

UKRAINE: HUMANITARIAN SITUATION MONITORING FOCUS ON THE AREAS CLOSER TO THE FRONT LINE

April 2023 | Ukraine

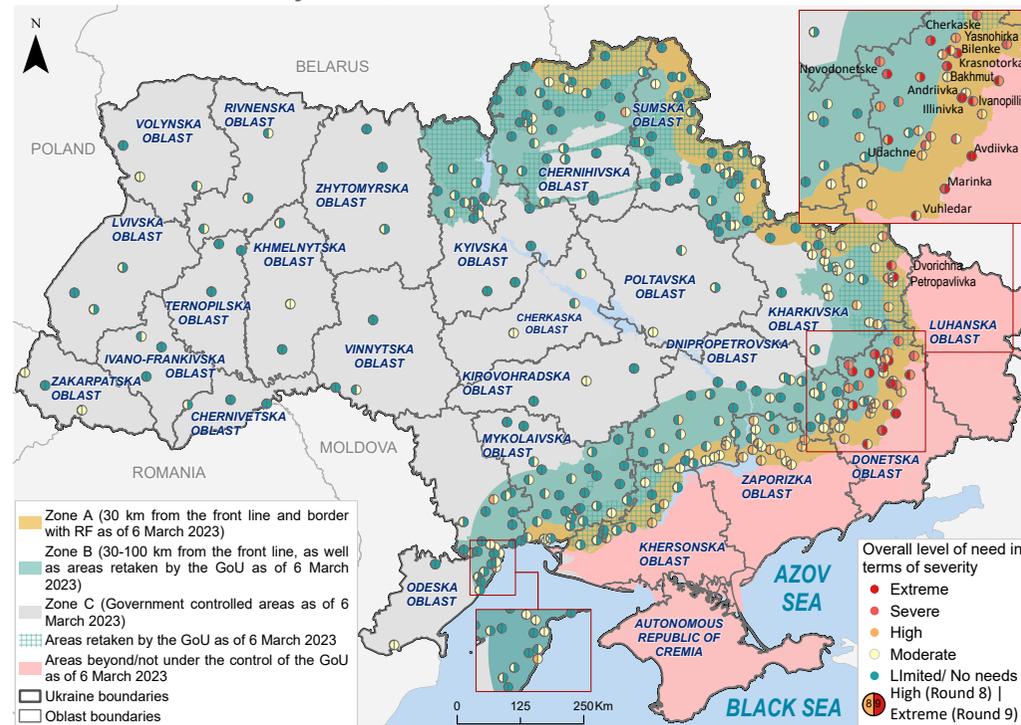
CONTEXT & RATIONALE

Escalation of the war in Ukraine on 24 February 2022 resulted in wide-scale displacement of people, with over 3.6 million registered internally displaced people (IDPs) across Ukraine (as of 30 April 2023).¹ While the situation with power outages that had driven high levels of humanitarian needs during winter has stabilised, various types of infrastructure continued to be damaged, deteriorating people's access to essential services, including water supply, healthcare services, and education. The crisis particularly exacerbated challenges in areas closer to the front line that were found to be experiencing higher levels of overall needs and in some of which the

highest numbers of people in need were registered.

REACH's Humanitarian Situation Monitoring (HSM) aims to provide updated, multi-sectoral information on needs across Ukraine, and particularly in conflict-affected areas. The current situation overview provides key indicative findings on settlements in Government-controlled areas (GCAs) with a focus on settlements within closer proximity to the front line. **The findings are indicative** and based on the data collected through **Round 9 of HSM in March/April 2023**.

Map 1: Settlements by overall level of need and by round - March/April 2023 (Round 9) and February 2023 (Round 8)



KEY MESSAGES

- Findings indicated a **deterioration of the humanitarian situation** in the assessed settlements closer to the front line, particularly in the areas directly exposed to ongoing hostilities.
- Nearly all the settlements with reported 'severe' or 'extreme' levels of overall need were in Donetska oblast.** The reported constraints in accessing essential services and items, along with limited humanitarian access may further exacerbate the humanitarian situation in this area.
- Food was the most commonly reported priority need** across the assessed settlements, followed by **financial resources, livelihood and employment support, as well as repairs of inadequate or damaged housing.** In settlements with 'severe' or 'extreme' levels of need, the main drivers of needs were related to the **access to essential items and services, such as food, drinking water, and healthcare.**
- Access to financial services remained constrained** in about a quarter of the assessed settlements (primarily in areas closer to the front line).
- Compared to February 2023 (HSM R8), electricity and fuel for heating were less commonly reported as top priority needs likely due to fewer attacks on Ukrainian energy infrastructure, as well as the end of the winter season.

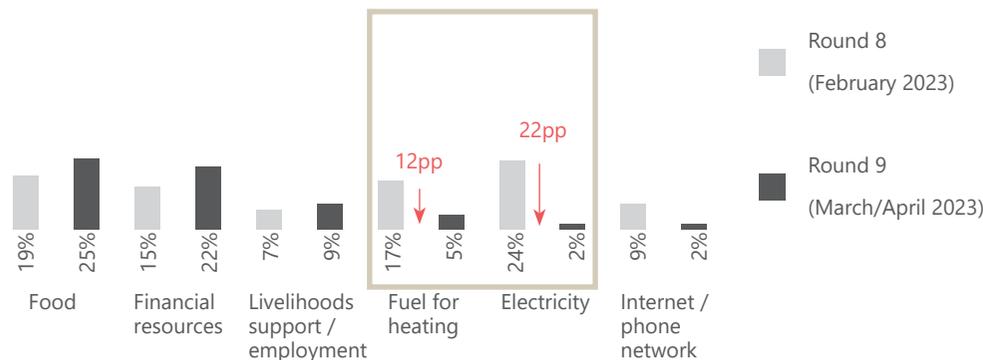
✱ DRIVERS OF HUMANITARIAN NEED

Overall findings indicated that the **level of humanitarian needs** across the assessed settlements in GCAs **remained mostly 'moderate' or 'limited'**. However, **areas closer to the front line as well as areas retaken by the Government of Ukraine (GoU) reportedly experienced a higher level of need**. An **'extreme' or a 'severe'** level of overall need (see the Annex on p9) was reported **only in settlements in Zone A² and Zone B³**. An **'extreme' level of overall need** was reported in the following **10 out of 317** assessed settlements: **Andriivka, Illinivka, Bilenka, Krasnotorka, Novodonetske, Cherkaske, Avdiivka, Marinka, Udachne** (Donetska oblast) and **Petropavlivka** (Kharkivska oblast). A **'severe' level of overall need** was reported in **eleven** other settlements.⁴

In March/April 2023, **the humanitarian situation in most of these settlements (n=18/21) had reportedly deteriorated** over the month prior to data collection. The close proximity to the front line and continued hostilities exacerbated the already unstable humanitarian situation in these settlements, also creating challenges for humanitarian actors to deliver aid to people in need.⁵ The **main drivers of humanitarian need** appeared to be surrounding **people's safety and access to essential items** (e.g., food, drinking water) and **services** (e.g., healthcare, financial services), based on the main concerns reported by key informants (KIs) across all the assessed settlements and, particularly, in Zones A and B.

Food was the **most commonly reported priority need** (reported by KIs in **25% (n=79/317)** of the assessed settlements), followed by **financial resources (22%, n=71/317)**, **livelihoods support/employment (9%, n=30/317)**, and **repairs of inadequate/damaged accommodation (8%, n=26/317)**. Compared to February 2023 (HSM R8), electricity and fuel for heating were less commonly reported as top priority needs, likely due to the change of the season and fewer attacks against

Figure 1: % of settlements by reported top priority needs and round (n=317 settlements assessed in both rounds)



Ukrainian energy infrastructure.⁶

Similarly, HSM Round 9 findings from March/April 2023 indicated a **notable decrease** in the proportion of settlements where KIs reported **concerns in relation to disruption to utilities, access to drinking water and WASH facilities**, as well as **disruptions to telecommunications** compared to February 2023 (R8). **Access to education was also less commonly cited as a main concern** in March/April 2023 (R9). This may relate to the **stabilization of the situation with regards to the energy infrastructure**, as mentioned above, and **concurrent improvement of access to phone communications and internet network coverage**. Furthermore, the Round 9 data collection **overlapped with the spring break of most schools** (end of March/early April 2023).⁷ This likely affected the frequency of reports by KIs about concerns in relation to accessing education in the 14 days prior to data collection.

🛡️ PROTECTION

KIs in over half of the assessed settlements (**57%, n=182/317**) highlighted the **threat of a missile attack** among the main safety and security concerns for people in the settlement. **This concern was particularly pronounced in Zones A and B** (reported by KIs in **61% (n=157/257)** of the assessed settlements in these zones). Furthermore, people in settlements in **Zone A** appeared to be **more commonly facing safety and security concerns surrounding exposure to armed violence/shelling** (reported by KIs in **45% (n=44/97)** of the assessed settlements in Zone A), as well as **presence of landmines/UXO (37%, n=35/97)**.

KIs also reported that some groups of people in the settlement were able to meet their everyday needs to a lesser extent, including **people who had been directly harmed by the ongoing violence** (reported by KIs in **36%** of the assessed settlements, **n=115/317**), **returnees (30%, n=95/317)**, and **IDPs (10%, n=32/317)**.

⊗ Movement restrictions

Whilst KIs in almost half of the assessed settlements in Zones A and B (**49%, n=125/257**) reported that there were no administrative restrictions (e.g., block posts or other limitations imposed by the authorities) on movement into or out of the settlement, the **situation appeared concerning in the assessed settlements in Donetska oblast**. **14 out of 21** settlements where KIs reported **'a lot of restrictions'** in their settlement were in Donetska oblast. Furthermore, KIs in **Bakhmut, Zvanivka, Shabelkivka, Yasnohirka, Avdiivka, Mariinka, and Novohrodivka** (Donetska oblast) highlighted that **movement in and out of the settlement was not possible at all**. The situation appeared to have worsened since February 2023 (R8) as the degree of restrictions in nearly all these settlements (reported by KIs) had changed from 'a lot of movement restrictions' to the movement being 'not possible' in March/April 2023 (R9). KIs in **Borova, Vilkhuvatka, Dvorichna, Petropavlivka** (Kharkivska oblast), and **Desna, Mykhailo-Kotsiubynske** (Chernihivska) also indicated **'a lot of movement restrictions'**.

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

While the level of need in relation to accessing sufficient food in March/April 2023 (R9) appeared to be similar to February 2023 (R8), the findings indicated a slight increase in the number of settlements where people reportedly experienced challenges accessing food which equated to a 'stress' level of need (corresponding to the situation being of concern and requiring monitoring; *see the Annex on p9*).

KIs in **14% (n=45/317)** of the assessed settlements reported that **at least 1-9% of the people were not able to access sufficient food** in the 14 days prior to data collection. Notably, people in most of these settlements (**n=35/45**) also reportedly experienced an above 'moderate' level of overall need (*see the Annex on p9*). This indicates that limited food accessibility may be one of the primary drivers of the overall humanitarian need in these settlements. In addition, food was the most commonly reported top priority need across all assessed settlements.

The situation appeared to be particularly concerning in the areas closer to the front line. KIs in **32% (n=31/97)** of the assessed settlements in **Zone A** reported a **'high' or above level of need in relation to accessing sufficient food** (corresponding to 1-9% of the population or up to 1 in 10 people being unable to access sufficient food in the 14 days prior to data collection). Furthermore, in **Petropavlivka, Vilkhuvatka** (Kharkivska oblast), **Bakhmut, Avdiivka, Yasnohirka, Marinka, Novohrodivka, Shabelkivka, and Zvanivka** (Donetska oblast), KIs highlighted that **more than half of the population were unable to access sufficient food** in the 14 days prior to data collection (a 'catastrophic' level of sectoral need (*see the Annex on p9*)). The proximity of nearly all of the above-mentioned settlements to the front line and concurrent exposure to hostilities continues to exacerbate food accessibility barriers in these areas.

Given the impact of the war on the Ukrainian economy, the economic barriers to accessing food also became prevalent. **High prices and lack of money were the most commonly cited barriers to accessing food** across the **115 out of 317** settlements with an above 'minimal' level of need in relation to accessing sufficient food (*see the Annex on p9*). **Restrictions of movement and lack of items in stores** were also among the most reported barriers hindering people's access to food items. The said barriers were particularly pronounced among the settlements within 30km distance from the front line.

Notably, KIs in **61%** of the assessed settlements with an above 'minimal' level of need in relation to accessing food (**n=70/115**) indicated that the situation regarding access to food was concerning and required monitoring. Those settlements were mostly located in **Dnipropetrovska, Kharkivska, and Odeska oblasts**.

Access to financial services

The level of need in relation to accessing financial services remained consistent between rounds with KIs in **30% (n=76/257)** of the assessed settlements in Zones A and B in March/April 2023 (R9) and **33% (n=84/257)** in February 2023 (R8) reporting that most people had not had access to cash, ATMs, and banking services in the 14 days prior to data collection. Most of the mentioned settlements in March/April 2023 (R9) (**n=53/76**) were in Zone A.

Access to financial services was reportedly mainly hindered by **lack of functioning banks/financial institutions in the area** and **lack of work opportunity**.

REACH's 2022 MSNA findings also indicated that livelihoods needs were most common in the regions directly affected by the war with the East and North macro-regions found to have the highest proportions of households (HHs) experiencing Livelihoods Living Standard Gaps (LSGs).⁸ Similarly, HH members 18-59 years old located in the oblasts in East and South macro-regions were less likely to report being officially employed than those in West, North, and Centre macro-regions.

Furthermore, REACH's Joint Monitoring Market Initiative reported that access to banks and ATMs remained an issue particularly in areas closer to hostilities or affected by air attacks and power outages, and Kharkivska and Khersonska oblasts were identified as areas with the greatest issues.⁹

Access to markets

The situation in terms of access to markets to purchase goods also continued to be particularly concerning in the areas closer to the front line. No major change was observed in March/April 2023 (R9) compared to February 2023 (R8).

While the level of need in relation to accessing markets was reportedly 'minimal' (*see the Annex on p9*) in the majority of the assessed settlements, KIs in **19% (n=48/257)** of the settlements in Zones A and B reported a 'high' or above level of need (corresponding to at least 1-9% of population having been unable to access markets to purchase goods in the 14 days prior to data collection). Additionally, most people in the majority of these settlements (**n=37/48**) reportedly had not had access to non-food items (NFIs) as well.

While assessing barriers to accessing markets, **KIs most often highlighted that the roads were too dangerous** (due to the presence of mines/unexploded ordnances (UXOs)), **there were no markets available in the area, the roads to the closest markets were blocked, there was no transportation to the markets in the area**, as well as that **necessary items were not available in the market**.

🏠 SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFIs)

Overall, KIs in **24% (n=76/317)** of the assessed settlements reported a **'high' or above level of need in relation to accessing safe and adequate housing** in the 14 days prior to data collection. Nearly all these settlements (**n=74/76**) were located in **Zones A and B**. Furthermore, **seven out of eight** settlements where most people (>50% of the population) reportedly had been unable to access safe and adequate housing in the 14 days prior to data collection were in **Donetska oblast**.

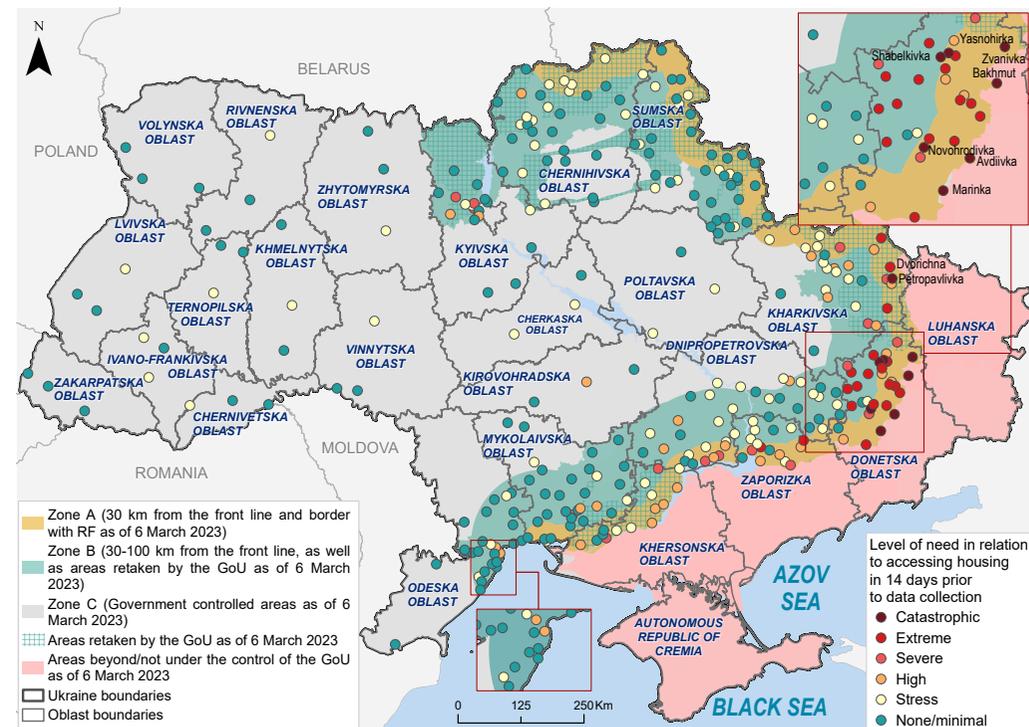
As MSNA 2022 findings showed, HHs in the East and in the South were particularly affected by housing damage and destruction, and concurrently more often reported issues relating to shelter and living conditions. Similarly, HSM Round 9 data from March/April 2023 indicated that most of the settlements with reported 'high' or above level of need in relation to accessing safe and adequate housing were located in the Eastern and Southern oblasts (**n=69/76**).

Findings from February 2023 (R8) also indicated the same proportion of settlements with people reportedly experiencing a 'high' or above level of need in relation to accessing safe and adequate housing. This may suggest that there was little to no improvement regarding access to housing in these areas which could further exacerbate the overall level of need. Notably, according to MSNA 2022, **unmet needs (LSGs) in Shelter and NFI were among the primary drivers of Extreme and Extreme+ levels of need**.¹⁰

The limited access to housing for residents of the above-mentioned settlements was primarily associated with damage to housing (highlighted as a barrier by KIs in **57 out of 76** settlements with a 'high' or above level of need in relation to accessing safe and adequate housing). Concurrently, in **57% (n=32/56)** of the assessed settlements with reported damage to critical infrastructure and civilian housing in the 14 days prior to data collection, the proportion of damaged civilian housing compared to the total number stood at 26% or more. In **Bakhmut, Marinka, Avdiivka, Yasnohirka, Shabelkivka, and Novohrodivka** (Donetska oblast), **the proportion of housing reportedly damaged was the highest** (76%-100%, according to KIs). As of November 2022, the proportion of the housing fund in the total amount of documented damage to residential and non-residential real estate and other infrastructure was 38.6% and amounted to \$52.5 billion, according to the damage assessment carried out within the framework of the National Council for the Recovery of Ukraine from the Consequences of the War.¹¹

Other commonly reported barriers related to residents' access to housing were **lack of rental properties** and **unaffordability of private rent**. These two barriers were also most commonly cited as barriers for IDPs to accessing safe and adequate housing.

Map 2: Settlements by the level of need in relation to accessing safe and adequate housing in the 14 days prior to data collection



NFI Access to NFIs

Findings suggest that access to NFIs remained stable between February 2023 (R8) and March/April 2023 (R9) with most of the people reportedly being able to access NFIs in the majority of the assessed settlements in both rounds: **84%, n=267/317** of the settlements in R9 and **87%, n=276/317** of the settlements in R8. The main barriers hindering access to NFIs were similar to the ones related to access to food. **Lack of money, high prices, as well as lack of functional stores were the most commonly reported barriers to accessing NFIs**. Additionally, KIs in **18 out of 47** assessed settlements where most people reportedly had not had access to NFIs highlighted movement restrictions in their area as one of the barriers. These settlements were mostly in Donetska oblast (primarily in Kramatorskyi and Pokrovskyi raions). Similarly, nearly all the settlements where KIs reported movement restrictions also in relation to accessing food (**n=21/22**) were in Donetska oblast. This likely also indicates barriers for humanitarian actors to access these areas and provide assistance to the people in need.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Access to drinking water and non-drinkable water (e.g., for cooking, hygiene) were highlighted among the main concerns in **28** and **17 out of 317** assessed settlements, respectively. Furthermore, KIs in **26% (n=84/317)** of the assessed settlements reported an above 'minimal' level of need in relation to accessing water (see the Annex on p9). Even though slight decreases in the proportion of settlements with a 'high' or above level of need could be observed in March/April 2023 (R9) compared to February 2023 (R8), the areas closer to the front line continued to report some challenges.

Due to the reported damage to water infrastructure, potentially limited water pumping capacity due to electricity disruptions, and the disruptions of water trucking services,¹² **access to water was a priority need primarily in the settlements in close proximity to the front line (Zone A)**. Most of the assessed settlements with a 'high' or above level of need in relation to access to water in the 14 days prior to data collection (**70%, n=32/46**) were in Zone A. Overall, **settlements with comparatively high levels of need in relation to accessing water were concentrated in Donetsk oblast**. In March/April 2023 (R9), **11 out of 12** settlements with a 'catastrophic' level of need in relation to accessing water were located in Donetsk oblast, similar to **9 out of 11** settlements with the mentioned level of need in February 2023 (R8). The high level of need may be linked to the high intensity of the hostilities in this area¹³ and likely impact on the water infrastructure.¹⁴

The most commonly reported barriers to accessing water among the **84** settlements with an above 'minimal' level of need in relation to accessing water (see the Annex on p9) were surrounding **breakdown and damages to the water network (n=29/84)**, **water pumping stations (n=19/84)**, and **water treatment stations (n=18/84)**, **lack of electricity or backup power (n=22/84)**, as well as **disruption of water trucking services (n=18/84)**. The findings also indicated a notable decrease in the proportion of settlements reporting at least some disruptions to the water supply from **50% (n=158/317)** of the assessed settlements in February 2023 (R8) to **32% (n=102/317)** of the settlements in March/April 2023 (R9).

Concurrent with the above-mentioned findings, settlements closer to the front line and/or retaken by the GoU (Zones A and B) were particularly experiencing such disruptions. KIs in **26% (n=24/94)** of the settlements in Zones A and B with at least some disruptions to water supply reported that interruptions occurred 'most of the time every day or all the time', and in another **17% (n=16/94)** of the said settlements, disruptions were reportedly occurring 'a few hours a day'.

Table 1: % of settlements by most commonly reported barriers to accessing water in the 14 days prior to data collection and by zones

	Zone A (n=43) ¹⁵	Zone B (n=35)	Zone C (n=6)	Total (n=84)
Breakdown/damage to water network	40%	34%	0%	35%
No electricity or backup power	26%	29%	17%	26%
Breakdown/damages to water pumping stations	23%	26%	0%	23%
Breakdown/damages to water treatment stations	23%	23%	0%	21%
Disrupted water trucking service	33%	11%	0%	21%
Reduced water supply coverage	12%	9%	0%	10%
High water cost	12%	6%	0%	8%

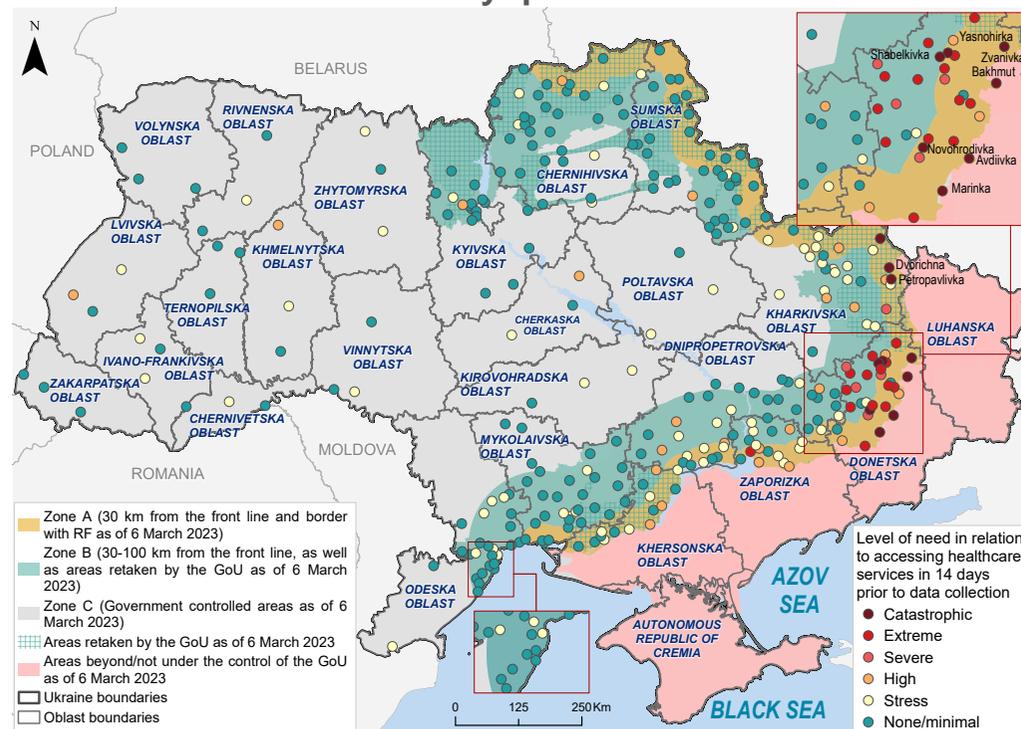
The settlements closer to the front line also indicated a comparatively high level of need in relation to accessing improved sanitation facilities. KIs in nearly half of the assessed settlements in Zone A (**48%, n=47/97**) reported an above 'minimal' level of need in this relation. The situation was particularly concerning in Donetsk oblast: **all eight** settlements with a reported 'catastrophic' level of need in relation to accessing improved sanitation facilities (corresponding to 'most people (>50% of the population or at least 1 out of 2 people not having access to toilets in the 14 days prior to data collection') were in Donetsk oblast.

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE SERVICES

Limited access to healthcare appeared to be one of the main drivers of humanitarian needs in the settlements with reported 'extreme' or 'severe' level of overall needs. Findings about access to healthcare in March/April 2023 (R9) indicate similar tendencies as in February 2023 (R8). Overall, KIs in **23% (n=73/317)** of the settlements highlighted that the situation was concerning and required monitoring.

Furthermore, KIs in **10 out of 53** settlements with a 'high' or above level of need in relation to accessing healthcare services indicated a 'catastrophic' level of need in this relation (corresponding to most people (>50% of the population) being unable to access these services), and an 'extreme' level of need in **14 out of these 53** settlements. All the above-mentioned 24 settlements were in Zones A and B. The **most commonly reported barriers to accessing healthcare services** in the assessed settlements with an 'extreme' or 'severe' level of overall need were **movement restrictions (n=16/21)**, or **non-availability of necessary services (n=12/21)**, which were also the most commonly reported barriers in February 2023 (R8). In March 2023 (R9), **lack of functional healthcare facilities** (reported by KIs in

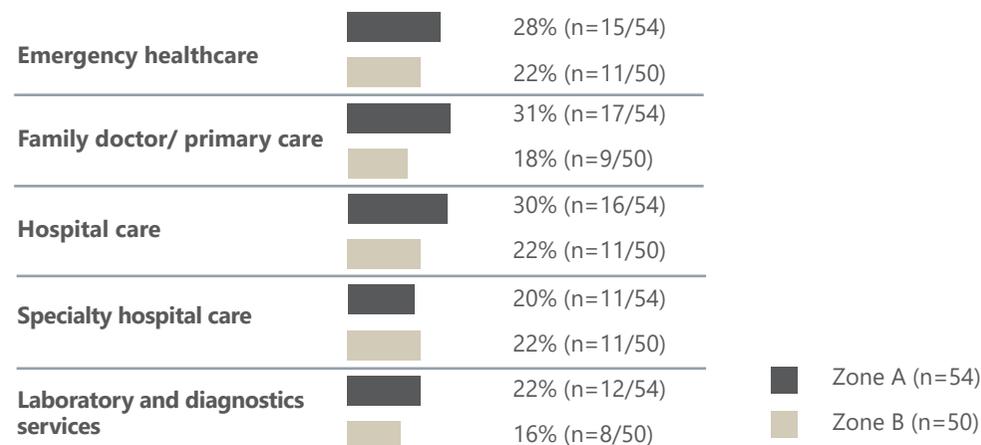
Map 2: Settlements by level of need in relation to accessing healthcare services in the 14 days prior to data collection



8 out of 21 settlements with reported 'extreme' or 'severe' levels of overall need) and **hospitals and clinics being too busy (n=11/21)** also hindered people's access to health care.¹⁶

The access to healthcare facilities and services seemed to be **particularly limited in settlements in Zone A** and to a lesser degree in Zone B. Notably, in **Dvorichna** (Kharkivska), **Vuhledar**, **Lyman** (Donetska oblast), **Beryslav** (Khersonska) and **Novi Borovychi** (Chernihivska) KIs indicated an **almost full spectrum of healthcare facilities and services as inaccessible** in the 14 days prior to data collection. This may be related to the sustained damage to the health infrastructure since the escalation of the war in February 2022.¹⁷

Figure 2: % of settlements in Zones A and B by most commonly reported type of healthcare facility inaccessible to people in the 14 days prior to data collection



Access to medicines

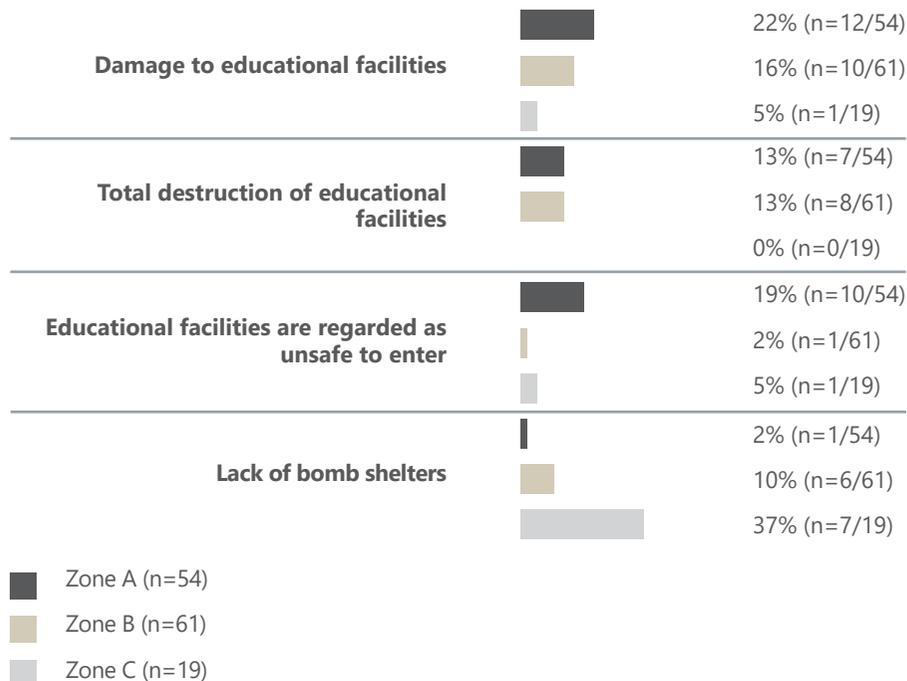
While the overall situation in terms of access to medicines across GCAs did not seem to reflect a high level of needs, KIs in **10% (n=33/317)** of the assessed settlements reported access to medicine as one of the main concerns. Cost of medicines was the most commonly highlighted barrier to accessing medicines (reported by KIs in **31% (n=98/317)** of the assessed settlements), similar to the findings in February 2023 (R8). In some of the assessed settlements in Zone A, **lack of pharmacies, non-availability of medicines, and non-safety of commuting to pharmacies** also reportedly hindered people's access to medicines. Non-availability of high-blood pressure medication was particularly highlighted by KIs in **Znob-Novhorodske** (Sumska oblast), **Kupiansk** (Kharkivska), and **Snovsk** (Chernihivska), of the medication for long-term lung problems in **Chervonohryhorivka** (Dnipropetrovska) and **Toretsk** (Donetska).

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Access to education remained one of the areas of concern, particularly in Zones A and B. KIs in **4% (n=12/317)** of the assessed settlements reported access to education as one of the main concerns in the 14 days prior to data collection, and all of these settlements were in Zones A and B.

Similar to the findings in February 2023 (R8), the **most commonly reported reasons for limited availability of educational facilities for educational purposes in Zones A and B** were the **damage of educational facilities** (reported by KIs in **12 out of 54** settlements in Zone A and **10 out of 61** settlements in Zone B with at least some of the educational facilities reportedly being not functional/suitable for educational purposes) and **total destruction of educational facilities** (**7 out of 54** settlements (Zone A) and **8 out of 61** settlements (Zone B)).

Figure 3: % of settlements by most commonly reported reasons for non-functionality / non suitability of educational facilities for educational purposes and by zones



Notably, schools and educational facilities were the **most commonly reported type of infrastructure that had been damaged** in the 14 days prior to data collection (reported by KIs in **19 out of 56** settlements where damage of infrastructure and housing was reported). Concurrently, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine reported that since the escalation of the war in Ukraine in February 2022, 3,246 educational facilities were damaged by bombings or shelling and 259 completely destroyed.¹⁸ Furthermore, KIs in **twelve** settlements with at least some of the educational facilities reportedly being not functional/suitable for educational purposes highlighted that **educational facilities were regarded unsafe to enter**, and ten of these settlements were in Zone A. The **safety of educational facilities particularly in the areas within 30 km from the front line was likely affected by active hostilities, mines and UXOs**, as well as **use of the facilities for military purposes**.¹⁹

Findings also indicated that such barriers as **lack of adequate bomb shelters** were most commonly highlighted **in areas further away from the front line** (reported by KIs in **6 out of 61** settlements in Zone B and **7 out of 19** settlements in Zone C where at least some of the educational facilities were reportedly not functional/suitable for educational purposes). This may be reflective of the prioritisation of the presence of adequate bomb shelters for the school operations over other issues given the limited or no reports of damage- or security-related barriers to educational facility operations in these areas.

In most of the assessed settlements KIs highlighted that they were not aware of any groups of children less able or unable to access (online) education in the 14 days prior to data collection. Nevertheless, in a small proportion of settlements (primarily in Zones A and B) **children with a lack of equipment to access online education** (reported by KIs in **38 out of 317** settlements), **children from low-income families (n=33/317)**, **children with limited internet access (n=25/317)**, and **children with chronic illnesses (n=15/317)** were reportedly among groups of children less able or unable to access (online) education.

The Institute of Educational Analytics of Ukraine estimated that by the end of March 2023, over 1.4 million children (37.5%) were only receiving online education.²⁰ The findings suggest that **children living in settlements within close proximity to the front line (Zone A)** might be **disproportionally affected by the disruptions of internet**. KIs in **53% (n=51/97)** of the assessed settlements in Zone A reported that **internet disruptions occurred at least 'a few hours a day'** in the 14 days prior to data collection, and in **ten of these 51** settlements, the internet was reportedly always disrupted.

Overall, the ongoing hostilities, financial constraints, and disruptions of internet network continued limiting children's access to education primarily in settlements in close proximity to the front line.

METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

Data collection in Government-controlled areas was conducted from **20 March - 3 April 2023** through phone interviews with **community key informants (CKIs)**: representatives from local government, local non-profit organisations (NGOs), and specific population groups (older persons, people with disabilities, children, women, internally displaced people (IDPs), returnees, and others). **317 settlements (towns and villages)** were assessed through a total of **1,199 KI interviews**.

The settlements were grouped in three geographic zones within the GCAs:

- **Zone A:** Areas within 30 km range from the front line at the time of sampling (01 January 2023), as monitored by LiveUA, and the state border with the Russian Federation. (**97 out of 317** assessed settlements)
- **Zone B:** Areas within 30-100km range from the front line at the time of sampling, as monitored by LiveUA, Areas retaken by the GoU, and raions intersecting with these areas by 50% of the raion territory. (**160 out of 317** assessed settlements)
- **Zone C:** Remaining GCAs. (**60 out of 317** assessed settlements)

'Administrative centre' approach was applied in all zones:

- **All administrative centres** (including hromada, raion, and oblast centres) were sampled in **Zones A and B**.
- In the case of Chernihivska oblast that did not include any settlements categorised as administrative centres within Zone A, the settlements were selected purposively among non-administrative-centre settlements.
- To avoid over-representation of settlements from specific oblasts in the overall sample of Zone B, rural settlements (administrative centres) were purposively sampled in these oblasts (Dnipropetrovska, Odeska).
- In **Zone C**, as it covers a wider area and larger number of settlements, only **three administrative centres were purposively sampled in each oblast**.
- Settlements with a **pre-war population size of less than 1,000 people were excluded from the sample**.

To account for a possible higher variation in needs in units with a larger population size (irrespective of the type of the settlement: urban, urban-type, or rural), the number of KIs per settlement differed for the following **3 categories**:

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

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

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

In this situation overview, the data represents a percentage of settlements (towns or villages) for which KIs reported a specific answer to a survey question. These statistics **cannot be extrapolated to represent a proportion (%) of the population, and thus should be interpreted as indicative** rather than representative. Given the small and unrepresentative sample, these results only provide an indicative understanding of the situation in the assessed areas.

ASSESSMENT COVERAGE



ENDNOTES

- 1 IOM, [Ukraine: Area Baseline Assessment \(Raion level\) - Round 23](#), April 2023.
- 2 Settlements within 30 km from the front line and the state border with the Russian Federation.
- 3 Settlements within 30-100km from the front line, areas retaken by the GoU, and raions intersecting with these areas by 50% of the raion territory.
- 4 Bakhmut, Zvanivka, Ivanopillia, Shabelkivka, Lyman, Oleksandrivka, Sloviansk, Dobropillia, Kryvorizhzhia (Donestka oblast), Vilkhuvatka and Dvorichna (Kharkivska oblast).
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- 14 Data Friendly Space, [Ukraine Crisis – Situational Analysis](#), 9 May 2023.
- 15 These numbers indicate the settlements where KIs reported above minimal level of need, including: 'stress', 'high', 'severe', 'extreme' and 'catastrophic'. The percentages in the table indicate the proportion of settlements within each zone (and the total) where KIs reported the given barrier to accessing water.
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ANNEX: SEVERITY SCALE DEFINITIONS

Overall levels of needs

Extreme: loss of life or imminent risk of loss of life as a result of lack of access to services, food, shelter, or other life-saving assistance.

Severe: living conditions are very poor in the settlement and most people are finding it difficult to meet basic needs, leading to concerns for the mental or physical wellbeing of the population.

High: most people are still able to meet their basic needs, but living conditions are very poor in the settlement.

Moderate: most people are still able to meet their basic needs, but the situation with living conditions requires monitoring.

Limited/no needs: most people are continuing to meet their needs as normal, without significant deterioration of living conditions in the settlement.

Levels of sector-specific needs

Catastrophic: Most people in the settlement were unable to access necessary services/items (>50% of the population or more than 1 in 2 people).

Extreme: Many people in the settlement were unable to access necessary services/items (25-50% of the population or up to 1 in 2 people).

Severe: Some people in the settlement were unable to access necessary services/items (10-24% of the population or up to 1 in 4 people).

High: A few people in the settlement were unable to access necessary services/items (1-9% of the population or up to 1 in 10 people).

Stress: Situation of concern that requires attention/monitoring, but is manageable/normal, but people were still able to access necessary services/items.

None/minimal: Situation is under control/as normal, people were able to access necessary services.

ABOUT REACH

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT).