

# Damage Impact Analysis Izium city, Kharkivska Oblast

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## 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).

# Damage Impact Analysis

## Izium City, Kharkivska Oblast, Ukraine

### Rationale

While geo-spatial data has significantly improved the understanding of the extent of conflict-driven infrastructural damage in Ukraine, it falls short in capturing its nuanced, localised impacts on various sectors over different timescales. To address this gap, REACH complements GIS-based damage assessments with qualitative impact analyses to enhance the understanding of infrastructure damage impacts, with a particular emphasis on service availability and accessibility.

This approach combines geo-spatial analysis with primary qualitative data to provide insights into how communities experience and cope with infrastructural damage. It aims to inform targeted, context-specific strategies for humanitarian action, early recovery, and reconstruction that address the consequences of damage. Through an Accountability to Affected Populations perspective, this approach ensures that recovery initiatives are not only inclusive and data-informed but also align with the needs and priorities of affected communities.



Fig. 1 Satellite imagery of a school in Izium damaged between February and March 2022



Fig. 2 A drone attack in Izium on May 26th, 2023, damaged businesses, schools, and homes.

### Key findings

- **Izium's housing stock has been significantly impacted by war-related damage**, which has led to the large-scale displacement of its residents and prominent levels of humanitarian needs. **Extensive damage to public infrastructures and utilities is impacting the availability and access to healthcare, education, power and water.**
- **Immediate challenges facing residents include housing shortages and emotional distress, while long-term needs include financial assistance, long-term housing solutions, and access to employment opportunities, which constitutes a major barrier to the return of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).** However, community resilience is evident through adaptive strategies such as including the utilization of alternative cooking methods and water sources. Additionally, there are early signs of economic recovery observable in specific sectors, evidenced by the gradual resumption of activities within certain businesses and public services.
- **The impacts of damage to residential and public service infrastructure are closely interconnected and mutually reinforcing.** These intertwined impacts necessitate recovery strategies that address both areas simultaneously to ensure that recovery interventions rehabilitate both physical infrastructure and support the restoration of community's fabric.

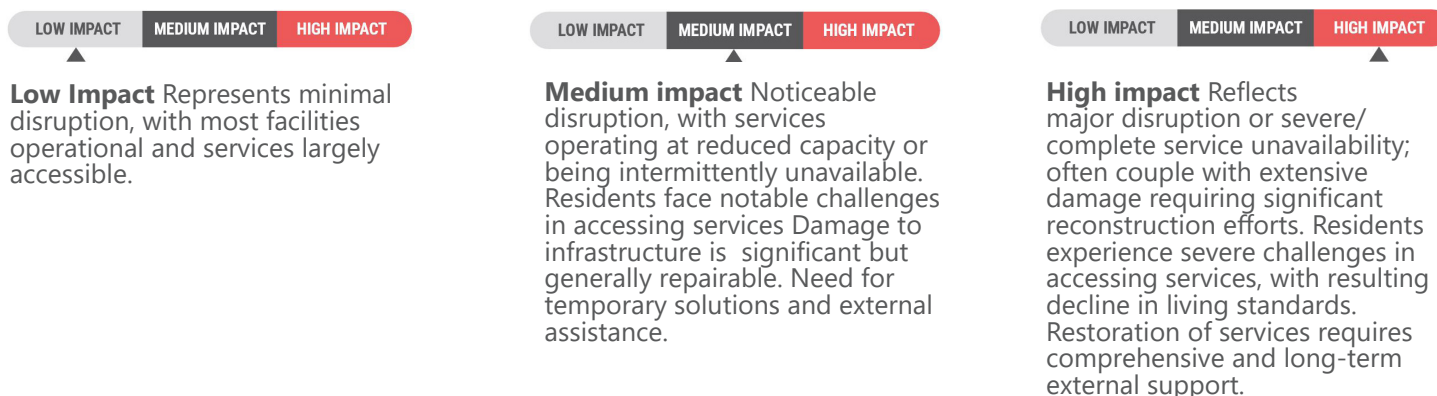
## Context

Izium is a city of regional significance located in the southeast of Kharkiv oblast, with a population estimated at 46,653 before the start of the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation in February 2022. Following its capture by the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation on 7 March 2022, Izium became the second-largest city to be retaken by the Government of Ukraine on 10 September 2022, during a major operation conducted by the Ukrainian Armed Forces to reclaim the region.<sup>1</sup> Intense military activity during this period—including artillery bombardments, airstrikes and ground fighting—resulted in widespread destruction of infrastructure and the displacement of almost two-thirds of the city's population.<sup>2</sup> The impacts of these events were further exacerbated by the collapse of a vital pedestrian bridge, which hindered access to humanitarian aid and disrupted residents' livelihoods. In 2023, following the cessation of active hostilities and de-occupation, the city saw a notable population influx, with 5–7 thousand individuals returning to their homes. As of September 2023, the estimated population of Izium stood at around 27,000 residents, constituting approximately 60% of its pre-war population, including 3,000 children under the age of 18.<sup>3</sup> These demographic shifts and challenges underscore the importance of developing a refined understanding of the repercussions of infrastructure damage in Izium City.

This analysis examines the immediate and long-term impacts of conflict-driven infrastructure damage in Izium City. It aims to inform humanitarian and early recovery actions that mitigate and address damage impacts, while ensuring that communities' needs and priorities are understood and integrated into recovery and reconstruction planning.

## Methodology

This analysis is based on primary data collected by REACH in Izium in September 2023, including one focus group discussion and 12 in-depth, semi-structured key informant interviews with representatives from local authorities and civil society organizations, who were able to provide a diverse range of perspectives on the impact of infrastructure damage in this settlement. The integration of secondary data allowed for the triangulation of primary data to enrich findings. An "impact score" provides a quantified estimation of sectoral damage impacts based on qualitative insights.



The analysis also integrates findings from REACH's damage assessment of Izium, based on analysis of high-resolution satellite imagery acquired on 08 and 19 of December 2022 provided by Airbus<sup>4</sup> (Pléiades Neo 3 and Pléiades Neo 4 satellites with 30cm spatial resolution). REACH partnered with UADamage for AI-assisted damage detection.<sup>5</sup> Detailed maps and datasets are published separately, and may be restricted depending on the sensitivity of the information they contain. See the Methodology Note on p. 13 for further details.

## Findings

### Summary of infrastructure damage in Izium City

A comprehensive damage assessment conducted by REACH in Izium City reveals considerable damage to both residential and non-residential infrastructure. A total of 652 residential buildings were identified as having been affected by war-related damage, including 592 single-family houses and 58 multi-story buildings. Overall, 37% of residential buildings incurred moderate damage, 25% severe damage, 23% were completely destroyed, and 15% were under repair. The city centre, as well as the western and southern parts of the city have incurred the highest density of residential damage.

Additionally, 127 damaged non-residential and public services infrastructure buildings were identified. Industrial objects were the most affected with 44 damaged buildings, followed by 42 businesses, 11 educational facilities, 7 utility suppliers, and 6 administrative buildings. This damage is dispersed throughout the city but is concentrated in the central, western, and northeastern parts. Detailed findings of residential damage assessment conducted by REACH can be found here (LINK), while findings for non-residential and public service infrastructure objects can be accessed upon request at [impact.ukraine@impact-initiatives.org](mailto:impact.ukraine@impact-initiatives.org).



## Damage impact analysis

The impacts of damage to residential and non-residential damage are intrinsically interrelated, co-dependent, and in some cases mutually reinforcing. While residential damage directly impacts the residents' living conditions, damage to public service infrastructure broadly affects community well-being and service functionality. Despite their interconnected nature, these impacts will be presented separately in the following sections to support localised sectoral activities that address the specific needs arising from different types of damage. Similarly to this sectoral delineation, the analysis distinguishes between short-term and long-term impacts to support actions across different timeframes and stages of humanitarian interventions and recovery processes.

### Immediate challenges related to residential damage

Izium residents interviewed by REACH highlighted a range of immediate needs faced by people whose homes have been damaged or destroyed. A primary concern is the immediate practical shelter needs arising from light to moderate damage (such as broken windows and doors, roof damage, utility disruptions, damaged interior), as well as more severe structural damage (such as foundational damage, roof collapse, severe wall damage, etc.). The combination of these different types of damages often renders residential buildings uninhabitable, underscoring the need for emergency shelter and temporary relocation assistance.

*"The local residents want to return to the city, but unfortunately, they do not have a place to stay. This is the reason why most people are not returning. The people who decided to return must rent accommodation or live together with their relatives, which causes additional stress."*  
– Key informant

### Long-term challenges related to residential damage

A significant portion of Izium's housing sector has experienced damage of destruction, rendering the central part of the city uninhabitable.<sup>6</sup> This has led to several long-term challenges. Key informants and community members pointed out a severe housing shortage, emphasising the necessity for reconstruction and sustained financial support for home purchases. These needs, similar to the immediate challenges, are anticipated to remain as long-term concerns.

Furthermore, a notable lack of employment opportunities, as indicated by two key informants, has forced many residents to relocate. Rebuilding infrastructure and generating job opportunities are therefore vital to restore conditions for the return of IDPs.<sup>7</sup> Ensuring stable employment opportunities will incentivise the existing population to remain while also encouraging the return of those who have left, thereby contributing to recovery and stabilisation.



**Fig. 3** Damage to residential homes and businesses in Izium city.

Both residents and local authority representatives noted significant concerns related to the financial burden borne by impacted community members, with 5 KIs noting the need to restore housing at their own expense, often leading to forced relocations, and 4 KIs mentioning the necessity of renting apartments due to the lack of suitable housing. The financial challenges can be further aggravated by the disrupted livelihoods caused by damage to non-residential infrastructure, such as businesses and industries.

Importantly, residents and KIs noted that damage impact extends beyond the physical realm, with 10 KIs indicating the emotional and psychological toll these challenges have taken on impacted community members. Trauma and stress stemming from home loss can have enduring effects, suggested the importance of mental health and psychosocial support services.

Lastly, residents also mentioned a shortage of construction materials to conduct repairs, and a sense of insecurity as short-term concerns.



**Fig. 4** Restoration of a residential home by emergency services after damage caused by shelling

## Non-residential infrastructure damage impact

War-related damage to non-residential infrastructure severely disrupts daily life, impeding access to essential services such as education, healthcare, and public utilities, which are critical to societal well-being and economic stability. This section examines such impacts in Iziom City.

### Healthcare

LOW IMPACT   MEDIUM IMPACT   HIGH IMPACT

According to a Media Initiative for Human Rights report, hospitals in Ukraine's conflict-affected areas are often able to provide only a small segment of the necessary medical care, forcing patients to travel long distances to receive care, or neglecting to seek medical treatment altogether.<sup>8</sup> These findings are supported by data gathered by REACH in Iziom City. Notably, there is a strong consensus among community members regarding the impact of damaged healthcare facilities, with ten participants highlighting the above challenges. Seven participants emphasised that this problem is further exacerbated by difficulties in reaching other districts and settlements to receive healthcare due to damaged infrastructure and transportation limitations.

The availability of healthcare services has additionally been reduced by cascading effects resulting from residential damage. Five KIs noted that healthcare staff have been unable to secure housing, resulting in a shortage of qualified medical personnel, particularly specialists, further compounded by limitations in diagnostic capabilities and therapeutic measures. The absence of certain medical services, ambulances, material and financial challenges, and the loss of medical records were additional issues raised by community members.

*"There are no neuropathologists and dentists in our community. There are only expensive private dentists. Many specialists left the city."*  
- Community member

*"Homes of many doctors were destroyed, and they left the city."*  
-Community member

These challenges point to the necessity of both immediate and long-term measures to mitigate the impacts of damage on the availability and accessibility of healthcare. Short-term measures may include improved medical outreach (mobile clinics with specialised healthcare services), transportation solutions for patients, and the provision of information to residents on available health services. In the long-term, the rehabilitation of healthcare infrastructure should be accompanied by measures that address the shortage of medical personnel, such as providing housing and other incentives to retain and attract healthcare workers, as well as capacity building programme for local workers.

### Education

LOW IMPACT   MEDIUM IMPACT   HIGH IMPACT

According to the mayor of Iziom, four out of eleven schools in Iziom were operational at the time of data collection, resulting in critical challenges in accessing education in the city.<sup>9</sup> Data collected by REACH corroborates these findings. A shift to online learning, implemented for security reasons, has been identified by eleven key informants and four community members as a critical issue. The primary concerns associated with this shift include deteriorated quality of education, challenges in effective communication, and difficulties experienced by students in socially adapting to a virtual learning environment.

*"First of all, we feel that we cannot live full life, communicate and teach children as deeply and abundantly as we could have. There are such barriers, and they have negative impact both emotionally and mentally."*  
Community member -

The repercussions of these educational disruptions extend beyond the immediate challenges of learning delivery. Four key informants have highlighted a decline in the psychological and emotional well-being of students, pointing to the broader mental health implications of these disruptions. The lack of safe study environments, notably the absence of bomb shelters in schools, further aggravates the situation, compounding the risks for students and educators.

*"Children study online only or in schools that meet the requirements to bomb shelters. There is not enough bomb shelters and some schools do not have them at all. It is impossible to study offline. Young people do not do sport or develop."*  
- Key informant

Access difficulties are further compounded by a scarcity of essential resources needed for effective learning, such as school materials and reliable internet access, crucial for online education. These challenges emphasise the need for a holistic approach to the restoration of education, one that addresses not only the physical repair of facilities, but also psychological support for youth and the broader community.

## Water and sanitation



Military activities have extensively damaged Iziium’s water supply infrastructure, affecting distribution networks, pipelines, and storage tanks, resulting in the need for enhanced water purification processes.<sup>10</sup> Despite this, five residents and 10 KIs reported no current issues with water supply, attributing this to repaired infrastructure and the utilisation of borehole water.

On the other hand, three KIs highlighted challenges related to the time-consuming nature of water collection, and concerns over poor water quality with the potential for adverse health impacts. Some residents noted that further needs arise over the winter period.

*“Water supply and sewage systems have been restored. However, there may be some problems during winter.”-  
Community member*

*“Water supply is provided as usual. There were such problems in terms of drinking water and hygiene before. It was difficult to cope morally and took a lot of time as people had to find water and bring it home.”  
-Key Informant*

## Power & communication networks



The majority of residents and key informants reported the effective restoration of the power supply in Iziium. However, concerns remain about the grid’s reliability during winter, with two focus group participants specifically worried about its stability. KIs also anticipate potential blackouts and scheduled outages in the colder months, resulting in potential disruptions to a range of essential services.

Additionally, while communication networks have been reinstated, challenges persist in fully restoring the mobile network, resulting in intermittent service.

*“The quality of power and mobile networks has decreased. There were blackouts and people were not able to use their household appliances, and there was not heating. It had negative impact on the quality of life.”  
- Key informant*

*“People could not even call 103 if someone needed help. In addition, if there is no power supply, pumps will not work and supply water. So, there may be problems with water supply and heat supply, among other things. Our television tower was destroyed, and there were problems with the Internet connection.”  
- Key informant*

## Transportation



Most key informants have identified logistical challenges, but findings from community members are not decisive. Seven community members point out to issues like longer travel times and damage to roads and bridges, while six mention a scarcity of public transport. Conversely, five community members have not noticed any current transportation problems in the city. Among those facing difficulties, the inability to access food and medicine, psychological and emotional stress, and material and financial constraints have been cited as significant challenges. Notably, one key informant emphasised that transportation issues disproportionately impact vulnerable groups, further complicating their access to essential services and resources.



**Fig. 5** The impact of the drone attack on transportation infrastructure on May 26th, 2023.





## Business & livelihoods

LOW IMPACT

MEDIUM IMPACT

HIGH IMPACT



The impacts of damaged infrastructure on Izium's economy are widespread and affect numerous sectors. The industrial sector has been particularly hard-hit, with major facilities like the Priladobudovny and Instrument-Manufacturing Plant suffering significant damage, leading to job losses. This is echoed by ten key informants (KIs) who noted an increase in unemployment in this sector. The repercussions extend to small businesses and the service sector, both of which have experienced severe setbacks due to infrastructure damage. These impacts extend to trade, agriculture, and public institutions. As a result of the widespread economic disruption, many enterprises are struggling to maintain operations, contributing to increased unemployment and a reduced workforce. This economic downturn has created a hesitancy among displaced people to return to the city, exacerbating the city's challenges in rebuilding its economic base. Four KIs also highlighted that mined territories pose additional obstacles to economic recovery efforts.

Despite these considerable challenges, there are early indications of recovery in some sectors. Key informants and community members report signs of resurgence in commerce and public institutions, with some businesses and organisations beginning to resume activities. This nascent recovery, though limited, suggests a potential for gradual economic revitalisation in certain areas.

*"Everything is closed, except for small stores."*  
– Community member

*"Only separate stores and markets are working now."*  
– Community member

*"People will not return to the city unless there are employment opportunities."*  
– Community member

## Community adaptive strategies

Faced with the abovementioned adversities, residents have reportedly developed adaptive strategies to cope and mitigate immediate impacts from service disruptions caused by infrastructure damage. Notably, four community members described reliance on cooking food over campfires and sourcing water from wells. Additionally, two community members noted stockpiling food, a practical approach to ensure a stable food supply during times of disruption. One individual reported drilling boreholes to access water, using candles for lighting, and creating makeshift stoves for cooking. These adaptations underscore the resilience and resourcefulness of the community, highlighting the importance of self-reliance and local initiatives when confronted with infrastructure deficiencies or damage.

*"People survived as they could. They drilled boreholes when there was no water supply."*  
– Community member

*"They took water from wells when there was no electricity, used candles and cooked food on fires or used makeshift stoves. Thanks to makeshift stoves, people also heated their houses."*  
– Community member

## Community priorities for recovery and reconstruction

### Reconstruction and recovery priorities related to residential damage

In addressing the immediate repair of residential homes, community members emphasise the importance of critical repair tasks such as installing windows, fixing roofs and walls, and restoring heating systems to make homes habitable and safe. For long-term recovery, there's a consensus on the need for comprehensive reconstruction of apartment buildings, houses, and other living spaces, with an emphasis on aligning these efforts with local priorities.

REACH findings suggest that key informants' prioritization for reconstruction is influenced by multiple factors. These include the extent of building damage, as highlighted by nine participants, who recommend initially focusing on structures with minimal damage; the financial viability of repairs, considered by three participants; and the population density of affected areas, as noted by two participants. This strategic approach integrates economic and demographic considerations to optimise the repair and reconstruction processes.

Furthermore, both key informants and community members acknowledge the specific challenges faced by vulnerable groups. Plans are being developed to address these challenges, as some informants indicate, including the creation of a Care Department and the issuance of property certificates for completely destroyed assets. Such measures reflect a commitment to an inclusive recovery process, ensuring that the needs of all community segments, especially the most vulnerable, are considered and met.

*“Major and current repairs of buildings. We need to install windows and repair roofs and walls in buildings which were not seriously damaged.”*  
– Community member

*“Both major and current repairs are needed. We need to install windows, repair roofs and heating systems.”*  
– Community member

### Reconstruction and recovery priorities related to public services infrastructure

In the context of public service infrastructure repair and reconstruction, key informants and community members have identified several priorities shaping the approach to recovery. Notably, five key informants stress the importance of tailoring recovery efforts to the primary remaining resident group in the area, predominantly pensioners, advocating for a demographic-focused strategy. This approach aims to address the specific needs of this significant resident group.

*“There are a lot of pensioners, so we need to restore the facilities which these group uses most often.”*  
– Key informant

Four key informants underscore the importance of creating employment opportunities, viewing it as essential not only for economic revival but also as a key factor in encouraging displaced populations to return. Additionally, addressing the needs of youth and children, particularly concerning education and relocation, was highlighted as a central feature of the longer-term recovery of the area.

Residents strongly emphasised the need to rebuild essential infrastructure. This includes not only a focus on educational facilities but also on the reconstruction of crucial utilities. The community particularly emphasizes the need for access to clean water, electricity, and heating, viewing these as pre-requisites to the return of IDPs.

*“If parents know where their children will attend school, they will come back here to continue their studies.”*  
– Key informant

Regarding long-term objectives, the community envisions a comprehensive reconstruction plan that includes the “Build Back Better” principles, towards meeting European standards. This includes projects such as developing a rehabilitation centre for the military, creating a children’s park, restoring a polyclinic, and reviving industrial facilities.

## Contextual and systemic factors affecting recovery

### Anticipated barriers in early recovery and reconstruction

In addressing the damage impacts in Izium, KIs discussed several achievements as examples of best practices during recovery and reconstruction efforts already implemented. Notably, seven KIs reported the restoration of houses and repairs to crucial utility systems, including heating, power, sewage, and water supply. The gradual reconstruction of the city was mentioned by three KIs, while two KIs highlighted the repair of educational facilities.

Furthermore, the need for financial support and restoration of broader infrastructure was noted by three KIs. Additional examples mentioned by KIs include the assistance with private house repairs, the restoration of youth spaces, a city library, a rebuilt boxing gym, effective City Council work, provision of modular houses, support from international organisations, and repaired healthcare facilities. These varied efforts underline the multi-dimensional approach to recovery and highlight the importance of addressing both physical infrastructure and community aspirations.

*“There are buildings which have been completely reconstructed, including roofs, windows, heating and everything needed for proper living conditions.”*  
– Key informant

Key informants additionally note that community engagement in the recovery and reconstruction process has been facilitated through various initiatives. These include setting up quarterly committees, collaboration with the City Council deputy, signing cooperation agreements, organizing community meetings, leveraging digital platforms like Telegram, and promoting public discussions for active participation. These methods, as noted by key informants, ensure that residents’ views are included in the planning process.

Of the community members who participated in the study, half feel that their inputs have been considered in the planning process, while the other half believes that community engagement has not been implemented successfully, potentially due to budget constraints. All participants regard such engagement as crucial for the city’s future.

### Anticipated barriers in early recovery and reconstruction

Several key barriers hindering effective recovery and reconstruction efforts have been identified. The most prominent issue, mentioned by eleven KIs, is the lack of financial resources, severely limiting the scope of restoration activities. Additionally, six KIs cited a shortage of necessary equipment, while four KIs pointed to the scarcity of workforce and repair materials. Other concerns include the need for demining, a declining population, and the ongoing insecurity caused by the war.

Some community members also note facing barriers in accessing assistance, primarily due to a lack of specialists and technology needed to register for aid, along with insufficient volunteer centres to support registration for humanitarian assistance. Half of the participants reported not perceiving any significant barriers to receiving help.

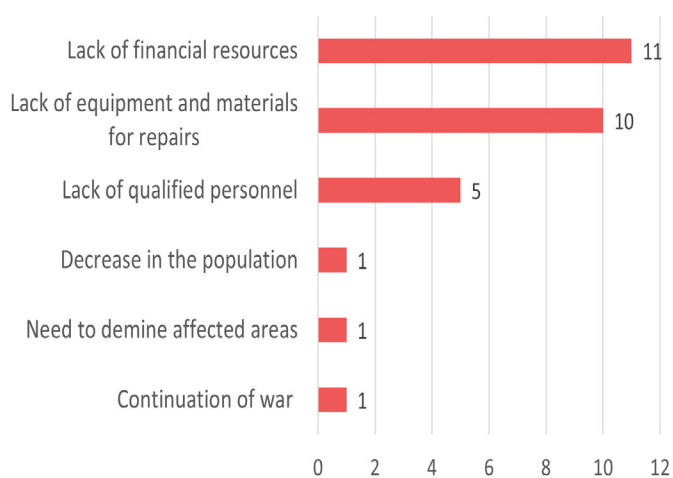


Fig. 6 Barriers hindering the ability to effectively address damage impact.

### Aid provision

In assessing the support provided by international humanitarian organisations, community groups, local government, volunteers, and private enterprises, the findings show that a variety of types of aid have been provided in Iziium. Nine key informants (KIs) reported receiving food kits, while seven highlighted receiving medical supplies. Support with equipment, construction materials, and building reconstruction was noted by five KIs. Hygiene items, financial assistance, help with educational resources, including laptops and psychological support, the organisation of children’s spaces and providing vehicles were also mentioned by KIs. The aid provided was described to be meeting community needs by three KIs.

Conversely, the study also highlighted areas where the community’s needs were not adequately met. While five KIs acknowledged receiving support in the form of construction materials, four noted that this was not sufficient to meet the demand. Key informants and community members also emphasised the need for financial support, hygiene products, human capital to carry out reconstruction, livelihood support for vulnerable populations, preschool education, and psychological support.

## Conclusion

In assessing the support provided by international humanitarian organisations, community groups, local government, extensive war-induced damage to Iziium City’s infrastructure has had profound and multifaceted impacts on its residents and their livelihoods, while disrupting the fabric of community life. This report’s findings underscore the need for a multi-sectoral approach that integrates humanitarian assistance with early recovery and reconstruction initiatives to effectively address both the immediate and long-term needs of the affected population.

The resilience and adaptability displayed by Iziium’s residents highlight the importance of ensuring that recovery efforts are rooted in the needs and priorities of those directly impacted. Residents, local authorities and civil society actors have emphasised the rehabilitation of essential services, including healthcare, education, and utilities, while also focusing on economic revitalisation to provide sustainable employment opportunities. This includes the adoption of ‘Build Back Better’ principles to not only restore but enhance the resilience of Iziium’s infrastructure against future crises. This requires inclusive recovery processes that actively engage the community in decision-making, ensuring that efforts are equitable and tailored to the diverse needs of Iziium’s residents.

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## Annex - Methodology note

This analysis used a mixed methodology approach based on geo-spatial analysis (remote sensing), secondary data review, and qualitative primary data collection to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the extent and impact of conflict-related damage.

To assess war-related damage, this study adopted a Geographic Information System (GIS). Initially, satellite imagery were analysed using remote sensing techniques to identify areas of significant change or destruction. This data was then integrated into a GIS framework for spatial analysis and mapping, enabling the visualisation of damage to both residential homes and infrastructure.

The secondary data review entailed a thorough analysis of existing data sourced from humanitarian actors and existing damage assessment data. Furthermore, relevant literature from humanitarian actors addressing the humanitarian needs associated with infrastructure and residential damage was analysed as part of the methodology.

Moreover, primary qualitative data was acquired through key informant interviews (KIIs), focus group discussions (FGDs), and participatory mapping focus group discussions (MFGDs). These methods were used to gather data on the experiences, perceptions, and challenges of those affected by residential and infrastructure damage, as well as to assess the broader implications for community resilience and post-conflict recovery efforts. It is important to note that local members respondents primarily consisted of retirees, and their perspectives may not fully represent the views of the entire community.

In the sampling process, key informants (KIs) were selected through a purposive approach employing the snowballing technique. This selection method involved two parallel strategies. Firstly, local authorities played a pivotal role by providing contacts for key informants. Simultaneously, an additional list of key informants was prepared based on the existing networks within the REACH framework. These strategies, which combined purposive selection with the snowballing technique, enabled to assemble a diverse and well-informed group of participants for the study, enhancing the richness of data and insights garnered. REACH conducted:

- 12 key informant interviews with representatives from various sectors: five local authorities, four utility providers, two humanitarian organisations, and two civil society organisations. These interviews were conducted to assess damage, identify settlement-level needs, and gather information on response and repair efforts, alongside evaluating local implementation capacities and available resources.
- 1 focus group discussion with the representatives of the local community members. These discussions played a significant role in evaluating the needs, assessing the impact of the damage, and identifying the preferences for prioritization in the context of recovery and reconstruction, as expressed by members of the community.

### Damage Impact Score

The Damage Impact Score is an indicative quantitative measure derived from primary qualitative data collected through key informant interviews and focus group discussions, triangulated with data on the extent and severity of damaged infrastructure. Sectoral in nature, this score provides an estimation on the severity of the impacts resulting from damage to different types of infrastructure (rather than the severity of the damage itself).

This measure emphasises the degree to which specific infrastructure elements (such as power and water), public services (including education and healthcare), and residential homes are affected, rather than the types of impacts. It is meant to facilitate sectoral prioritisation for humanitarian, early recovery and reconstruction measures that address localised damage impacts. It should be considered as indicative.

- **Low impact** Represents minimal disruption, with most facilities operational and services largely accessible.
- **Medium impact** Noticeable disruption, with services operating at reduced capacity or being intermittently unavailable. Residents face notable challenges in accessing services. Damage to infrastructure is significant but generally repairable. Need for temporary solutions and external assistance.
- **High impact** Reflects major disruption or severe/complete service unavailability; often couple with extensive damage requiring significant reconstruction efforts. Residents experience severe challenges in accessing services, with resulting decline in living standards. Restoration of services requires comprehensive and long-term external support.