed HHs; this might be due to the fact that - as KIs reported - this type of aid was almost everywhere delivered in-kind during the winter season.

Interestingly, **MPCA expenditures on shelter repairs were quite contained**, notwithstanding beneficiaries reporting the cost of these as a challenge especially in Stratum I.

In general, **28% of HHs in Stratum I and 24% in Stratum II reported spending between 91% and 100% of the MPCA on winterisation items;** followed by 23% in Stratum I and 21% in Stratum II who reported spending between 41% and 51% of the MPCA on those.

Finally, concerning the person responsible for choosing how to spend the MPCA within the HH, **in both strata most respondents reported that decisions were taken jointly** (47% in Stratum I and 51% in Stratum II), followed by 38% in Stratum I and 42% in Stratum II reporting that decisions were taken by the adult female.

Figure 17: % of HHs reporting on the expenditure of MPCA on winter-preparedness*

	Payment for heating utilities	Payment for heating fuel	Warm clothes - adults	Warm clothes - children	Winter shoes - children	Blankets, quilts	Heating appliances	Shelter repairs	No winter spending
Stratum I	25%	33%	18%	17%	17%	8%	8%	7%	19%
Stratum II	42%	22%	30%	30%	29%	9%	6%	7%	15%

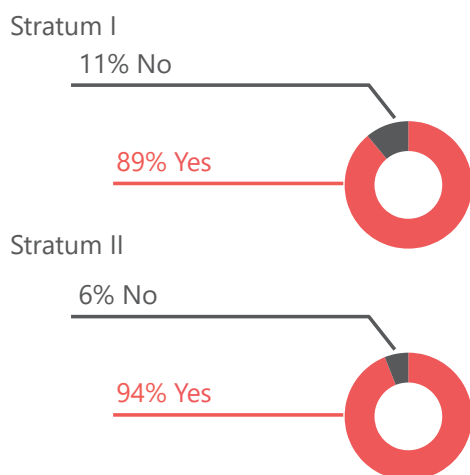
* Multiple answers allowed

BENEFICIARIES' PERCEPTION OF MPCA EFFECTIVENESS

Timeliness of MPCA

The vast majority of respondents reported that the MPCA was delivered in time to cover their needs. As seen in Figure 18, in **Stratum I the percentage of HHs reporting that it was delivered in time (89%) was slightly lower than in Stratum II (94%)**. Indeed, localities in Strata I were often harder to reach due to the conflict.

Figure 18: % of HHs reporting on whether the MPCA was received in time to cover winter-related expenses



Perceived effectiveness of the MPCA

Most respondents found the MPCA to be sufficient to cover their basic needs, in fact, in Stratum I positive responses (comprising "fully" and "partially" covering basic needs) amounted to 76%, and in Stratum II to 82%, as seen in Figure 19. On the other hand, **returnees** were on average **more likely to report that the MPCA did not cover their basic needs "at all"** (10% in Strata I and 9% in Strata II).

For what concerns **winter-related needs**, in Stratum I 73% of respondents reported that the MPCA "fully" or "partially" covered their winter-related needs, and in Stratum II this was reported by 79%, a slightly lower figure than for basic needs.

Figure 19: % of HHs reporting whether the MPCA covered their basic needs

	Fully	Partially	Very little	Not at all
Stratum I	8%	68%	20%	4%
Stratum II	11%	71%	15%	3%

Figure 20: % of HHs reporting whether the MPCA covered their winter-related needs

	Fully	Partially	Very little	Not at all
Stratum I	12%	61%	20%	7%
Stratum II	13%	66%	15%	6%

Moreover, when asked whether the MPCA was helpful in covering their winter-related needs, in both strata **95% of HHs reported that it was either "very helpful" or "helpful"**. However, the percentage of "very helpful" was considerably higher in Stratum II (60%, vs. 48% in I). These findings are supported by KIs as well: the majority of interviewed local authorities reported that the transfers have been very beneficial, especially for IDPs and for people who lost their means of livelihood.

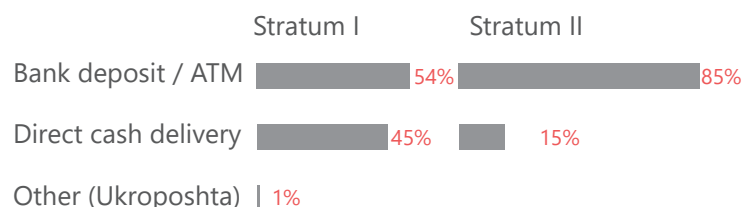
Two KIs also mentioned that the infusion of cash allowed markets to continue working, allowing the local economy to survive and the helping its slow recovery. KIs reported that the cash assistance was used to **cover heating costs and food, followed by medicines, and rent**.

Interestingly, among those who reported the MPCA to be unhelpful, the majority of people indicated that winterisation was not a priority of theirs.

Preferred modalities of MPCA delivery

As seen in Figure 21, **cash assistance was most often delivered through bank deposit or ATM**, in both strata (I: 54%; II: 85%). Direct cash delivery, which consisted in recipients being able to receive cash money in banks, by presenting ID was also employed, especially in Stratum I (45%, vs. 15% in II). In Stratum I, 1% was delivered through Ukroposhta; this modality might become more relevant if areas closer to the front line are targeted, given the low functionality of other financial service providers^{7,8}.

Figure 21: % of HHs reporting on the modality of cash delivery



Moreover, recipients largely reported preferring cash assistance as a modality (Figure 22). Figures were slightly higher for urban HHs - whereas in rural HHs utilities and home repairs were chosen more often-, for families including older people, people with disabilities and chronic illnesses. Furthermore, **some respondents indicated preferring winter assistance to be delivered through utilities bills or home repairs**.

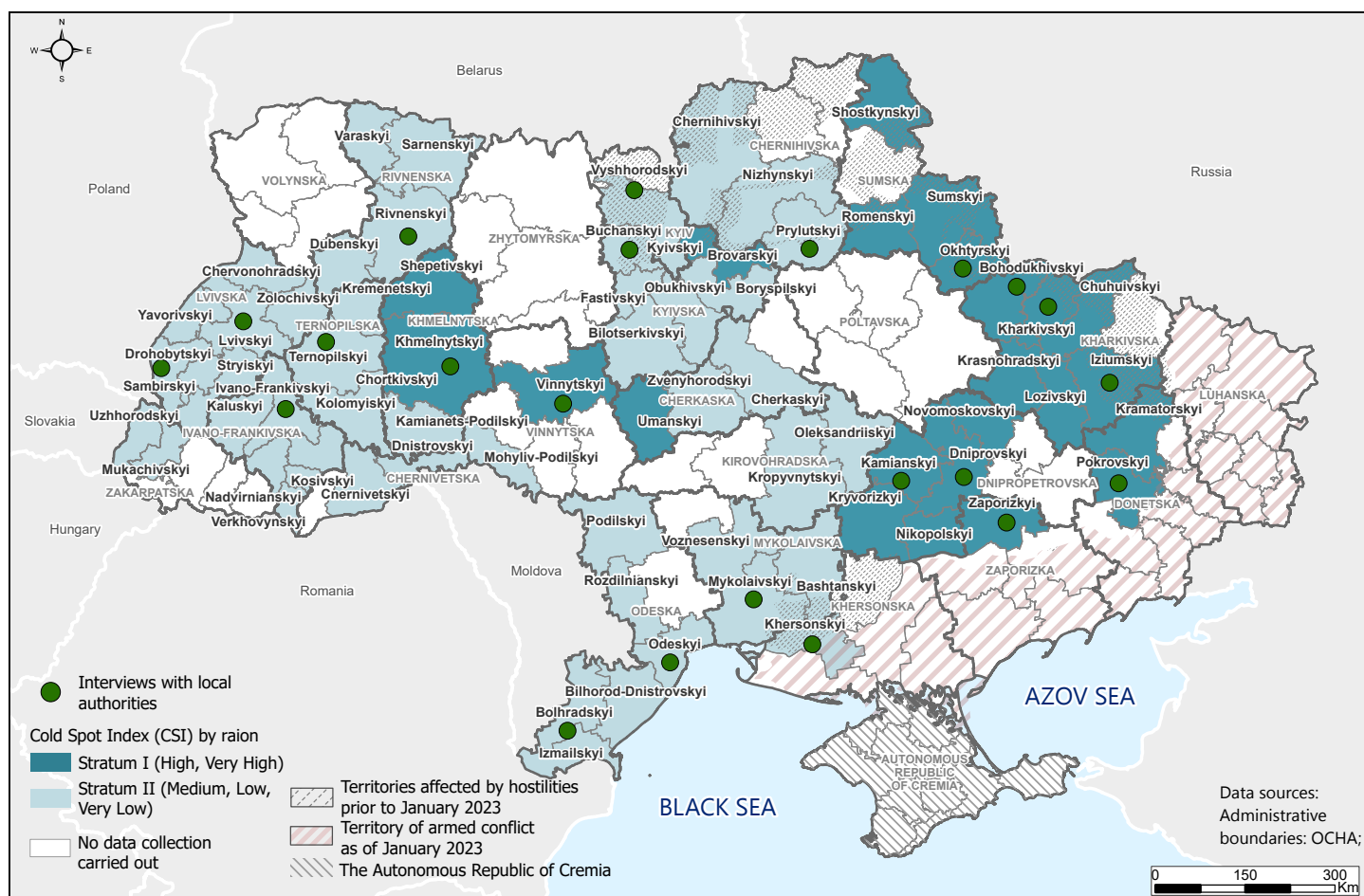
Figure 22: % of HHs reporting on their preferred modality of assistance to cover winter-related needs

	Cash Assistance	Utilities bills assistance	Home repair assistance	Other (in kind)
Stratum I	89%	5%	4%	2%
Stratum II	89%	4%	3%	4%

* Multiple answers allowed

ASSESSMENT COVERAGE

Map 2: Interviews with Key Informants in target raions, per stratum



ENDNOTES

¹ IOM, January 2023, Registered IDP Area Baseline Assessment, Round 19. [Accessed](#) 22/05/2023.

² IOM, April 2023, Registered IDP Area Baseline Assessment, Round 23. [Accessed](#) 23/05/2023.

³ WHO, December 2022, Risk Assessment for Winter in Ukraine. [Accessed](#) 22/05/2023.

⁴ Health Cluster, July 2022, Public Health Situation Analysis. [Accessed](#) 22/05/2023.

⁵ OCHA, July 2022, Winterisation Plan 2022-2023. [Accessed](#) 31/05/2023.

⁶ Shelter Cluster, September 2022, Winterization Recommendations. [Accessed](#) 23/05/2023.

⁷ REACH, April 2023, Joint Market Monitoring Initiative. [Accessed](#) 30/05/2023.

⁸ REACH, February 2023, Rapid Cash Feasibility Study in Kherson. [Accessed](#) 30/05/2023.

ABOUT IMPACT

IMPACT Initiatives is a Geneva based think-and-do-tank, created in 2010. IMPACT is a member of the ACTED Group. IMPACT's teams implement assessment, monitoring & evaluation and organisational capacity-building programmes in direct partnership with aid actors or through its inter-agency initiatives, REACH and Agora. Headquartered in Geneva, IMPACT has an established field presence in over 15 countries. IMPACT's team is composed of over 300 staff, including 60 full-time international experts, as well as a roster of consultants, who are currently implementing over 50 programmes across Africa, Middle East and North Africa, Central and South-East Asia, and Eastern Europe.