Research Terms of Reference

Rapid Economic Assessment

UKR1908

Ukraine

31/05/2023

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

1. Executive Summary

Country of intervention	Ukraine

Type of Emergency	□	Natural disaster	X	Conflict	□	Other *(specify)*
Type of Crisis	□	Sudden onset	□	Slow onset	X	Protracted

Mandating Body/ Agency	Global Affairs Canada (GAC) / ACTED
IMPACT Project Code	64AMF
Overall Research Timeframe	17/04/2023 to 15/09/2023

Research Timeframe *Add planned deadlines (for first cycle if more than 1)*		
1. Pilot/ training: 23/05/2023	6. Preliminary presentations: 27/07/2023
2. Start collect data: 01/06/2023	7. Outputs sent for validation: 18/08/2023
3. Data collected: 17/06/2023	8. Outputs published: 28/08/2023
4. Data analysed: 12/07/2023	
5. Data sent for validation: 13/07/2023	

Number of assessments	X	Single assessment (one cycle)
	□	Multi assessment (more than one cycle)

Humanitarian milestones *Specify **what** will the assessment inform and **when** e.g. The shelter cluster will use this data to draft its Revised Flash Appeal;*	**Milestone**		**Deadline**
	□	Donor plan/strategy	_ _/_ _/_ _ _ _
	□	Inter-cluster plan/strategy	_ _/_ _/_ _ _ _
	X	Cluster plan/strategy	11/08/2023
	X	NGO platform plan/strategy	27/07/2023
	□	Other (Specify):	_ _/_ _/_ _ _ _

Audience Type & Dissemination *Specify **who** will the assessment inform and **how** you will disseminate to inform the audience*	**Audience type**	**Dissemination**
	X Strategic	X General Product Mailing (e.g. mail to NGO consortium; HCT participants; Donors)
	X Programmatic	X Cluster Mailing (Education, Shelter and WASH) and presentation of findings at next cluster meeting
	□ Operational	X Presentation of findings (e.g. at HCT meeting; Cluster meeting)
	□ [Other, Specify]	X Website Dissemination (Relief Web & REACH Resource Centre)

Detailed dissemination plan required	□	Yes	X	No

General Objective	To improve information availability on how certain social and economic impacts of the war have contributed to reduced access to livelihoods among women and other marginalised/vulnerable groups,[1] as well as identify gaps in existing labour market support and livelihoods-related social services, so as to inform programming aimed at building sustainable, locally owned and linked-up services for equitable access to agricultural and non-agricultrual livelihoods.
Specific Objective(s)	• Identify barriers to and opportunities for economic recovery/development in the oblasts of interest • Explore challenges faced by economically marginalised and vulnerable groups in accessing livelihoods opportunities in the current context • Map and analyse local economic stakeholder networks and explore existing capacity for livelihoods and business support • Identify gaps in labour market support and livelihoods-related social services • Based on the above, assess the options for indirect and direct livelihoods programming
Research Questions	**1. What are the barriers to and opportunities for economic recovery/development of agricultural and non-agricultural activities in the oblasts of interest?** 1.1. What were the main characteristics of the local economy pre-war? 1.2. What are the major obstacles to the overall economic recovery of the oblast? 1.3. What are the specific barriers to the development of agricultural and non-agricultural activities following the outbreak of war? 1.4. What sectors/activities are prioritised for recovery and development? **2. What challenges do the most economically vulnerable and marginalised face in accessing livelihoods in the current context?** 2.1. Which subpopulations are considered economically vulnerable and/or marginalised? 2.2. What barriers do vulnerable and marginalised groups face in accessing livelihood opportunities 2.3. In what ways did gender determine access to livelihood opportunities prior to the full-scale invasion and how has this been affected by the outbreak of war? **3. What support exists to help labour market participants overcome barriers to accessing and creating employment and to what extent is there coordination between actors?** 3.1. To what extent do stakeholders coordinate with one another to provide livelihoods and business support? 3.2. What support exists to help vulnerable and marginalised individuals overcome identified barriers to accessing livelihoods? 3.3. What support exists to help businesses/entrpereneurs/family farms (agricultural and non-agricultural) overcome challenges identified? **4. What type of programming (indirect through local stakeholders or direct through external actors) would best respond to the unmet needs of vulnerable/marginalised groups and find most support among stakeholders?**

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[1] Marginalised and vulnerable groups include IDPs, returnees (those who were displaced and then returned to their previous place of residence), and other kinds of individuals and households that will be identified as part of the assessment.

	4.1. Is there a need for additional technical and vocational education and training programs to facilitate access to livelihood opportunities for vulnerable/marginalised groups in the assessment areas? 4.2. What kinds of emergency livelihood interventions are needed in the assessment areas?
Geographic Coverage	Odeska, Mykolaivska, Vinnytska and Chernihivska
Secondary data sources	• REACH Ukraine data (2022-2023) • FAO (Dec 2022): Impact of the war on agriculture and rural livelihoods in Ukraine • FAO (Apr 2023): Impact of the war on Agricultural producers (up to 200 ha) • OCHA (Feb 2023): Ukraine Humanitarian Response Plan • IOM Area Baseline Assessments and Returns Reports • UNDP (Oct 2022): Rapid Assessment of the War's Impact on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in Ukraine • World Bank (Feb 2023): Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment • Work.ua for vacancies and resumes in assessment areas

Population(s) *Select all that apply*	□	IDPs in camp		□	IDPs in informal sites
	X	IDPs in host communities		X	IDPs in collective sites
	□	Refugees in camp		□	Refugees in informal sites
	□	Refugees in host communities		□	Refugees [Other, Specify]
	X	Host communities		X	Returnees

Stratification *Select type(s) and enter number of strata*	X	Geographical #:3 Population size per strata is known? Approximately[2]	□	Group #: _ _ _ Population size per strata is known? □ Yes □ No	□	*[Other Specify]* #: _ _ Population size per strata is known? □ Yes □ No

Data collection tool(s)	X	Structured (Quantitative)		X	Semi-structured (Qualitative)

	Sampling method		Data collection method
Structured data collection tool (s) # 1 *KIIs with local economic actors*	X Purposive		X Key informant interview: 120
Semi-structured data collection tool (s) # 1 *In-depth interviews with local economic actors*	X Purposive		X In-depth key informant interview: 64

Data management platform(s)	X	IMPACT		□	UNHCR	
	□	[Other, Specify]				

Expected ouput type(s)	□	Situation overview #: _ _	□	Report #: _ _	□	Profile #: _ _
	X	Presentation (Preliminary findings): 4	□	Presentation (Final) #: _ _	X	Factsheet: 4
	□	Interactive dashboard #:_	□	Webmap #: _ _	□	Map #: _ _
	□	Data files and analysis tables #: 4				

Access	X	Public (available on REACH resource center and other humanitarian platforms)

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[2] There hasn't been a census since 2001 and official estimated figures haven't been updated since the beginning of the war.

	☐	Restricted (bilateral dissemination only upon agreed dissemination list, no publication on REACH or other platforms)
Visibility *Specify which logos should be on outputs*	*REACH*	
	Donor: GAC	
	Coordination Framework: ACTED, GAC, REACH	
	Partners: ACTED	

2. Rationale

2.1 Background

From Emergency to Protracted Crisis

A rapid escalation of hostilities between the Russian Federation and Ukraine in February 2022 has had important consequences for Ukraine's economy and labour market. From February through March 2022, Russian Forces (RF) advanced into areas of Eastern, Southern and Northern Ukraine, causing damage and destruction to civilian infrastructure—including essential utilities—and displacing entire settlements, resulting in the most rapidly escalating displaced person crisis in the world at that time.

The existence of land hostilities in Donetska, Luhanska, Kharkivska, Khersonska, Chernihivska, Sumska, Kyivska, Zaporizka and Mykolaivska gave rise to urgent humanitarian needs among affected populations. From March into April 2022, RF advances were brought to a partial halt in the North, with RF being subsequently made to withdraw from Kyivska, Chernihivska and Sumska. Before withdrawing, RF had laid minefields across vast stretches of agricultural land, as they have done across contested areas of Eastern and Southern Ukraine also, and from March to October 2022, at least 86 incidents of damage to agricultural machinery—mostly tractors and harvesters running over mines—were recorded across the country.[3] More territory occupied by RF was liberated in Kharkivska and Mykolaivska in September and November 2022 respectively. Agricultural activity is similarly affected by the presence of mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) in these areas.

Air attacks from missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) have been used by RF across the country since February 2022, resulting in the damage and destruction of social and economic infrastructure; namely, the national power grid, land transport routes, shipping ports, industrial enterprises, educational facilities, residential buildings, and other public and private property. As of February 2023, after a full year of war, the World Bank calculated that direct damages had reached over **US$135 billion,** and losses—measuring 'disruptions to economic flows and production, as well as additional expenses associated with the war'—amounted to some **US$290 billion**, with housing, transport, commerce and industry, energy, and agriculture among the most affected sectors.[4]

As of 31 March 2023, there were **3,614,749 registered IDPs** displaced since February 24 February 2022 in Ukraine, of which **60% were female**.[5] As of 22 February 2023, the loss of civilian life as a direct result of the war is estimated at **9,655 people**, including **461 children**. A further 12,829 people had been injured, of which 926 were children.[6] The mounting number of lost hours of education is yet to be estimated. While it appears as though the labour market has recovered to nearly its pre-war levels in terms of the balance between supply and demand for labour, this conceals differences between regions resulting from the relocation of many businesses away from conflict-affected areas to Kyiv and Western Ukraine.[7]

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[3] REACH Ukraine, Sunflower Oil Production Factsheet, October 2022. See also: The Economist, Ukraine is riddled with unexploded bombs, September 2022.

[4] World Bank, Ukraine Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment, February 2023.

[5] IOM, Ukraine Area Baseline Assessment – Round 22, March 2023.

[6] Government of Ukraine, press conference on the work of the prosecutor's office, 22 February 2023.

[7] Ekonomichna Pravda, Shift of the labour market. Where to look for work in Ukraine? Accessed 31 May 2023

Notwithstanding a more balanced labour market at the national level, the National Bank of Ukraine estimated unemployment at about 20% during the first quarter of 2023, compared with 10.3% in January 2022.[8]

Economic disruptions

The disruption to supply chains feeding and connecting markets across the country has impacted consumers and suppliers, leaving the February 2023 **Consumer Price Index (CPI) 24.9% higher** than in February 2022,[9] and the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) sector smaller both in terms of output and employment, with prospects of only minor growth this year.[10]

One notable risk to the gradual restoration of supply chain stability in areas sufficiently removed from active hostilities is the fragility of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, a pair of agreements between Russia and Ukraine, brokered by the UN and Türkiye, allowing exports of Ukrainian agricultural products and fertilizer from three ports in Odeska.[11] In addition to the strains placed on overland freight transport caused by the blockade of Ukrainian ports from February to July 2022, the channelling of grain exports to neighbouring countries caused a glut of supply in parts of the European Union (EU), pricing down local farmers and causing several EU countries to halt Ukrainian grain imports.[12] A more urgent concern last year, and one that is again topical as parties negotiate an extension of the agreements beyond 18 May 2023, was the potential impact of the blockade on food security in countries reliant on Ukrainian grain to meet humanitarian needs, namely countries in East Africa and the Middle East.[13] The agreements are political instruments that are necessary to secure the food security and livelihoods of millions of people variously affected by conflict, political instability, and drought.

In conflict-affected areas of Ukraine, the degradation of the security context and disruptions to markets has forced many businesses to relocate, transform their activities, or simply cease operating. The SME sector, which contributed 73% of official employment in 2020, have reportedly been hit harder than large enterprises, as they have 'a limited ability to diversify their economic activities and thus face more challenges with transformation and adaptation'.[14] In most parts of the country, it appears as though unemployment was markedly higher in October 2022 than the average for 2021,[15] with rates higher among women than men.[16] IOM's finding that fewer IDPs report salary as their main source of income compared with non-IDPs suggests unemployment may be higher among the displaced population as well.[17]

Intended impact

The Ukraine Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), published in February 2023, sought **US$993.9 million** for Food Security and Livelihoods support.[18] Of that, nearly **US$400 million** was forecast to be earmarked for livelihoods support, to be divided between agricultural support in the form of crop and livestock production inputs (60%), agricultural infrastructure and supply chain support (15%), and non-agricultural livelihood inputs such as provision of small grants, equipment, training, and job opportunities (25%).[19] The Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster (FSLC) has now established an emergency agricultural livelihoods task force and an emergency non-agricultural livelihoods task force to develop context-specific products that will be used to guide emergency livelihoods programming in Ukraine. Defining agricultural, non-agricultural, emergency and non-emergency livelihoods support in the Ukrainian context is an ongoing dialogue that this assessment will seek to inform.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has taken the lead as the agricultural assessment specialist, having already completed two nationwide surveys, one looking at rural livelihoods and another agricultural producers up to 200 ha (report

[8] National Bank of Ukraine (NBU), Inflation Report, April 2023.
[9] State Statistics Service of Ukraine (SSSU), Consumer price indices for goods and services in 2023, February 2023.
[10] UNDP, Rapid Assessment of the War's Impact on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in Ukraine, October 2022.
[11] UN, Black Sea Grain Initiative Joint Coordination Centre, accessed 10 May 2023.
[12] The Guardian, Slovakia joins Poland and Hungary in halting Ukraine grain imports, April 2023.
[13] WFP, Food security implications of the Ukraine conflict, March 2022.
[14] UNDP, Op. cit.
[15] SSSU, Employment and unemployment, accessed 10 May 2023.
[16] REACH Ukraine, MSNA 2022 dataset, accessed 10 May 2023.
[17] IOM, Internal Displacement Report R.12, January 2023.
[18] OCHA, Ukraine Humanitarian Response Plan, February 2023.
[19] Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster (FSLC), FSLC 2023 HRP approach, November 2022.

pending).[20] They estimated that rural households involved mostly in agricultural livelihoods have seen greater losses to income and food security than households (urban and rural) involved in non-agricultural livelihoods. By exploring non-agricultural livelihoods more closely, REACH socioeconomic assessments will seek to complement FAO's ongoing agriculture-focused assessments.[21]

With support of Global Affairs Canada, REACH is conducting a series of socioeconomic assessments to provide informational support to ACTED's implementation of the Securing Women's Economic Empowerment and Development (SEED) project. In 2023, the REACH Ukraine socioeconomic team will conduct a Rapid Economic Assessment (REA) and a Rapid Assessment of Small and Medium Enterprises (RA-SME) in the four SEED project areas: Odeska, Mykolaivska, Vinnytska and Chernihivska. Results of these assessments will be made available to ACTED to inform choices about the type and targeting of livelihoods assistance and raise awareness of standards for market-based programming in early recovery settings.[22]

As indicated, these assessments will also complement the research of FAO by providing a detailed comparison of access to agricultural and non-agricultural livelihoods across four areas with different local economic conditions. Furthermore, these geographically focused studies will add granularity to nationwide assessments of economic and labour market conditions conducted by UNDP, the World Bank, and the ILO. Building on the assessments designed for the SEED project, REACH is well placed to contribute to strategic decision making at the level of the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, as well as inform evidence-based programming among partners, by either expanding the geographic scope of the REA and performing a comparative analysis with 2023 MSNA data on access to livelihoods across the country (MSNA data is expected to be published in September), or developing an information management interface to consolidate and facilitate access to the growing body of socioeconomic data in Ukraine for use by livelihood actors, including state authorities.

3. Methodology

3.1 Methodology overview

Methodology

The REA will collect structured Key Informant (KI) data from **120** representatives of local government authorities, business management organisations (agricultural and non-agricultural), trade unions, employment centres, and TVETs. The REA will seek to understand how disruptions to markets and agricultural supply chains impact livelihoods and employment. Moreover, it will assess the capacity of local stakeholders to foster businesses opportunities and increase employment through financial, guidance, and education services. Qualitative data will be captured through in-depth interviews with **64** individuals from those actors already mentioned as well as financial institutions and civil society organisations. Insights captured through these in-depth interviews will be used to interpret the socioeconomic context, including challenges faced by vulnerable and marginalised groups and opportunities for assisting local economic recovery in the selected regions. An additional component of the assessment will involve scraping job vacancy and jobseeker data from the most popular job search engine in Ukraine, work.ua. This data will provide a quantitative picture of labour market trends in the assessment areas in terms of available opportunities and skills.

Key Terms

Livelihood: 'A livelihood is a way of making a living. It comprises capabilities, skills, assets (including material and social resources), and activities that people put together to produce food, meet basic needs, earn income, or establish a means of living in any other way.' [EMMA Toolkit](#).

Agricultural livelihoods: In line with the standard categorisation of economic sectors used by the State Statistics Service of Ukraine (SSSU) and the State Employment Service (SES), this study will take agricultural livelihoods to mean activities

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[20] FAO, [Ukraine: Impact of the war on agriculture and rural livelihoods in Ukraine](#), December 2022.

[21] Apart from not addressing non-agricultural livelihoods, FAO have so far only offered trends on agricultural livelihoods at the level of the second administrative unit in Ukraine (the oblast), without analysing effects for different subpopulations or smaller administrative units, which are key considerations of this assessment.

[22] SEEP (2017), [Minimum Economic Recovery Standards: Third Edition](#).

falling under *Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing* in the first instance. However, as 'agricultural infrastructure and supply chain support', representing 15% of the FSLC livelihood funding target, falls under the agricultural livelihoods taskforce, it may be useful to gradually expand the definition to include relevant activities falling under other important economic sectors, such as *Transportation and Storage*, *Wholesale and Retail Trade*, *Construction*, and *Industry*.[23]

Non-agricultural livelihoods: This could potentially capture all means of income/sustenance not covered by agricultural livelihoods. Such a broad definition may not be practical for programming and assessment purposes, and it may be useful to gradually refine the definition of non-agricultural livelihoods to capture only those non-agricultural activities upon which economically vulnerable/marginalised groups depend for income/sustenance, to ensure the 25% of FSLC livelihoods support is appropriately targeted.

Emergency livelihoods: This a concept that describes interventions designed to reduce the impacts of a crisis through livelihoods support. Emergency livelihoods activities look different in different contexts. UNDP gives a sense of when such support might be relevant:

> Natural disasters and man-made conflicts often leave crisis-affected households with high levels of debt, reduced purchasing power, overall loss of physical and financial assets and, in some cases, death or injury. In the face of a crisis, vulnerable households tend to adopt damaging coping strategies that can increase the risk of falling destitute, becoming food insecure, and losing access to basic social services. This, in turn, undermines recovery and can prolong the need for relief aid.

In such contexts, it goes on,

> Stabilizing people's livelihoods represents an essential intervention in reducing the impact of a crisis, and it is a critical first step to reducing vulnerability and building resilience. Large-scale temporary employment generation programmes and unconditional cash transfers targeting households can provide vital income to families that experienced major losses as a result of the disaster or conflict; in the same context, enterprise recovery schemes can rapidly get microenterprises back in business through dedicated grants. These interventions help reduce negative coping mechanisms among crisis-affected communities, restore their confidence, and foster a sense of ownership in the recovery process.[24]

Through socioeconomic assessments such as this, it will be possible to begin defining which groups and areas should be targeted with emergency livelihoods activities, as well as the type of activities that would be appropriate in different local contexts.

Vulnerability, 'the quality or state of being exposed to the possibility of being attacked or harmed, either physically or emotionally', Oxford Languages. Vulnerability is a concept that has a wide application and therefore a broad definition. The most relevant components for our purposes are 'the quality or state of being exposed', which, when used in the context of 'socioeconomic vulnerability' would point to social status as a determinant of someone's exposure to shocks in the economic environment. It is well established that certain groups, such as women, IDPs, older jobseekers, people with disabilities (PWD) are socioeconomically vulnerable, albeit to different degrees in different contexts. This study will seek to contribute to the understanding of socioeconomic vulnerability in the Ukrainian context with reference to specific subpopulations.

Resilience, 'the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness', Oxford Languages. Socioeconomic vulnerability and resilience are interconnected. For example, in the event of an economic shock, vulnerable households may resort to negative coping strategies such as selling household/productive assets, thereby reducing their resilience in the face of future adversity.

Marginalisation, 'treatment of a person, group, or concept as insignificant or peripheral', Oxford Languages. Marginalisation refers to the *treatment* of something or someone, in contrast with vulnerability, which describes a quality or condition.

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[23] For overview of major economic sectors, see SSSU, Employed population by economic activities in 2012-2021; for breakdown of economic activities under each of the major sectors, see SSSU, Number of active business entities by type of economic activity in region in 2014-2020.

[24] UNDP, Emergency livelihoods through emergency employment, enterprise recovery and cash based interventions, 2015.

Nonetheless, there is a reinforcing dynamic between the two concepts when considering socioeconomic characteristics. That is, socioeconomically marginalised groups, i.e. those who are prevented from full social and economic participation, are left vulnerable by reason of their economic insecurity. Again, this study will seek to contribute to the understanding of socioeconomic marginalisation in the Ukrainian context.

Family farming, 'a means of organizing agricultural, forestry, fisheries, pastoral and aquaculture production which is managed and operated by a family and predominantly reliant on family labor, including both women's and men's. The family and the farm are linked, co-evolve and combine economic, environmental, social and cultural functions'. [FAO.](#)

Social protection: 'Social protection encompasses initiatives that provide cash or in-kind transfers to the poor, protect the vulnerable against risks and enhance the social status and rights of the marginalized – all with the overall goal of reducing poverty and economic and social vulnerability. Social protection includes three broad components: **social assistance**, **social insurance** and **labour market protection**. Social assistance programmes are publicly provided conditional or unconditional cash or in-kind transfers or public works programmes. Social insurance programmes are contributory programmes that provide cover for designated contingencies affecting household welfare or income. Labour market programmes provide unemployment benefits, build skills and enhance workers' productivity and employability.' [FAO.](#)

TVETs: Technical and Vocational Education and Training centres.

3.2 Population of interest

This assessment will focus on **four** Ukrainian oblasts where populations and conditions are comparatively stable, recovery programmes are not yet planned, and where ACTED is already operational. **Chernihivska** is located in the north and borders Belarus as well as Russia – countries to which it was connected by road and rail prior to the war. The escalation of hostilities on 24 February 2022 resulted in the destruction of economic and civilian infrastructure and the contamination of large areas of northern, eastern and southern Ukraine with mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO).[25] Active conflict has had important social and economic impacts by displacing local populations, severing important supply routes, and disrupting productive activities.[26] With the broader stabilisation of the security context at the beginning of 2023, there is evidence that some of those previously displaced from the area have returned.[27] Currently there is little information on their ability to earn a livelihood and this is one of the gaps the REA will address.

Vinnytska is located in central Ukraine and, due to its location hundreds of kilometres from the front line—just north of the border with Moldova, has become a destination for those displaced from conflict affected areas. As of April 2023, it had a population of 168,123 officially registered IDPs,[28] equivalent to 11.2% of its estimated resident population in January 2022.[29] Agricultural production and household incomes are known to have declined, raising concerns about negative coping strategies among displaced and resident populations (FAO).

Located on the Black Sea, **Odeska** is famous as a centre of shipping and trade. The only three Ukrainian ports able to conduct exports and imports since August 2022 are located in this oblast. Energy infrastructure was disproportionately targeted for air strikes in late 2022, causing regular power outages and disruptions to telecommunications. While these attacks have reduced in frequency in early 2023, on 08 May 2023, a 1000 meter square warehouse belonging to the Ukrainian Red Cross Society and containing humanitarian supplies was destroyed, forcing the local branch of URC to suspend some aid distribution and projects in the area.[30] Bordering Moldova and Romania, the region has become an important transit point and settling destination for displaced persons. The Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi raion, south of Odeskyi raion,

[25] GICHD, [Clearing landmines from Ukraine may take decades](#), May 2022.
[26] REACH socioeconomic products: [Staple Starches Factsheet, July 2022](#); [Sunflower Oil Production Factsheet, October 2022](#); [Chernivetska EPA, November 2022](#); [Volynska EPA, November 2022](#).
[27] IOM, [Ukraine – Returns Report](#), January 2023.
[28] IOM, [Ukraine – Area Baseline Assessment](#), April 2023.
[29] UNFPA, [Ukraine – Subnational Population Statistics](#), accessed 15 May 2023.
[30] URC, [Ukrainian Red Cross warehouse destroyed in Odesa](#), accessed 14 May 2023.

was found to have a high livelihoods living standards gap (LSG) combined with a medium density of population in the 2022 MSNA, meaning a relatively large population affected by low incomes and high reliance on humanitarian assistance.[31]

Like Chernihivska, **Mykolaivska** experienced invasion and a period of partial occupation (February to November 2022), resulting in displacement of part of the local population. Like Odeska, it serves as an important transit and settling location for IDPs leaving conflict-affected areas to the east.[32] It is strategically located on the western side of the mouth of the Dnipro River and before the war was home to an important shipping and ship building industry. The Kakhovska Dam and associated Hydroelectric Power Plant—captured by RF on 24 February 2022—are located on part of the Dnipro separating Mykolaivska and Khersonska. Water from the Kakhovska Reservoir is used by the coolant systems of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. Since November 2022, the spillways at the dam have been left open, and between 01 December 2022 and 06 February, the water level of the reservoir had dropped by 2 meters.[33] A precarious security situation has resulted in limited availability of important goods as well as limited accessibility of shops and financial services.[34]

Questions for Key Informants have been phrased to capture the impact of the war on the access of socioeconomically marginalised and vulnerable groups such as, **women**, **IDPs**, and **returnees**, to agricultural and non-agricultural livelihoods opportunities in the assessment areas. KIs, according to their level of responsibility/representation, will be asked about the situation at different administrative divisions. From smallest to largest, those division are the hromada, the raion, and the oblast.

3.3 Secondary data review

Data from the **World Bank's** Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment will be used to quantify the impact of the war on different sectors of the Ukrainian economy, specifically social protection and livelihoods, in terms of direct damages and economic losses. Damage, losses, and needs, have been given US$ values at the oblast level, which allows for a comparative assessment of impacts across the country. What is missing is a contextualisation of this data with reference to features of local economies. **UNDP** have reviewed multiple secondary data sources to offer some useful insights into the business environment at the national level for SMEs pre- and post-outbreak of war, including the under-representation of women in senior management, especially at larger companies.[35] This study will explore local economic actors' perceptions of the socioeconomic dynamics and supply chain disruptions that have caused problems for the SME sector at large. Through in-depth interviews, this study will also address information gaps around the participation of women in the business community.

FAO data will be used to understand disruptions caused to agricultural activities at the oblast level from the perspectives of rural households and agricultural enterprises.[36] FAO's approach to categorising different types of agricultural activities will be used to guide indicator development for capturing information about agricultural supply chains as well as non-agricultural activities, at the oblast, raion and hromada levels. **IOM's** data provides a baseline understanding of the socioeconomic situation of IDPs at the level of macro regions (larger than oblasts), without addressing specifics relating to the participation of IDPs in economic life.[37] This study will aim to describe the way IDPs participate in local labour markets, including the type of work this population typically does in different areas.

REACH data from the assessment areas has the advantages of providing both household and key informant data at different administrative levels. Review of MSNA, ATM, JMMI, HSM, and Climate and Environment products has allowed for the selection and adaptation of relevant indicators that will be used to anchor and triangulate findings. There is additionally the

[31] REACH Ukraine, MSNA 2022 Livelihoods Findings, March 2023.
[32] REACH Ukraine, ATM Situation Overview in Mykolaiv, February 2023.
[33] npr, Russia is draining a massive Ukrainian reservoir, endangering a nucelar plant, accessed 14 May 2023.
[34] REACH Ukraine, JMMI Kherson and Mykolaiv Regions Market Conditions, January 2022.
[35] UNDP, Rapid Assessment of the War's Impact on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in Ukraine, October 2022.
[36] FAO, Ukraine: Impact of the war on agriculture and rural livelihoods in Ukraine, December 2022.
[37] For example: IOM, Ukraine Area Baseline Assessment – Round 22, March 2023.

possibility of combining REA KI data with MSNA 2023 household data to provide a holistic picture of specific challenges relating to access to livelihoods opportunities at the raion level in the assessment areas.

Job applicant resume and job vacancy data scraped from **work.ua**, Ukraine's most popular job search website, will be analysed to provide a picture of supply and demand in different economic sectors in local labour markets. Further disaggregation may include the age and sex of applicants, to improve information availability on demographics of jobseekers in different sectors. Results of this analysis will be included in outputs from the REA and will inform the development of research questions for the RA-SME.

3.4 Primary Data Collection

Method

Data will be collected by four field teams, one per oblast, each comprising one team leader (TL) and two enumerators. Each team will have a driver to allow them to visit different locations in the oblast and collect data through face-to-face interviews. In some areas where face-to-face interviews are not possible for reasons of security or difficulty of access, interviews will be conducted over the phone. Key informant interviews (KIIs) will be conducted using a **single semi-structured Kobo tool** for which enumerators will need a Kobo-enabled device, while the **seven in-depth interview questionnaires** will be made available as Microsoft Word documents, requiring the TLs, who are primarily responsible for in-depth interviews, to be prepared to take notes using their preferred modality. In-depth interviews will be recorded to allow the assessment team to cross-check results where necessary. Data collection is due to begin on Thursday 25 May 2023 and will continue for two weeks, until Wednesday 07 June.

The REA is the first of three socioeconomic assessments that will take place between April 2023 and June 2025 as part of ACTED and IMPACT's SEED project. The REA is intended to gain a broad understanding of the local economy and labour market in each of the four areas and will principally contribute to output 1314, 'socioeconomic activities to improve information availability on gender and age dynamics within local economies' (SEED Project Implementation Plan). Findings from the REA will be used to design a Rapid Assessment of Small and Medium Enterprises – a type of business survey, and a Labour Force and Capacity Profiling assessment – a household survey. As such, the REA will focus on collecting area-level information on key economic activities, supply and demand in the labour market, supply chain disruptions, and gender dynamics. Activities planned by ACTED include livelihoods grants, business grants and training, vocational training opportunities for women, support for CSOs to create business advisory centres, and support for kindergarten and childcare services. Key informants have been identified based on their ability to address gaps in contextual information that will be immediately useful to ACTED and other partners planning livelihoods activities in the assessment areas, and include local authorities, BMOs, employment centres, TVETs, administrative services (Diia), CSOs, and financial institutions.

Key Informant Interviews

KIIs will be conducted with at least **120 local economic actors** in total across the four oblasts, equivalent to **30** interviews per oblast.

	Local authority		Business Management Organisations (BMOs)		Employment Centres (ECs)		TSNAPs/Diia	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Oblast	1	1	3	3	2+	2+	1	1
Raion	2 - 4	2 - 4			2+	2+		
Hromada	4 - 7	4 - 7						

Local authorities

Representatives of local authorities at three administrative levels will be sampled. At least two officials at the oblast level will be selected from relevant departments in the oblast state administration. At least one official will be selected from each raion (between 4 and 7 per oblast). If possible, hromadas will be selected based on results of the interviews with raion level

officials, who will be asked which hromadas in their area experience the greatest disruptions to livelihood and productive activities. Gender parity will be aimed for among local authority representatives.

Business Management Organisations, Agricultural Associations and Trade Unions

One female and one male representative will be sampled from at least one BMO representing non-agricultural activities, one agricultural association, and one trade union/employee association per oblast.

Employment Centres

One female and one male representative of one state-run and at least one private employment centre will be selected at the oblast level. At least one representatives of state-run employment centres at the raion level will be sampled, with the aim of achieving gender parity.

Diia

At least one female and male representative of the administrative service provider, Diia, will be sampled at the oblast level.

In-depth Interviews

At least **64** in-depth interviews will be conducted, equivalent to **16** interviews per oblast. In-depth interviews will take place in person where security and practical considerations permit, and will be recorded, with the consent of the participant, to allow for cross-checking of results where necessary.

	Local authority		BMOs		ECs/TVETs/DIIA		Financial institutions		Donors/ INGOs		TSNAPs		CSOs
	F	M	Agri	Non-agri	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	
Oblast	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Raion	1	1											

Local authorities

At least two representatives, one female and one male, will be sampled from the oblast state administration, and a further two representatives from raions in the oblast. Raions have been determined by existing REACH data on livelihoods needs in the assessment areas.

BMOs

At least one representative of an agricultural association and one representative of a non-agricultural BMO will be selected from each oblast, with preference given to female representatives where possible.

ECs/TVETs

At least one female and one male representative of organisations providing technical and vocational education and training will be sampled from each oblast.

Financial institutions

At least one female and one male representative of financial institutions (banks/MFIs) providing credit services to entrepreneurs and businesses will be sampled from each oblast.

Donors/INGOs

At least one female and one male representative of donors/INGOs implementing livelihoods activities in the area will be sampled for each oblast.

Diia

At least one female and one male representative of Diia, which provides access to state-run grant programs as well as administrative services for entrepreneurs and businesses, will be sampled from each oblast.

CSOs

At least two civil society organisations focused on the participation of vulnerable and marginalised groups in the economic and social life of the local area will be sampled from each oblast, with preference given to female representatives where possible.

Tools

Data collection will be implemented using two types of tool, (i) a semi-structured Kobo tool for KIIs, and (ii) an in-depth interview question guide.

Kobo Tool for KIIs

The Kobo tool for KIIs will be built according to specifications in the Data Analysis Plan, including conditional formatting that will allow **one tool** to be used for the four categories of respondent. The Kobo tool will be shared with key informants in advance to ensure their preparedness on the day of the interview.

In-Depth Interview Question Guides

To ensure the relevance of questions to the key informant's area of knowledge, unique question guides will be made available for **each of the seven categories** of respondent in the form of word documents. Guides will contain a mixture of structured (tabular) and open-ended questions (including prompts), and may be completed either during the interview or afterwards, with reference to notes and the audio recording. Guides will be shared with key informants in advance to ensure their preparedness on the day of the interview.

Monitoring

The assessment team will brief the field team on the data collection methodology ten days in advance of the start of data collection. TLs and enumerators will be trained on the tools a few days in advance of data collection and a pilot will be conducted on the same day to test the tools. Tools will be adjusted based on feedback from the field team. Tools will contain sections allowing TLs and enumerators to record empirical observations not captured by the questions, as well as comments on the ability/willingness of key informants to respond to specific questions.

Incoming data from the **KII tool** will be monitored by a database officer (DBO) to ensure the completeness and consistency of submissions. A tracker will be developed to check submissions recorded automatically by Kobo against submissions reported by the field team. Incoming **in-depth interview** data will be monitored by a senior assessment officer (SAO) to ensure the completeness of submissions. The TL will be required to submit the completed data collection tool (notes) to the SAO as a Word document within 48 hours of the interview, along with a debrief form. The debrief form should be used to indicate any changes and additions that were made to notes following the interview based on recordings. A data saturation grid will be completed by the assessment team in real time in case data saturation is reached before the end of data collection, though such a scenario is unlikely given the range of actors and the differences between assessment areas.

An enumerators feedback focus group will be held in July to capture lessons learned from REA data collection, with findings to be incorporated into the design of the RA-SMEs.

3.5 Data Processing & Analysis

KII data captured through the Kobo tool will be securely stored in the cloud, with access permissions managed by IMPACT HQ. The DBO will have access to this data to conduct real-time monitoring. Given the relatively small sample size for structured data (120 submissions in total), it will not be necessary to run cleaning scripts on the data as it is being collected. Instead, the DBO will export the entire dataset at the end of field work and then proceed with cleaning. During cleaning, the DBO will record all changes and deletions in a cleaning log and deletion log, respectively. An R script will then be used to

record value changes by comparing the raw dataset with the clean dataset, and the resulting value change log will be compared with the logs completed by the DBO to ensure consistency.

The raw dataset will be separated into four smaller datasets, one per category of key informant. Data analysis will be performed in Excel, with information on disaggregation (notably geographical locations, administrative levels, and gender) contained in the DAP serving as an analytical framework. The SAO will supervise the DBO to ensure appropriate disaggregation and bivariate analysis.

Qualitative data captured through in-depth interviews will be structured and analysed using MAXQDA software to identify discussion topics and discussion points, allowing for the completion of the IMPACT Data Saturation and Analysis Grid (DSAG).

4. Key ethical considerations and related risks

The proposed research design meets the following criteria:

The proposed research design…	*Yes/ No*	*Details if no (including mitigation)*
… Has been coordinated with relevant stakeholders to **avoid unnecessary duplication** of data collection efforts?	Yes	
… **Respects respondents, their rights and dignity** (*specifically by: seeking informed consent, designing length of survey/ discussion while being considerate of participants' time, ensuring accurate reporting of information provided*)?	Yes	
… Does not **expose data collectors to any risks as a direct result** of participation in data collection?	Yes	
… Does not **expose respondents / their communities to any risks as a direct result** of participation in data collection?	Yes	
… Does not involve **collecting information on specific topics which may be stressful and/ or re-traumatising** for research participants (both respondents and data collectors)?	Yes	
… Does not involve **data collection with minors** i.e. anyone less than 18 years old?	Yes	
… Does not involve **data collection with other vulnerable groups** e.g. persons with disabilities, victims/ survivors of protection incidents, etc.?	Yes	
… Follows IMPACT SOPs for management of **personally identifiable information**?	Yes	

5. Roles and responsibilities

Table 3: Description of roles and responsibilities

Task Description	*Responsible*	*Accountable*	*Consulted*	*Informed*

	Responsible	Accountable	Consulted	Informed
Research design	Senior Assessment Officer	Senior Assessment Officer IMPACT	ACTED, Field team, County Coordinator, HQ Research and Design and Data Unit (RDDU)	ACTED, County Coordinator, HQ RDDU
Supervising data collection	Field Operations Manager	Senior Assessment Officer IMPACT	Research Manager, Country Coordinator, ACTED, HQ RDDU	GAC, HQ RDDU, Country Coordinator
Data processing (checking, cleaning)	Database Officer	Senior Database and GIS Officer	Senior Assessment Officer, HQ RDDU	Research Manager, Country Coordinator, ACTED, HQ RDDU
Data analysis	Database Officer	Senior Database and GIS Officer	Senior Assessment Officer IMPACT, HQ RDDU	Research Manager, Country Coordinator, ACTED, HQ RDDU
Output production	Senior Assessment Officer	Senior Assessment Officer IMPACT	Research Manager, Country Coordinator, ACTED, GAC, HQ Research Reporting Unit (RRU)	Research Manager, Country Coordinator, ACTED, HQ RRU
Dissemination	Senior Assessment Officer	Senior Assessment Officer IMPACT	Country Coordinator, HQ Communication Unit, ACTED	HQ Communication Unit, ACTED
Monitoring & Evaluation	Senior Assessment Officer IMPACT	MEAL Manager	HQ RDDU, Country Coordinator	HQ RDDU, Country Coordinator
Lessons learned	Senior Assessment Officer	Senior Assessment Officer IMPACT	ACTED, GAC, partners and stakeholders, Field team, Data team, HQ RDDU	Country Coordinator, HQ RDDU

Responsible: *the person(s) who executes the task*

Accountable: *the person who validates the completion of the task and is accountable of the final output or milestone*

Consulted: *the person(s) who must be consulted when the task is implemented*

Informed: the person(s) who need to be informed when the task is completed

NB: Only one person can be Accountable; the only scenario when the same person is listed twice for a task is when the same person is both Responsible and Accountable.

5. Data Analysis Plan

Available upon request.

7. Monitoring & Evaluation Plan

- *Please complete the M&E Plan column in the table and use the corresponding Tools in the Monitoring & Evaluation matrix to implement the plan during the research cycle.*

IMPACT Objective	External M&E Indicator	Internal M&E Indicator	Focal point	Tool	Will indicator be tracked?
Humanitarian stakeholders are accessing IMPACT products	Number of humanitarian organisations accessing IMPACT services/products Number of individuals accessing IMPACT services/products	# of downloads of x product from Resource Center	Country request to HQ	User_log	X Yes
		# of downloads of x product from Relief Web	Country request to HQ		X Yes
		# of downloads of x product from Country level platforms	Country team		X Yes
		# of page clicks on x product from REACH global newsletter	Country request to HQ		X Yes
		# of page clicks on x product from country newsletter, sendingBlue, bit.ly	Country team		□ Yes
		# of visits to x webmap/x dashboard	Country request to HQ		□ Yes
IMPACT activities contribute to better program implementation and coordination of the humanitarian response	Number of humanitarian organisations utilizing IMPACT services/products	# references in HPC documents (HNO, SRP, Flash appeals, Cluster/sector strategies)	Country team	Reference_log	*Cluster strategies: Assessment and Analysis working group (AAWG), Shelter, CSM* *strategies of NGOs and INGOs working in assessed area*
		# references in single agency documents			
Humanitarian stakeholders are using IMPACT products	Humanitarian actors use IMPACT evidence/products as a basis for decision making, aid planning and delivery Number of humanitarian	Perceived relevance of IMPACT country-programs	Country team	Usage_Feedback *and* Usage_Survey template	*[Outline here the usage survey to be implemented for this research cycle* *E.g. Usage survey to be conducted in November 2017, following the release of x outputs, targeting at least 10 partners*
		Perceived usefulness and influence of IMPACT outputs			
		Recommendations to strengthen IMPACT programs			

	documents (HNO, HRP, cluster/agency strategic plans, etc.) directly informed by IMPACT products	Perceived capacity of IMPACT staff			*E.g. Usage survey to be conducted at the end of the research cycle related to all outputs, targeting at least 20 partners]*
		Perceived quality of outputs/programs			
		Recommendations to strengthen IMPACT programs			
Humanitarian stakeholders are engaged in IMPACT programs throughout the research cycle	Number and/or percentage of humanitarian organizations directly contributing to IMPACT programs *(providing resources, participating to presentations, etc.)*	# of organisations providing resources (i.e.staff, vehicles, meeting space, budget, etc.) for activity implementation	Country team	Engagement _log	X Yes
		# of organisations/clusters inputting in research design and joint analysis			X Yes
		# of organisations/clusters attending briefings on findings;			X Yes

ANNEX 1: METHODOLOGY NOTES (IF RELEVANT)

ANNEX 2: TOOLS

Gender in value chains: Practical toolkit to integrate a gender perspective in agricultural value chain development.

IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs: Guidance on IASC framework along with indicator library and question bank.

Market Assessment Toolkit for Vocational Training Providers and Youth: The three-part Market Assessment Toolkit for VT Providers and Youth is a combination of resources, questionnaires and activities to assist VT programs and youth to gather information on market demand and translate it into programming that responds to a dynamic business environment and youth needs. The toolkit offers a roadmap to VT providers, youth participants and other local and international actors.

Minimum Economic Recovery Standards (MERS): This resource is not a 'how to' for implementing economic programs in humanitarian contexts. Its intent is to provide the reader with guidance on what good programming looks like and what to consider when you are planning your activities. This is more of a general framework for economic recovery planning and programming.

Minimum Standards for Market Analysis (MISMA): The MISMA establishes the standard that must be met in any market analysis exercise to ensure the quality of humanitarian response and associated contingency plans. Like MERS, this establishes general standards rather than offering operational tools.