With ongoing peace talks failing to make any significant progress, Russia continues its offensive in the east, leading to the surrender of the Ukrainian troops in Mariupol. However Ukrainian counter-offensives have pushed back Russian forces from Kharkiv. Across Ukraine, air strikes and missile attacks have targeted key infrastructure, notably the railway network which has lost 23% of its tracks since the start of the invasion in February. This large-scale destruction is limiting both evacuations of civilians from conflict-affected areas and transport of relief items. Insecurity and logistic challenges also hamper humanitarian efforts, particularly in the East, South and the North-East of the country.

The most recent figure for internally displaced persons within Ukraine was just over 8 million (May 03), with some cities and towns being emptied of over half of their populations in conflict-affected areas on both sides of the line of control. In addition, approximately 6.55 million people have fled to neighbouring countries. Yet, with more than 2 million border crossings registered into Ukraine, there may also be significant numbers of Ukrainians returning, (although where these returns are temporary or definitive is not yet known). Many refugees intend to remain in the neighbouring countries until the war ends, and concerns are rising from both host governments and host communities regarding the potential impact of the refugee influx on livelihoods and access to essential services as well as what long-term solutions for local integration are possible.

Southern and Eastern oblasts have the highest levels of insecurity and highest percentage of households adopting consumption-based mechanisms such as reducing portion sizes, cutting down on meals, or eating less preferred or less expensive food. According to data collected by WFP, (in March and early April), close to half of the populations in Donetsk, Khersonska and Luhanska were food insecure. This situation can be partly explained by the lack of access to these areas (restricting the influx of goods) but also by the lack of income and cash, restricting households to access essential items and services. Needs differ somewhat between conflict-affected areas and the other parts of the country. The lack of products’ availability is pushing people to prefer in-kind assistance in conflict-affected areas rather than cash, which is the preferred type of assistance of people residing in the west. Access to food and essential goods is also an issue for the displaced people inside and outside of Ukraine with higher prices due to inflation and a lack of income resulting from barriers to employment. By mid-April one in two IDP households in Ukraine were food insecure.

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.

Access to accommodation in areas hosting IDPs and in host countries faces particular issues with rent increases and lower housing availability. Accommodation remains as one of the most urgent needs of both IDPs (92% of respondents citing it as a priority according to REACH) and refugees. Long-term solutions are not yet implemented, and concerns are rising on the sustainability of the current situation.

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.

De facto solutions for local integration are possible.
INFORMATION SOURCES, GAPS AND CHALLENGES

The following table highlights some of the main sources used for the situational analysis. It is important to consider the data collection period of the data used for the situational analysis to fully understand the findings presented. For example, the recently published WFP Ukraine food security report covered the month up to April 12, therefore much of the data was collected before large parts of northern Ukraine were freed from Russian occupation and before the Russian offensive in eastern areas escalated. The most recent data is from the IOM Internal Displacement Report - General Population Survey round 4, but this is summarised at macro-region level so may miss nuances both between, and within, oblasts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Data collection period</th>
<th>Publishing date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internal Displacement Report – General Population Survey Round 4</td>
<td>IOM</td>
<td>Apr 29 - May 3</td>
<td>09/05/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine: Humanitarian Situation Monitoring</td>
<td>REACH</td>
<td>Apr 13 - 20</td>
<td>10/05/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Displacement Report – General Population Survey Round 3</td>
<td>IOM</td>
<td>Apr 11 - 17</td>
<td>17/04/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civilian Protection Needs and Responses in Ukraine</td>
<td>NP</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>06/05/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine Food Security Report</td>
<td>WFP</td>
<td>Mar 10 - Apr 12</td>
<td>12/05/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugee Accommodation Centre, Weekly Needs Monitoring (Moldova)</td>
<td>REACH</td>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>10/05/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rapid Needs Assessment – Constanta, Romania</td>
<td>World Vision</td>
<td>Apr 26 - 28</td>
<td>10/05/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rapid Assessment of a selection of transit centres on the South-Eastern Poland-Ukraine Border</td>
<td>NRC</td>
<td>Apr 11 - 28</td>
<td>09/05/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugee Arrivals from Ukraine into Romania</td>
<td>REACH/UNHCR</td>
<td>Feb 28 - Apr 27</td>
<td>29/04/22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Available information for refugees in neighbouring countries focuses mainly on the needs and situation of people in state accommodation centres, while the majority of the displaced are staying in private accommodation or with the host community. In addition, with approximately 2.5 million refugees moving onto countries beyond Ukraine’s immediate neighbours and significant movement both ways across the Ukrainian border the situation is very fluid, which reduces effective “shelf life” of findings.

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, information comes from international and local media sources and government websites. Some INGO and UN assessments have taken place, but they tend to be limited in terms of geographic/demographic scope.

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 media. 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.

Data covering food availability and prices has been sourced from monitoring reports released by Premise along with information on the price and availability of fuel access to utilities such as electricity, water and heating gas.

Please refer to the DFS Analytical Brief (published May 09) for a fuller understanding of the data landscape.

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1 This data is collected autonomously by premise and is not part of a regular assessment activity. Review of the methodology is recommended if this data is to be used
CRISIS TIMELINE

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

21 February
Recognition of Luhansk and Donetsk as independent states by Russia. Russian invasion in eastern Ukraine.

23 February
Declaration of a state of emergency in Ukraine.

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

26 February
Adoption of the Martial law in Ukraine.

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

2 March
UN Resolution demanding the cessation of hostilities.

8 March
Over 2 million internally displaced persons in Ukraine.

9 March
More than two million people fled Ukraine.

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

26 April
OHCHR reports the civilian death toll has reached 2,729.

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

1 April
10% of Ukraine’s population has fled the country.

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

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

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

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

21 April
Russian Forces declare Mariupol is now under their control. Russia controls 80% of Luhansk in Eastern Donbas.

23 April
Over 7 million internally displaced persons in Ukraine.

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

30 April
RUSSIAN CRISIS

16 May
Fighters evacuated from Mariupol steelworks signifying the end of the 82-day assault.

17 May
First Russian Soldier goes on trial for war crimes.

18 May
UN and partners evacuate 101 civilians from Azovstal steel plant, Mariupol.

18 May
Raid hits Mariupol theatre full of civilians killing 300.

6.48M individuals are internally displaced within Ukraine.

23 May
Physical damage to Ukraine’s infrastructure has reached $60 billion.

24 May
Agreement between Russia and Ukraine on 9 humanitarian corridors, excluding Mariupol.

28 May
UN and partners evacuate 101 civilians from Azovstal steel plant, Mariupol.

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

31 May
OHCHR reports the civilian death toll has reached 3,280.

1 June
Russian air strike on a maternity hospital in Mariupol.

2 June
Raid hits Mariupol theatre full of civilians killing 300.

6.48M individuals are internally displaced within Ukraine.

13 June
First Russian Soldier goes on trial for war crimes.

14 June
Bill submitted by the Ukrainian President to extend the martial law.

16 June
Russian Forces declare Mariupol is now under their control. Russia controls 80% of Luhansk in Eastern Donbas.

17 June
Physical damage to Ukraine’s infrastructure has reached $60 billion.

21 June
Agreement between Russia and Ukraine on 9 humanitarian corridors, excluding Mariupol.

22 June
UN and partners evacuate 101 civilians from Azovstal steel plant, Mariupol.

27 June
Over 10 million internally displaced persons in Ukraine.

28 June
Raid hits Mariupol theatre full of civilians killing 300.

6.48M individuals are internally displaced within Ukraine.

23 July
Physical damage to Ukraine’s infrastructure has reached $60 billion.

24 July
Agreement between Russia and Ukraine on 9 humanitarian corridors, excluding Mariupol.

25 July
UN and partners evacuate 101 civilians from Azovstal steel plant, Mariupol.
The Russian Federation launched a large-scale military offensive into Ukraine on February 24, 2022. As of 24:00 midnight on May 19, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) recorded 8,189 civilian casualties (3,838 killed, and 4,351 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 (OHCHR 19/05/2022).

Peace talks are ongoing, with no significant progress, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky outlined his conditions Friday for entering peace talks with Russia, demanding a restoration of pre-invasion borders, the return of more than 5 million refugees, membership in the European Union and accountability from Russian military leaders. However, on May 16, Russian and Ukrainian authorities negotiated the evacuation of more than 260 wounded Ukrainian fighters from the Azovstal Steel Plant in Mariupol. Many more have since surrendered to Russian forces (Reuters 21/05/2022, Reuters 17/05/2022, ISW 16/05/2022, Washington Post 06/05/2022).

As of May 16, Russian forces made no significant advances in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, Eastern Ukraine. Russian forces remain around Kharkiv City trying to hold the border and prevent Ukrainian troops from advancing further north, with Ukrainian forces continuing to repel Russian attempts to retain lost positions. Russian forces continued to fortify their positions in Zaporizhia Oblast in Southern Ukraine, indicating Russians are seeking to establish permanent control in the region of Southern Ukraine (ISW 16/05/2022, ISW 15/05/2022), Ukraine has announced the temporary closure of its four main seaports, Berdyansk, Mariupol, Skadovsk, and Kherson, after losing control of them to Russian forces. The announcement is mainly a formality since Russia has blockaded or captured the seaports (RFERL 02/05/2022).
**Eastern and Southern Ukraine**

**Mariupol (Donetsk Oblast):** The Russian army took control over the Azovstal steel plant, after the remaining Ukrainian fighters had surrendered. As of May 09 all civilians have been evacuated. Overall, more than 600 people have been evacuated from the Azovstal steel plant, and other areas in and around Mariupol. However, it is still unclear how many people remain in Mariupol, with no means of communication or access to electricity, heating, and water. Mariupol has been encircled by Russian forces and under bombardment since early March 2022. At the same time, Russian forces are trying to reopen the Port of Mariupol to establish shipping routes from Russia. However, it has been reported that Russian and proxy authorities in Mariupol are struggling to establish coherent administrative control of the city. [The Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/may/14/mariupol) 20/05/2022, [ISW](https://www.isw.org) 19/05/2022, [ISW](https://www.isw.org) 16/05/2022, [Kyiv Independent](https://kyivindependent.com) 16/05/2022, [UN News](https://news.un.org) 12/05/2022, [USAID](https://www.usaid.gov) 29/04/2022, [HRW](https://www.hrw.org) 26/04/2022, [AP](https://apnews.com) 09/05/2022.

**Kharkiv (Kharkiv Oblast):** According to Ukrainian authorities, some Russian troops have been pushed back and withdrawn from the Kharkiv City, while redeploying to Donetsk Oblasts. They also refocus on guarding supply routes and on shoring up their defences of Izyum (Kharkiv Oblast) where Ukrainian troops have launched a counter-offensive. Despite the progress of Ukrainian troops, civilians remain in dire conditions. [ISW](https://www.isw.org) 19/05/2022, [Reuters](https://www.reuters.com) 17/05/2022, [ISW](https://www.isw.org) 16/05/2022, [DW](https://www.dw.com) 16/05/2022, [VOA](https://www.voanews.com) 14/05/2022.

**Izyum (Kharkiv Oblast):** The city which has been occupied by Russian forces since April 01, has become a focus for the Russian military as it retreats from other territories; the city is considered the gateway to the Donbas. However, Russian forces did not make any confirmed advances in any direction from Izyum. According to an Ukrainian official, 80% of the city has been destroyed. Between 10,000 and 15,000 civilians remain in Izyum, with no water, electricity, gas, heating or sewage system. [ISW](https://www.isw.org) 16/05/2022, [BBC](https://www.bbc.com) 08/05/2022.

**Kherson (Kherson Oblast):** Since March 02, almost all of the port city - which comprises a population of almost 280,000 - has been under Russian occupation. The Ukrainian army continued to try to push Russian forces out of this area. However, on May 11, Russian-appointed officials announced plans to annex the city. Russia authorities also announced that a bank to convert money into Russian roubles will also start operating in the region at the end of May, which will eventually be integrated into the Bank of Russia. [ISW](https://www.isw.org) 16/05/2022, [USA Today](https://www.usatoday.com) 15/05/2022, [The Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com) 11/05/2022, [France 24](https://www.france24.com) 08/05/2022, [Forbes](https://www.forbes.com) 28/04/2022.

**Melitopol (Zaporizhzhia Oblast):** The city has been under Russian occupation since February, according to the Mayor. Since the occupation, 45% to 50% of the residents have left. Around 70,000 remain in the city, some of which are elderly, or people with elderly relatives. According to local sources, cash is low, nearly all supermarkets are closed, and pharmacies are running low on drugs. Humanitarian convoys with food and medicine are intercepted by Russian soldiers. [Yahoo News](https://news.yahoo.com) 16/05/2022, [The New Yorker](https://www.newyorker.com) 16/05/2022, [Ukrinform](https://ukrinform.ua) 15/05/2022, [Geneva Solutions](https://www.genesolutions.ch) 12/05/2022.

**Berdiansk (Zaporizhzhia Oblast):** the city has been under Russian occupation since February. According to the head of the new administration in Berdiansk, it is estimated that around 20,000 to 30,000 have left the city. Russian authorities have already installed new local administrators. While there is not enough information on the humanitarian situation, according to local residents, cash is running low. [SCMP](https://www.scmp.com) 06/05/2022, [France 24](https://www.france24.com) 04/05/2022.

**Central, Northern and Western Ukraine**

Since April, Russian troops have withdrawn from around **Kyiv, Chernihiv, and Sumy** oblasts. However, Ukrainian local officials continue to find bodies of dead civilians with gunshot wounds on the roads and buried in villages previously occupied by Russians, especially around Kyiv oblast. Despite the testimonies, Russian maintains that it did not fire on civilians. Additionally, in the beginning of May, local reports circulating on Telegram stated that in Kyiv, a total of 390 buildings in Kiev were damaged, including 222 residential buildings. [RFERL](https://www.rferl.org) 13/05/2022, [WSJ](https://www.wsj.com) 12/05/2022, [Telex](https://telex.fo) 10/05/2022.

As of May 17, fighting around Sumy Oblast remains ongoing. According to local media sources, on May 16, Ukrainian border guards repelled an incursion by Russian forces in the Sumy Oblast. [Ukrinform](https://ukrinform.ua) 17/05/2022, [Reuters](https://www.reuters.com) 17/05/2022.

**Lviv:** As of May 19, Lviv continues to be targeted by Russian forces, however, the situation remains relatively calm in comparison to the Eastern and Southern regions. According to local media sources, on May 15, missiles hit a military infrastructure facility in Lviv region. [444](https://www.444.ua) 15/05/2022, [Ukrinform](https://ukrinform.ua) 15/05/2022, [Reuters](https://www.reuters.com) 15/05/2022.
Displacement to neighbouring countries continues to rise steadily although the exact number of people that have left Ukraine is unclear with many Ukrainians moving back across the border in recent weeks. Overall UNHCR estimates that 6,552,971 have fled Ukraine since 24 February 2022, however, there have also been 2,048,500 Ukrainians entering Ukraine (since 28 February 2022). 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.

Refugee numbers continue to rise with 2.4 million Ukrainians now estimated to have moved to other European countries beyond Ukraine’s immediate neighbours

In terms of countries receiving refugees, Poland continues to be the preferred destination with close to 3.5 million people having crossed into the country. Romania with approximately 960,000 and Hungary with around 645,000 are the next largest recipients, followed by Moldova (470,000) and Slovakia (440,000) (UNHCR accessed 23/05/2022).

Data is now emerging regarding the number of refugees who have moved on to other European countries. UNHCR estimates that 2.4 Million refugees have moved to countries beyond those bordering Ukraine (as of May 05), with the largest numbers moving to Germany, Czech Republic, Italy, Spain, Turkey and Bulgaria (UNHCR 09/05/2022).
Of concern are the large numbers of Ukrainians that have travelled to Russia, with many reported to have been moved there against their will. Currently UNHCR estimates 875,000 people have left Ukraine for Russia whereas local media reports that 1.2 million Ukrainians have been deported to Russia. In addition, a further 27,000 Ukrainians have crossed the border into Belarus although (as with those travelling to Russia) the numbers and situation of this population is hard to verify (UNHCR accessed 19/05/2022, Kyiv Post 13/05/2022).

Internal Displacement from eastern oblasts leaves many towns and cities with less than half their pre-conflict population as nationally IDP numbers top 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 3, 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 there was a 25% decrease in people identifying the northern region as place of origin with numbers dropping by around 450,000 (25%) probably due to people returning. Data from the latest REACH assessment indicates that 18% of assessed settlements in conflict affected areas reported that more than half of the population had left since hostilities began. For some towns and cities in Donesk and Luhansk, KI's reported 50 - 75% of the population had left, for others it was even higher (75 - 100%). KI's in 4% of settlements also indicated that movement in and out of the settlement was not possible or very restricted indicating that some people may wish to move but are unable to do so (REACH 10/05/2022, IOM 09/05/2022).

Large numbers of people are returning to areas in the North of Ukraine where the Russian army has been pushed back, but significant numbers of displaced remain especially in the west of the country

More recent reports from local media indicate large-scale returns in and around Kyiv with the city’s mayor stating that nearly two-thirds of the capital’s residents have returned to the city. Perhaps more surprising there are reports of thousands returning to Kharkiv, where the Russian assault has only recently been pushed back but where there has been significant heavy shelling and damage (444 15/05/2022, AL Jazeera 14/05/2022, Kyiv Post 10/05/2022).

The western region of Ukraine still houses the largest number of IDPs (close to three million) and the number of IDPs in the east and north regions are relatively stable. 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 but is still home to 1.67 million IDPs. 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 IDPs respectively). IOM’s recent assessment of IDPs in Lvivska and Zarapatska Oblasts found that IDP numbers can vary considerably between hromadas, with Khustka (Zarapatska) home to 12,000 IDPs, and Stryiska (Lvivska) 10,000 IDPs. In contrast, some other hromadas housed only a few hundred IDPs (IOM 16/05/2022, IOM 09/05/2022, DFS 27/04/2022, IOM 21/04/2022).

Increased household size is likely an outcome of displacement with the prevalence of vulnerable groups within displaced populations estimated to be high, though definitive data is unavailable

Analysis of the most recent IOM general population survey (round 4) is provided in the previous DFS situation analysis (09 May). It outlines that many displaced households contain one or more members of vulnerable groups such as infants, elderly or those with disabilities or a chronic illness. However, the size of households across Ukraine (displaced and nondisplaced) has risen to an average of 3.5 persons per household compared to a pre-crisis figure of 2.6. This is likely caused by families hosting friends or relatives, or multiple relatives travelling together (e.g. grandparent or elderly relative travelling with a family group). In addition, 27% of surveyed households contained 4 – 5 members and 15% had 6 or more members. The median displaced household size was 4.0 in IOM round 4, which is roughly in line with the WFP survey result.

The WFP data is from March 10 to April 12, so is somewhat dated, and is not disaggregated between displaced and non-displaced, (though this in itself may be hard to define, for example if a non-displaced family was hosting displaced relatives). However, there is little information that points to any great change in displaced household size or composition across the four IOM general population surveys (DFS 18/05/2022, WFP 12/05/2022, IOM 09/05/2022, State Statistics Service of Ukraine 2021).

Approximately 20% of returnees in the East and South are considering leaving the area once more and there continues to be significant numbers of Ukrainians planning to leave the country

Although the vast majority of returnees do not intend to leave their places of habitual residence again in the near future, an estimated 353,000 returnees are considering moving again. This intention is most widespread in the East and South macro-regions (where most of the current conflict is centred), with 21% and 20% of returnees respectively indicating that they are considering leaving again. Data from WFP (collected between March 10 and April 12), noted that 8% of respondents reported having plans to leave the country soon or immediately, with Poland indicated as the preferred destination by the majority of those planning to leave. This ties in with the continued rise in refugee numbers over the past month reported by UNHCR. Notably the displaced were slightly more likely to consider leaving Ukraine than the non-displaced (WFP 12/05/2022, IOM 09/05/2022).
HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

Lack of respect for humanitarian corridors and failure to implement "windows of silence" continue to hamper access to areas most heavily affected by the conflict. The north of Ukraine and around Kyiv areas, which are 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 256 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 (159), although 54 international NGOs and 8 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 6.9 million as of May 05 (OCHA 19/05/2022).

After the surrender of the Ukrainian army in Mariupol, the last evacuations of civilians took place

In southern Ukraine, after numerous challenges, multiple evacuation convoys were organised these past weeks, notably from Mariupol and other areas in Zaporizhzhya NGCA to Zaporizhzhia city which is under Ukrainian control. According to the UN, over 600 civilians were evacuated from the steelworks and from other areas in Mariupol. Newly Russian appointed pro-Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR) authorities organised aid distributions in Mariupol, however reported as insufficient (Reuters 17/05/2022, SME 16/05/2022, OCHA 12/05/2022, Kyiv Post 09/05/2022, cas 09/05/2022).

Since the beginning of the war, about 1,300,000 people have been evacuated, including over 200,000 children (Tele 14/05/2022). Some evacuations continue to be suffering from direct attacks, such as one from Popasna that was suspended after the shelling of two evacuation buses at the end of April (IOM 05/05/2022). The previous situational reports referred to similar challenges.

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. Moreover, fuel shortages across the country are also impacting the operational capacity of humanitarian organisations and are reported as severe in Odessa (NRC 18/05/2022, OCHA 12/05/2022, New York Times 30/04/2022).

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

The ongoing conflict is hampering access in many areas across Ukraine. Humanitarian actors continue to be the targets of attacks and to face security threats. Amongst many incidents (see previous report), one occurred in early May with a humanitarian car hitting a mine (Censor.Net 11/05/2022). Overall, access is depicted as the following:

- In Kharkiv Government Controlled Areas (GCA), access is possible through the southern routes, however, the northern area is still contaminated with mines and shelling (even if of low intensity) can restrict the access. The Republic of Russia still bans all assistance from GCAs to Kharkiv Non-Government Controlled Areas (NGCAs) and civilians in these zones cannot move freely. Information in these areas is difficult to access as media are not allowed in either. Humanitarian corridors in NGCAs have failed since March (NRC 18/05/2022, Guardian 18/04/2022, FAO 13/05/2022, Kharkiv Regional State administration 12/05/2022).

- In Donbas, access constraints along the frontline increased due to mine contamination and heavy shelling. Access to Luhansk is particularly limited while the infrastructure in the areas is largely damaged. Access to Severodonetsk is close to impossible because of insecurity (NRC 18/05/2022, Donbas, UA 11/05/2022, Serhiy Hayday 08/05/2022). Access In NGCAs is very limited with only a few accredited organisations able to support the population there. Bombardments lead to further insecurity in the area. Population movement and crossline activity were heavily disrupted in the last weeks in Kherson after the dismissal of the pro-Ukrainian Mayor near the frontline (NRC 18/05/2022, Censor.Net 16/05/2022, WFP 12/05/2022).

- Frequent shelling throughout the South reduces access in Kryvyi Rih, Mykolaiv Raion and Zaporizhzhia (NRC 18/05/2022).
Damage to Ukraine’s transport infrastructure continues, increasing the logistical challenges of moving aid to affected areas and transporting people out of affected areas.

Beside shelling and insecurity, other factors restrict humanitarian access and civilians’ movements. The Russian troops have been largely targeting the Ukrainian railways network which was used both for civilians’ evacuations and for transfer of weapons. Destruction took place mainly in Eastern and Southern Ukraine, but railways are being targeted across the entire country. According to the Ministry of Infrastructure, Ukraine lost about 23% of its railway network. Over 6,300 kilometres of tracks were damaged, as well as more than 23,000 kilometres of roads, including 289 road bridges, 41 railway bridges. Besides the damage, parts of the railway network are no longer under Ukrainian control, and other sections are damaged beyond repair. These targeted attacks are putting the lives of people in danger, impacting access to basic services, and livelihoods, and increasing the logistical challenges of moving aid to affected areas, and transporting civilians out of the affected areas. Additionally, as Ukraine loses control over many of its ports, it is increasingly dependent on the railways to move exports.

Data from the WFP survey for the northern region (before the retreat of the Russian forces), showed high food insecurity levels in these oblasts. More than 40% of the population in both Chernihivska and Sumyska oblasts experienced food insecurity, and half of Kharkivska oblast. It is expected that these oblasts will continue to suffer from some level of food insecurity, as transportation continues to be disrupted across the country and livelihood opportunities are limited due to the conflict. Especially as inadequate food consumption levels were high in Chernihivska (29%), Sumyska (26%), and Kharkivska (29%), and food prices are reportedly increasing in the north.

Evidence shows that significant access challenges in these areas have been a key driver of food insecurity. According to REACH, 62% of assessed settlements cited concerns over access to food, out of which 39% reported that food access was disrupted “to a great extent”. These were largely concentrated in Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts. Difficulties to accessing food in these settlements are reportedly caused by the lack of items in stores or lack of money to purchase food, as well as by the closure of most stores in these settlements. The lack of food in stores is driven by some cities in the East and South of the country being completely besieged or by a lack of safe movement. In most assessed settlements in conflict-affected oblasts, KIs reported ‘some restrictions on movement’. Movement was reportedly ‘not possible at all’ in Mariupol (Donetsk oblast). In Rubizhe (Luhanska oblast), people reportedly faced ‘a lot of restrictions’ to movement, possibly hindering the supply of assistance and food.

Food insecurity is driving households into adopting consumption-based coping strategies such as reducing portion sizes, cutting down on meals, or eating less preferred or less expensive food.

According to WFP, as of mid-April, in eastern and southern parts of the country, which have witnessed the most intense impacts of the fighting, one in every two households were food insecure. In Donetsk 45% of the population were food insecure, and the proportion reached 46% in Khersonska, and 56% in Luhanska (which is the highest level across the country). These oblasts continue to have active fighting and contain some of the country’s besieged areas, where food reserves have dwindled and there is limited access to water. According to Premise data, highest reported prices were in the east of the country, and continued to increase as of mid-April. As many of the people in these oblasts report facing access challenges, it is expected that such trends of food insecurity will continue to be witnessed in these areas without adequate intervention or unless the conflict subsides.

Poor food consumption scores and the adoption of negative coping strategies are found to be at their highest in the east. As of mid-April, Luhanska had the highest share of households with inadequate food consumption (47%), and consumption-based coping strategies, this is expected given the high level of food insecurity in the oblast. Meanwhile, Khersonska and Donetsk oblasts had around one-third of households with poor or borderline food consumption. Following the same trends of food insecurity, the oblasts with the highest percentage of households relying on a consumption-based coping strategy at least once in the week before the survey, are the oblasts falling within conflict-affected areas, including Sumyska and Chernihivska, both of which have been liberated from Russian forces since data collection. Despite the retreat of Russian forces, it is expected that they will continue to rely on some coping strategies in face of increased prices, lack of cash, and diminishing livelihood opportunities. These coping strategies include relying on less preferred and less expensive food, reducing the portion size of their meals, and limiting the number of daily meals. Across Ukraine, it was found that households with a female decision-maker were more likely to have poor or borderline consumption (23%), compared...
to 19% of households with a male decision-maker. This is in line with evidence analysed in the previous DFS Situation Analysis report, where data showed that women and girls often eat less and last during wars (WFP 12/05/2022, DFS 01/05/2022).

People in conflict-affected areas are lacking cash, impacting their ability to buy food and water, with households already starting to get into debt to meet their needs.

Hostilities across the country have raised concerns over access to financial services, as was reported in 59% of assessed settlements in conflict-affected oblasts, and, as the majority of households across the country buy their food with cash, this is likely going to impact their ability to access food. It is also expected to impact their ability to buy water, as more households depend on buying water, due to damage in water infrastructure. While this data was collected in mid-April, it highlights the dependency on cash among the population, however, this could change over time as people may exhaust the cash available to them, forcing them to instead rely on credit purchases. Indeed, one in four respondents said they already had to borrow money to meet their needs. The situation remains slightly different in areas besieged or with heavy active fighting, as people in areas are facing challenges in accessing food primarily due to physical constraints, such as lack of movement in and out of these areas, restricting access to food and assistance. The differences in access constraints is reflected in the preferred modality of assistance. REACH data shows that in areas close to the conflict, 38% of assessed settlements reported a preference for in-kind assistance, while In areas further away from conflict, 48% of assessed settlements reported a preference for cash (WFP 12/05/2022, REACH 10/05/2022).

Many people in conflict-affected areas are experiencing income reduction or having no income at all impacting their ability to cope with shocks as a result of the ongoing war

WFP data found that 34% of respondents living in Kharkivska, Khersonska, Chernihivska, and Kyivska oblasts reported having no income source. Those who still had a source of income were mainly engaged in professional, salaried work, and skilled labour (34%), followed by income from pension (28%). Only 2% reported casual labour as their main source of income. Although the conflict intensity has lessened in these areas many businesses continue to be destroyed, including cafes, factories, and agricultural farms which will in turn continue to limit livelihood opportunities. This limitation of livelihood opportunities erodes people’s ability to cope with shocks or maintain adequate food consumption. This then leads people to adopt livelihood coping mechanisms, the most commonly used strategy among the surveyed households was borrowing money to fulfil basic needs (Censor.Net 16/05/2022, USAID 13/05/2022, WFP 12/05/2022, Censor.Net 09/05/2022, Censor.Net 07/05/2022).

Destruction of health facilities coupled with crisis-related injuries cases and lack of critical medical supplies is likely to worsen the health status of the population

Healthcare services in areas with active hostilities are under huge strain due to the widespread destruction, as of May 19, a total of 312 attacks on healthcare were reported across Ukraine, resulting in 113 injuries and 139 deaths. Given the level of hostilities and extent of the damage and destruction in Eastern Ukraine, it is expected that a significant number of these attacks are in the East. Crisis-attributable injuries and trauma cases coupled with scarce critical medical supplies are adding additional burden on health facilities and increasing long- and short-term needs. The lack of health services and medicines are likely to worsen the health status of the population, impacting quality of life and life expectancy (IFRC 07/05/2022, Health Cluster 06/05/2022, WHO accessed 19/05/2022).

Access to healthcare has been deteriorating in conflicted-affected areas. While cost, lack of transport and insecurity are among the issues impacting access, the lack of available medicine in stores remains the most cited barrier to healthcare

Reports have highlighted that in areas affected by the conflict, critical medical supplies such as medications and oxygen are becoming increasingly scarce. The President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky, reported that in the temporarily occupied areas in Eastern and Southern Ukraine, the situation with access to health services and medicines is particularly concerning, there is almost total lack of treatment for cancer patients and insulin for diabetic patients. Even the most basic medicines, such as antibiotics, are absent (IFRC 07/05/2022, SME 06/05/2022, Censor.Net 05/05/2022). The lack of healthcare supplies is particularly impacting the East of the country, as access continues to deteriorate since March along with continued depletion of supplies. According to Premise data, as of April 06, 42% of assessed households report lack of supplies in the East, decreasing by 3% in only one week compared to data collected on March 30. Concerns over cost of supplies and services is least reported in the East, likely reflecting that the concern in the East remains primarily directed to the overall lack of supplies regardless of the cost, (especially given that concerns over cost was already high according to pre-war data) (Premise 18/04/2022). Data from the IOM (Round 4), show the same trends, where the most reported obstacle to accessing health services among non-displaced people is no medicines being available, while among IDPs, (where numbers are proportionally higher in the West), the most reported obstacle is the cost (cannot afford health care services - it is too expensive). Access is also impacted across Ukraine due to the damage of health-care facilities, closure of many pharmacies in Ukraine, security concerns, restricted mobility, broken supply chains and mass displacement (REACH 10/05/2022, IOM 09/05/2022, WHO 05/05/2022).
Eastern and Southern Ukraine in addition to some areas in the West including Kyiv and Lviv have experienced the most destruction to critical infrastructure and residential buildings. This damage is putting the lives of people at risk and impacting access to basic services, and likely livelihood opportunities.

According to REACH, 45% of assessed settlements KIs reported destruction of critical infrastructure or civilian dwellings, settlements where KIs reported damages to most types of infrastructure are Mariupol, Avdiivka (Donetska oblast), Rubizhne, Lysychansk, Severodonetsk (Luhansa oblast), Mykolaiv (Mykolaivska oblast), and Kharkiv (Kharkivska oblast). The scale of reported damage to housing was particularly high in Mariupol (Donetska oblast) and Rubizhne (Luhansa oblast), where KIs reported that all or almost all dwellings have been damaged since the escalation of the hostilities. According to the Prime Minister Denys Shmygal, more than 95% of all buildings in Mariupol have been destroyed (REACH 10/05/2022, Censor.Net 06/05/2022).

This aligns with data from the news monitoring from Map Action for May 05-17, where it showed that the areas which had the highest frequency of reports of damage to buildings and infrastructure are primarily in the Eastern and Southern Ukraine, in addition to the Kyiv region, and to a lesser extent Lviv. The cities that had the highest frequency of reports in the week of May 11-17 were Zaporizhzhia, Volnovakha, Berdiansk, Donipro, Donetsk, Novoaidar, Kharkiv. While reports of damages were still coming out of Southern Ukraine, they decreased in the week of May 05-12 in comparison to May 11. The infrastructure most frequently cited as damaged was utility networks (electricity, gas and heating), followed by industrial facilities, railway, education facilities, and markets and grocery stores (REACH 10/05/2022). Livelihood opportunities are also expected to be impacted, as businesses shut down due to insecurity or physical destruction, and supply chains are disrupted.

Efforts to repair damaged infrastructure are expected to be hindered by the shrinking economy and the cost of war itself, likely to impact the long-term access to basic services and livelihoods

The damage caused to the infrastructure in Ukraine is estimated to be in the billions, according to estimates by the Kyiv School of Economics as of April 26, it has reached USD 88 billion - this number is only based on damages documented in public sources. As the war continues and residential buildings, factories, education facilities, healthcare facilities, airports and power plants continue to be damaged and destroyed, the cost will only increase. However, as the economic activities continue to shrink, and the cost of the war itself burdens the Ukrainian government, there will be financial barriers to repairing damaged infrastructure and residential buildings (KSE 27/04/2022, The Atlantic 11/04/2022). This will likely have a long-term impact on access to essential services such as healthcare and education, in addition to livelihood opportunities.

There continues to be widespread concern regarding protection issues especially for vulnerable populations within conflict affected areas

Populations in conflict affected areas face an increased risk of physical injury, psychological distress and long-term mental health problems. The situation is compounded by limited access to protection treatment and support services as many have been disrupted due to the conflict or the displacement of staff. Of particular concern are those elderly people who were unable or unwilling to evacuate as well as children with disabilities institutionalised prior to the invasion who are yet to be evacuated. Additional mapping of the protection needs of these communities, and provision of options for evacuation, remains essential (WHO 12/05/2022, NP 06/05/2022).

A Russian soldier pleads guilty in the first war crimes trial of the Ukraine conflict as evidence of war crimes continues to mount

As the first war crime trial of the Ukraine conflict ends with a guilty plea, 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. In addition, civilian casualties continue to mount in Luhansk and Donetsk as Russian shelling, air strikes and missile attacks continue. In just one incident, an attack on a school in Bilohorivka (Luhansa oblast), where an estimated 90 people had been taking shelter, reports indicated that dozens of people were killed (Censor.Net 16/05/2022, UCMC 13/05/2022, OCHA 12/05/2022, UN 12/05/2022, UCMC 09/05/2022, Kyiv Post 08/05/2022, Amnesty International 06/05/2022, SME 06/05/2022, IOM 05/05/2022).

In areas of Ukraine currently controlled by Russian forces there are restrictions on the movement of local residents, (blocking access to Ukraine held territory), an enforcement of new laws and barriers to the entry of humanitarian aid. There are also concerns regarding the deportation of Ukrainians, including children.

Local media reports that residents of the Russian controlled areas of the Kherson region are prevented from travelling to territory controlled by Ukraine. Local businesses being forced to obtain temporary work permits and being threatened with the confiscation of property. For the vast majority of the temporarily occupied territories of Kharkiv region, the cellular communications network is blocked to prevent the transmission of information about the movement of Russian troops. In the city of Volnovakha in the Donetsk region, the Ukrainian language is prohibited and movement even within the area of Russian occupation is tightly controlled. Filtration camps are used to “identify” those who may have participated in hostilities, which could result in their deportation to Russia, and there are also concerns across
Russian controlled areas of the forced movement of children to Russia ([Censor.Net 16/05/2022, UN 12/05/2022, UCMC 11/05/2022, Censor.Net 11/05/2022, Censor.Net 10/05/2022, NP 06/05/2022]).

**Food needs in the northern region are expected to remain high despite being liberated**

While data about inadequate food consumption in Northern oblasts were collected before these oblasts were liberated, it still provides an understanding of the level of food needs in these areas, which are high. Access is likely to improve with areas coming under Ukrainian control once again, but access constraints (such as transportation disruption), increasing prices, and lack of cash and livelihood opportunities will continue to exacerbate the food security situation ([WFP 12/05/2022, REACH 10/05/2022]).

**There is an urgent need for increased mental health and psychosocial support across Ukraine**

Populations in conflict-affected areas are subject to multiple mental health stressors whilst at the same time there is limited access to psychological and psychiatric support. Psychosocial support is much needed, particularly in view of a likely increase in negative coping mechanisms, including abuse and self-harm. In WFPs survey the two most frequently mentioned unmet needs (both cited by 19% of respondents) were safety and medicine, highlighting both the psychological impact of the conflict as well as the lack of available medical services ([WHO 12/05/2022, WFP 12/05/2022]).

**IDPs in Ukraine**

**By mid-April one in two IDP households in Ukraine were food insecure with widespread loss of household income, rising prices and displacement itself all contributing factors**

With WFP reporting that one in every three households within Ukraine was either moderately or severely food insecure by mid-April; when considering only IDP households, the number of food insecure households rose to one in two. It is therefore not surprising that 95% of IDPs identified food items as a priority for assistance in a recent REACH survey ([REACH 10/05/2022]). IDP households that are also separated from family members appear to be the worst affected with 10% of those households estimated to be severely food insecure ([WFP 12/05/2022]).

The same WFP assessment found that IDPs in the east and south had the largest proportion of food insecure households with 62% of IDPs food insecure in the east (14% severe and 48% moderate) and 59% of IDPs in the south (8% severe and 51% moderate). This is consistent with the impact of the conflict, (including on transportation and logistics) that is particularly affecting the eastern region as well as some southern and northern oblasts. Data from Premise also indicated that food shortages were more prevalent in the east than the west or central regions ([WFP 12/05/2022, Premise 27/04/2022]).

**Humanitarian Needs for Conflict-affected Populations**

Concerns over access to medical services and food continue to be reported among conflict-affected areas, primarily in Eastern and Southern Ukraine.

Lack of supplies, disruptions to transportation, lack of cash and security concerns are among the primary factors impacting access to basic needs including food and medical services. Supplies are becoming increasingly scarce due to Russian forces continuing to actively target Ukraine’s railway infrastructure, impacting the ability to move essential and basic needs.

According to the WFP survey, as of mid-April, around a third of the surveyed population from Luhanska, Donetsk, and Khersonska reported facing issues in meeting their food needs. Luhanska has the highest unmet needs. People in conflict-affected areas need better access to financial services, and to livelihood opportunities, to avoid a growing debt burden that potentially can increase among households. 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. The preferred modality of assistance should be taken into account when addressing the needs of the population ([WFP 12/05/2022, REACH 10/05/2022, DFS 01/05/2022]).

Health and medicine needs follow similar patterns as food needs. According to WFP around 40% in Luhanska, Chersonhivska, Khersonska, and Donetsk reported that in the previous two weeks that did not have access to health care when they needed to ([WFP 12/05/2022, REACH 10/05/2022]).

**Education facilities are among the most frequently damaged critical infrastructure in Ukraine, Donetsk and Kharkiv are especially impacted**

The Ukrainian Ministry of Education and Science reports that as of May 19, 1,604 educational facilities across the country were damaged, out of which 144 are completely destroyed. The two oblasts with the most damaged schools are Donetsk and Kharkiv oblasts, followed by Luhansk, Chernihiv, Kyiv, and Mykolaiv oblasts. According to REACH, schools and education facilities were among the top five infrastructures that were cited by KIs as damaged in the assessed settlements ([Save Schools accessed 19/05/2022, REACH 10/05/2022]). The lack of access to education is impacting learning and potentially endangering the development and well-being - see [DFS Impact of conflict on children report](#).

**Geographic Focus:** Eastern and Southern Ukraine.
Across the country, nearly 60% of respondents to the WFP survey reported having experienced either a large income reduction or having no income at all as compared to before the war, with an additional 13% reporting a slight income reduction. The WFP report states “The loss of income is one of the factors driving the estimation of food insecurity since lack or loss of income impedes the ability to cope with shocks and maintain an acceptable level of food consumption” (WFP 12/05/2022). All data sources indicate that food insecurity, loss of income, food shortages and price rises are more heavily impacting the conflict affected areas in the east, north and south of the country. However, WFP livelihoods data is not disaggregated between IDPs and non-displaced, so it is not clear if IDP households have been disproportionately affected by loss of income, although in general, IDPs often struggle to maintain employment (WFP 12/05/2022, Premise 27/04/2022). Further displacement is putting pressure on settlements in central and eastern Ukraine with rent increases and housing availability driving accommodation needs for IDPs in the central and western regions

With the displacement in April driven mainly by the Russian offensive in the eastern region, many settlements in westernmost parts of the eastern oblasts and the central region saw the arrival of large numbers of IDPs. Among settlements where KIs reported a very large influx of IDPs, high concentrations were reported in Dnipropetrovsk (Kryvyi Rih), Poltavaska (Poltava) and Kirovohradska (Kropyvnytskiy) oblasts; in addition, Ukrainian controlled areas of Donetska also saw the arrival of large numbers of IDPs. This will put increased pressure on local resources already stretched by IDP numbers.

Support with accommodation needs was cited as a priority for assistance by 92% of IDPs according to the latest REACH survey. As 75% of IDPs live in private accommodation (rented/owned apartments or with family or friends) this is likely driven by the price and availability of accommodation. In addition, in settlements hosting IDPs, apartments are reported as usually 'difficult' or 'very difficult' to find in areas of the West and Centre (72%), with rent continuing to increase in most assessed settlements. In 38% of settlements KIs reported an increase or significant increase in housing prices since the beginning of the hostilities. With 59% of IDPs identifying cash-based assistance as their preferred modality it is likely that this part of support would be used to cover rent payments (REACH 10/05/2022, IOM 09/05/2022).

However, accommodation needs were not as prevalent in the more recent IOM assessment where only 11% of IDP respondents reported the need for accommodation and 3% indicating that accommodation was their most pressing need. It is unclear therefore if accommodation needs are reducing as the situation normalises or whether this variance is down to the different methodologies/questions used (IOM 09/05/2022).

IDPs face multiple protection risks with unaccompanied children and women travelling alone particularly vulnerable

There are increasing numbers of reports in Ukraine of unaccompanied children, women travelling alone, interim care arrangements, limited access to protection/treatment/support, as well many vulnerable populations (amongst the displaced). There are IDP populations across the whole of Ukraine, including in conflict affected oblasts and many face an increased risk of physical injury, psychological distress and long-term mental health problems that could lead to negative coping mechanisms. The risk of SGBV is compounded for those people who experience multiple forms of marginalisation such as young women from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. GBV, trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse therefore remain key concerns (WHO 12/05/2022, IFRC 07/05/2022, NP 06/05/2022).

Humanitarian Needs for IDPs

Cash (financial support) along with medicines and health services were the two most frequently identified needs by IDPs across Ukraine

The most recent IOM general population survey found that roughly a third of respondents (Ranging from 30% to 41%) identified cash or financial support as their major need across all six of Ukraine’s macro regions. This may indicate that the availability of goods and services is starting to improve in some areas that were heavily affected by conflict but are now not on the front line (such as Kyiv, Sumy and Chernihiv oblasts). However, it should be noted that data from the most recent REACH humanitarian situation monitoring report found in most population centres in Luhanska and Donetska in-kind provision was still preferred. In the more conflict affected regions (East, North, South and Kyiv) access to medicines and health services was also flagged as a priority need by roughly 10% of respondents (range 5% to 12%) (REACH 10/05/2022, IOM 09/05/2022).

Food security, access to accommodation and medicines are major priorities found in IDP hosting settlements closely followed by baby products and hygiene items

In line with the WFP analysis on growing food insecurity and loss of livelihoods, food items were identified as a priority by KIs in 95% of IDP hosting settlements according to the latest REACH survey. In addition, tying in with IOM data 87% of KI’s identified medicines as a key priority. Support for accommodation needs was cited by 92% of KIs, and this would be expected as a consequence of households experiencing a loss of income, increasing rental prices and a squeeze on accommodation availability.

Other essential goods such as baby products and hygiene items were also identified as priorities and are another cost that households need to find money for. Amongst IDPs with infants of young children in their household, 28% stated they experienced problems getting enough food for their baby/
babies since the start of the war. IOM asked respondents who identified a need for financial assistance to determine three items they would spend money on if they had such assistance. Food (76%), health (54%), clothing (42%) and rent (38%) were the top items identified followed by hygiene items (21%) and payment of debts (20%) (REACH 10/05/2022, IOM 09/05/2022, IFRC 07/05/2022).

Protection services need to be maintained and strengthened for all IDP populations in Ukraine, especially in areas directly impacted by the conflict, along with increased provision of mental health and psychosocial support

With large numbers of vulnerable persons amongst the IDP population it is important to increase efforts for the prevention and protection of IDPs from GBV, trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse as well as to provide services to SGBV survivors. In addition more widely available psychosocial support services are needed, particularly in view of a likely increase in negative coping mechanisms (WHO 12/05/2022, IFRC 07/05/2022, NP 06/05/2022).

Displaced people who have crossed international borders to neighbouring countries

Barriers to employment raise concerns on refugees’ ability to cope

Host countries implemented different measures to allow Ukrainian refugees to find work, leading large amounts of refugees to be able to work, notably in Poland (132,000 since the outbreak of the war) (Wyborcza 16/05/2022, The First News 13/05/2022). However, barriers to employment remain, language being the greatest one. In Romania for instance, only 7% of the refugees intending to stay speak Romanian. This is a problem particularly for managers and executives who represent a significant part of the Ukrainian refugees according to ILO (high skilled and medium skilled population represent the majority of the refugees). A REACH assessment in Romania shows similar results in terms of employment status prior to displacement (NRC 11/05/2022, Unghiot 11/05/2022, ILO 11/05/2022, REACH 27/04/2022, IOM 21/04/2022). The UN warns that should this situation last there is a risk it could lead to labour disruptions in the neighbouring States, potentially creating tensions between host community and refugees.

Inflation continues to increase, mainly regarding food products, putting at risk both host communities and refugees

Inflation continues to reach very high rates in all neighbouring countries hosting refugees from Ukraine. This led some of the governments to adopt specific measures to face the economic challenges. Romania increased its monetary policy interest rate and Poland will issue one-year Treasury bonds to protect the civilians against inflation (GoP 11/05/2022, The First News 11/05/2022, Deschide 05/05/2022). Food prices face particular increases, putting at risk both host communities’ and refugees’ access to food products. Data from a Premise assessment shows that in Poland, 77% of the refugees surveyed in transit and reception centres received food for free while 10% needed to buy it, inflation therefore is an additional aggravating factor for this section of the refugee population. Moreover, food shortages have been reported in some centres hosting refugees in Poland (Hungary Today 16/05/2022, Wyborcza 11/05/2022, Premise 09/05/2022).

While solidarity keeps on being largely showed by host communities, concerns on the impact of the displacement crisis are being voiced

According to data collected by Premise in Poland, Moldova and Romania, citizens perceived quite differently the potential impact of the Ukrainian population on essential services. While in Poland more than half of the population has been concerned about this impact continuously for weeks, this is less prevalent in Moldova and Romania where the numbers of people concerned about the saturation or deterioration of essential services have fluctuated (Premise 09/05/2022). Host communities also perceive an impact of the flow of refugees on their livelihood. Even though some governments are financially supporting host families, households are seeing their monthly expenses increase significantly due to larger households, while the cost of living is increasing in all countries due to inflation (Noi 10/05/2022, Deschide 10/05/2022, WFP 07/05/2022).

In Moldova, despite citizens’ income falling by 12% for the first time in 23 years according to the authorities and the capacities of the host communities being overstretched, the host communities still show a willingness to welcome refugees. It must be noted that this is one of the poorest country of Europe (Unimedia 12/05/2022, UNHCR 26/04/2022).

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2 For more details, please refer to the last DFS situational report from May 18th.
The humanitarian community continues to alert on the protection risks faced by the refugees

Family separation, child neglect, risk of human trafficking, sexual abuse and exploitation, gender-based violence and discrimination stand as the main protection threats faced by the Ukrainian refugees and the third country nationals entering neighbouring countries. UNHCR flags the need for a systematic screening for unaccompanied and separated children at the borders as well as systematic vulnerability screenings. Prevention and protection from sexual abuse and exploitation are also essential to prioritize (UNHCR 10/05/2022, UNHCR 04/05/2022). Marginalized groups such as Third country nationals (TNC), individuals from the minorities including the Roma community and stateless persons face additional barriers when trying to access national services and humanitarian assistance, notably due to discriminatory practises and to a less protective legal framework. Roma women highlighted this issue in the assessment led by CARE and UN Women, reporting barriers to access to food, shelter, NFI, health care, education and childcare. TNCs are also limited when accessing legal protections and services as they are not allowed to stay under the temporary protection status and must in some cases apply for temporary residency (this is the case in Hungary) (INTERSOS, REACH and UNHCR 10/05/2022, UNHCR 10/05/2022, NRC 09/05/2022, UN Women 04/05/2022). In Hungary and Poland, the systematic discrimination against non-Ukrainian asylum-seekers and TCNs has worsened and the situation in Hungary is even qualified by Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor as a ‘migratory apartheid’ (Euromedmonitor 16/05/2022).

Another protection issue emerged in Moldova as refugees who lost or lack documentation have to wait in long queues to get replacements at the embassy. This is also a problem for Roma people who do not own documents (Unghiu 11/05/2022).

Humanitarian Needs for Refugees

The main needs of the refugees remain similar these past weeks, though the situation could differ if the war lasts, with a lack of sustainable solutions

The main needs of Ukrainian refugees in neighbouring countries still include urgent basic needs and needs associated with social integration. Overall, needs have changed little compared to previous analysis and include -though are not limited to- transportation, financial support, food, health care, NFIs, information and communication, accommodation, documentation, access to education and to employment. Protection needs are particularly high due to the demographic distribution of the refugees, composed of a large part of children, single women or heads of households and elderly individuals (NRC 11/05/2022, NRC 09/05/2022, NRC 09/05/2022). In Romania, according to a World Vision assessment, only 52% of the refugees reported meeting most or all of their needs, 43% meeting only some of them and 5% none. The most unmet needs of the interviewees in Constanta were shelter (83%), utilities (64%), clothes (55%), food (51%), education (45%) and water (28%). In Slovakia, the most pressing needs highlighted by respondents travelling with families and assessed by the IOM were food (66%), information support (66%), transportation (64%), accommodation (63%), financial support (63%) and NFIs (61%) (World Vision 10/05/2022, IOM 05/05/2022).

So far, most refugees have been making their own arrangements to live in the neighbouring countries, notably in terms of shelter (staying with relatives, friends or host families, renting a place etc.). However, this situation is likely not sustainable and the number of refugees needing the governments’ support is expected to increase (The World Bank 11/05/2022, NRC 11/05/2022). Moreover, while the host communities’ solidarity and the national governments' willingness to respond to the displacement crisis has allowed the refugees to respond to their main urgent needs, Ukrainians still face barriers in accessing the same services, rights and goods compared to the host communities. This can be partly explained by the lack of knowledge of the local language and a lack of familiarity with different mechanisms, procedures or support on offer (NRC 11/05/2022). A lack of information is widely reported with many refugees not knowing where to look for information or even being misinformed, notably in transit sites (Unghiu 11/05/2022, UNHCR 10/05/2022).

In terms of needs, the most vulnerable people amongst the refugees are unaccompanied and separated children, pregnant and lactating women, undocumented people (such as in Roma community for instance), people with specific needs and people with disabilities (OHCHR 21/04/2022, UNHCR 26/04/2022).

Healthcare is still flagged as a gap by many refugees while the needs are very high

In Poland, 14% of the refugees assessed in transit and reception centres do not have access to health services and 14% did not know about the access to health services, underlining the lack of information on services. Challenges regarding long queues and lack of interpreters are also reported as barriers to healthcare (Wyborcza 11/05/2022, Dziennik 08/05/2022). In Hungary, UNHCR warned about the lack of access to medicine for refugees arriving in the country, including for underlying health conditions (UNHCR 10/05/2022). In Moldova, mental health care was not appropriately addressed before the conflict and is thus limited in terms of capacities, restricting the support to refugees suffering from stress, anxiety and trauma (MTI 10/05/2022). In Romania, a World Vision assessment shows that 41% of the respondents reported feeling worried and about 30% overwhelmed and/or stressed. 34% also raised concerns on their children's mental health (World Vision 10/05/2022).

For more details on these protection risks in the neighbouring countries, please refer to the previous DFS situational reports available here.
Although refugees are finding accommodation relatively easily at present, the situation could change rapidly due to inflation and to non-lasting solutions.

As mentioned previously, most of the refugees are staying with friends, relatives or host families. However, due to financial aspects, this is not a sustainable solution for those hosting refugees nor for refugees who are renting accommodation. Temporary housing capacities have been sufficient to meet the demand in all neighbouring countries but would likely not be adequate to respond to the needs of the refugees looking for longer-term accommodation. Moreover, rent prices have increased in most countries, as highlighted in previous reports. In Poland for instance, the availability of rental housing in Poland has declined by 70% since the conflict in Ukraine began, and housing prices are expected to rise by up to 30% (UNHCR 25/04/2022, Wyborcza 25/04/2022, Hungary Today 11/05/2022, UNHCR 10/05/2022, Telex 09/05/2022, IFRC 07/05/2022).

In Moldova, out of the 90 Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs), 6% need to return to their previous usage in less than two months and 20 will be closed soon because of the lower demand. But no long-term solution has been evident in any of the documents analysing the situation in Moldova (Infotag 11/05/2022, UNHCR and REACH 10/05/2022).

In Hungary, refugees face additional challenges due to the remote location of the temporary shelters. Limited transportation is a barrier to reaching government offices in order to apply for temporary protection (UNHCR 10/05/2022).

WASH services are mainly adequate, but gaps remain

Overall, WASH services seem to be sufficient, and few issues are being flagged in the sources reviewed. However, in Moldova, UNHCR reported that there is a lack of facilities for refugees and in Poland, NRC highlighted that Medyka border, Korczowa and Przemysl have the least developed infrastructure. In Hungary and Moldova, actors report that hygiene items are lacking. The lack of intimacy in some accommodation centres and transit cites was reported by actors in all neighbouring countries (UNHCR 10/05/2022, NRC 09/05/2022, UNHCR 06/05/2022, UNHCR accessed 19/05/2022).

With most refugees hoping for a return in a close future, the majority of the children are attending online schooling, leading to low enrolment in national schools and issues related to technology.

As discussed in more detail in the last DFS situational report (May 18th), the majority of the children amongst the refugee population attend online schooling offered by Ukraine. The number of children enrolled in national schools is fairly low compared to the ratio of children within the refugees, for example 200,000 children attending school in Poland and about 4,000 in Romania (UNICEF 14/05/2022, GoP and UNHCR 16/05/2022, World Vision 10/05/2022, Agerpres 07/05/2022). Another reason explaining these low enrolment rates is the language barrier as host countries do not always have the capacities to support non-native speakers in the classroom or offer sufficient classes in the refugees’ own language. Moreover, national capacities are limited and could soon be overstretched, notably in Poland. For the children following online courses, access to learning materials such as tablets, laptops and access to the internet can be difficult and thus restrict access to education (UNHCR 10/05/2022).

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, 635 documents (collected between May 05 and May 16) were reviewed, covering 6 countries and sourced from 99 publishers resulting in a total of 2,049 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.