

# UKRAINIAN CRISIS

## Analysis Brief

31 May 2022

## HUMANITARIAN CONDITIONS IN CONFLICT AFFECTED AREAS OF UKRAINE

### Introduction

On June 3<sup>rd</sup> it will be 100 days since the Russian Federation launched a military offensive into Ukraine. While the whole country has been impacted by the conflict, settlements in the Eastern, Northern and Southern regions of Ukraine have experienced the most intense conflict. As of May 30<sup>th</sup>, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) had recorded 8,900 civilian casualties inside Ukraine: 4,074 killed and 4,826 injured (since the incursion began), although the actual figure is assumed to be far higher ([OHCHR](#) 30/05/2022).

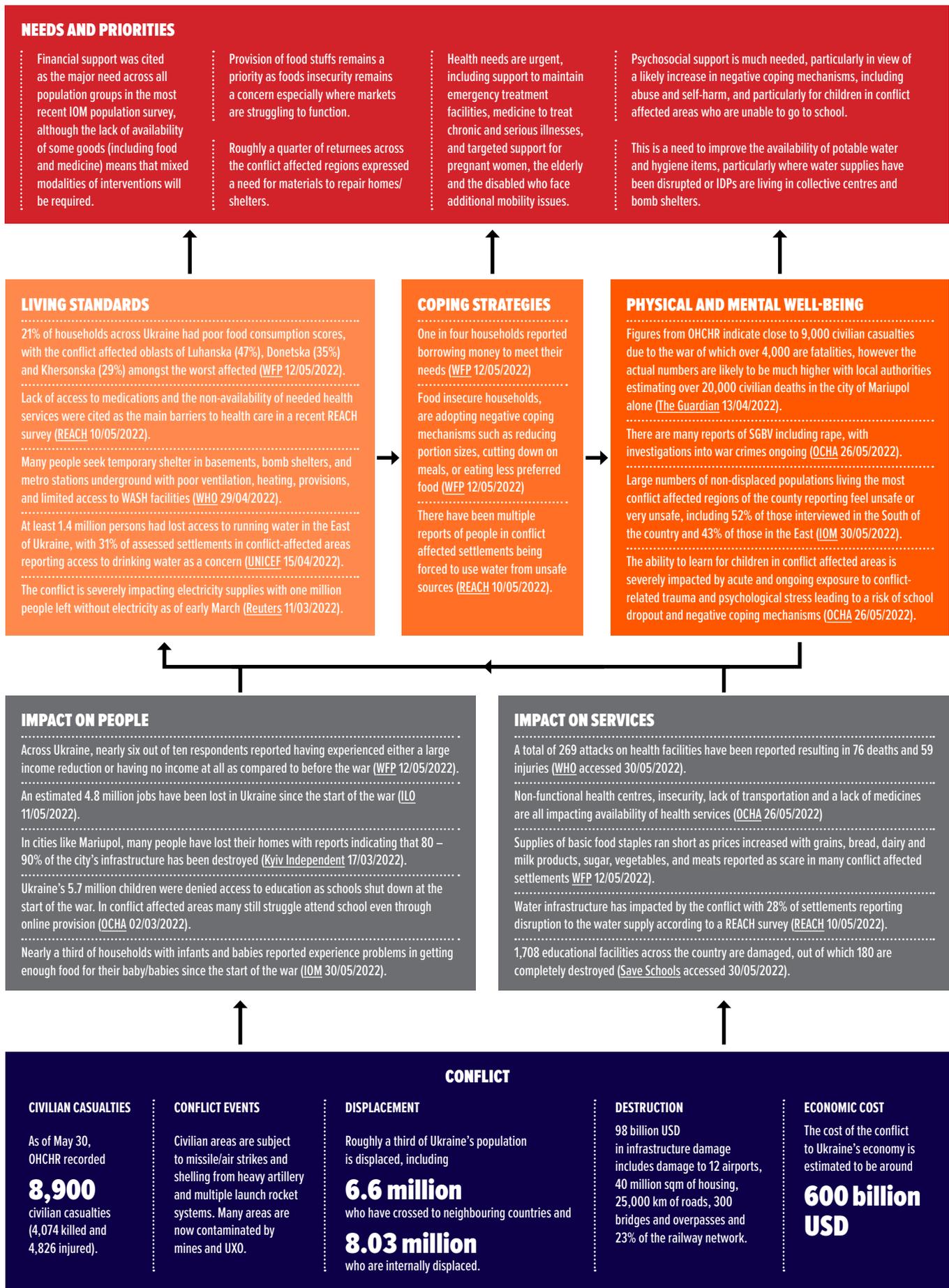
The conflict has also resulted in widescale destruction including damage to 12 airports, 40 million sqm of housing, 25,000 km of roads, 300 bridges and overpasses and 23% of the railway network ([Interfax](#) 25/05/2022). Approximately one third of Ukraine's population has been displaced with 6.8 million people leaving Ukraine to neighbouring countries and currently an estimated 7.134 million are internally displaced ([UNHCR](#) accessed 01/06/2022, [IOM](#) 30/05/2022).

The number of internally displaced persons has now dropped from a peak of just over 8 million ([IOM](#) 09/05/2022), however the majority (3.9 million) continue to be from the east of the country, the main focus of the current Russian offensive. Even as fighting continues to lay waste to settlements along the front line in parts of Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts, people are returning to cities in north, the scene of intense fighting during the first three months of the war. IOM estimates that around 1.7 million people have returned to the north of the country and a further 941,000 to Kyiv and its environs ([ISW](#) 31/05/2022, [IOM](#) 30/05/2022).

Many settlements on the outskirts of Kyiv as well as the cities of Chernihiv, Sumy and Kharkiv have been devastated by the conflict with areas formerly occupied by Russian forces amongst the worst affected. Satellite imagery shows the extent of the damage around Kyiv ([UNOSAT](#) 26/04/2022, [UNOSAT](#) 12/04/2022), while a recent [report from Amnesty international](#) outlines a evidence of war crimes perpetrated in these areas ([AI](#) 06/05/2022). Many areas are contaminated by mines and UXO's (as well as booby traps left by retreating Russian soldiers); this is impeding safe returns and also hampering logistics and aid distribution ([France](#) 24 20/04/2022, [OCHA](#) 14/04/2022). The physical damage to roads, bridges and railways as well as the supply of utilities such as electricity and water are also barriers to a return to normalcy.

This brief analyses the impact of the fighting on populations in areas most affected by the conflict. This includes areas where active conflict is taking place, as well as areas that were contested but are now relatively far from the front line. The brief however does not analyse in detail the situation in areas currently controlled by Russian forces as information is limited and the sources available cannot always be verified.

# Humanitarian Conditions in Conflict Affected Areas of Ukraine



## NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

Financial support was cited as the major need across all population groups in the most recent IOM population survey, although the lack of availability of some goods (including food and medicine) means that mixed modalities of interventions will be required.

Provision of food stuffs remains a priority as foods insecurity remains a concern especially where markets are struggling to function.

Roughly a quarter of returnees across the conflict affected regions expressed a need for materials to repair homes/ shelters.

Health needs are urgent, including support to maintain emergency treatment facilities, medicine to treat chronic and serious illnesses, and targeted support for pregnant women, the elderly and the disabled who face additional mobility issues.

Psychosocial support is much needed, particularly in view of a likely increase in negative coping mechanisms, including abuse and self-harm, and particularly for children in conflict affected areas who are unable to go to school.

This is a need to improve the availability of potable water and hygiene items, particularly where water supplies have been disrupted or IDPs are living in collective centres and bomb shelters.

## LIVING STANDARDS

21% of households across Ukraine had poor food consumption scores, with the conflict affected oblasts of Luhanska (47%), Donetsk (35%) and Khersonska (29%) amongst the worst affected (WFP 12/05/2022).

Lack of access to medications and the non-availability of needed health services were cited as the main barriers to health care in a recent REACH survey (REACH 10/05/2022).

Many people seek temporary shelter in basements, bomb shelters, and metro stations underground with poor ventilation, heating, provisions, and limited access to WASH facilities (WHO 29/04/2022).

At least 1.4 million persons had lost access to running water in the East of Ukraine, with 31% of assessed settlements in conflict-affected areas reporting access to drinking water as a concern (UNICEF 15/04/2022).

The conflict is severely impacting electricity supplies with one million people left without electricity as of early March (Reuters 11/03/2022).

## COPING STRATEGIES

One in four households reported borrowing money to meet their needs (WFP 12/05/2022)

Food insecure households, are adopting negative coping mechanisms such as reducing portion sizes, cutting down on meals, or eating less preferred food (WFP 12/05/2022)

There have been multiple reports of people in conflict affected settlements being forced to use water from unsafe sources (REACH 10/05/2022).

## PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELL-BEING

Figures from OHCHR indicate close to 9,000 civilian casualties due to the war of which over 4,000 are fatalities, however the actual numbers are likely to be much higher with local authorities estimating over 20,000 civilian deaths in the city of Mariupol alone (The Guardian 13/04/2022).

There are many reports of SGBV including rape, with investigations into war crimes ongoing (OCHA 26/05/2022).

Large numbers of non-displaced populations living the most conflict affected regions of the county reporting feel unsafe or very unsafe, including 52% of those interviewed in the South of the country and 43% of those in the East (IOM 30/05/2022).

The ability to learn for children in conflict affected areas is severely impacted by acute and ongoing exposure to conflict-related trauma and psychological stress leading to a risk of school dropout and negative coping mechanisms (OCHA 26/05/2022).

## IMPACT ON PEOPLE

Across Ukraine, nearly six out of ten respondents reported having experienced either a large income reduction or having no income at all as compared to before the war (WFP 12/05/2022).

An estimated 4.8 million jobs have been lost in Ukraine since the start of the war (ILO 11/05/2022).

In cities like Mariupol, many people have lost their homes with reports indicating that 80 – 90% of the city’s infrastructure has been destroyed (Kyiv Independent 17/03/2022).

Ukraine’s 5.7 million children were denied access to education as schools shut down at the start of the war. In conflict affected areas many still struggle attend school even through online provision (OCHA 02/03/2022).

Nearly a third of households with infants and babies reported experience problems in getting enough food for their baby/babies since the start of the war (IOM 30/05/2022).

## IMPACT ON SERVICES

A total of 269 attacks on health facilities have been reported resulting in 76 deaths and 59 injuries (WHO accessed 30/05/2022).

Non-functional health centres, insecurity, lack of transportation and a lack of medicines are all impacting availability of health services (OCHA 26/05/2022)

Supplies of basic food staples ran short as prices increased with grains, bread, dairy and milk products, sugar, vegetables, and meats reported as scarce in many conflict affected settlements WFP 12/05/2022).

Water infrastructure has impacted by the conflict with 28% of settlements reporting disruption to the water supply according to a REACH survey (REACH 10/05/2022).

1,708 educational facilities across the country are damaged, out of which 180 are completely destroyed (Save Schools accessed 30/05/2022).

## CONFLICT

### CIVILIAN CASUALTIES

As of May 30, OHCHR recorded

**8,900** civilian casualties (4,074 killed and 4,826 injured).

### CONFLICT EVENTS

Civilian areas are subject to missile/air strikes and shelling from heavy artillery and multiple launch rocket systems. Many areas are now contaminated by mines and UXO.

### DISPLACEMENT

Roughly a third of Ukraine’s population is displaced, including

**6.6 million** who have crossed to neighbouring countries and **8.03 million** who are internally displaced.

### DESTRUCTION

98 billion USD in infrastructure damage includes damage to 12 airports, 40 million sqm of housing, 25,000 km of roads, 300 bridges and overpasses and 23% of the railway network.

### ECONOMIC COST

The cost of the conflict to Ukraine’s economy is estimated to be around

**600 billion USD**

## Health

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The conflict has resulted in significant destruction to the healthcare infrastructure in Ukraine. As of May 30, a total of 344 attacks on healthcare were reported, resulting in 143 injuries and 141 deaths ([WHO](#) accessed 30/05/2022). Much of the destruction and insecurity-related disruptions are taking place in the east and south oblasts, where the fighting is most intense, with around 40% of respondents in Luhanska, Chernihivska, Khersonska, and Donetsk reporting that, in the previous two weeks, they did not have access to health care when needed ([WFP](#) 12/05/2022, [REACH](#) 10/05/2022).

Damaged health care infrastructure, closure of many pharmacies in Ukraine, security concerns, restricted mobility, broken supply chains and mass displacement have all been factors contributing to decreased accessibility to healthcare services. Lack of access to medicine is especially an issue in conflict-affected areas, partly due to disruptions in supply chain, but also due to closure of pharmacies. Across all non-displaced respondents, 6% said that no or few pharmacies were open in their area ([IOM](#) 21/04/2022).

The lack of access to health facilities is impacting chronic and critical patients' health and the treatment of conflict-related trauma injuries. In fact, 72% of assessed settlements reported concerns in accessing emergency healthcare, out of which 43% were facing disruption of health services 'to a great extent' primarily in Mariupol, Avdiivka, Bakhmut, Toretsk, Druzhkivka, Kostiantynivka (Donetska oblast), Lysychansk, Rubizhne (Luhanska oblast), and Nikopol (Dnipropetrovska oblast) ([REACH](#) 10/05/2022).

Patients and people with critical and chronic illness are stopping their medications due to lack of access to medication, 22% reported that they or someone within their family had to stop using their medication. (Among those, 85% indicated medicines are unavailable, and 44% stated they could not afford medicines) ([IOM](#) 03/05/2022, [IOM](#) 21/04/2022).

COVID-19 vaccination as well as routine vaccinations of children for measles, rubella, diphtheria, and polio are facing challenges and disrupting due to the war, vaccination coverage was already low before the war, therefore, there is an increasing risk of disease outbreak. In fact, positive cases are already being detected ([DFS](#) 18/05/2022, [WHO](#) 28/04/2022, [OCHA](#) 15/03/2022).

## Food Security and Livelihoods

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Disruption to Ukraine's food and agriculture industry, supply chains, disruption in transportation, loss of livelihoods and restrictions on movements are some of the main factors causing food shortages and driving food insecurity in conflict-affected areas. Besiegement and attacks have also left people in conflict-affected areas hiding underground with little light and limited access to food. According to [Premise](#), analysis of food security and prices shows a steady decrease in food availability (flour, sugar and meat) by April 20 in comparison to the beginning of March particularly in Eastern Ukraine. According to the latest IOM survey, 6.7% of respondents reported that almost all food products were missing from stores in the South, and 5% in the East of the country, compared to 0% in Kyiv and West macro-regions ([IOM](#) 30/05/2022)

Lack of access to cash is exacerbating the situation, 59% of assessed settlements in conflict-affected oblasts reported concerns in accessing financial services. KIs in all of these settlements reported that financial services were disrupted 'to a great extent'. This is backed by many reports indicating long queues to withdraw cash from ATMs in conflict-affected cities ([REACH](#) 10/05/2022, [Cash essentials](#) 01/03/2022, [Euromoney](#) 01/03/2022).

These conditions have led to one in every two households being food insecure in the eastern and southern parts of the country where the highest levels of food insecurity, were recorded. More than 50% of the population of Luhanska and Kharkivska oblasts are found to be severe to moderate food insecure. Similarly, 45% of the populations of Khersonska, Donetsk, and Chernihivska are facing high food insecurity. Separated families have a higher level of food insecurity (48%) compared to non-separated families (29%). Women who were already more food insecure than men prior to the war, are also experiencing exacerbated food insecurity situations due to the war ([WFP](#) 12/05/2022).

The conflict has destroyed and damaged many businesses impacting livelihoods. The blockade of ports and exports is also severely impacting the livelihoods in Ukraine. As more women become the primary income earner the burden of paid and unpaid work increases, women are at risk of worse food consumption outcomes. This is concerning as around 34% of respondents reported they no longer had an income source or depend on assistance ([WFP](#) 23/05/2022, [WFP](#) 12/05/2022).

As a result, there is an increased prevalence of negative coping mechanisms such as limiting the amount of food eaten, reducing the number of meals taken per day and adults reducing food intake to ensure children are fed. Additionally, one in four respondents said they already had to borrow money to meet their needs ([WFP](#) 12/05/2022).

## Protection

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Populations in conflict affected areas face an increased risk of physical injury, psychological distress and long-term mental health problems. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) reports that : 4,074 killed have been killed and 4,826 injured inside of Ukraine since the beginning of the Russian Federation's armed incursion, although casualties are likely to be much higher. Most of the civilian casualties recorded were caused by the use of explosive weapons with a wide impact area, including shelling from heavy artillery and multiple launch rocket systems, and missile and air strikes.

Of particular concern are the ongoing protection risks to those in frontline and frontline-adjacent areas who have been unable or unwilling to evacuate. This particularly affects people with disabilities and illness, children living in institutions and hospitals, and the elderly. Civilian populations are also at risk from a proliferation of UXOs and landmines in many of the conflict affected areas.

Added to the risk of physical harm, people are also subject to multiple mental health stressors whilst the situation is being compounded by limited access to protection treatment and support services as many have been disrupted due to the conflict or the displacement of staff. Psychosocial support is much needed, particularly in view of a likely increase in negative coping mechanisms, including abuse and self-harm ([OHCHR](#) 27/05/2022, [WHO](#) 12/05/2022, [UN](#) 12/05/2022, [OCHA](#) 12/05/2022, [Amnesty International](#) 06/05/2022, [NP](#) 06/05/2022).

There are also concerns for areas that have fallen under the control of Russian forces. International and local media continue to publish stories describing the deliberate targeting of civilians (including during evacuations), arbitrary arrests, torture, rape and executions. Amnesty International published a report "[He's not coming back](#)": War crimes in Northwest areas of Kyiv oblast which contained testimony from over 80 witnesses to executions or attacks on civilian buildings as well as other extensive evidence. The Ukrainian government also reports that over one million Ukrainian citizens have been forcibly deported from Russian controlled areas to Russia ([Euronews](#) 09/05/2022, [UN](#) 12/05/2022, [Amnesty International](#) 06/05/2022).

## Education

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The Ukrainian Ministry of Education and Science reports that as of May 30, 1,708 educational facilities across the country are damaged, out of which 180 are completely destroyed ([Save Schools](#) accessed 19/05/2022). In line with the Rapid Needs Assessment of conflict-affected areas in Eastern oblasts, where 69% of assessed settlements reported that schools or education facilities had been damaged. This was reported in Kostiantynivka, Sloviansk, and Mariupol (Donetska oblast); Chuhuiv, Izium, Kharkiv, and Lozova (Kharkivska oblast); and Lysychansk, Rubizhne, Popasna, and Sievierodonetsk (Luhanska oblast) ([REACH](#) 06/04/2022) ([REACH](#) 06/04/2022).

In addition, hundreds of schools and educational facilities have been used as shelters and emergency accommodation for civilians, while others have been used for military purposes, or by aid workers as distribution points ([DFS](#) 20/04/2022). The education situation is exacerbated by the nationwide school closures since late February due to the security situation. Education was disrupted for 5.7 million children in Ukraine, as schools shut down at the start of the war ([OCHA](#) 02/03/2022). High school students are also at risk of losing out on their future development as the number of higher education institutions is limited in the occupied territories ([CEDOS](#) 02/05/2022, [DFS](#) 20/04/2022, [UN Women and Care](#) 04/05/2022).

According to the RNA in eastern oblasts, amongst the assessed settlements, 81% reported a disruption to education services for the Rapid Needs Assessment (Eastern oblasts) – this excluded Lozova, Pervomaiski, and Pokrovsk. Some of the regions in Eastern Ukraine were already struggling with limited education services since hostilities broke out in 2014, disrupting education ([REACH](#) 06/04/2022).

While education is resuming in some areas in conflict-affected oblasts through online learning, it is expected that many students lack materials and internet access to participate in online learning platforms. In areas under Russian control, students and educators are reportedly being forced to study in Russian language and the Russian syllabus ([CEDOS](#) 02/05/2022).

## Utilities and Shelter

The conflict has caused significant infrastructural damage, at times leaving millions of people without electricity, heating or water. In addition to individual consumption and hygiene, water is also an essential resource for electricity production and centralised heating. However, the destruction of water infrastructure is impacting electricity availability ([WHO, HC 29/04/2022](#)). Access to water is an issue; reported as a concern in 31% of assessed settlements in conflict - affected oblasts. Disruption to water supply was reported in 28% of settlements, further qualifying the likelihood that a large number of people were unable to rely on the water supply systems ([REACH 10/05/2022](#)). Lack of access to water and adequate WASH infrastructure is increasing the risk of dehydration and waterborne diseases, it is also causing people to drink water from unsafe sources or they have to buy water, which is becoming increasingly difficult as people lose access to cash and livelihood opportunities ([Reuters 23/05/2022](#), [REACH 10/05/2022](#), [UNICEF 15/04/2022](#)).

Disruption of utilities such as electricity, gas, and heating was reported in 24% of assessed settlements in conflict-affected oblasts. While in some settlements the utilities were reportedly unavailable for a few hours a day, in others it was reported that utilities were no longer available at all, such as in some occupied regions of Kherson. In 86% of assessed settlements disruptions to heating were reported while in 57% of assessed settlements reported disruptions to electricity and 57% reported disruptions to gas. Settlements most affected by frequent disruption of utilities were Mariupol (Donetska oblast), Rubizhne, Sieverodonetsk (Luhanska oblast), and Kharkiv (Kharkivska oblast) ([REACH 10/05/2022](#), [Kyiv Post 14/04/2022](#)).

Additionally, residential buildings have also been targeted by shelling. Damage to housing was reported as a concern in 75% of settlements in the oblasts assessed (Donetska, Kharkivska, Luhanska and Zaporizka). Amongst those, a quarter or more of dwellings were damaged in 50% of settlements since the escalation of the conflict. The settlements reporting the highest proportion of dwellings affected were Iziium, Sievierodonetsk and Popasna, where over 75% of dwellings were damaged ([REACH 10/05/2022](#)). The damage to housing leads people to live in inadequate/unsafe housing in conflict-affected areas, or in overcrowded shelters exposing them to the risk of communicable diseases as they are unable to maintain hygiene measures ([UNICEF 15/04/2022](#)).

## ABOUT THIS BRIEF

The analysis provided is a synthesis of information collected and tagged using the DEEP platform from publicly available sources and supplemented by assessment data provided by humanitarian partners working in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. This brief was prepared on behalf of the Information Management and Analysis Cell (IMAC) in Ukraine, but the analysis provided is produced independently by Data Friendly Space (DFS).

