The Russian offensive in the east continues although it appears to be making little progress. There has been intense fighting around the city of Kharkiv where Ukrainian troops are trying to push back Russian forces. This is causing a further deterioration in the living conditions for those within the city. Elsewhere in Ukraine, air strikes and missile attacks have targeted key infrastructure including railways and bridges, hitting targets in the central region, Lviv and Odessa.

The number of internally displaced persons within Ukraine has now topped 8 million, along with 5.89 million people having fled to neighbouring countries. Yet, there have also been significant numbers of returns, both from abroad (approximately 1.5 million border crossings) and internally (an estimated 2.77 million IDPs have returned to their home areas). However, many of these returns may be temporary in nature and therefore it is hard to be sure of exact numbers of displaced or likely future trends. In addition, many refugees have indicated that they intend to stay until the war is over, increasing the need to invest in long-term solutions for local integration.

Humanitarian access to the cities and areas most heavily affected by conflict remains challenging,
with few international aid organisations able to operate in these areas. Efforts to evacuate civilians from the Azovstal steel plant were finally successful and 600 people were evacuated from Mariupol and nearby towns, however evacuation routes and ceasefires continue to be difficult to implement. The presence of mines and unexploded ordination (UXO) is a further barrier, especially in areas formerly occupied by Russian forces. Similarly, there is limited access to areas currently under Russian control such as the city of Kherson. Damage to roads, bridges and other transport infrastructure is also impeding humanitarian logistics.

Continued attacks on health facilities and difficulties in transporting medication are both impacting the availability of health services. Added to this is the risk of being caught in shelling/air strikes and the cost of health services (when many people have lost their livelihoods). Therefore the situation of the health sector is particularly grave in conflict-affected areas. The impact is also being felt on long-term health issues such as immunisation campaigns and treatment for those with chronic illnesses such as HIV.

Eastern oblasts are experiencing higher levels of food shortages and food prices in comparison to the rest of Ukraine, this situation is exacerbated by the lack of livelihood opportunities as a result of the war. Although the food security situation has stabilised in many parts of the country, WFP estimates that one in every three households in Ukraine are now food insecure. 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.

The impact on livelihoods for both conflict-affected populations and the displaced is being felt. Women are being disproportionately affected by the conflict with many women facing increased pressure to provide for their families while male family members are involved in defence activities; at the same time they are taking on an increased burden as the primary carer.

Reports of incidents of safety and protection issues particularly gender-based violence continue to be reported in conflict-affected areas. Reports of mass graves; burnt and severely mutilated bodies, along with widespread reports of rape and torture are emerging from areas recently retaken by Ukrainian forces. However, verification of such incidents can be both challenging and time consuming.

Education facilities continue to be damaged or destroyed and access to education is a challenge across all affected groups. Those in conflict-affected areas may not have access to online learning or places conducive to learning. Displaced children also face difficulties although provisions for refugee children to enrol in local education systems and for displaced children to access online schooling are being stepped up.

In neighbouring countries, especially Poland (which is hosting approximately three million refugees) national infrastructures and services are witnessing an increasing pressure, resulting in additional challenges in the response. In addition, inflation rates are also pushing up the prices of commodities, especially food, although it is yet to be seen what impact this will have on the situation for refugees and host communities.
Information Sources, Gaps and Challenges

This report draws mainly on publicly available data published during the two weeks leading up to May 05. However, the fourth-round of the IOM DTM General Population Survey has been integrated into the findings even though the release of the report fell outside the time period for data collection. As this survey is such a comprehensive part of the data landscape it was felt to be beneficial to include the latest findings in full.

Local press has been a significant source of information related to conflict related events as well as evacuation data. Where possible information is triangulated from several sources or with international sources. Also reports of where aid has been successfully delivered or blocked have been used to help develop the section on humanitarian access. Analysis on humanitarian access has also been provided by Okular Analytics and NRC.

There are still significant challenges in determining demographic data for displaced populations (both refugee and IDP) as well as affected populations that remain in conflict affected areas. In many of the hardest-hit areas communications are limited so the impact of the conflict and needs are hard to determine with certainty. Again, local sources (for example: the number of persons/households without water/electricity etc.) are used, backed up by projected numbers from humanitarian agencies and coordination mechanisms. Information on humanitarian conditions in Russian occupied territory is also limited.

UNOSAT and other satellite imagery damage assessments also give a rough guide to the impact of the conflict on infrastructure and therefore available services. For IDP and refugee populations, with the majority of displaced living in private accommodation and without detailed registration processes, age, gender and disability data is limited. There are now some assessment reports providing profiles of households, but given the scale of displacement, more comprehensive data collection is required to better understand the demographic profile of all affected groups.

Data covering food availability and prices has been sourced from monitoring reports released by Premise and this generally ties in with data provided through WFP sitreps, but further triangulating sources would be useful.

Protection concerns continue to be highlighted, though lacks definitive numbers other than case data provided from hotline analysis. Information on the conditions of Third Country Nationals (TCN) and minorities such as the Roma (flagged in the latest Rapid Gender Analysis) is also a gap.

For the analysis on refugees, biweekly and daily reports from NRC on refugees’ situation in Moldova, Poland and Romania have been a key source. Otherwise, a large part of the information was gathered from international and local media sources supplemented by updates from the United Nation agencies and INGOs. NRC data. Local data is often provided though government websites and local media, so language has been something of a barrier in ensuring all relevant data is covered. However there still appears to be a significant gap in understanding the humanitarian conditions and needs of refugee populations. The pressure on host communities due to the refugee caseload is also touched upon but not covered in any detail.

Please refer to the recently published DFS Analytical Brief for a fuller understanding of the data landscape.
Crisis Timeline

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

5 May
OHCHR reports the civilian death toll has reached 3,280 though actual figure likely much higher.

29 April
Over 5.5 million people have left Ukraine to neighbouring countries.

26 April
OHCHR reports the civilian death toll has reached 2,723 though actual figure likely much higher.

25 April
Five railway stations were hit by missiles in central and western Ukraine.

18 April
OHCHR reports the civilian death toll has reached 2,072 though actual figure likely to be much higher.
Those displaced into neighbouring countries reaches 5 million.

8 April
An attack on Kramatorsk railway station causes 130 civilian casualties amongst evacuee families.

3 April
Mounting evidence of war crimes in Bucha and other areas around Kyiv.

29 March
Areas around Kyiv retaken by Ukraine.

23 March
Over 2,500 casualties of civilians reported. Agreement between Russia and Ukraine on 9 humanitarian corridors, excluding Mariupol.

14 March
Evacuation of thousands of residents from front-line cities (including Mariupol after several days of failed attempts).

9 March
Russian airstrike on a maternity hospital in Mariupol.

8 March
More than two million people fled Ukraine.

3 March
Takeover of Kherson (Southern Ukraine) by the Russian troops.
A total of one million people fled Ukraine in the seven days since the Russian invasion began.

23 February
Declaration of a state of emergency in Ukraine.

3 May
1.3 million returns to Ukraine have been registered. 
Over 8 million internally displaced people in Ukraine. UN and partners evacuate 101 civilians from Azovstal steel plant, Mariupol.

21 April
Russian Forces declare Mariupol is now under their control. Russia controls 80% of Luhansk in Eastern Donbas.
Physical damage to Ukraine’s infrastructure has reached $60 billion.

19 April
Bill submitted by the Ukrainian President to extend the martial law.

14 April
Russian warship: Moskva sinks in Black Sea.

12 April
President Vladimir Putin declares peace talks with Ukraine have hit a dead end.

1 April
Over 7 million internally displaced persons in Ukraine.

30 March
10% of Ukraine’s population has fled the country.

16 March
Raid hits Mariupol theatre full of civilians killing 300.
6-78M individuals are internally displaced within Ukraine.

2 March
UN Resolution demanding the cessation of hostilities.

1 March
Flash Appeal for Ukraine launched by the United Nations.

24 February
Russian Launches military invasion of Ukraine. Missile and artillery attacks in Ukraine by Russia (including Kyiv).

Adoption of the Martial law in Ukraine.

21 February
Recognition of Luhansk and Donetsk as independent states by Russia. Russian invasion in eastern Ukraine.
The Russian Federation launched a large-scale military offensive into Ukraine on February 24, 2022. As of 24:00 midnight on May 08, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) recorded 7,061 civilian casualties (3,381 killed, and 3,680 injured). However, the actual figure is likely to be considerably higher as the receipt of information from some locations where intense hostilities have been going on has been delayed and many reports are still pending corroboration. 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. Peace talks are ongoing, with no significant progress (OHCHR 09/05/2022, Reuters 09/05/2022).

As of the beginning of May, Russian forces made no significant advances in Eastern Ukraine, with Ukrainian forces continuing to repel Russian attacks. The Ukrainian counteroffensive around Kharkiv in the northeast and Izium in the east continued to successfully push back Russian forces. Russia continues to conduct air and artillery strikes and ground assaults against Ukrainian positions in the Azovstal Steel Plant in Mariupol as of May 10, with Russian authorities continuing to prepare Mariupol for economic integration (ISW 10/05/2022, NYT 06/05/2022, ISW 05/05/2022).

Eastern and Southern Ukraine

Mariupol: People in the besieged city are living in dire conditions unable to leave partly due to lack of communication and information on evacuation routes. Ukrainian officials say that 120,000 remain in Mariupol but that cannot be verified. Joint operations by the UN and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) resulted in more than 600 people being evacuated from the Azovstal steel plant and other areas of Mariupol, as well as nearby towns (UN 12/05/2022, USAID 29/04/2022, HRW 26/0472022, AP 09/05/2022).

Kharkiv: Kharkiv has been under intense fighting...
since February, which is continuing as troops attempt to regain control of the area from the Russians. People are running out of food and water, and many are left without gas, however it appears that the Ukrainian counteroffensive is successfully reducing the level of shelling directed towards the city (BBC 08/05/2022, Censor.Net 25/04/2022).

**Kherson:** Since March 02, almost all of the port city - which has almost 280,000 people - has been under Russian occupation. The Ukrainian army continued to try to push Russian forces out of this area (France 24 08/05/2022, Forbes 28/04/2022).

**Central and Western Ukraine**

The Ukrainian rail network has been targeted by air strikes and missile attacks in what is believed to be an attempt to disrupt logistical support for the Ukrainian army. Railway stations in Western and central Ukraine were hit on April 25 and again on May 04. A railway bridge near Odessa was also targeted/destroyed (Alfahir 25/04/2022, ISW 25/04/2022, Censor.Net 25/04/2022).

**Lviv:** On May 03, there were bombins in Lviv damaging power plants and leaving part of the city without electricity, despite the damage, electricity was restored the following day. The mayor also said workers are restoring the water supply through alternative sources of electricity (Kyiv Independent 04/05/2022, SME 04/05/2022, 444 03/05/2022).

Russian forces hit six train stations in central and western Ukraine and caused delays, head of Ukraine’s state-owned railway Ukrzaliznytsia Oleksandr Kamyshin said. Other infrastructure sites such as pumping stations and electric substations also sustained damage (Kyiv Independent 04/05/2022).

### Displacement

| 5.89M | People Displaced Internally since the military offensive on 24 February 2022, from the latest Ukraine International Displacement Report, Round 4 May 2022 covering April 29 – May 03. |
| 8.03M | Displaced people who have crossed international borders to neighbouring countries since the military offensive on 24 February 2022, taken from the UNHCR Operations Portal for Ukraine accessed May 10, 2022. |

**Note:** there is a lack of disaggregated figures (by age, gender and vulnerable groups) and information on third country nationals for both IDP and refugee population groups, although some of this data is available at host-country level.

### Displacement to neighbouring countries continues at a steady rate

Displacement to neighbouring countries continues to rise steadily and is now at approximately 5.89 million since the start of the Russian military offensive, a rise of approximately 830,000 in the past two weeks. This is a small increase on the previous fortnight where approximately 700,000 people fled Ukraine. Poland continues to house the majority of those crossing the borders (3.2 million) although it is clear that many Ukrainians have moved on to other countries. Although the refugee numbers are increasing steadily, they are far below the peak at the beginning of the crisis. For example, refugee arrivals in Poland have decreased from a peak of 147 000 per day to 13 700 per day as of April 25, when 11 400 exits back to Ukraine were also reported.
UNHCR estimates that just over 1.5 million Ukrainians have entered back into Ukraine. It should be noted that this figure reflects cross-border movements, which can be pendular, and does not necessarily indicate sustainable returns as the situation across Ukraine remains highly volatile and unpredictable as can also be seen in the IDP section below.

Of particular concern are the around 740,000 people who have been displaced into the Russian Federation, with the number that moved voluntarily unclear. Local press has put the number of forced “deportations” as upwards of 1 million. Another vulnerable group are Third Country Nationals, however support to help them return to their country of origin has been ongoing in a number of countries (UNHCR accessed 10/05/2022, NRC accessed 10/05/2022, IOM 09/05/2022, UNHCR 06/05/2022, Censor.Net 04/05/2022, Kyiv Post 03/05/2022, IOM 02/05/2022, WHO 28/04/2022, UNHCR 20/04/2022).

**Internal Displacement from eastern oblasts continues to rise with national IDP numbers rising above eight million**

The latest IOM Ukraine International Displacement Report (Round 4) estimated that there was a total of 8.03 million internally displaced persons in Ukraine as of May 3rd, 2022. This represents a small increase of around 322,000 IDPs since the previous survey (April 17).

The increase in IDPs has mainly been driven by displacement from the eastern macro-region, with the number of IDPs displaced from the region rising by nearly half a million to 3.94 million, likely due to the start of the Russian offensive in the area. There also has been a 20% increase in those displaced from the south and a 13% increase in displacements from Kyiv. Conversely the northern region saw a rise in people returning with the number of IDPs citing this region as their place of origin dropping by around 450,000 (25%).

The number of IDPs located in the west of the
country has remained, though this region still houses close to three million IDPs; numbers have also shown minimal change in the east and north. The central region has seen a drop of approximately 140,000 IDPs (8%), perhaps due to many IDPs in this area transiting to other locations.

Kyiv and the southern region have seen IDP numbers more than double although the total number still remains low compared to other areas (238,000 and 519,000 IDP respectively) (IOM 09/05/2022, DFS 04/05/2022, IOM 04/05/2022).

**Demographics of IDP Population remain unchanged though the prevalence of vulnerable groups remains unclear**

Women and children continue to make up the majority of the displaced populations, however exact demographics are unknown. IOM Round 4 respondents indicate that 52% of households include children aged 5 – 17, 22% of households have children aged between 1 and 5, and 7% contain infants below one year of age, all similar proportions to the previous round. The number of households with pregnant or breastfeeding women (9%), Older persons (55%) and those with disabilities (23%) have also changed little. However, the proportion of households with members who are chronically ill has dropped to 31% (down from 37%), as has the number of those directly affected by violence (down to 2% from 4%). There is no clear rationale for these changes, though they could simply be fluctuations within the margin of error. Currently data shows the number of households that contain certain vulnerable groups, but not what percentage of the IDP population belongs to certain vulnerable groups (IOM 09/05/2022, DFS 09/05/2022).

**Returnee numbers remain constant at around 2.7 million**

At 2.7 million, the total returnee population from IOM Round 4 is slightly lower than that for Round 3 (approximately 2.8 million). Fluctuations in returnee numbers could be influenced by several factors, including those who intend to move again (15% of returnees in Round 3). New returns may therefore have been roughly equal to those deciding to move again. In terms of regional spread, most returnees are in the northern macro-region and Kyiv (approximately 1.5 million in total), with roughly just over half a million returnees in the west, and just under half a million in the east. It is likely that some of those returning have found houses destroyed, utilities and basic supplies still in short supply and warnings of mines and UXOs around their former homes, all factors that may push them back into displacement (IOM 09/05/2022, Censor.Net 04/05/2022, UNOSAT 03/05/2022, UNOSAT 26/04/2022, UNOSAT 12/04/2022). Further details on returnees from neighbouring countries can be found in the refugee section.

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**Humanitarian Access**

Lack of respect for humanitarian corridors and failure to implement “windows of silence” continue to hamper access to the area’s most heavily affected by conflict. In the north of Ukraine and around Kyiv areas now back under Ukrainian control are heavily contaminated by mines and UXOs. In South-Eastern cities, direct access for international humanitarian organisations remains impossible. NRC provides an online overview of humanitarian access across Ukraine. Currently coordination tracking data (Ukraine 5W) indicates the presence of 227 humanitarian partners working in Ukraine, with a significant presence in the eastern region as well as IDP and border oblasts in the south and west. The majority of agencies are local NGOs (136), although 53 international NGOs and 7 UN agencies are also reporting response implementation. Overall the response has been scaling up week on week with the estimated number of people reached with humanitarian aid now reaching 5.4 million as of May 05 (OCHA 06/05/2022).
Evacuation of civilians remains difficult to achieve

Reaching agreement between Ukraine and Russia for the safe passages of civilians has been particularly challenging these past weeks. The lack of ceasefire agreements has led to periods without humanitarian corridors in April. Even when agreed on, humanitarian corridors were frequently attacked, shelled or even blocked. The situation of Mariupol illustrates this problem with the evacuation of civilians being delayed and failing many times. The evacuation of those staying in the Azovstal steel plant was finally achieved on May 03 with hundreds of people able to leave (OCHA 02/05/2022, IOM 25/04/2022, 24/04/2022, Ukraine Crisis Media Center 22/04/2022, OCHA 22/04/2022, International Medical Corps 21/04/2022). By mid-April, 9 routes for evacuations were established in Mariupol (Donetsk Oblast); Berdyansk, Tokmak, Energodar and Melitopol (Zaporizhzhia Oblast); Severodonetsk, Lysychansk, Popasna, Hirsk and Rubizhne (Luhansk Oblast). However, the government of Ukraine repeatedly cancelled evacuations of civilians from major contested cities, stating that safe passage had not been guaranteed from their Russian counterparts (NRC 19/04/2022, CNN 17/04/2022, ECHO 12/04/2022). By April 03, over one million evacuees were registered by the oblasts according to the State Emergency of Ukraine (Danish Refugee Council 08/04/2022).

Only a few humanitarian actors are able to reach the hardest-hit areas, reducing response capacity for the affected populations

The number of humanitarian agencies working in hard-to-reach areas remains low, especially in terms of international organisations. The situation is even more critical in non-GCA areas due to crossline restrictions. In addition to these challenges, competition for logistics and transportation assets continue to be reported, especially around the conflict-affected areas (NRC 19/04/2022, WFP 11/04/2022).

Physical constraints and security issues are threatening the humanitarian actors and posing challenges in accessing conflict-affected areas

Shelling and crossfire continues to hamper humanitarian access, notably in the hardest-hit areas, with direct threats on humanitarian staff’ lives. Recently, two Caritas staff members were killed in Mariupol (USAID 14/04/2022). Aid actors also face the risks of detention by parties to conflict. Amongst many incidents that occured, ECHO and USAID reported that two British humanitarian workers were held hostages by Russian forces in April and that ten drivers working for a local NGO had been detained in Donetsk (ECHO 02/05/2022, USAID 14/04/2022, USAID 07/04/2022, Censor.Net 04/04/2022).

Furthermore, other physical constraints restrict the delivery of assistance, notably damage to roads and bridges. This is the case throughout Donetsk, Kharkiv, and Luhansk oblasts. This also limits the size of delivery trucks on certain routes. On May 03, a railway infrastructure in Kirovohradskia oblast in central Ukraine was damaged by a missile. It was a major junction for trains used for civilians’ evacuations (OCHA 02/05/2022).

The presence of unexploded ordnance and mines is an additional access challenge. According to SESU, 300,000 square km, almost half of Ukraine's superficy, currently requires depollution, including of cluster munitions (ACAPS 19/04/2022, OCHA 14/04/2022, UKRinform 13/04/2022, Bellingcat 11/03/2022).

Most of the affected populations continue to be accessible, at the exception of populations residing in South-Eastern cities

The Russian forces have switched their focus to the east, strengthening their positions and increasing the frequency of airstrikes and bombardments. However, most cities remain accessible to some extent. Due to this escalation, the Kharkiv region witnessed a ban on the delivery of humanitarian goods in April. It is yet not known if the situation has eased enough to allow the resumption of aid deliveries (Censor.Net 21/04/2022, NRC 19/04/2022).
In South-Eastern cities (Melitopol, Berdyansk, Kherson), international non-governmental organisation’s (NGOs) direct access is still impossible, but civil society organisations (CSOs) and local organisations manage small to medium scale aid delivery. The number of civilians remaining in the cities of Mariupol, Kherson, Melitopol, Berdyansk, Severodonetsk, Kramatorsk turns out to be an information gap, limiting furthermore the ability for the humanitarian community to plan for response for future displaced (NRC 19/04/2022, WFP 15/04/2022).

The access to Kyiv and Chernihiv oblasts significantly improved for NGOs but the threat posed by mines and UXO remains high (France 24 20/04/2022).

Humanitarian Impact, Conditions and Needs

Conflict-Affected Areas in Ukraine

Incidents of safety and protection issues particularly gender-based violence continue to be reported in conflict-affected areas

According to data (between March 11 and April 24) from a national gender-based violence (GBV) hotline supported by UNFPA, almost 4,000 calls and online requests were made. 79% of the cases reported are GBV-related out of which 63% are reported by women. Reports include intimate partner sexual violence (UNFPA 04/05/2022).

In areas recently retaken by Ukrainian forces, reportedly many burnt and severely mutilated bodies were found, with many local media and human rights organisations indicating rape reports from these areas. However, incidents of sexual violence are often difficult to verify and hence the extent in which these protection concerns are spread remains unknown. Mass graves continue to be discovered in and around the Kyiv region, in areas where Russian forces withdrew their forces in early April. These incidents increase concerns over the safety of people currently living in occupied territories, there is already data highlighting rising levels of fear and anxiety about exposure to violence and trauma, especially among men and older people. According to the Rapid Gender Analysis, the second most important issue - reported by 37% of men and 35% of women - was safety and security. However, hostilities are hindering people’s movement and their ability to access services and assistance (UN Women and Care 04/05/2022, UCMC 03/05/2022, UCMC 30/04/2022, 444 28/04/2022, 444 25/04/2022, Dennik Postoj 25/04/2022, Insecurity Insight 04/04/2022).

Eastern oblasts are experiencing higher levels of food shortages and food prices in comparison to the rest of the country, this situation is exacerbated by cities being encircled and Russian forces targeting infrastructure impacting access, in addition to the lack of livelihood opportunities as a result of the war.

Stores running out of food, disrupted supply chains and lack of humanitarian aid, are causing critical levels of food shortages, all of which are exacerbated by lack of livelihood opportunities. 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. For example, flour shortages were reported by 4% on April 20, in comparison to 22% on March 2. This is in line with the results of the IOM’s General population Survey (Round 3) as of April 17, indicating that in terms of availability of food, the worst situation remains to be in eastern oblasts, where 46% of respondents...
report that almost all food products were missing from stores, and 32% in the south of the country, compared to only 2% in western oblasts. Data from the most recent IOM survey (round 4) found that food availability had dramatically increased with only 6.4% of respondents in the east reporting that almost all food products were missing from stores and 10.5% in the south. These findings (from April 27 – May 03) are somewhat surprising as the conflict has escalated in these areas, so it will be important to triangulate these findings as further information becomes available (IOM 03/05/2022, OCHA 27/04/2022, IOM 21/04/2022, UN Women and Care 29/03/2022).

Increases in food prices also follow the same geographical trend, with the highest food prices being reported in Eastern oblasts, particularly in Donetsk, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, and Zaporizhya. Donetsk reported the highest prices of cabbage, potatoes and milk. Food shortages are likely to continue to be an issue, as Russian forces continue to encircle cities and target basic infrastructure including railroads and power grids impacting supply of food and aid (Premise 27/04/2022, Kyiv Post 25/04/2022, ISW 25/04/2022, Kyiv Post 26/04/2022).

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. The situation in the partially encircled cities (primarily in Luhansk and Donetsk) is likely to get worse, as people are running out of food and water (ISW 04/05/2022, Censor.Net 04/05/2022, UCMC 02/05/2022, WFP 01/05/2022, USAID 29/04/2022).

**Separated families and women are at a higher risk of 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. This is particularly concerning as more families continue to be separated, and the number of female-headed households have increased since the war. This is reflected in the latest Rapid Gender analysis, with a higher percentage of women (16%) reporting food to be the area in their life most affected by war in comparison to men (13%) (UN Women and Care 04/05/2022, WFP 01/05/2022, UN Women and Care 29/03/2022).

As a result of food shortages and price increase, food insecure households primarily women are adopting negative coping mechanisms such as reducing portion sizes, cutting down on meals, or eating less preferred food.

According to WFP, about 35% of the Ukrainian population employ coping strategies such as reducing the number of meals eaten per day, the portion size of meals, restricting adult consumption to feed children, borrowing food, or eating less preferred foods. More than 50% of the population in Luhanska, Khersonska, and Chernihivska are using such coping strategies, similar strategies have been employed in Mariupol (Donetsk) and Mykolaiv (Mykolaiv). It is expected that the burden of these negative coping strategies will fall primarily on women, as data show that women and girls often eat less and last during wars. According to some interviews conducted for the Rapid Gender Analysis, women have reduced their own food intake and have started to save food and give it primarily to children and older and sick people (UN Women and Care 04/05/2022, WFP 01/05/2022, WHO 28/04/2022).

The conflict has destroyed and damaged many businesses impacting livelihoods, and as more women become the primary income earner the burden of paid and unpaid work increases.

There are several factors impacting livelihood opportunities in conflict-affected areas, such as displacement, business damage and closures, damage to infrastructure, inaccessibility of the place of employment, and insecurity, which are especially relevant in the territories under occupation and those under immediate attack. Women's employment rates - which were already
lower before the conflict - are expected to decrease further, as women are experiencing greater loss in sources of livelihoods due to the ongoing war. At the same time, more women are now responsible for earning an income for their households, while remaining to be involved in unpaid work as primary caregivers including care work, domestic work and volunteering. As many children, elderly and people with diseases lack access to basic social services it is expected that this burden will only increase (UN Women and Care 04/05/2022, WFP 01/05/2022, Ukrinform 30/04/2022, UN Women and Care 29/03/2022, Censor.Net 28/04/2022, SME 28/04/2022, Kyiv Post 25/04/2022).

Reports of lack of access to medication are increasing, with the top three medications that households are having difficulty accessing being painkillers, and medication for hypertension for cardiovascular diseases. Unaffordable medicine, lack of pharmacies, disruption to the national medical supply chain are some of the contributing factors (WHO 28/04/2022, UNICEF 23/04/2022, UNFPA 04/05/2022).

Destruction to facilities and disruption to access to health services and medicines persists amidst reported rise in civilian casualties and other health needs.

A total of 273 attacks on healthcare were reported across Ukraine, resulting in 103 injuries and 139 deaths. Given the extent of the damage and destruction in Eastern Ukraine, it is expected that a significant number of these attacks are in the East. The remaining functioning health facilities are under strain or under the threat of destruction, as around 300 health facilities are located in areas with active fighting (WHO accessed 10/05/2022, UNICEF 23/04/2022).

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According to the latest IOM survey (Round 4), across all non-displaced respondents, 6% said that no or few pharmacies were open in their area, which remains almost similar to Round 3 (7%). However, the share of respondents indicating no or little access to pharmacies has grown in the east, up to 25% compared to 21% in Round 3 and 17% in Round 2. The continued lack of access to medication is driving families to stop medications. According to Round 3 of the same survey, 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. While this information is not available in Round 4, the same behaviour is likely to continue as barriers to accessing medications persist. The needs assessment, conducted by Premise, showed that 39% of assessed households have at least one member with a chronic illness such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes or cancer, and that 30% of households have at least one person with a chronic disease reporting challenges in accessing care for those conditions, leaving them at risk of exacerbated health conditions (IOM 03/05/2022, OCHA 27/04/2022, UNICEF 27/04/2022, IOM 21/04/2022).

Long-term healthcare for chronic illnesses such as HIV and immunisation campaigns are disrupted and would have further impacts on the public health of Ukrainians.

Barriers in accessing healthcare were reported by 15% of respondents in Round 3 of IOM’s survey (no information on this indicator in Round 4) in eastern oblasts; reporting two or more separate barriers in accessing healthcare. These findings are in line with Premise needs assessment where only 30% of respondents have sought out healthcare services recently, with the main reasons cited being the security situation or no healthcare services in their area. People with disabilities (PwD) are facing additional barriers on account of their disability (WHO 28/04/2022, OCHA 27/04/2022, IOM 21/04/2022).

More people including those with critical and chronic illnesses are reporting lack of access to medication due to high costs or unavailability, leading some to stop their medications, and leaving them at risk of exacerbated health conditions.
More than 40 health facilities that offered HIV treatment, prevention and care services before the war are closed with service being disrupted at other sites, over a quarter of a million Ukrainians are living with HIV, one of the world’s highest HIV incidence rates, with around half of them receiving antiretroviral therapy. Lack of access to antiretroviral therapy and prevention services would mean increased risk of death and resurgence of Ukraine’s AIDS pandemic (UN Women and Care 04/05/2022, OCHA 27/04/2022, UNAIDS 13/04/2022).

COVID-19 vaccination as well as routine vaccinations of children for measles, rubella, diphtheria, and polio are facing challenges due to the war. The immunisation activities were already facing challenges due to COVID-19 and the pre-war weak immunisation coverage. A nationwide polio vaccination campaign for around 140,000 children was disrupted just weeks after its launch on February 1 this year. The campaign has since resumed, with just 48% (approximately 69,000) of the targeted children vaccinated as of April 24. The lack of immunisation coverage is putting under or unvaccinated children at risk, and setting back years of progress in countering vaccine preventable diseases. In fact, on April 28, WHO reported that two children have tested positive for polio and the virus has been detected in 19 asymptomatic contacts - the location of the cases remain unknown. This is particularly concerning as there was a polio outbreak in the country just before the war started (WHO 27/04/2022, VOA 27/04/2022).

Destruction to educational facilities continues, disrupted the education of 5.7 million children, impacting their development and their well-being

The Ukrainian Ministry of Education and Science reports that as of May 10, 1,509 educational facilities across the country have been damaged, and 126 destroyed. Schools in Eastern Ukraine have been particularly hard-hit by the destruction, at least one out of six schools (17%) in Eastern Ukraine supported by UNICEF have been damaged or destroyed since the start of the war. In addition, the ability to learn is severely affected by ongoing exposure to conflict-related trauma and stress leading to a risk of school dropout. These conditions have disrupted the education of 5.7 million children in Ukraine, but it also meant loss of a safe space and a sense of normalcy. Lack of access to education can also hamper the ability of children to access information on the risks of explosive ordnance and their access to basic medical and psychosocial services (Save Schools accessed 06/05/2022, UNICEF 04/05/2022, World Vision 28/04/2022, OCHA 27/04/2022).

Children in areas under active hostilities had no education since the beginning of the war. According to local news sources, children in Russian-controlled territories are now being forced to study Russian curriculum and language, however, information from these areas is difficult to verify

A significant number of children who were unable to evacuate from areas of intense hostilities or occupied areas did not access any education as education facilities remain closed due to insecurity and the lack of electricity, mobile communications, and Internet. The children impacted the most are primarily those of Kyiv, Sumy, Chernihiv, Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. Additionally, the number of higher education institutions is limited in the occupied territories. Recent high school graduates in these areas risk delays to their continuing education, which will impact their future (UN Women and Care 04/05/2022, Cedos 02/05/2022).

According to local news sources, as of the end of April, Russian authorities in the occupied territories are resuming education using Russian language and curriculum, while excluding Ukrainian language, literature and history. In some cases (Starobilsk, Volnovakha, Mariupol), some educators are now teaching in Russian and using Russian textbooks. The Education Ombudsman of Ukraine recommends that teachers in occupied territories continue to work remotely under Ukrainian programs, if possible, but hide it from occupation authorities, due to ongoing threats to educators. Local reports show that educators and their families are threatened in case of refusal to cooperate with Russian forces. For example, on
April 30, in the city of Kakhovka (Kherson region), Russian forces abducted school principal Viktor Milkhailovich, of the Pendalchuk school, while there is no information on the reasons behind the abduction, it highlights the threat educators are facing (Cedos 02/05/2022, Ukrinform 30/04/2022, EO Gov. 06/04/2022).

Luhansk, Donetsk and Kharkiv remain the oblasts with most affected civilian infrastructures and residential buildings, with civilians remaining living in unsanitary and insecure conditions. People with disabilities face challenges in leaving or seeking shelter partly due to inaccessibility of transportation.

The IOM’s General population Survey (Round 4) shows that the vast majority of non-displaced people are living in their own home, while only a minority are living in basement, bomb shelter, metro etc. However, local reports over the past two weeks of many of the conflict-affected oblasts such as Luhansk, Donetsk, and Kharkiv show that Russian forces continue to destroy residential buildings. This means that many of those remaining in these heavily bombarded areas are living in unsanitary and insecure conditions with reduced access to water supply and electricity. PwD are facing challenges in evacuating, accounts from CSOs note that PwD have difficulties with accessing transportation and are therefore unable to leave their homes and seek safer housing (UN Women and Care 04/05/2022, Kyiv Independent 04/05/2022, IOM 03/05/2022, UCMC 03/05/2022, Censor.Net 04/05/2022, USAID 29/04/2022, Censor.Net 28/04/2022, The Guardian 28/04/2022, Censor.Net 26/04/2022, Censor.Net 25/04/2022).

**Humanitarian Needs for Conflict-affected Populations**

**Protection needs including mental health and psychosocial support are urgent, in light of the protection incidents taking place primarily in conflict-affected and occupied**

According to the Rapid Gender Analysis, 40% of men and 40% of women referenced protection needs, which is understood mainly as safety. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) also remains among the most reported urgent needs. Widespread trauma due to the conflict, and high stress and anxiety levels is increasing. According to country-level data from the latest round from IOM, 20% requested to receive the number of IOM’s free psychological support hotline, compared to 19% in the previous round, highlighting the continuous need for MHPSS support. While there are some psychological help provided online, it is less accessible to persons who do not have reliable internet access or the required equipment, which means many of those most in need in conflict affected areas will face challenges in accessing these services (UN Women and Care 04/05/2022, UNFPA 04/05/2022, IOM 03/05/2022).

**Food needs continue to be among the top priorities reported by people in conflict-affected areas, exacerbated by the loss of sources of income due to the conflict**

Food is among the most acute needs identified in conflict-affected areas. 66% of non-displaced respondents for the IOM’s General population Survey (Round 4) determined that if they received financial assistance, they would spend it on food. This data, along with reports of increased adoption of negative coping strategies, highlights the immediate needs for access to food. Given that women are becoming the primary caregivers in many households and being particularly vulnerable to food insecurity, there is a need to target women, particularly pregnant and breastfeeding women, in food assistance and nutrition programming, and to address their specific dietary needs. Data from IOM show that non-displaced respondents prefer receiving cash assistance, to spend on food, health, covering debt, WASH etc. the need for cash is likely arising as many have lost their sources of income and are now primarily dependent on aid. The revised UN Flash Appeal (March-August) estimates that some 10.2 million people across Ukraine are in need of food and livelihood assistance, showing an increase of over 350% compared to the estimate of the initial UN flash appeal. Additionally, women are in need of vocational training and livelihood opportunities.
likely in order to cope with the rising financial burden (UN Women and Care 04/05/2022, IOM 03/05/2022, WFP 01/05/2022).

The war in Ukraine continues to create significant health needs, primarily the need for medicine

According to the latest IOM survey (Round 4), 60% of non-displaced people determined they would cover health-related expenditures if they receive financial assistance. Health needs are particularly high in the East, where many health facilities are destroyed and damaged, and people lack access to medications due to lack of access to pharmacies, high cost of medications or the unavailability of medicine due to disruptions in supply chains. People with chronic illness such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes or cancer, are particularly vulnerable to exacerbated health risks. Better access should be provided for antiretroviral therapy for people with HIV. There is also a need to ensure the full resumption of vaccination campaigns for children to prevent any disease outbreaks (IOM 03/05/2022, WHO 27/04/2022, UNAIDS 13/04/2022).

Education needs continue to be reported in conflict-affected areas

In areas with active hostilities, education has been on hold for months now, with lack of equipment and little access to the internet posing challenges for accessing online learning. There is a need to protect educators in Russian-occupied areas. Additionally, the lack of material is likely to impact lower income households, therefore, they should be supported (UN Women and Care 04/05/2022, Cedos 02/05/2022).

Civilians who remain in the encircled cities such as Mariupol and Kherson urgently need assistance and safe evacuation routes.

Civilians remaining in occupied cities of Mariupil and Kherson, are still in need of humanitarian aid, and access to services and access to food, water and medical supplies. Civilians are also in need of official and safe evacuation routes. Older people, PwD, and those who are sick or injured require special attention due to mobility challenges (UN Women and Care 04/05/2022, OCHA 02/05/2022, Open democracy 29/04/2022, HRW 26/04/2022).

IDPs in Ukraine

Although the majority of IDPs reside in the West and Central Macro regions, over 2 million IDPs live in the Northern, Eastern and Southern Macro regions and face the secondary impact of conflict in those regions

Although the majority of IDPs reside in western and central regions (2.9 million and 1.67 million respectively) there are also 1.47 million IDPs in the eastern region, a further 1.23 million in the north and over half a million IDPs in the south. As these regions are heavily affected by conflict, many IDPs are facing impacts such as outages of utilities (electricity, water and gas), a lack of basic foodstuffs and rising prices. In addition, the majority of the IDPs feeling “completely unsafe” are currently located in the east (6% of IDPs in the east feeling this way). The east and the north also house large numbers of returnees, with the lack of safety perhaps underlined by the fact that 21% of returnees in the east are reported to be considering leaving again (IOM 09/05/2022, Premise 27/04/2022, OCHA 11/04/2022).

The Ukrainian rail network has been targeted by air strikes and missile attacks in what is believed to be an attempt to disrupt logistical support for the Ukrainian army. Railway stations in Western and Central Ukraine were hit on April 25 and again on May 04.

Although the majority of conflict events are taking place in the east and south, all regions of Ukraine have been subject to air-raids and missile strikes. Many IDPs are using railways to move about the country so recent targeting of rail infrastructure by the Russian forces is particularly concerning. Russian forces conducted precision missile strikes against five Ukrainian railway stations in Central and Western Ukraine on April 25, with five people killed and 18 injured in Russian rocket strikes on railway stations in the central Ukraine region of Vinnytsia. On May 04, six Russian cruise missiles hit electrical substations near railway
stations in Transcarpathia (the southwestern Oblast of Ukraine) and Lviv - a city hosting large numbers of IDPs (ACAPS accessed 11/05/2022, Kyiv Post 03/05/2022, ISW 04/05/2022, Kyiv Post 26/04/2022, ISW 25/04/2022, Censor.Net 25/04/2022).

The availability and prices of basic food items is improving across Ukraine, especially in western and central regions, but some shortages remain with IDP households particularly at risk by food insecurity

Regular food monitoring indicates that the availability of basic foodstuffs is increasing across much of Ukraine. In the western macro-region, only 4% of respondents reported that flour was unavailable in the week of April 20, compared to 24% in the second week of March. It was a similar story in central regions where only 7% now reported a lack of flour compared to 45% in early March. Other products such as Sugar and Meat show similar patterns, with the exception of the central region where there has been a small increase in meat unavailability reported at the end of April (however this was reported by 14% of respondents, still far below the 43% peak at the beginning of March). This information aligns with data from REACH assessments in the northern and central oblasts which found food availability as a major concern in many areas, particularly the north (Premise 27/04/2022, REACH 16/04/2022, REACH 16/04/2022).

In terms of cost, 39% of respondents across Ukraine reported paying more than expected for basic staples overall in March and this had dropped to 23% in April. Most areas of Ukraine were affected, although currently it appears the oblasts north and east are worst affected. However, despite this easing of the situation, food insecurity remains a major concern for displaced populations. About 54% of IDPs are food insecure compared to 23% of resident populations who are still in their homes. IDPs in the eastern and southern parts of the country are the most affected with 62% of IDPs in the east and 59% in the south severely to moderately food insecure. Food insecurity is also driving the prevalence of negative coping mechanisms including skipping meals and reducing food intake (WFP 01/05/2022, Premise 27/04/2022).

Women constitute the majority of those displaced and they face multiple pressures as well as increased protection risks

Displacement has placed women and children at increased risk of GBV, abuse, psychological trauma, trafficking, and family separation. Women constitute the majority of those displaced within and outside of the country, and they face significantly increased safety and protection risks. Incidents of GBV, particularly domestic violence and conflict-related sexual violence, are reportedly increasing, but services for GBV survivors have been impacted by the conflict and are not provided in full. Women have also experienced a greater loss in sources of livelihoods whilst at the same time are facing increased pressure to provide for their families while male family members are involved in defence activities (CARE and UN Women 04/05/2022, UNICEF 27/04/2022).

Online education is ongoing, but IDP students still face challenges in continuing their education

As of April 21, around 3.7 million students had resumed their studies in Ukrainian schools, mostly through distance learning modalities. Kindergartens in 15 regions also continue working in distance, blended, or face-to-face formats. Even where schools are closed due to conflict, displaced children can in theory access other schools to maintain their education. However, for some of the displaced, living in gyms, or schools themselves, living conditions might not be conducive to learning, or they might not have access to the necessary hardware. To reduce the pressure on students, those who complete primary and basic general secondary education are exempted from passing the State Final Attestation this academic year (UNICEF 30/04/2022, RFE 16/04/2022).

Access to healthcare for IDPs remains relatively good, but some issues exist particularly that of cost
Access to healthcare still appears to be relatively stable for IDPs. The most recent IOM general population survey found that 42% of IDP respondents reported that nothing was preventing people from accessing health services and 64% of respondents reported that all pharmacies were open. However, issues were still flagged with 8% of IDP respondents indicating that healthcare was too expensive to access, and 6% indicating no medicines were available. Furthermore 12% indicated there were no pharmacies in their area or only some or no pharmacies were open. It should also be noted that of those citing financial assistance as their most pressing need, 54% of IDP respondents indicated that the money was needed for health expenses (IOM 09/05/2022, REACH 16/04/2022, REACH 16/04/2022).

**Humanitarian Needs for IDPs**

Financial assistance continues to be the main need expressed by IDPs across the country, cited by two thirds of all IDPs, but in some respects the situation appears to be improving.

The latest IOM general population survey (round 4) found that 66% of IDPs identified a need for financial assistance, the same as the previous round. The need for food assistance (17%) and hygiene items (16%) also remained stable. Slightly fewer IDPs expressed the need for accommodation (15%); Clothes, shoes and other NFIs (25%); and information or means of communication (18%) - all down 4 to 8 percentage points compared to the previous round. There was a larger drop in the need for transportation (identified by only 17% of IDPs in round 4, compared to 32% in round 3), and medicines and health services (down to 23% from 33%). Access to money was also less problematic (mentioned by 22% of IDPs compared to 41% in the previous round) (IOM 09/05/2022).

IDPs need support to source food and essential medications

Financial assistance was specified as their single most pressing need by 45% of IDP respondents. The majority of IDPs said they would use cash assistance to cover food (76%), followed by health-related expenses (54%). Clothes (42%) and rent (38%) also feature highly as well as hygiene items (21%) and debt payments (20%). This ties in with the increasing levels of food insecurity seen amongst IDPs as well as reports in the previous round of the IOM general population survey where 28% of IDPs indicated they or their household members stopped taking their medication due to the war (IOM 09/05/2022, WFP 01/05/2022, IOM 25/04/2022).

**Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)**

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) remains among the most reported urgent needs. Displaced women suffer high levels of stress and anxiety due to fear, loss of family members or friends, and family separation. Displacement has also impacted the well-being of many children who are having to cope with issues such as family separation or living in crowded environments without access to normal mitigating factors such as friends or schooling. Prolonged exposure to distress impacts children's immediate and long-term health and development. Therefore access to MHPSS services is one of the most pressing needs for IDP households (UNFPA).

**Displaced people who have crossed international borders to neighbouring countries**

Women and children entering and residing in neighbouring countries continue to face protection risks

Protection risks have been flagged as a major threat by the humanitarian community since the beginning of the war in February 2022. Indeed, as fleeing to other countries is prohibited for Ukrainian men under 60 – besides those with disability, single parents or those raising three or more children under 18 – most of the displaced out of Ukraine are women and children, many of whom separated or unaccompanied. REACH assessments conducted in Poland in April show
that 96% of the interviewees were female and that one person out of 10 was travelling alone. Children and women are therefore particularly vulnerable to risks of sexual exploitation, trafficking, GBV and other types of abuse (UNHCR 27/04/2022, OHCHR 21/04/2022, UNHCR 21/04/2022, REACH and UNHCR 21/04/2022, REACH and UNHCR 08/04/2022, UN Women 29/03/2022). The lack of a central registration system for the refugees entering neighbouring countries coupled with the lack of verification of volunteers poses an additional threat, notably the one of smuggling networks and illegal migration organisations. This is particularly the case at border posts, reception centres and in transit. Unaccompanied children face heightened risks due to the lack of their identification at the borders and thus the lack of immediate care and response by humanitarian actors (Point 28/04/2022, UNHCR 25/04/2022, IMC 23/04/2022).

Regarding the response to GBV, national services (psychosocial and healthcare) are likely to be under pressure with the increasing demand and to suffer from a lack of staff with specific GBV training. In Poland, post-rape care is reported to be inefficient notably due to the lack of access to safe abortion (HRW 29/04/2022, UNHCR 29/04/2022, UNHCR 25/04/2022).

National infrastructures and services are witnessing an increasing pressure, resulting in additional challenges in the response

In Poland, the flow of refugees - which is the largest in the region- is having a major impact on national capacities and resources. This could lead both the host communities and the Ukrainian refugees to face challenges in accessing services and goods. The pressure on the health system is expected to be particularly burdened due to the numerous needs of the displaced. Child protection and GBV services are expected to encounter intense pressure as well. The education sector is no exception, facing challenges in terms of capacity, staff and materials. According to UNHCR, local schools could soon reach their limits of absorption, especially in urban areas (UNHCR 25/04/2022, UNHCR 21/04/2022). While information in other host countries was not made available on this topic, it is likely that a similar scenario occurs as all the neighbouring countries have hosted large numbers of refugees compared to their population ratio.

The inflation following the current war in Ukraine is impacting all neighbouring countries, with particular threats for the host communities and the refugees

Inflation is experienced in all neighbouring countries of Ukraine since the Russian invasion in February, with food prices being at historically high levels in the whole world according to the FAO Food Price Index (FAO 06/05/2022, WBJ 19/04/2022). This exacerbates the already dire economic conditions in Europe which resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic. In Poland, inflation could reach a peak of around 13% to 14% by the end of the third quarter of 2022. In Romania, Slovakia and Hungary, the inflation rates are similar, reaching 10.2% in March in Romania, 9.5% in March in Slovakia and 9.5% in April in Hungary. The situation in Moldova is the most dire, with the current inflation reaching 22% with food inflation being particularly high (27%) (Slovak Statistics visited in May 2022, Daily News Hungary 10/05/2022, The Warsaw Voice 05/05/2022, Unimedia 04/05/2022, BursaRo 20/04/2022). Some countries adopted measures to restrict the rise of food prices such as Hungary which put a price cap on selected foods until July of this year (Telex 27/04/2022). While inflation and food prices’ increases have been reported in all countries under study, the functionality of markets has not been impacted in Poland (Mercy Corps 20/04/2022). No information suggesting dysfunctionality was found for the other countries.

While returns to Ukraine are increasing, some displaced have decided to remain in the host countries which are trying to plan for long-term inclusion

By May 09, UNHCR reported that about 1.5 million returns to Ukraine were registered. Among those, one million were from the Polish border, although it is not known how many of the returns were of pendular or permanent nature
According to REACH assessments, the perception of safety in the area of return and the reunification with family were the highest reported reasons for returning. Less than a fifth of the respondents reported leaving temporarily for reasons such as shopping, bringing family, and visiting relatives. The latest data suggests that the majority of the returnees are returning to their area of origin in Ukraine (REACH and UNHCR 03/05/2022, REACH and UNHCR 21/04/2022). Assessments conducted in Romania showed similar results, the reunification with family and the perception of safety in area of origin being the main reasons for departure (REACH 28/04/2022). In Moldova, in addition to identical pull factors, the fear of a new conflict in the Transnistria region is also pushing Ukrainian to return to their country (The Guardian 01/05/2022, EUneighbours 29/04/2022, NBC News 21/04/2022).

Apart from the large number of returns and the large number of refugees moving to other European countries, some Ukrainians have decided to remain in the neighbouring host countries. In Poland, about 60% of refugee arrivals have remained in Poland so far and 67% of the displaced interviewed for REACH assessments intended to stay until the end of the conflict (UNHCR 27/04/2022, REACH and UNHCR 08/04/2022). Moreover, the vast majority of the Polish population is still in favour of hosting Ukrainians (91% of interviewees in the CBOS poll conducted in April) (The First News 02/05/2022). The Polish government is even working on a bill to regulate the issue of integration of refugees in the country (residence, work, education). Employment continues to be facilitated by the governments of the host countries. According to the Ministry of Family and Labour, almost 77,000 Ukrainians have already found a job in Poland, mainly unskilled jobs but also in specialised sectors such as healthcare and education (The Warsaw Voice 28/04/2022, The First News 21/04/2022, Gazeta Krakowska 20/04/2022, Wyborcza 20/04/2022). By the end of April, more than 4,400 refugees (mostly women) had found a job in Slovakia and close to 2,000 refugees in Romania (mainly in the industrial sector). Finally in Moldova, about 400 Ukrainians were working by the beginning of May (Ban 05/05/2022, Cas 21/04/2022, Kronika Online 18/04/2022, Agerpres 18/04/2022).

Humanitarian Needs for Refugees

Immediate and urgent needs remain a main concern whereas longer-term needs related to integration are increasing for displaced people intending to stay in the host countries

According to UNHCR, the needs of refugees and TCNs fleeing Ukraine in-transit and in-destination can be divided as such: basic humanitarian needs, protection needs, and socioeconomic integration needs. In Poland, food, accommodation/rental support and stable income sources (employment) are the priorities. In Romania, shelter, non-food items (NFI), health, protection, education and livelihoods are reported to be the main needs of the refugees. In Slovakia, a survey led by IOM showed that food, transportation, financial support, access to information, accommodation, education and employment were the most urgent needs. In Moldova, access to basic needs continues to be inconsistent throughout the country (IOM 03/05/2022, NRC 28/04/2022, UNHCR 25/04/2022, UNHCR 23/04/2022). The main needs in Hungary and Moldova are not specified by sources but include both immediate needs and integration needs like the other host countries (UNHCR 04/05/2022).

The assessment conducted by Mercy Corps in Poland shows that adequate assistance is provided in temporary shelter and reception shelters but warns that the continuity of needs coverage can be concerning once the refugees have left these emergency shelters. This situation is most probably similar in the other hosting countries (Mercy Corps 20/04/2022).

Immediate basic needs of refugees continue to face gaps, notably in food security, shelter and healthcare

Displaced people fleeing the war of Ukraine need immediate access to basic goods and services, such as food, shelter, accommodation, healthcare and transportation. Although international and
national actors are putting their efforts together to respond effectively to the needs, gaps remain. Food shortages have been reported at distribution points in Poland. UNHCR warned about the risk of malnutrition if the situation goes on, especially for vulnerable persons such as children, pregnant and lactating women and elderly (UNHCR 25/04/2022, Gazeta Krakowska 21/04/2021, Wyborcza 23/04/2022). Pregnant and lactating women also face challenges in accessing formula milk and diapers which are expensive items. The lack of registration of these women and thus the lack of knowledge of their locations and needs restrict actors’ capacity to assist them (IMC 23/04/2022, Mercy Corps 20/04/2022).

Accommodation centres in all the neighbouring countries still dispose of space to host refugees as most displaced people have moved on, are being hosted by host families or are renting their own place. However, UNHCR informs about the inadequate conditions in which some refugees are living (unsanitary, overcrowded, inaccessible etc.). Indeed, all types of infrastructure are used as shelters and are thus not always adequate. In Moldova for instance, accommodation centres include dormitories but also education buildings, public and religious buildings. Some centres have few WASH systems compared to the number of people residing inside. This is the case at Moldexpo refugee centre house that hosts 348 refugees (233 adults and 115 children) for only one shower as two are not functional (SPHERE standards require 1 bathing facility per 50 people). Similarly in Poland, basic WASH facilities do not always meet minimum standards in the temporary accommodation and centres. Moreover, the lack of safety in current shelter and the lack of long-term accommodation are major concerns for refugees in Poland (Jurnal 04/05/2022, UNHCR 25/04/2022, UNHCR 21/042022, IMC 23/04/2022, REACH 13/04/2022, Adevarul 11/04/2022, sphereHandbook 2018).

Health needs of refugees continue to be high in all hosting countries. Many displaced people are in need of urgent medical care, including people with chronic illnesses. Humanitarian sources also warn of the risk of infectious diseases due to the low vaccination rates of Ukrainians (including COVID-19) (IMC 23/04/2022). This had led authorities to implement vaccination campaigns, notably in Hungary, Poland and Moldova. According to local actors, watery diarrhoea and dehydration are increasing at their reception centers and accommodation centres in Poland (WHO 21/04/2022). Maternal and new-borns’ health as well as mental health should be further prioritised according to authorities and humanitarian actors. Children and caregivers suffer from particularly high levels of distress. According to a projection of refugees in need by WHO in Moldova, 22% are expected to have some form of mental health disorders including severe PTSD. Other hosting countries could face similar numbers of people in need (UNICEF 30/04/2022, UNHCR 27/04/2022, UNHCR 26/04/2022, Infotag 26/04/2022, UNHCR 25/04/2022, UNHCR 21/04/2022, Daily News Hungary 17/04/2022).

Socio-economic needs are increasing as the conflict lingers

With the conflict entering its third month, most of the refugees have been displaced for a few weeks or even months. Therefore, immediate needs are now giving space to socio-economic needs such as access to livelihood, to education and to information.

Cash needs and access to livelihoods remain very high for refugees and third-country nationals. As mentioned above, local authorities are pushing refugees to find jobs, although there is an information gap on the barriers to employment, especially for non-Ukrainian displaced people. Some host countries have also implemented cash-based assistance for refugees and/or for host families. This is the case in Poland which extended the assistance to refugees and to their host for an additional two-months period. However, complaints on delay have been flagged (Wyborcza 25/04/2022, Wyborcza 23/04/2022).

Education needs continue to be responded to by host governments. In Poland, about 200,000 refugee children have been enrolled in schools by
May 04 while about 500,000 children are studying remotely within the Ukrainian curriculum. This leaves between 100,000 and 200,000 children out of school/kindergarten. UNICEF conducted a survey showing that 34% of the interviewees do not plan to send their children to school, half of them mentioning that they will return to Ukraine soon. Regarding higher education, applications for tertiary studies remain extremely low compared to the number of students who arrived in Poland (The First News 04/05/2022, UNICEF 30/04/2022, Wyborcza 20/04/2022, Wyborcza 19/04/2022). The lack of availability of information on education and the language barriers are some of the challenges hampering access (UNHCR 25/04/2022). In Moldova, about 2,000 children are enrolled in schools, UNHCR reporting the need to support children in returning to school. Ukrainian-speaking staff and mental health training are also needed (UNHCR 20/05/2022). In Romania, 1,600 children out of the 37,000 who arrived in the country are attending school (Bursa 27/04/2022, Kronika Online 27/04/2022). The numbers of enrolment in Slovakia and Hungary are not known but similar challenges regarding access could be taking place.

Information needs of the refugees remain high and include information on the access to basic social services and rights (e.g. asylum), on protection awareness (information on safety, prevention and trafficking) and on referral pathways (UNHCR 29/04/2022, UNICEF 23/04/2022, IMC 23/04/2022, UNHCR 21/04/2022).

Specific population groups face discrimination in accessing services and goods

Some population groups are encountering additional challenges when accessing goods and services in hosting countries, notably due to discrimination. The last bi-weekly reports gave a glance at the situation of the third-country nationals. Though they probably still face stigmatisation and discrimination, recent sources do not give much details on their current situation. Roma minority group are also witnessing exclusion and discrimination. Other individuals such as ones living with disabilities and LGBTQ+ could also encounter discriminatory practices. All of these vulnerable groups have particular needs including access to education, to basic services, to food, to legal counselling and to documentation. People living with disabilities also need accessible infrastructure, adapted sanitary rooms, appropriate accommodation, access to healthcare, assistive technology, signs language interpretation to access information and inclusion in schools (UNHCR 25/04/2022, OHCHR 21/04/2022, UNHCR 21/04/2022). In Moldova, responding to those with specific needs is reported to be the biggest challenge for local NGOs and civil society (UNHCR 25/04/2022).

About this report

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. For this report, 664 documents (collected between April 23 and May 05) were reviewed, covering 6 countries and sourced from 116 publishers resulting in a total of 2,093 entries being tagged. This report has been prepared on behalf of the Information Management and Analysis Cell (IMAC) in Ukraine, but the analysis provided is conducted independently by Data Friendly Space (DFS). MAPACTION has provided mapping support to this product.