

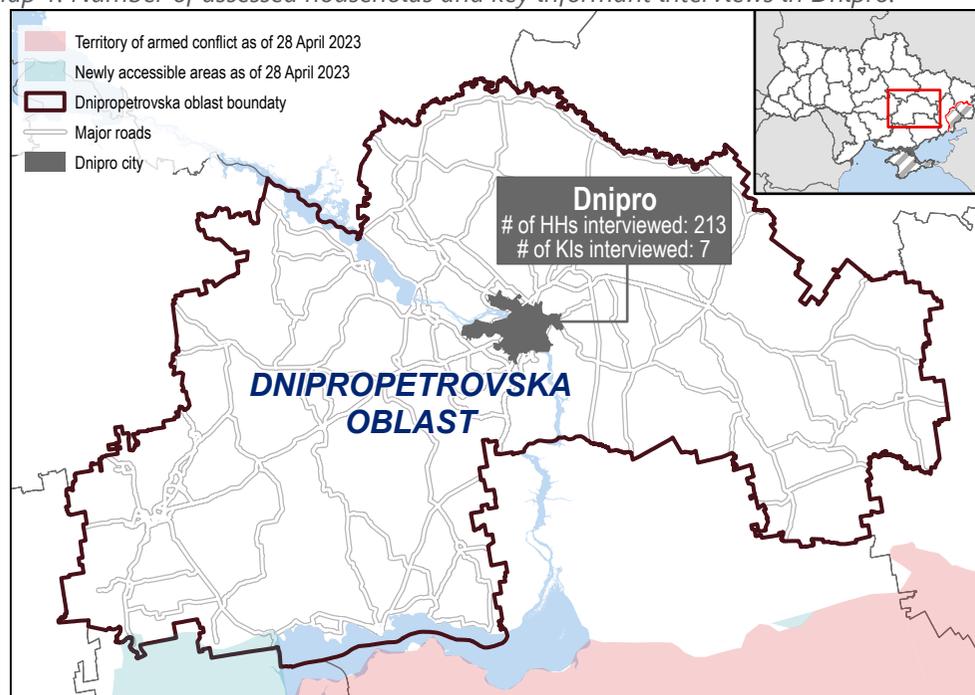
Arrival and Transit Monitoring: Situation Overview in Dnipro

May 2023 | Ukraine

CONTEXT & RATIONALE

As a prominent hosting area and evacuation point for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the east, Dnipro has been at the forefront for providing humanitarian assistance and services to affected populations. In turn, the city has undergone various missile attacks, resulting in destruction of both critical and civilian infrastructure.¹ Despite this, IDPs continue to arrive to Dnipro, after having made the decision to evacuate from precarious situations, resulting in diverse level of needs upon arrival. To inform the humanitarian response, **Round 8 of REACH's Arrival and Transit Monitoring (ATM) assessment provided a Situation Overview in Dnipro from April to May.** This overview strives to inform the programmatic and operational response regarding population movement, as well as challenges that households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance upon arrival and long-term settlement.

Map 1. Number of assessed households and key informant interviews in Dnipro.



KEY MESSAGES

- **Dnipro continues to serve as a major IDP hosting area for those displaced from Donetsk (60%) and Luhanska (23%) oblasts.** Most households included female and male members of employable age (31-50 years). As close to half of households reported a member that is unemployed, most were seeking employment opportunities (40%).
- As IDPs experience increasingly longer periods of displacement, **close to half of households (43%) reported having changed their residence at least once prior to arriving to Dnipro.** A lack of employment opportunities was cited as one of the primary reasons to resettle.
- **An acute level of needs for IDPs upon arrival were observed** with food items, hygiene products, non-food items and medicines of the most prioritised needs. While most resided in collective centres, households with vulnerable members required adequate housing.
- **A reduction of assistance due to the closure of humanitarian offices and electronic dissemination of information posed additional barriers to receive aid.** In addition to long wait times, insufficient provision of food items, hygiene kits and bed linen were noted as primary concerns. Additionally, word of mouth is heavily relied on by older persons without a smartphone to locate humanitarian distribution points.
- While movement intentions remain highly dependent on the status of the war and ongoing hostilities in areas of origin, **long-term settlement for IDPs is highly anticipated.** High rental costs and limited employment opportunities present challenges for IDPs' integration and settlement.
- **Returning households with a higher vulnerability face challenges in sustaining themselves financially within Dnipro.** A loss of benefits associated with IDP status, resulting in a reliance on other forms of government assistance, were reported insufficient amidst high costs of living within the city.

METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

To inform the humanitarian response, REACH provided an indicative overview of the situation in Dnipro alongside Round 8 of REACH's ATM assessment.² Between **the 21st April to 6th May 2023, REACH enumerators interviewed 2,361 recently arrived³ IDP and returnee households (HHs), including 213 interviewed in Dnipro.** To accompany data collected in Dnipro, **seven key informant (KI) interviews** were conducted with volunteers and representatives of local and non-government organisations (NGOs). Through this overview, additional information pertaining to the barriers and challenges for IDP/ returnee households, including those travelling with a person(s) with a vulnerability are presented.

POPULATION MOVEMENT AND DISPLACEMENT

Displacement from conflict-affected areas and recent IDP arrivals

Due to its close proximity to conflict-affected areas within the east, Dnipro and Dnipropetrovska oblast are among the largest IDP hosting areas across Ukraine since the full-scale war in February 2022. As of 29 June, the Ministry of Social Policy reported 465,143 IDPs registered within Dnipropetrovska oblast.⁴ **A recent influx of IDPs to the city is observed,** as the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) reported an increase in the number of registered IDPs in Dniprovskiy raion from March to April.⁵ Furthermore, 4 out of 7 KIs indicated IDPs arriving to Dnipro as predominant movement type in the city in April, while **the vast majority of recently arrived households indicated their intention to settle in Dnipro (97%)** and only 3% reported their transit to other settlements, including movement abroad.

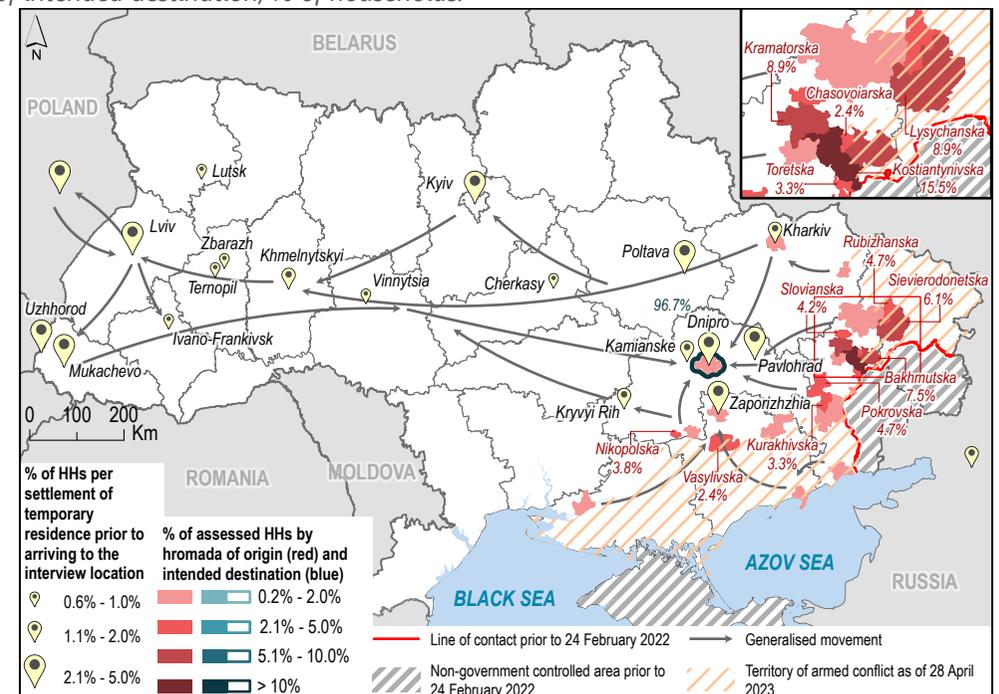
For those recently displaced, the escalation of hostilities, particularly in settlements further east from Dnipro, prompted the decision for households to leave their homes. ATM findings show that of those IDPs within Dnipro, most originated from areas within Donetsk (60%) and Luhanska oblasts (23%). Households within Donetsk originated from settlements including Kostiantynivka (15%), Kramatorsk (8%), Bakhmut (8%) and Pokrovsk (5%). Most displacement drivers pertained to security concerns, particularly a threat to personal and family safety (61%), as well as a shelling (52%) or troops actively fighting in their home settlement (43%). To a lesser extent, 23% of households reported damage or destruction to their homes, thus impacting the decision to return. Indeed, calls for evacuation from areas closer to the line of contact have resulted in the deterioration of humanitarian support to these areas particularly Marinka, Avdiivka and Bakhmut settlements within Donetsk oblast.⁶ ATM findings show that reliance on volunteer transportation for those arriving to Dnipro (24%) was the highest when compared to other assessed settlements.

While recent escalations have driven households out of their homes, others experienced diverse movement trends since their displacement. **Many recently arrived households experienced a longer duration of displacement, and relocated to Dnipro after having temporarily resided in settlements within Ukraine and even abroad.** Over half households interviewed in Dnipro reported their recent displacement from April 2023 (58%) and a smaller proportion reported leaving their areas of origin in 2022 (37%). Figure 2 shows that close to half of assessed households changed their residence at least once prior to arriving to Dnipro. Though most remained in areas in east and south, movement west of the country is observed. Map 2 presents locations in the east, particularly Pavlohrad, Poltava and Zaporizhzhia as settlements of temporary residence, while others resided in areas further west including Kyiv, Lviv, Uzhhorod, Mukachevo, and abroad to Poland. Of the push factors to relocate to Dnipro, over half of households reported leaving their recent residence due to a lack of employment opportunities (54%). A desire to reunify with relatives (28%) and a lack of access to adequate housing (24%) were also reported as primary reasons to resettle.

Figure 1. Times of resettlement since displacement, % of households.



Map 2. Reported hromadas of origin, settlements of temporary residence and hromadas of intended destination, % of households.

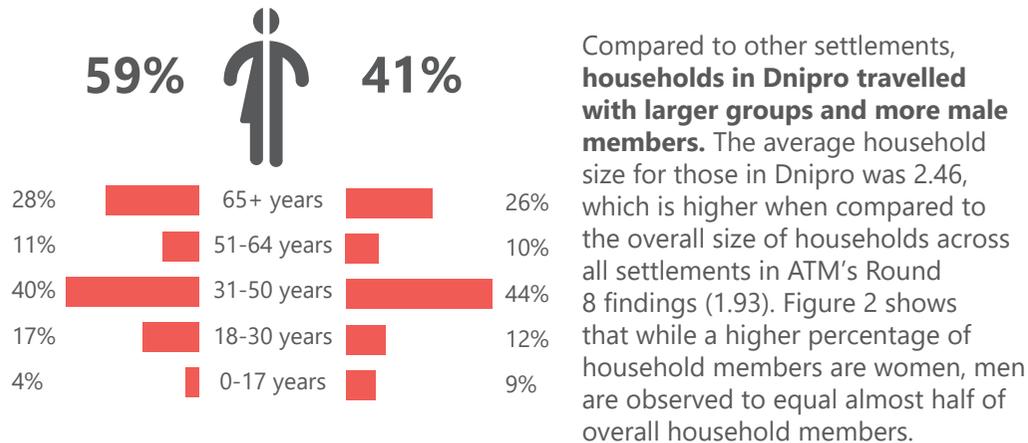


Pull factors and length of stay

As an urban settlement in the east, most households reported their relocation to Dnipro due to its close proximity to their area of origin (43%). Others reported being advised to go to Dnipro (33%), as well as a general desire to reunify with relatives and friends (23%). Corroborating factors include continued calls for evacuation from eastern oblasts, as Dnipro is a common stop for train routes moving west. Despite this, **the intention to remain in Dnipro is highly dependent on the status of the ongoing war**. Just over half of households reported remaining until the war is over (55%), or to remain until active conflict ceases in their area of origin (24%). Others were less sure of the duration of stay in Dnipro, as 13% were uncertain at the time of the interview. Indeed, 88% of households reported their intention to return to their area of origin in the future.

DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Figure 2. Sex and age distribution of household members assessed in Dnipro.



As households in Dnipro travelled with larger groups, only 12% of households reported travelling with children. Thus, **most households intending to settle in Dnipro were comprised of employable age (31-50 years) or older populations (65+ years)**. Of those households with an older member (46%), 16% of older persons arrived on their own. Other vulnerable groups of concern were households included a person with a chronic illness (41%) and a person with a disability (4%).

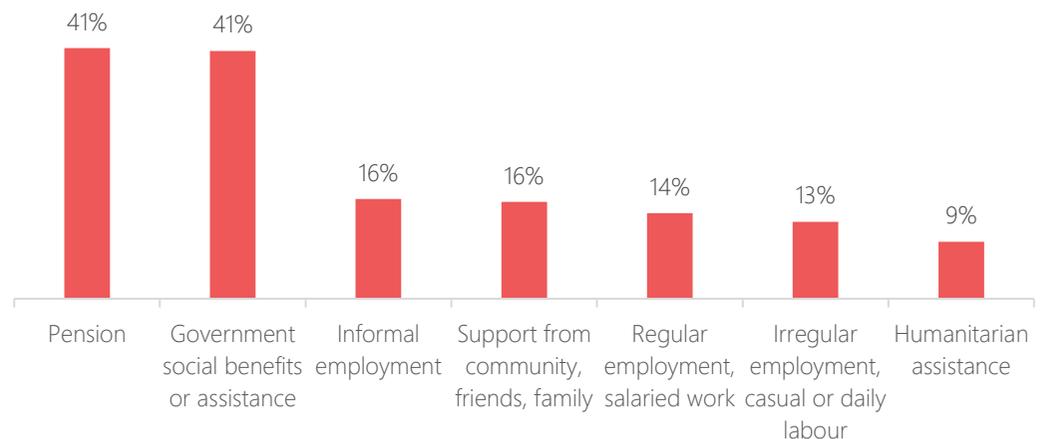
Due to a larger percentage of household members of older age, **many relied on pensions as a source of income (41%). Income in the form of assistance is also commonly relied on, including financial support from the government and support from community, relatives or friends**. As shown in Figure 3, close to half

Returns to Dnipro

According to IOM's Conditions of Return assessment, in April, an **estimated 333,000 returns were reported in Dniprovska hromada**, with a rate of return at 41-60%.⁷ Conditions of return included livelihoods, as well as safety and security. Though ATM findings did not observe any households returning to Dnipro during the data collection period, one KI indicated returns to Dnipro from abroad as a predominant movement type in the city in the previous month. Despite this, IOM's Returns Report indicates that of those returning to Dnipropetrovska oblast, 8% were considering relocating following their return to their area of origin.⁸ Of those, a lower percentage considered relocating abroad.

of households (43%) include a member that is engaged in some form of employment. Despite this, **40% of households reported a member that is formally unemployed, but seeking work**. In turn, the employment landscape, particularly for IDPs in Dnipro, is observed to have provided many opportunities to seek suitable employment. As reported by the Dnipro City Council, the number of those registered as unemployed decreased, as 1,463 individuals were registered on 1 February compared to 3,500 registered the previous year.⁹ While a number of vacancies have been filled in Dnipro, many appear to be positions of skilled labour. Over 250 IDP doctors were hired in the city's medical institutions.¹⁰ However, more than 3,200 vacancies are available within the Dnipro Regional Employment Service, including locksmiths, doctors, sales representatives, engineers and drivers.¹¹ Thus suggesting difficulties for those who do not have the skill set for such vacancies.

Figure 3. Sources of income, % of households.



HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Diverse needs were observed, as **just over half of those interviewed reported only 'sometimes' or 'rarely' being able to meet their everyday (51%)**. Despite this, 5 out of 7 KIs noted 'severe' or 'high' needs among IDPs, particularly those with a vulnerability. As many households reported their recent displacement, it is suggested that many have arrived from conflict-affected areas with limited belongings, thus relying on humanitarian assistance upon arrival.

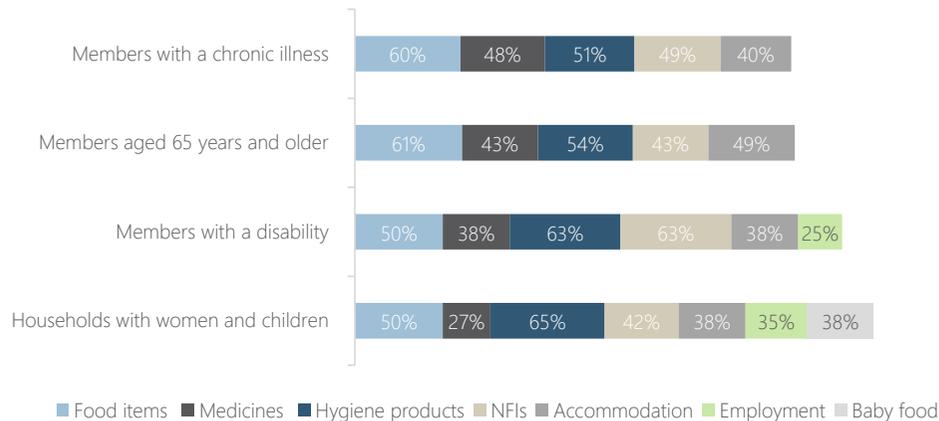
Figure 4. Top reported needs, % of households.

| Humanitarian needs | % of households | # of KIs |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Food items | 64% | 6/7 |
| Hygiene products | 54% | 5/7 |
| NFIs | 54% | 0/7 |
| Medicines | 46% | 2/7 |

Of the prioritised needs, Table 1 shows that **food items were most commonly requested upon arrival, in addition to hygiene products and non-food items (NFIs)**. Concerning access to medicines, KIs noted specific provision of medications for those with chronic illnesses, as well as antipyretic and anti-allergy medication. Access to healthcare

services was also commonly reported as a challenge for IDPs by 4 out of 7 KIs. **While those travelling with a member with a vulnerability reported similar needs compared to overall assessed households, access to suitable accommodation was prioritised.** As shown in Figure 5, accommodation was commonly reported for each vulnerable group. Indeed, while 48% of households in Dnipro were renting, most households reported residing in a collective centre (26%), which is higher when compared to other assessed settlements. Though collective centres are able to provide urgent and temporary housing, many are deemed inaccessible for certain population groups. According to REACH's Collective Site Monitoring, 20-29% of collective centres in Dnipropetrovska reported a lack of adequate infrastructure and devices for older persons and those with a disability.¹²

Figure 5. Top reported needs, % of households with a vulnerable member.



CHALLENGES ACCESSING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Reduction in aid provisions

As a prominent logistical hub in the east, Dnipro is suggested to be well connected in terms of delivery of humanitarian assistance to displaced populations. ATM findings show that only 9% of assessed households experienced challenges accessing humanitarian assistance upon arrival. Though a recent reduction of aid provisions are reported to be prevalent, and have warranted concerns for the delivery of assistance within Dnipro. Many KIs cited **the closure of humanitarian offices within the city (5 KIs) and a general reduction in the amount of aid provisions (4 KIs)**. Households who experienced challenges in accessing humanitarian assistance most reported insufficient provisions (79%). KIs reported a decrease in overall provisions, specifically noting food packages, hygiene kits, and bed linen. Despite this, OCHA reported at least 200,000 individuals in Dnipropetrovska oblast were reached through the humanitarian response in April.¹³ However, one KI noted that assistance in the past month has decreased in Dnipro city, suggesting that most provisions are distributed within the oblast.

"At the moment we see that the major portion of humanitarian assistance is delivered to Dnipropetrovska region in general, and humanitarian assistance is not provided in a timely manner. [...] the quantity of humanitarian assistance distributed in the city over the past month has reduced."

- NGO representative

Barriers accessing assistance for individuals with a vulnerability

Despite reports of a reduction in provisions, the delivery of humanitarian assistance is suggested to undermine the barriers that members with a vulnerability face. KIs noted that **long queues at distribution points continues to be a challenge for IDPs** including older persons (5 KIs) and persons with a disability (2 KIs). Concerning access to information regarding humanitarian assistance, most KIs (6 out of 7) observed accurate and timely delivery of information to beneficiaries. Conversely, findings suggest that **dissemination efforts could improve for households travelling with older persons**. Electronic dissemination of information, as in other areas of Ukraine, was most commonly utilised in Dnipro. This was reported by over half of households (66%) and majority of KIs (6 out of 7), as common social channels, particularly Telegram announcements and Facebook, are primarily relied on. **Older persons, particularly those without smartphones, are reported to face barriers including the inability to retrieve information, or have difficulties registering for assistance online.** Additionally, one representative of a local organisation noted that most older persons were unaware of where distribution points are located. For those unable to access information online, most relied on word of mouth (74%). Relatives and neighbours are said to play an integral role in information dissemination (5 out of 7 KIs).

SUPPORT FOR LONG-TERM SETTLEMENT

Integration for IDPs and returnees

Despite the status of the ongoing full-scale war as the primary factor influencing the decision for households to remain in Dnipro, **most KIs anticipate long-term settlement for IDPs.** Overall, observations suggest the city's preparedness to accommodate displaced populations (5 out of 7). Conversely, due to reported closure of humanitarian offices and reduced provisions of assistance, additional concerns were highlighted in order to support both IDPs and returnees in their settlement and integration into communities to become self-sufficient.

Figure 6. Reported external support required for integration, % of IDP households.



IDPs in particular, face specific challenges in their efforts to integrate in Dnipro long-term. As shown in Figure 6, **majority of IDP households reported requiring external support for long-term housing solutions.** Such concerns were also reiterated by KIs (6 out of 7), while most cited challenges surrounded renting within the city, due to the expensive accommodations. According to REACH's Joint Market Monitoring Initiative, rental costs in the east were the highest in Dnipropetrovska oblast.¹⁴

"Accommodation prices are too high and many IDPs go to other settlements where they can find cheaper accommodation."

- Local organisation representative

In addition to the support required for long-term housing, **obtaining employment opportunities in Dnipro is suggested to be both a challenge and a barrier towards integration.** KIs reported this as difficult for both IDPs (4 KIs) and returnees (5 KIs), regardless of their displacement status. Additionally, 36% of IDP households indicated requiring support for employment assistance, signaling a desire to work within the city. Corroborating factors may include a lack of skills and training required for positions, as many vacancies were reported by Dnipro's Regional Employment Service (see page 3). **For returnees of employable age, the lack of access to employment opportunities is a barrier for those looking to reintegrate and diversify their sources of income following the loss of their IDP status.** Indeed, according to the Ministry of Social Policy, IDP households will continue to receive monthly payments of 2,000 UAH per person and 3,000 UAH for children and those with a disability.¹⁵ Due to a continued

reliance on these benefits, the loss of IDP status following their return can result in the need to diversify sources of income and seek employment. As such, two KIs highlighted this as a primary concern for returnee households, due to an observed disproportionate support compared to IDPs.

"The local population is faced with a lot of barriers as this group of people gets much less humanitarian assistance than IDPs"

- Local organisation representative

Those unable to work, whether they are retired or due to health reasons, are particularly vulnerable as additional challenges are prevalent in order sustain themselves financially and meet their everyday basic needs. As a loss of IDP status and associated benefits puts a strain on the financial situation of returnee households, **high costs of living in Dnipro are particularly concerning for older persons dependent on their pensions as a primary source of income.** Overall, four KIs observed low pensions as often not enough to cover basic needs of older generations, posing additional barriers upon their return. While older persons were identified of the most vulnerable amongst returnee populations, other KIs reported additional barriers prevalent for families with low income, particularly single-female headed households (2 KIs). Persons with disabilities and low mobility were also of the concern for returnees in terms of access and ability to afford goods and services.

"People over 60 face a lot of barriers, because it is difficult for them to satisfy their basic needs due to high prices of food items and cost of utility services with low pensions"

- Local organisation representative

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).

ENDNOTES

PAGE 1

¹ Kyiv School of Economics, [Report on damages to infrastructure caused by Russia's war against Ukraine one year after the start of the full-scale invasion](#), March 2023.

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² REACH, [Arrival and Transit Monitoring: Round 8 Factsheet](#), May 2023.

³ "Recently arrived" refers to the households that have arrived to the settlement of the interview location 14 days or less prior to the date of the interview.

⁴ [English translation] Ministry of Social Policy Ukraine, [Information and Computing Center of the Ministry of Social Policy Ukraine - IDP Dashboard](#), Accessed 25 June 2023.

⁵ International Organization for Migration (IOM), [Registered IDP Area Baseline Assessment - Round 23](#), April 2023.

⁶ OCHA, [Ukraine: Deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Donetsk oblast - Flash update #3: Marinka, Vuhleadr and Kurakhove \(3 May 2023\)](#), 3 May 2023.

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⁷ International Organization for Migration (IOM), [DTM Ukraine — Conditions of Return Assessment Factsheet — Round 2](#), 1 June 2023.

⁸ International Organization for Migration (IOM), [DTM Ukraine — Returns Report — General Population Survey Round 13](#), 19 July 2023.

⁹ [English translation] Dnipro Rada, [In Dnipro, the unemployment rate is at a record low, the Labor and Employment Inspectorate reports](#), 22 February 2023.

¹⁰ [English translation] Suspilne, [Since the beginning of the full-scale war, more than 250 migrant doctors have been employed in the Dnipro medical facilities](#), 20 May 2023.

¹¹ [English translation] Dnipropetrovksa Regional Employment Centre, [What vacancies are offered by employers in Dnipropetrovska oblast?](#), 30 June 2023.

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¹² CCCM Cluster, [Ukraine Collective Site Monitoring: Round 8](#), May 2023.

¹³ OCHA, [Ukraine Humanitarian Response 2023: Situation Report](#), 26 May 2023.

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¹⁴ REACH, [Joint market monitoring initiative - Round 14](#), June 2023.

¹⁵ [English translation] Ministry of Social Policy, [Changes in the order of payments for IDPs: the most vulnerable citizens and families in need will continue to receive support](#), 11 July 2023.