



**Shelter Cluster Ukraine**

ShelterCluster.org

Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

# SHELTER & NFI NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## Report

## UKRAINE

### August 2015



In partnership with:



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more effective  
humanitarian action

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Conflict broke out in Ukraine in early 2014, following a series of protests across major cities in the east of the country. Despite two successive ceasefires in September 2014 and February 2015, the humanitarian situation has continued to deteriorate, affecting an estimated 5.2 million people through the breakdown of law and order, separation of families and communities, the destruction of infrastructure and disruption to essential services.

The crisis has caused the internal displacement of more than 1.4 million people from Luhansk, Donetsk and Crimea, the majority of whom have fled to neighbouring areas in eastern Ukraine. Internal displacement has intensified the need for food, shelter, and other essential assistance in both conflict-affected areas and those areas hosting large numbers of IDPs. In the areas of Kharkiv, Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhia and Dnipropetrovsk, the Ministry of Social Policy (MoSP) registered 1,082,960 IDPs as of August 2015.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, humanitarian access remains limited in conflict-affected and Non-Government Controlled Areas (NGCAs), particularly Luhansk oblast, which is impeding full knowledge of the situation.

REACH was deployed to Ukraine in the framework of its on-going partnership with the Global Shelter Cluster to facilitate an assessment of Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Item (NFI) needs between May and July 2015. The assessment sought to provide representative quantitative information about the Shelter and NFI needs of IDP households in five oblasts (Kharkiv, Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhia and Dnipropetrovsk) across eastern Ukraine, and to establish a baseline of needs, against which the humanitarian shelter and NFI response can be monitored and tailored.

The assessment was conducted at household level, targeting both registered and unregistered IDPs. Due to a lack of information on the location of IDPs, community-level key informants were used to help identify concentrations of displaced households in the assessed areas. While steps were taken to limit selection bias, it is likely that more visible IDPs, such as those living in collective accommodation, may have been over-represented in some cases, while less visible IDPs may have been excluded from the study.

Data was collected between 12 June – 10 July by REACH staff and cluster members, including the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), who together collected a representative sample of 2573 household interviews.

Key findings from the assessment are presented below:

### Displacement

The displaced population is predominantly female, with many adult males having stayed behind to look after property and assets in their area of origin. As a result, many displaced households are separated from immediate family members, although a significant proportion of households (25.5%) reported temporary returns to their area of origin, suggesting a regular flow of information and people in both directions.

IDPs chose their current location for several reasons, primarily better security and the presence of family and friends. Other reported pull factors include access to livelihoods and services, albeit to a far lesser degree, with personal networks, and by default access to shelter, prioritised over income and service access.

Overall, the displacement situation was found to be relatively stable, with very few households reporting arrival in their current location since March 2015, the majority having been displaced for between 10-15 months. Moreover, only a very small proportion of IDPs (6.2%) reported the intention to move in the coming three months.

### Shelter and Non-food Items

The majority of IDP households were living in rented or hosted accommodation, with smaller proportions in owned accommodation, collective shelter, and hotels. Shared accommodation was common, particularly for individuals and

<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine (MoSP) figures reported in IDMC, [Ukraine IDP Figures Analysis](#), August 2015.

smaller households, with a third of all displaced households reporting that they shared accommodation with at least one other household.

Significant proportions of IDPs reported live in difficult shelter conditions, with many households reporting insufficient access to hot and cold running water, heating, insulation and waterproofing, particularly in rural areas. Overcrowding was also common, although significant variation was observed between the assessed oblasts. When these indicators were combined into a shelter conditions score, the majority of assessed IDPs live in accommodation scoring either adequate (34.1%) or fair (24.6%). Similar proportions fall into the poor (18.5%) and inadequate (19.5%) categories. The remaining 3.3% fell into the extremely vulnerable category of households whose shelters fail to meet many key indicators and are likely to require urgent assistance. Again, considerable variation was observed between shelter conditions across the assessed oblasts, with around two thirds of households in Kharkiv, Luhansk and Donetsk scoring adequate or fair, compared to only 40% of households in Zaporizhia.

Care should be taken however to view these findings in context, with the majority of housing in Ukraine between 30 and 60 years old and a significant proportion in poor condition prior to the crisis. According to a study conducted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in 2013, much of Ukraine's housing stock is suffering from deferred or bad maintenance, unsafe and in need of urgent repair.<sup>2</sup>

The majority of IDP households reported either to own or to have access to basic items such as mattresses, blankets and bed sheets. While households across all assessed oblasts enjoyed similar access to NFIs, some variation was seen between richer and poorer families, whose comparative lack of resources appeared to affect their ability to access basic items.

### **Rent and income**

A third of urban households and almost half of rural households paid no rent at all for their accommodation. For those who did pay rent, prices varied widely. These IDPs faced greater uncertainty about whether they could stay in their current accommodation, particularly in urban areas where prices are higher. One third of all households paying rent reported having insufficient funds to afford their rent for more than six months, and an additional third of IDPs did not know how long their funds would last. One in five IDP households reported that they were certain to be threatened with eviction.

While social benefits and payments under resolution 505 appear to be an important source of income for many IDP households, receipt of such assistance appears to be closely related to registration with MoSP. This leaves unregistered households, who are already less visible to government and humanitarian actors, among the more vulnerable.

Given that private funds were the main sources used to pay for and rent and non-food items, and over two thirds of households reported earning no income from work in the month prior to assessment, the depletion of personal funds and a lack of livelihood opportunities is likely to become an increasing issue in the coming months.

Findings point to a situation in which IDPs are becoming increasingly vulnerable, with many living in sub-standard conditions and facing protracted displacement. As the humanitarian response makes the transition from the emergency phase to a mid-term more protracted approach, it is vital that the approach and modality of assistance become increasingly focused on resilience-based programming, to support households and communities to cope in the longer term.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), [Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management : Ukraine](#), 2013

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## INTRODUCTION

Following the outbreak of conflict in Ukraine in early 2014 and despite two successive ceasefires in September 2014 and February 2015, the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate. An estimated 5.2 million people have been affected by the crisis since its outbreak, through the breakdown of law and order, separation of families and communities, the destruction of infrastructure and disruption to essential services.

The crisis has also generated large numbers of refugees and over 1.4 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) within Ukraine.<sup>3</sup> Internal displacement has intensified needs for food, shelter, and other essential assistance in both conflict-affected areas and those hosting large numbers of IDPs. In eastern Ukraine, where fighting between armed groups and government forces is particularly intense, the Ministry of Social Policy registered 1,082,960 IDPs residing specifically in the regions of Kharkiv, Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhia and Dnipropetrovsk.<sup>4</sup> Moreover humanitarian access remains limited in conflict affected and Non-Government Controlled Areas (NGCAs), particularly Luhansk oblast, which is impeding full knowledge of the situation.

Intensification of the crisis has constrained access to basic services in NGCAs, especially in Donetsk and Luhansk. A large proportion of key infrastructure including roads, bridges, airports and railway connections has been heavily damaged by ongoing hostilities, affecting the movement of people, goods and information.

At present, the humanitarian response is guided by the 2015 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) which targets 3.2 million people—affected population, IDPs and host communities—throughout the country considered to be highly vulnerable because of poverty, displacement, reduced market access, reduced access to state support and social services, etc. At the time of writing, the HRP remains under-funded, falling short of an estimated 205 million USD.

This report presents findings from an assessment of Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Item (NFI) needs, which was facilitated by REACH within the framework of its on-going partnership with the Global Shelter Cluster. The assessment was conducted in collaboration with Shelter Cluster members and local authorities between May and July 2015, in order to address information gaps identified by the Cluster in Ukraine related to the situation and needs of the 850,000 IDPs registered by MoSP in the Donbas region of Eastern Ukraine. Data collection was conducted by REACH staff and cluster members, with dedicated staff provided by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), who were trained by REACH to conduct data collection. The assessment also sought to establish a baseline of needs, against which the humanitarian shelter and NFI response can be monitored and a response tailored.

## METHODOLOGY

### *Assessment Objectives*

In light of the protracted nature of the displacement crisis in the eastern Donbas region of Ukraine, REACH was commissioned by the Emergency Shelter / NFI Cluster in Ukraine to facilitate the establishment of a baseline of the situation of the 850,000 people registered by MoSP, who by March 2015 had been displaced from their homes throughout 5 oblasts in the east of the country (Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhia, Kharkiv, Donetsk, Luhansk). This baseline assessment was designed to provide representative quantitative data on the situation and needs of these IDPs with respect to accommodation, non-food items and livelihoods. Moreover, it was designed to be able to serve as the foundation for future research to understand trends over time and against which to test the outcome of humanitarian interventions.

<sup>3</sup> OCHA, Ukraine Overview of Population displacement (21 August 2015)

<sup>4</sup> Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine (MoSP) figures reported in IDMC (2015) [Ukraine IDP Figures Analysis](#). Although these figures are expected to not be exact, MoSP is the primary source on IDP numbers, used and referenced by humanitarian organizations, including OCHA and UNHCR.

The target population covered by this assessment consists of all individuals displaced to five target oblasts as a result of rapidly changing political and military developments in the Crimean peninsula and in eastern Ukraine since early 2014. REACH took an inclusive approach to the definition of IDPs, including not only those who have been registered by the Ukrainian government, but also those who for whatever reason have not been registered, and even those who left their respective areas of origin prior, such as university students, but who are now unable to return due to the conflict. The inclusion of non-registered IDPs in the study was considered vital in order to provide a fuller understanding of displacement related to the Donbas crisis and to triangulate findings with MoSP figures. The survey was conducted at household level, with one questionnaire representative of one group or unit (family or otherwise) staying under one roof and living on shared financial and non-monetary resources. This was done on a self-defined basis where the respondent or head of household defined the boundaries and composition of the household, where appropriate.

### Sampling Strategy

With IDPs dispersed over a wide geographic area and residing in a variety of accommodation types, it was vital to choose a methodology and sampling strategy that could provide a baseline of useful information at both an operational and a programmatic level. In response, the sample was designed to be representative at a local level to inform specific operations as well as at a regional level to inform overall priorities and program development. This raised practical concerns regarding the sample size, since the area to be covered included a total of 135 districts and collecting a useful and representative sample in each of these districts would have required an immense logistical and financial operation. The Shelter Cluster therefore agreed to group these 135 districts into a total of 35 clusters<sup>5</sup>, as shown in Map 1.

The 35 assessed clusters consisted of 6 urban clusters containing a total of 23 major urban districts, and 19 rural clusters containing 112 rural and smaller urban districts. Clusters were defined based on the following rules:

- Clusters are geographically contiguous and do not cross oblast lines
- Individual cities or adjoining urban areas with a population of more than 100,000 inhabitants (2001 census data) form separate clusters
- Rural districts (and urban districts with a population below 100,000 inhabitants) are clustered based on their proximity to the contested area
- Exceptions from the aforementioned rules are made for:
  - Districts immediately surrounding cities of more than 1 million inhabitants (i.e. Dnipropetrovsk and Kharkiv), and districts located along the main roads between Donetsk and those two cities, which are clustered separately from other rural areas;
  - The city of Izium (Kharkivska oblast), which is treated as an individual urban cluster despite a population of less than 100,000 inhabitants, due to its unique displacement profile resulting from previous dynamics in the conflict and location alongside the main road between Donetsk and Kharkiv.

**Table 1: Sampling framework**

Oblast	No. clusters	Target Sample	Sample Collected
Dnipropetrovska	9	648	662
Donetska	9	648	660
Kharkivska	7	504	516
Luhanska	5	360	365
Zaporizka	5	360	370
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>2520</b>	<b>2573</b>

<sup>5</sup> Clusters consisted of groups of *raions*, the second level administrative division in Ukraine.



Map 1: Location of sampled clusters



Within each cluster, a random sample of households was selected, which is representative at the cluster level. Households were geographically spread across the different districts in each cluster, with the sample size proportional to the number of registered IDPs, based on figures published by the Ministry of Social Policy on 11 March 2015. Since no consistent information exists with respect to the locations of IDPs within each district, target locations were purposively selected to reflect the likelihood of finding IDPs: firstly selecting district capitals, secondly selecting at random other towns from a comprehensive list of named towns, villages, settlements and city neighbourhoods in the area. In each location, in principle a total of 8 IDP households were identified and selected for assessment, and data collection teams were instructed to spend at least one hour in each location to identify potential interview subjects before (if necessary) moving on to the nearest town or village to complement the sample. Households were selected by enumerators by conducting a field walk, identifying IDP households by asking three different sources for directions: local authorities; local store owners; and so-called *babushkas*<sup>6</sup>. After identifying IDPs in the target locations, enumerators flipped a coin to decide whether or not the identified households will be included in the sample. Where possible, interviewed households were used to identify further IDP households to assess using the snowball method. Within each cluster, a total of up to 72 households were assessed, providing a confidence level of 90% and a margin of error of 10% at this lowest unit of measurement.

<sup>6</sup> "Babushka" is derived from the Russian for *grandmother* or *elderly woman*. *Babushkas* represent stereotypical figures within Ukrainian communities, regularly seen in public places, and with a good knowledge of events within their community.

### Data collection

REACH enumerators worked alongside cluster partners NRC, DRC and UNHCR, who each committed one or more staff members on a part-time basis to contribute to the data collection effort, together conducting 219 of the 2,612 household interviews. This was not only an efficient use of resources, but also allowed REACH to build capacity among these field based actors and their local staff, enabling the Shelter Cluster and its partners to apply high data collection and data management standards to their future assessment activities.

Data was collected using Android-based smartphones with an Open Data Kit (ODK) data collection platform, enabling data entry directly during the interview. All staff were trained in the use of the ODK software as well as the technical aspects of the questionnaire. Training consisted of one day covering theoretical concepts and the details of the questionnaire, and a one-day field pilot exercise. In most locations, data collection was completed in approximately two weeks after training, with exception of the area around Mariupol where data collection experienced some delays due to the limited availability of seconded DRC staff, and was completed on 10 July.

**Table 2: Data collection timeframe**

Oblast	Training	Data collection completed
Luhansk	25-26 May (Sloviansk)	12 June
Donetsk	25-26 May (Sloviansk)	12 June
	16 June (Mariupol)	10 July
Kharkiv	4-5 June (Kharkiv)	13 June
Dnipropetrovsk	8-9 June (Dnipropetrovsk)	20 June
Zaporizhia	8-9 June (Dnipropetrovsk)	20 June

With final data collection efforts still ongoing in Mariupol at the time, REACH presented preliminary findings of the assessment to Cluster partners, local and international NGOs, and government representatives in Dnipropetrovsk, Sloviansk and Kyiv on 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> July respectively. The presentation in Kyiv was open to the press and was broadcast to participants from UNHCR and the Shelter Cluster in Geneva. Feedback was collected from stakeholders during and after these presentations on context, potential explanations for the preliminary findings and areas for further analysis, as reflected in this final report.

### Review and analysis

The final database was reviewed to identify outliers and any potential errors for specific variables. Where observations for specific variables were determined to be unreliable, or outliers were unexplained, these were excluded from the analysis of respective variables. Data analysis was triangulated with field observations and secondary data review to help orient future actions and provide recommendations.

Cluster-level data can be found in the cleaned dataset, available through the Shelter Cluster and circulated to all assessment stakeholders, to help inform operational decisions. The information presented in the graphs in this report is generally shown at oblast level, and is intended to inform programmatic decision-making and prioritization between regions. Oblast-level findings are produced by aggregating the data collected at cluster-level using the proportional distribution of IDP registration figures as the basis for weighting. Findings representative at oblast level have a confidence level of 95% and margin of error of 8% (or less, depending on the oblast; Donetsk has a margin of error of 5%).

### Limitations

The sampled areas are not representative of all displaced households within Ukraine, and findings are therefore limited to IDPs residing in the five assessed oblasts. The methodology design was affected by several limitations, among these

the lack of information on the locations of IDPs within the sampled districts. Despite the random selection of districts within clusters, not all households had an equal chance of being selected due to the purposive nature household selection within each district, as a result, some locations are likely to have been oversampled and some under sampled. Due to the use of community-level key informants to identify IDPs, it is likely that more visible IDPs, such as those living in collective accommodation, may have been over-represented in some cases, and less visible IDPs therefore excluded from the study. While steps were taken to limit this bias, this proved impossible to completely eradicate.

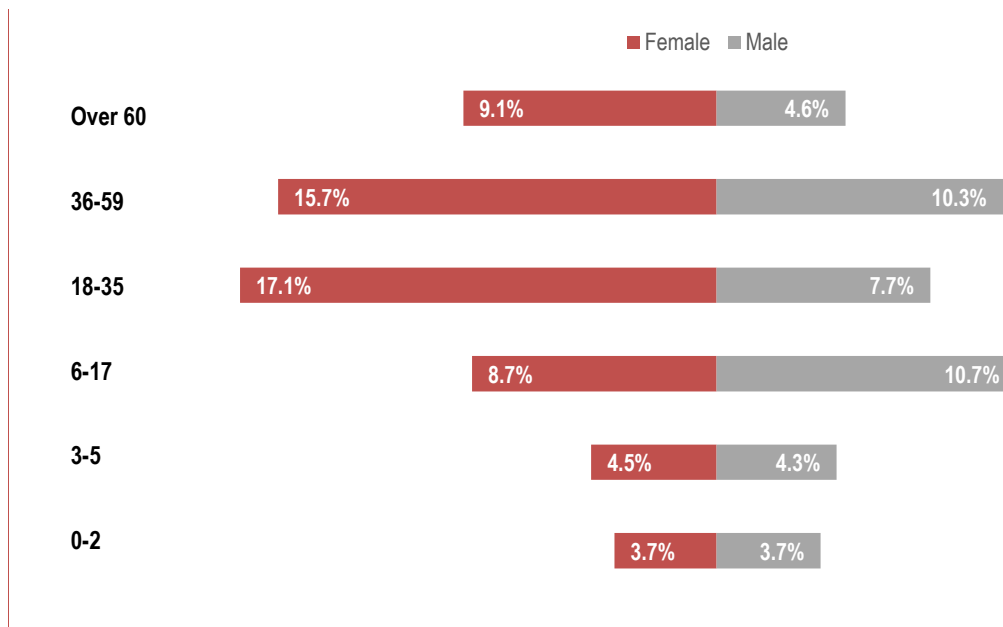
Ongoing conflict was also responsible for several limitations, such as the lack of data collected in Dzerzhynsk and Mariinka districts due to insecurity. Ongoing conflict also limited access to parts of Novoidarskyi and Stanytsia-Luhanska districts, however, most target locations were eventually covered by assessment partners. In addition, data collection in the contested area of southern Donetsk posed particular logistical challenges and resulted in delays, as can be seen from the timeframes shown in Table 2: Data collection timeframe.

## ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

### DEMOGRAPHICS

The assessed IDP population was found to be predominantly female with a much smaller proportion of adult males. Overall, females accounted for 59% of the assessed population, and males 41%. The population pyramid below is characteristic of a displacement pattern where families, largely without adult males, fled as cohesive units from their areas of origin. With the majority of households (60%) reporting that family members had stayed behind, the absence of adult males may be explained by several reasons: most commonly to look after property or to work, reported respectively by 66% and 25% of households that had left family members in their area of origin.<sup>7</sup>

**Figure 1: Assessed IDP population, by age and sex**



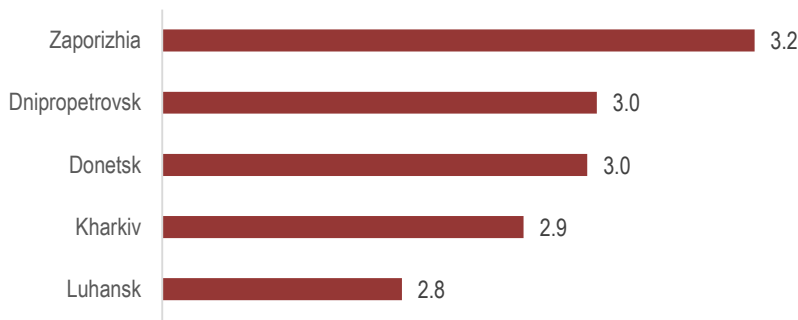
With relatively equal proportions of males and females under the age of 18, compared to uneven proportions of adults, the overall age dependency ratio among IDPs was found to be higher than the national average prior to the crisis.<sup>8</sup> This may be due to the fact that in the midst of displacement, the definition of a household may have been altered. Multiple family units, related or otherwise, may well have settled together as a coping mechanism.

While the average IDP household size was 3.0, some variation was found between oblasts, with average family sizes ranging from 2.8 in Luhansk to in Dnipropetrovsk to 3.2 in Zaporizhia (see Figure 5). Dependency ratios also varied by oblast, with Zaporizhia, Dnipropetrovsk and Donetsk recording higher dependency ratios than elsewhere. Both these oblasts have particularly low proportions of adult males, with 54% of household members in Zaporizhia classified as dependents (aged under 18 or over 60), and 49% in Dnipropetrovsk. Donetsk also contained a high proportion of dependents (50%), with a higher proportion of young children than other assessed oblasts.

<sup>7</sup> Due to the sensitivity of this issue, respondents were not asked whether family members had stayed behind to participate in the ongoing conflict.

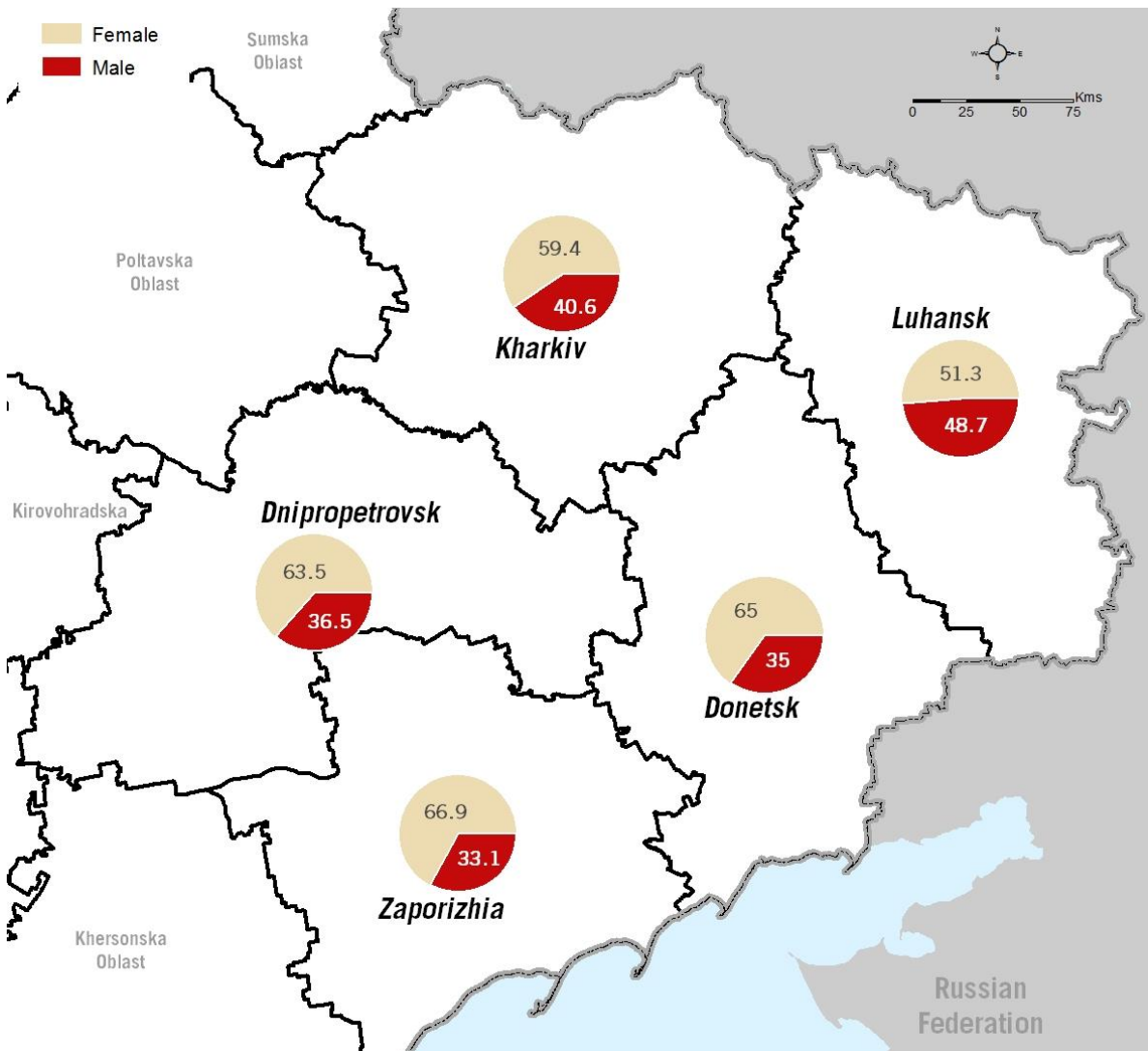
<sup>8</sup> 50% of the assessed population was considered dependent (aged under 17 or over 60), compared to a national average of 42% in 2013 (World Bank, [data by country](#)). Note that WB data counts the working-age population as between the ages of 15-64, which may account for some of this discrepancy.

**Figure 2: Average IDP household size, by oblast**



In line with the relatively small proportion of adult males among the assessed IDPs, 61.7% of displaced households were female-headed. While the largest proportion of female heads of household reported to be married (44%), significant proportions were also single (21.9%), widowed (17.3%) or divorced (16.8%). Of those heads of household reporting to be married, 73.4% reported that their spouse had stayed behind. Households with divorced, widowed or single heads of household were found to have higher dependency ratios than heads of households reporting to be married.

**Map 2: Proportion of male and female-headed IDP households, by oblast**



While female-headed households were more common than male-headed households in all assessed oblasts, the proportion varied, with females accounting for 51.3% of household heads in Luhansk, compared to 61.7% in Zaporizhia. No marked differences were observed between the marital status of household heads across the assessed areas, with the exception of Donetsk, where 14.2% of household heads reported to be widowed, double the proportion in Dnipropetrovsk (7.1%).

## DISPLACEMENT TRENDS

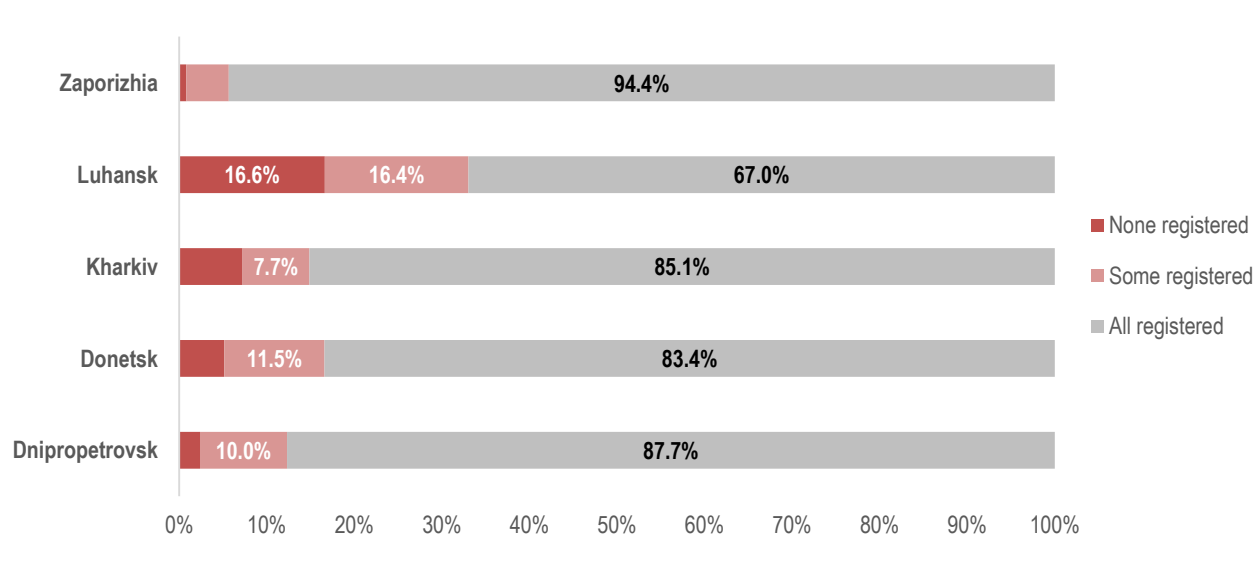
This section aims to describe displacement patterns identified by the assessment as well as vulnerabilities related to displacement.

### Registration

The majority of assessed IDPs (82.3%) reported that all members of their household were registered with the Ministry of Social Policy (MoSP) in their current location. A further 10.9% of all households reported that some members were registered, and 6.8% that none were registered.

When disaggregated by oblast, Luhansk contained the highest proportion of unregistered IDP households, with 17% reporting that no members were registered. While overall registration was found to be fairly consistent across oblasts, some variation was found between the registration rates of households relying on different sources of income. 80% of households relying primarily on income from skilled work reported that all household members were registered with MoSP, while IDP households relying on agriculture (the largest proportion of these in Luhansk oblast) were the most likely to report no registration, with only 51% reporting that all household members were registered.

**Figure 3: Reported registration of IDP household members with MoSP, by oblast**



Time since arrival in current location does appear to have an effect on registration status, with 15.5% of those reporting to have arrived in the past three months reporting that no member of their household was registered with MoSP. In contrast, 94.3% of households in which all members were registered had been in their current location for four months or more.

Of the 10.9% of all cases in which some, but not all, household members were registered, over three quarters of these were in areas directly adjacent to conflict areas, Donetsk (50.5% of households in this oblast) and Luhansk (25.8%). When examined in terms of length of displacement, the situation for appears more complex: 94.3% of households with some members registered had been staying in their current location for over three months, suggesting that the decision not to register was deliberately made for other reasons than a lack of time to do so.



### Reasons for displacement

Households reported leaving their areas of origin to come to their current location due to a mixture of push and pull factors. Among the push factors was damage to shelters in IDPs' areas of origin, with some level of damage reported by 56% of all IDPs and by up to 60.5% in Donetsk. In itself, this could be considered a proxy for insecurity; housing was damaged due to armed violence, which in turn precipitated displacement.

It is important to note that all information on damage to pre-crisis homes is directly reported by assessed households and has not been independently verified. Housing damage is an emotive issue and the extents of damage are subjective, therefore it is recommended that actual damage levels are verified by experts when possible.

When asked about damage to their homes in their area of origin, the largest proportion of IDPs reported no damage (38.4%) or only light damage (34.2%). Only 6.3% of IDPs respondents reported the complete destruction of their home while 15.5% reported severe damage. When disaggregated by IDPs' oblast of origin, damage data is fairly homogenous, with no major trends or patterns identifiable. Looking forward, the one in five IDP households whose homes were reported as severely damaged or destroyed are likely to require significant support to repair or rebuild their homes, an important barrier to future return for these households.

**Figure 4: Reported damage to homes in IDPs' area of origin<sup>9</sup>**



When asked about their reasons for choosing their current location, better security and the presence of family and friends were the most commonly reported reasons. Respondents also reported access to livelihoods and services, albeit it to a far lesser degree, meaning that personal networks and by default, access to shelter, were prioritised over income and service access. While reported reasons follow similar trends in all oblasts, some variation can be observed: improved security and the presence of family particularly appear to be particularly strong pull factors for IDPs in Luhansk; meanwhile access to services was much more commonly reported by IDPs in Dnipropetrovsk than in other assessed oblasts. That IDPs in Dnipropetrovsk reported access to services as an important factor corresponds with the finding that IDPs in this oblast were living mainly in urban or peri-urban settings, where services are more likely to be available and accessible.

When asked about why they chose their current location, IDPs' reasons also varied depending on their area of origin. IDPs from Crimea and Luhansk were much more likely to cite security (77.7% and 60% respectively) compared to those from Donetsk (45.6%), who were more likely to report a wide range of reasons for choosing their current location.

<sup>9</sup> Reported damage levels are subjective and based on IDP perceptions rather. The Shelter Cluster would like to stress that the levels of damage reported by respondents here are not consistent with other information sources and should be considered as indicative.

**Figure 5: Most commonly reported reasons for moving to current location<sup>10</sup>**

	Safety / security	Family reasons	Friends	Access to livelihoods	Access to services	Job moved
Dnipropetrovsk	37.4%	39.8%	28.0%	19.0%	26.1%	5.2%
Donetsk	44.7%	39.1%	18.8%	10.6%	8.5%	3.7%
Kharkiv	56.0%	37.2%	25.8%	11.2%	7.4%	0.4%
Luhansk	65.0%	52.2%	22.2%	22.4%	12.7%	5.8%
Zaporizhia	53.6%	32.3%	20.2%	19.4%	14.1%	1.6%

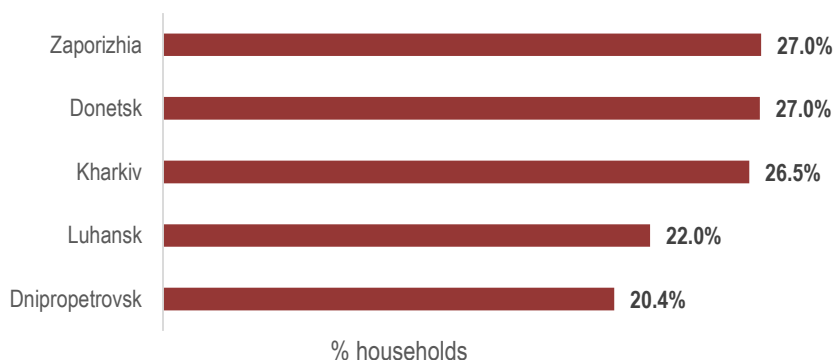
The majority of IDP households (59.7%) reported that family members had stayed behind in their area of origin. When disaggregating by area of origin, families originating from Crimea were more likely to report having left family members behind (66.7%) than those from Luhansk (61%) or Donetsk (59%).

### *Phases of displacement*

Although the vast majority of IDP households (98.2%) reported having been displaced for more than three months, and 61.8% for more than 10 months, several trends appear when these figures are examined by area of origin. The majority of IDPs from Crimea appear to have left in two main waves, 37.4% between March and May 2014, and 41.5% in November 2014, with almost no new displacement from here in the past six months. In contrast, the largest proportion of IDPs from Donetsk and Luhansk (48.8% and 51%, respectively) reported leaving their area of origin between June and August 2015, with a smaller but steadier flow of arrivals until February 2015.

### *Temporary return to area of origin*

When asked whether a member of their household visited their area of origin since displacement—such as to check on assets, friends or family for a short period—approximately one quarter of respondents (25.5%) explained that a household member had temporarily returned to their area of origin. Temporary returns were reported by slightly smaller proportions of households in Dnipropetrovsk (20.4%) and Luhansk (22%) as shown in Figure 6.

**Figure 6: Households reporting temporary return to their area of origin since displacement, by oblast**

When asked about reasons for temporary returns, respondents most commonly explained that this was to protect and inspect property (57.6%), or for family reasons (43.3%). The slightly higher proportion of temporary returns recorded from IDPs staying in Zaporizhia, Donetsk and Kharkiv correlates with the finding that these oblasts also contain the

<sup>10</sup> Respondents could report multiple reasons.

highest proportions of IDPs reporting to have family remaining in their area of origin. Households in Luhansk and Donetsk, the closest oblasts to the contact line, were more likely to report returning to protect or to check on property.

11.8% reported that they had temporarily returned to collect family members, suggesting that in some cases, family members have been sent ahead, and then joined by others at a later date. This appears to have been particularly common for families currently residing in Zaporizhia, of which 32.5% reported returning to pick up family from their area of origin. Of those households reporting temporary returns, households in Luhansk and Donetsk were more likely to have returned multiple times to their area of origin. More than one in five of those travelling back from Luhansk (22.3%) had returned more than four times. In contrast, over 80% of those reporting temporary returns from Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv and Zaporizhia, oblasts further from the contact line, had travelled back only once or twice.

**Figure 7: Reported reasons for return to area of origin, by oblast<sup>11</sup>**

	Protect property	Family reasons	Pick up family	Work	Conditions improved
<b>Dnipropetrovsk</b>	33.3%	45.6%	20.7%	17.5%	5.2%
<b>Donetsk</b>	62.2%	39.4%	7.7%	8.8%	1.6%
<b>Kharkiv</b>	43.1%	57.5%	6.9%	9.4%	6.3%
<b>Luhansk</b>	80.5%	35.3%	14.1%	9.4%	0.7%
<b>Zaporizhia</b>	36.1%	49.4%	32.5%	9.5%	2.4%

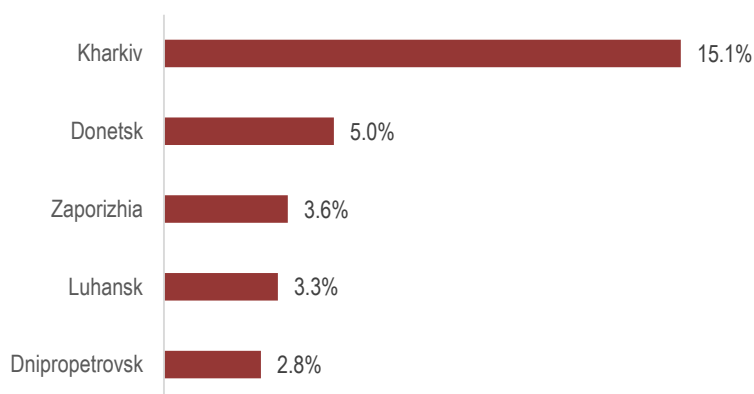
### *Permanent and temporary returns*

While almost a quarter of families reported some movement to and from their area of origin (temporary returns), only a small proportion of all respondents (4.3%) reported that a household member had permanently returned to their area of origin since displacement. When asked about reasons for both temporary and permanent return, only 2.6% of all households cited improved conditions as a reason. With ongoing insecurity in many areas and only a small proportion reporting improved conditions, the low proportion of reported permanent returns is not surprising.

### *Future Intentions*

When asked whether they intended to move from their current location within the next three months, the vast majority of respondents (77.4%) reported that they had no intention to move, with a further 16.4% reporting that they did not know. No conditions were suggested when asking this question, so that answers would be provided based on IDPs' current perceptions and plans, rather than external factors. When compared by oblast, Kharkiv was found to have a significantly higher percentage of households intending to move (15.1%) than the other assessed oblasts, where between only 3-5% of IDPs reported this intention.

<sup>11</sup> Respondents could report multiple reasons.

**Figure 8: Proportion of households intending to move from their current location, by oblast**

Of those intending to move, reported reasons were varied, with over half of this group reporting safety/security (54.9%), followed by family (34.1%), friends (19%), access to services (19.0%), livelihoods (15.9%), and job moved (2.4%). These reasons follow a similar pattern to those given to explain IDPs' initial displacement, with safety and security, friends and family remaining among the most common influencing factors. Access to services was more commonly reported by IDPs as a reason for intending to move, than as a reason for initial displacement, suggesting that for some IDPs, once a safer location has been reached, priorities shift towards making ends meet. Since the total proportion of IDPs reporting an intention to move is very small, a statistically significant comparison of reasons by oblast is not possible.

When asked about where they intended to move, the vast majority of IDPs explained that they wanted to go home (79.2%), and a further 9.6% that they intended to move elsewhere in the same oblast. Almost all IDPs in Kharkiv reported intending to return home (97.2%). IDPs intending to leave their current location in Donetsk were less likely to report intending to return home than IDPs elsewhere: 56.4% of these IDPs reported intending to go home, 15.4% to go elsewhere in the same oblast; 15.4% elsewhere in Ukraine, and 12.8% to leave Ukraine.

When IDPs were asked about whether they were expecting family to join them in their current location, IDPs from Crimea were much more likely to report that family members were planning to join them (41.5%) than IDPs from Donetsk (12.9%) or Luhansk (11%).

## SHELTER AND NFI FINDINGS

### *Accommodation type*

The majority of the assessed IDPs were living in rented accommodation at the time of survey, while around one third were being hosted. Around 5% reported to own their current accommodation, while even smaller proportions of IDP households were living in hotels or other accommodation types. The assessment also covered households living in some of the 153 operational collective centres, which have a combined capacity of 11,198 beds. While present in all assessed areas, with the vast majority of collective centres are located in Donetsk oblast.<sup>12</sup>

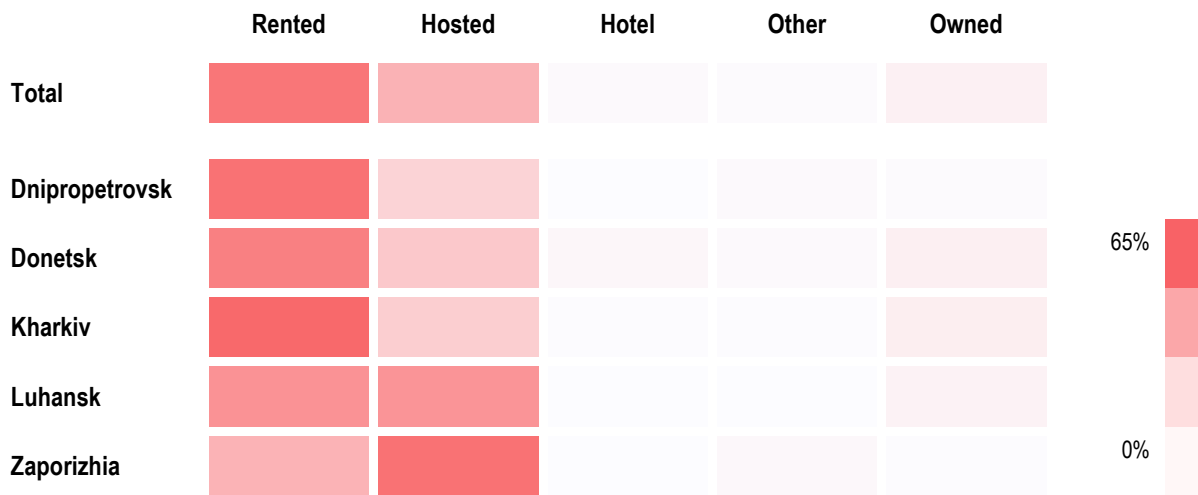
As shown in Figure 9, which excludes collective centres, some variation in accommodation type can be observed between the different oblasts. The highest proportions of respondents reporting to be hosted by families were found in Zaporizhia and Luhansk, while IDPs in Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk and Kharkiv were more likely to rent.

72.1% of IDP households reported as hosted are currently residing with their family or relatives, and 16.1% by friends. With 40.4% of all IDPs citing family or friends as a reason for moving to their current location, these findings suggest such networks play an important part in securing access to shelter, whether rented or otherwise. Contacts through

<sup>12</sup> Ukraine CCCM Cluster Collective Centre Monitoring Matrix.

family and/or friends have played a role in finding accommodation for a further 7.4% of hosted IDPs, while Government and Churches played more marginal roles, cited respectively by 2.3% and 1.7% of this group.

**Figure 9: Percentage of IDPs living in selected accommodation types, by oblast<sup>13</sup>**



Rented accommodation was more common in urban settings than in rural settings: 60.6% of respondents in urban areas reported to rent their accommodation compared to 43.3% of respondents in rural areas. In contrast, respondents owning their current accommodation were slightly more common in rural locations, (7.9%) compared to urban ones (2.7%), where accommodation is generally more expensive.

One third of IDPs (33.8%) reported to share their current accommodation, with an average of 1.4 households per housing unit across the whole surveyed population. In Luhansk, 44.7% of IDPs reported to share accommodation with at least one other household, while this was reported by 33.9% and 34.7% in Donetsk and Kharkiv respectively. Finally only 22.9% and 21.17% of IDP households reported to share their accommodation in Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhia. Accommodation type obviously has quite a significant influence on whether IDP households are likely or not to share their current housing solution. 53.7% IDPs living in hotels reported sharing their accommodation with other households; such a sharing arrangement is likely to be a coping mechanism to reduce the costs of residence.

At 63.7%, most of the IDPs that reported being hosted are also sharing their accommodation. Those who did not report this may have done so either because they are being hosted in a separate and specific housing unit, or because they consider the premises that they occupy as a single housing unit despite being within the same building as their hosting family. This might be an implied separation or a physical one, including separate bathrooms or living areas. Similar inferences could help explain the relatively high percentage of IDPs living in collective shelters who reported not share their current accommodation (63.1%); this is likely to be linked to their understanding that despite living in a collective site, they have access to a single family unit that can be considered or perceived as “independent”. Sharing accommodation and perceptions of safety are also correlated, with the vast majority of IDPs, 88.6% considering their accommodation as “safe”. IDPs living in hotels were less likely to report feeling safe in their accommodation, reported by 70.7%.

While enumerators did not measure the size of each shelter assessed, the ratio between the number of individuals and number of rooms (excluding bathrooms and kitchens), was used as a proxy to understand the proportion of households likely to be living in overcrowded accommodation. Based on a housing study by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (2013), it was agreed with the Shelter Cluster that an occupancy ratio greater than 2 (more

<sup>13</sup> This table excludes households living in collective shelters, who were likely to have been over-sampled during the assessment.

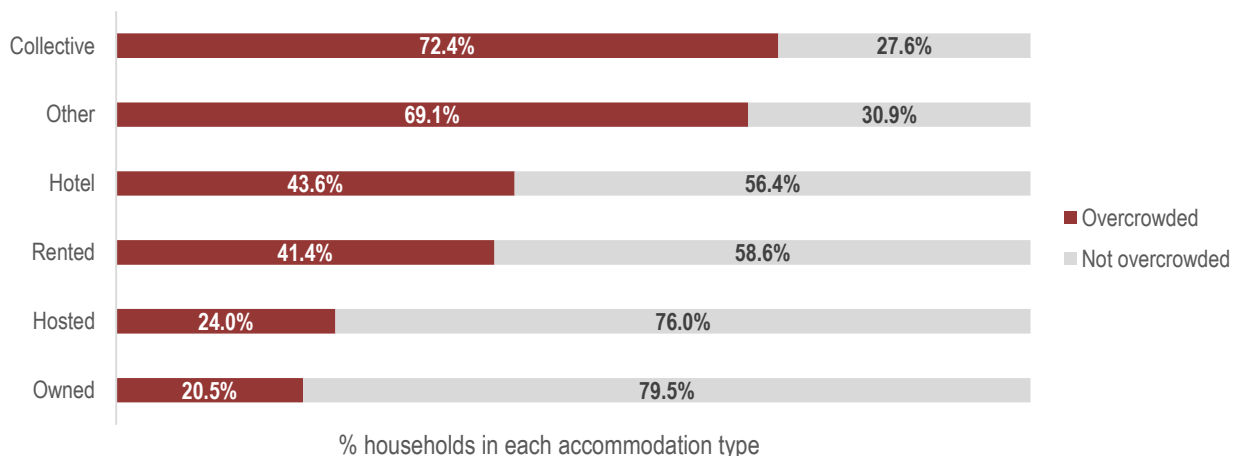
than two individuals per room) could be considered overcrowded for the purposes of this study.<sup>14</sup> By this measure, 41.6% of all assessed IDPs are living in overcrowded accommodation, although this appears to depend on a number of factors. IDPs in rural areas were generally less likely to be living in overcrowded accommodation (29.9%) than those in urban areas, where 44.6% were reported to be overcrowded. Similar trends appear when comparisons are made by oblast, as shown in Figure 10 below, with lower occupancy found in Luhansk (composed of predominantly rural clusters), and higher occupancy ratios in Zaporizhia and Dnipropetrovsk.

**Figure 10: Occupancy ratio (average number individuals/room), by oblast**

	0 - 1	1.1 - 2	2.1 - 3	3.1 - 5	5.1 - 9
<b>Dnipropetrovsk</b>	10.9%	42.7%	27.3%	17.8%	1.4%
<b>Donetsk</b>	17.2%	45.2%	21.5%	13.8%	2.3%
<b>Kharkiv</b>	18.7%	39.8%	23.0%	14.6%	3.9%
<b>Luhansk</b>	29.2%	48.9%	13.3%	8.1%	0.5%
<b>Zaporizhia</b>	7.9%	31.2%	31.8%	25.1%	3.9%
<b>Total</b>	16.8%	41.6%	23.4%	15.9%	2.4%

The greatest variation, however, appears to be between the accommodation types, with IDPs in collective shelter much more likely to live in overcrowded accommodation (72.5%) than those in rented (42.4%), hosted (24.0%) or owned accommodation (20.5%).

**Figure 11: Households living in overcrowded accommodation, by accommodation type**



Interestingly, households reporting to live in shared accommodation were generally found to report smaller household sizes, with an average of 2.5 individuals per household, compared to an average of 3.2 in non-shared accommodation. Households in shared accommodation were also found to be less likely to be living in overcrowded accommodation, with only 20% having an occupancy of more than 2. As explained above, the majority of households in collective shelter did *not* report to live in shared accommodation, rather this group is made up of primarily of IDPs living in hosted situations and a smaller proportion in hotels.

<sup>14</sup> Figures are based on UNECE (2013) [Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management : Ukraine](#). It should be stressed that this measure is a proxy only and can give no



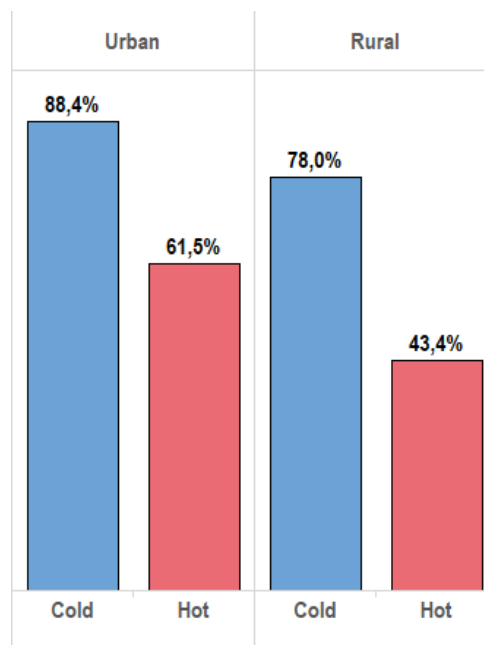
To put these findings in context, the State Statistics Service of Ukraine (SSSU) reported in 2013 that 49.4% of all households in Ukraine lived in accommodation consisting of two rooms or less. Predictably, this figure was lower in rural areas than in big cities, where respectively where 36.1% and 61% of households lived in two rooms or less.<sup>15</sup>

### Shelter Conditions

IDPs were asked about the conditions in their current shelter, including access to hot running water, heating, electricity, the sufficiency of insulation, and protection against the passage of water. As a result, responses allow for some degree of subjectivity, and were not independently verified by enumerators. It is also important to note that while significant proportions of assessed IDP households reported problems with insufficient access to insulation, hot running water, heating and electricity, similar issues were also faced by many families in the region prior to the current displacement crisis. Indeed a recent study of housing and land management in Ukraine, conducted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, reported a general lack of good housing conditions. With the majority of housing between 30 and 60 years old, deferred or bad maintenance was reportedly the most serious problem affecting housing quality, with a significant proportion of housing stock dilapidated, unsafe and in need of urgent repair.<sup>16</sup>

84.1% of IDPs reported they had sufficient access to running water in their current accommodation. No major trends can be observed between oblasts, although IDPs living in rural areas were less likely to report sufficient access to running water (78%) than those in urban areas (88.4%). Accommodation type also appears to have an impact on whether or not IDPs have sufficient access to running water, with IDPs owning their current accommodation less likely to report access to running water (72%) compared to IDPs renting or being hosted (85.1% and 82.2%). With the majority of IDPs who own accommodation living in rural areas, this finding is also likely to be related to the difference observed between urban and rural areas.

**Figure 12: IDPs reporting sufficient access to running water in rural and urban locations**



The marked difference between rural and urban areas in terms housing quality and access to basic utilities, such as piped water, sewage, heating and hot water, was also well documented prior to the crisis. For example, the UNECE reported in 2013 that 76.9% of housing units in urban areas had access to piped water, compared to 29.8% in rural areas. Similarly, 62.8% of urban households had access to heating, compared to 39.7% of households in rural areas.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>15</sup> SSSU (2013), [Social and Demographic Characteristics of Households in Ukraine in 2013](#).

<sup>16</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) (2013), [Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management : Ukraine](#)

<sup>17</sup> Data from SSSU, (2013) Housing Stock of Ukraine in 2012, pp. 158, 162 and 166, referenced in UNECE (2013) [Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management : Ukraine](#).

Regarding access to running hot water, differences become more marked. Only 54% of all assessed IDPs reported to have sufficient access to hot running water, with some trends apparent between assessed oblasts. 48.6% and 50.8% of IDPs report sufficient access to hot water in Luhansk and Donetsk, with up to 62.1% of IDPs reporting access in Zaporizhia oblast. While trends between access to hot and cold water in rural and urban areas are consistent with those reported in 2013, figures from this assessment actually show slightly higher levels of access than the national average in 2012, in which 60.3% of urban households and 14.3% of rural households had access to hot water.<sup>18</sup>

As for cold water, IDPs living in urban locations appear to have greater access than those living in rural areas, as shown in the graph above. Finally, accommodation type is an effective proxy indicator to predict if an IDP household has sufficient access to running hot water. Those living in hotels (85.4%) have by far the best access to this resource<sup>19</sup> followed by IDPs that are hosted (55.1%) or renting (53.4%). In contrast, IDPs living in owned accommodation seem to have less sufficient access, with only 44.5% of these IDPs reporting access to hot water.

An overall majority of IDPs (99.4%) reported to have access to electricity; these findings are largely uniform across oblasts, as well as across both rural and urban settings and accommodation types. 97.5% of IDPs who have access to electricity reported to have access to it all day long, while only 1.4% report to have access to eighteen hours per day. No other significant trends can be observed for access to electricity; simply put, access is established and is not an issue, warranting no further analysis.

With cold winter temperatures and lows of below freezing for five months of the year<sup>20</sup>, sufficient insulation, heating and winter clothing are key concerns. Despite this, only 47% of assessed IDPs reported to be living in sufficiently insulated homes at the time of assessment. When disaggregated at oblast level, significant disparities can be found, with only 10.5% of IDPs with sufficiently insulated housing in Zaporizhia and 24.6% in Dnipropetrovsk. IDPs living in urban locations are more likely to live in a sufficiently insulated house, reported by 49.2% urban respondents, compared to 44% of IDPs living in rural areas. Accommodation type was found to have a limited impact on the status of housing insulation. However, ownership appears to have a greater influence, with IDPs who own their accommodation more likely to report that their home is sufficiently insulated (55.5%) than other population groups, such as IDPs in rented accommodation (45.9%). With the vast majority of displaced families struggling to cope with limited income and resources, insulation is clearly something that is available to those who can afford it, while households with fewer resources cannot, leaving them ill-equipped to cope with the coming winter period.

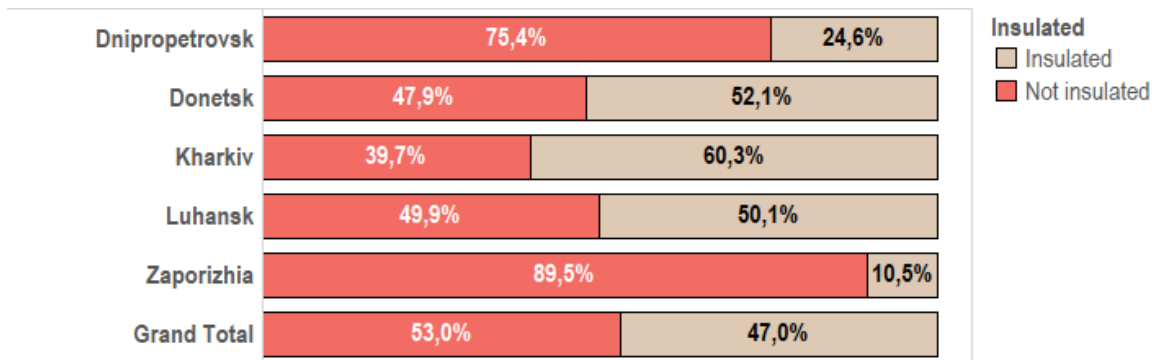
Differences were also found between rural and urban settings, in which 44% of rural households and 49.2% urban households reported to be residing in sufficiently insulated accommodation. Finally, 55.5% of IDPs who own their accommodation and 52.1% of IDPs living in rented houses reported that their accommodation was insulated. Hosted IDPs were found to be less likely to live in accommodation with the same conditions, with only 45.9% of this group reporting that their current housing solution was sufficiently insulated. This might be due to a variety of reasons, including the fact that hosted IDPs may well reside in spaces such as garages and summer houses not normally used for shelter.

<sup>18</sup> Data from SSSU, (2013) Housing Stock of Ukraine in 2012, pp. 158, 162 and 166, referenced in UNECE (2013) [Country Profiles on Housing and Land Management: Ukraine](#).

<sup>19</sup> However, it should be noted that confidence level are significantly lower where data has been disaggregated for this population sub-set.

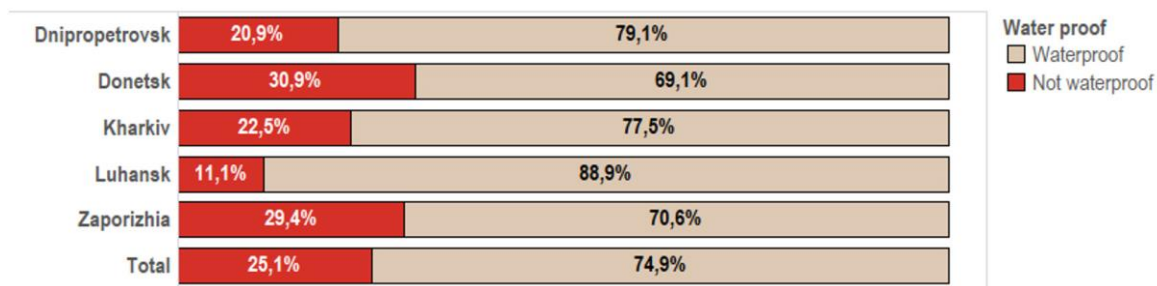
<sup>20</sup> World weather and climate information: [Ukraine](#)

**Figure 13: IDPs reporting sufficiently insulated housing, by oblast**



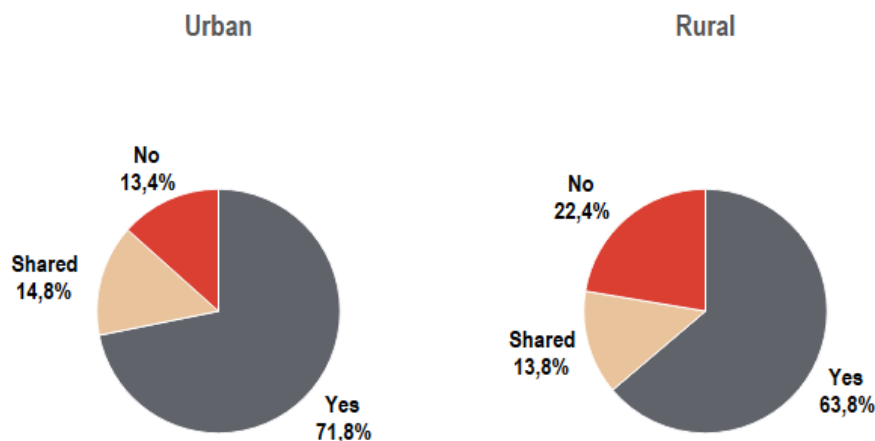
The majority of assessed households (74.9%) reported live in accommodation that offered sufficient protection against the passage of water. At oblast level, findings show significant geographical variation. For instance, 88.9% of IDPs in Luhansk and 79.1% Dnipropetrovsk reported access to sufficiently waterproof shelter, compared to 69.1% IDPs in Donetsk and 70.6% in Zaporizhia. IDPs in urban locations were more likely to report waterproofed housing (78%) compared to rural locations (70.5%). Finally, IDPs living in owned accommodation or with host families were more likely to report sufficiently waterproofed shelter, 78.1% and 76.4% of the surveyed population respectively, when compared to IDPs living in rented accommodation which was only 73.5%.

**Figure 14: IDPs reporting sufficiently waterproof accommodation, by oblast**



Most of the assessed IDPs reported to have access to a heater in their accommodation, either through owning a heater (67.8%) or to sharing one (17.9%), which includes those with access to collective central heating. IDPs in urban areas generally appear to have better access to heating compared to those in rural areas, with 71.8% of urban IDPs owning a heater, compared to 63.8% of rural IDPs. Similarly, 22.4% of rural IDPs neither own nor share a heater, a higher proportion than their urban counterparts (13.4%).

**Figure 15: Availability of heating among IDP households in urban and rural settings**



The primary heating fuel source cited by IDPs was gas, reported by 43.5% of all respondents. The second and third primary heating fuel sources cited by IDPs were collective central heating systems (labelled “municipality controlled heating” in Figure 17: Primary heating fuel by accommodation type) and electricity, reported by 23.7% and 17.6% of the surveyed population, respectively. Only 13.9% of IDPs rely on wood and coal as primary heating fuel sources (8.9% and 5% respectively), although higher proportions of IDP households relied on wood for fuel in rural areas, accounting for 16.0%. While these findings were consistent across all oblasts, it is worth noting that in Zaporizhia electricity was the most commonly reported primary heating fuel, reported by 32.1%. In rural settings, gas was the most cited primary heating fuel (50.4%). In urban areas, gas was used to heat the accommodation of only 38.6% of IDPs, with 30.2% relying on collective central heating systems, and 21.8% on electricity.

**Figure 16: Primary heating fuel, by rural and urban location**

	Gas mains	Central heating	Electricity	Wood	Coal	Bottled gas	Briquettes
Rural	50.4%	14.5%	11.8%	16.0%	5.8%	1.1%	0.5%
Urban	38.6%	30.2%	21.8%	3.9%	4.6%	0.9%	0.0%

Comparisons between accommodation types are also indicative of the type of heating fuel available or in use. Collective shelters and owned accommodation are more likely to rely on electricity (35.5% and 25%), while IDPs in rented accommodation are more likely to have access to gas (47.4%) and municipality controlled heating systems (23.8%).

**Figure 17: Primary heating fuel by accommodation type<sup>21</sup>**

Total		Hosted	Rented	Owned	Hotel	Collective shelter	Other
43,5%	Gas mains	47,6%	47,4%	33,6%	30,0%	18,7%	20,0%
17,6%	Electricity	12,1%	16,1%	25,0%	22,5%	35,5%	46,7%
23,7%	Municipality controlled heating	21,2%	23,8%	9,4%	47,5%	35,5%	13,3%
8,9%	Wood	10,4%	8,0%	20,3%	0,0%	4,4%	13,3%
5,0%	Coal	7,1%	3,8%	9,4%	0,0%	4,4%	3,3%
0,9%	Gas bottles	1,4%	0,9%	0,0%	0,0%	0,4%	3,3%
0,2%	Briquettes	0,0%	0,0%	2,3%	0,0%	0,4%	0,0%

<sup>21</sup> Respondents could select multiple answers.

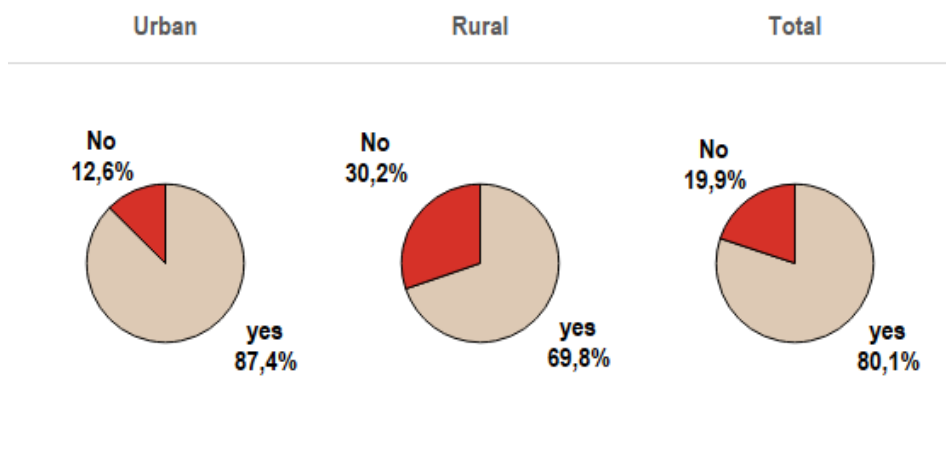
## Vectors

Only 14.2% of IDPs reported to be living in accommodation without any vectors (rodents or bugs). IDPs who owned their accommodation were more likely to report vectors, with only 9.4% of these households reporting no vectors. The situation appears slightly better for households renting or being hosted, with 12.5% and 14.5% respectively reporting no vectors in their current accommodation.

## Sanitation

While 80.1% of IDPs have access to a private toilet within their current location, levels of access are reported to vary by accommodation type. IDPs renting their current housing solution have better access to private toilets (81.9%) than IDPs owning their accommodation or being hosted, 71.9% and 76% respectively. When disaggregated by oblast, it is interesting to note that while geographic variations are generally very limited, in Kharkiv, only 72% of IDPs have access to a private toilet. Finally, as expected, rural areas and urban areas have a clearly different profile with only 69.8% of IDPs in rural areas having access to a private toilet compared to 87.4% in urban centres.

**Figure 18: Access to private toilets for IDPs in rural and urban areas**



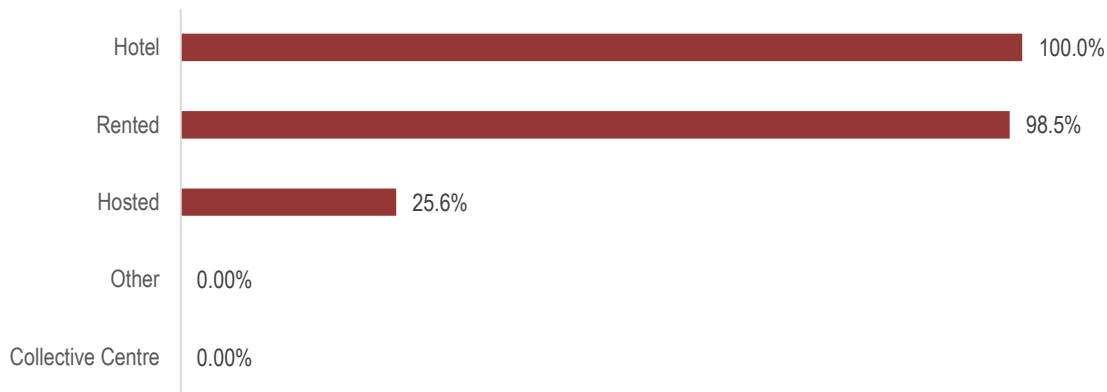
## RENT AND TENANCY

During the assessment, households were asked about rental documentation, monthly rent costs for IDPs households and perceived eviction risks. However, a few limitations should be taken into account. First, monthly rent costs may have been under- or over reported according to household perceptions, an issue commonly encountered when questioning around sensitive topics such as money. Second, information on rent costs is based on a smaller sample size: such information is analysed only from 61.7% of the surveyed households, as many did not report to pay any rent (for instance IDPs living in collective shelters and the majority of IDPs hosted by families<sup>22</sup>), owned their accommodation, or declined to answer<sup>23</sup>. While overall figures remain representative, confidence levels are lower when findings are disaggregated by oblast.

<sup>22</sup> Only 25% of IDPs living in hosted accommodation reported to be paying some sort of monthly fee/rent/compensation.

<sup>23</sup> This last category represents 0.9% of the total sample

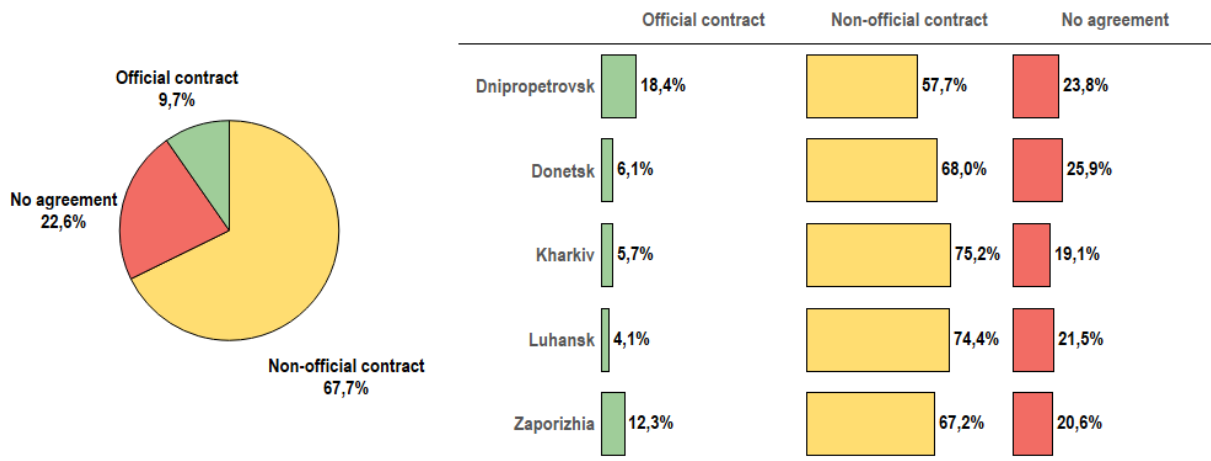
**Figure 19: Proportion of IDP households paying rent, by accommodation type<sup>24</sup>**



*Rent*

Of the 61.7% of IDP households reporting to pay a monthly rent, 22.6% reported that they did not possess a lease or rent agreement with their landlord, while 67.7% reported to have some sort of binding agreement with their landlord but do not have any official rental contract. Only 9.7% of IDPs currently renting their accommodation have an official rental contract. In terms of official versus non-official rental agreement, the situation varies from oblast to oblast: in Dnipropetrovsk almost one quarter of the rental contracts were reportedly official (24.2%), by far the highest figure reported across all oblasts. Conversely, only 4.1% in Luhansk and 5.7% in Kharkiv had an official registered contract with their landlord.

**Figure 20: Type of rental agreement by Oblast**



62% of IDPs reported to pay up to 1000 Ukrainian Hryvnia (UAH) for rent on a monthly basis<sup>25</sup>. Of these 62%, 15.3% reported a monthly rent expenditure between 250 and 500 UAH and 16% reported spending less than or equal to 250 UAH. In addition 28.2% of IDPs households reported monthly rent costs between 1001 and 2000 UAH. Based on the information available, **the overall majority of IDPs, more than 90%, are currently spending less than 2000 UAH per month on rent.** Amounts paid aside, the fact that the majority of displaced households are relying on out-of-pocket expenses to sustain themselves in shelter becomes even more significant once the scale of unemployment is taken into account.

<sup>24</sup> This graph refers to rent only, not payment for utilities.

<sup>25</sup> At the time of assessment, 1000 UAH was worth approximately 46 USD.



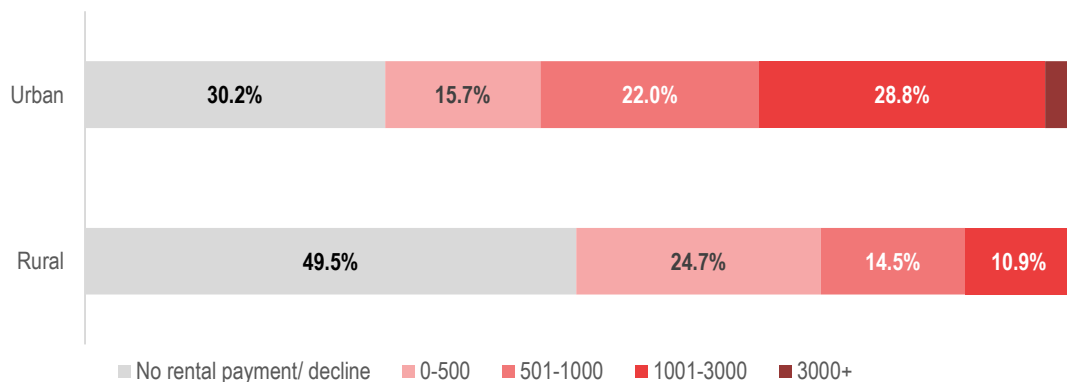
When disaggregated by oblast, the situation seems to vary based on geographical location. In Luhansk, 86.1% of IDPs spend less than 1000 UAH per month on rent. On the other hand, in Dnipropetrovsk 20.9% are paying between 2001 and 3000 UAH. In rural areas IDP households reported to pay less on a monthly basis for their rental costs, a trend which is to be expected. Based on available data, 48.8% of IDPs in rural areas pay up to 500 UAH per month and 28.8% between 501 and 1000 UAH per month. Only 19.7% pay between 1001 and 2000 UAH per month for their rent. In urban centres, only 22.5% of IDPs pay up to 500 UAH per month while 31.6% and 32.4% pay respectively between 501 and 1000 UAH per month and between 1001 and 2000 UAH per month, which is in line with expected higher outlays in urban areas in general.

**Figure 21: Monthly rent costs by Oblast**

	Dnipropetrovsk	Donetsk	Kharkiv	Luhansk	Zaporizhia
up to 250	9,7%	19,1%	14,7%	12,6%	13,3%
up to 500	16,4%	11,9%	8,9%	36,3%	15,8%
up to 1000	18,6%	32,5%	28,3%	37,3%	27,9%
up to 2000	26,9%	32,2%	26,7%	13,0%	32,1%
up to 3000	20,9%	3,3%	11,5%	0,9%	7,9%
up to 4000	4,5%	0,6%	8,6%	0,0%	3,0%
up to 5000	2,2%	0,0%	1,3%	0,0%	0,0%
up to 7500	0,0%	0,3%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
up to 15000	0,7%	0,1%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%

The geographical variation noted in Figure 21 is also related to an uneven rural/urban split, with large cities in Dnipropetrovsk and Kharkiv likely to have had an effect on the higher average rental costs in these oblasts. IDPs living in rural areas were much less likely to report not paying rent, with the largest proportion of those who do pay rent (24.7% of rural IDPs) reporting to pay less than 500 UAH. In contrast, two thirds of urban households reported paying rent, with the largest proportion of those who did pay rent (28.8% urban IDPs) paying up to 3000 UAH.

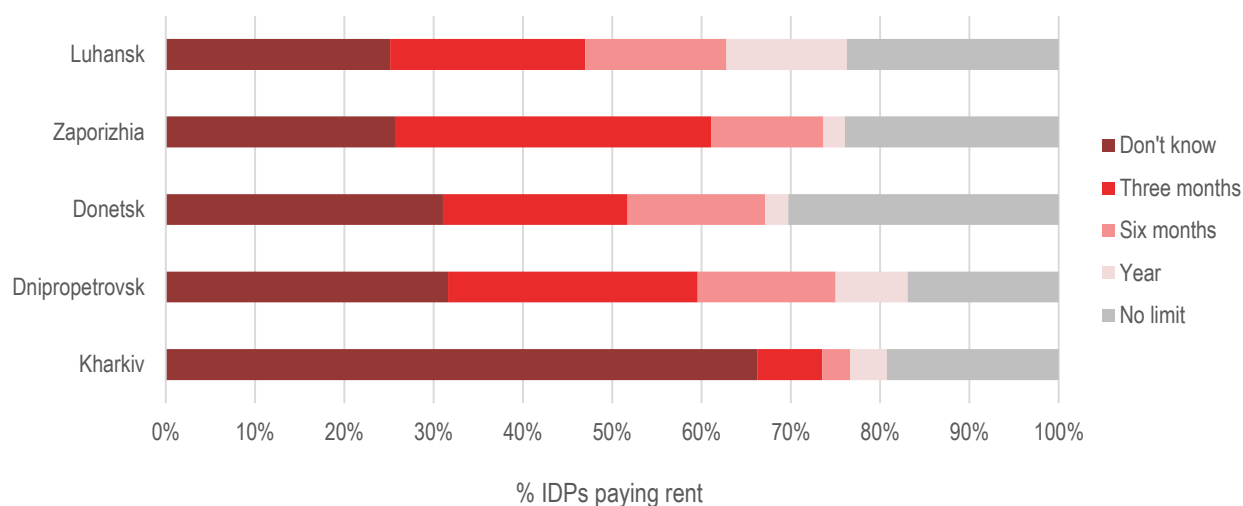
**Figure 22: Reported monthly rental cost for IDPs (UAH), by rural and urban area**



When asked about the affordability of their current rent, 36.5% of IDPs paying rent reported that they did not know until when they could afford such costs. 25.5% reported that they could probably afford their current rent for longer than a year and 4.7% reported they could do so for about a year. However 12.6% of IDPs reported to be able to afford to pay their current rent for only six months, and 20.3% for less than 3 months. When compared by oblast, significant differences can be observed between reported ability to afford rental payments over the coming months. IDPs in

Kharkiv appeared to be the most uncertain, with over 65% reporting not to know for how long they could afford rental payments, as shown in Figure 23, below.

**Figure 23: Reported rent affordability by oblast**



When comparing reported affordability to monthly costs, 77.7% of households who report to pay less than 1000 UAH per month were confident that they would continue to afford this for longer than a year. Conversely, among households reporting monthly rents between 1001 and 2000 UAH, more than 60% reported it would only be affordable for six months or less.

*Perceived eviction risk*

61.7% of IDP households did not perceive themselves as being under any threat of eviction. This means that while hosting arrangements for the majority remain stable, 18% of IDPs face a high possibility of eviction from their current accommodation, with 12.2% reporting that they would certainly be evicted in the future. Differences across oblasts are striking, with an exceptionally high figure recorded in Zaporizhia, where one in three IDPs reported they were certain of being evicted. In contrast, in Luhansk and Kharkiv—oblasts that also host much higher numbers of displaced families—IDPs appear to have much more stable shelter arrangements. This suggests that a high risk of eviction is faced by relatively few IDP households overall.

**Figure 24: Households reporting being at risk of eviction, by oblast**

	Total	Dnipropetrovsk	Donetsk	Kharkiv	Luhansk	Zaporizhia
<b>Certainly not</b>	26,0%	28,8%	25,1%	24,8%	32,6%	18,2%
<b>Likely not</b>	35,7%	33,0%	31,7%	44,5%	43,7%	27,9%
<b>Possibly</b>	20,4%	20,3%	22,7%	21,1%	14,6%	17,8%
<b>Likely</b>	5,8%	6,6%	7,6%	3,1%	3,5%	4,9%
<b>Certainly</b>	12,2%	11,3%	13,0%	6,6%	5,5%	31,2%

Risk of eviction also appears to vary between urban and rural location, with 70.4% of rural IDPs perceiving themselves to be under no threat of eviction, compared to only 55.5% of urban IDPs.

When compared by accommodation type, the largest proportion of IDP households reporting that they would “certainly” be evicted, was living in rented accommodation (56.2%). Of these IDPs, the majority were paying between 500-5000 UAH. Of the 26.0% of IDPs reporting they would “certainly not” be evicted, the largest proportion (44.1%) was living in hosted accommodation, the majority paying nothing for their accommodation. Of those paying rent, three quarters (74.7%) were paying less than 1000 UAH.

### *Overview of shelter conditions*

Based on many of the shelter indicators above, a shelter adequacy index was created to identify which households were likely to be living in the most vulnerable shelter situations. This index takes into account many of the factors included in the Shelter Cluster’s targeting criteria, and ranks households with a score of 0=better to 10=worse.<sup>26</sup>

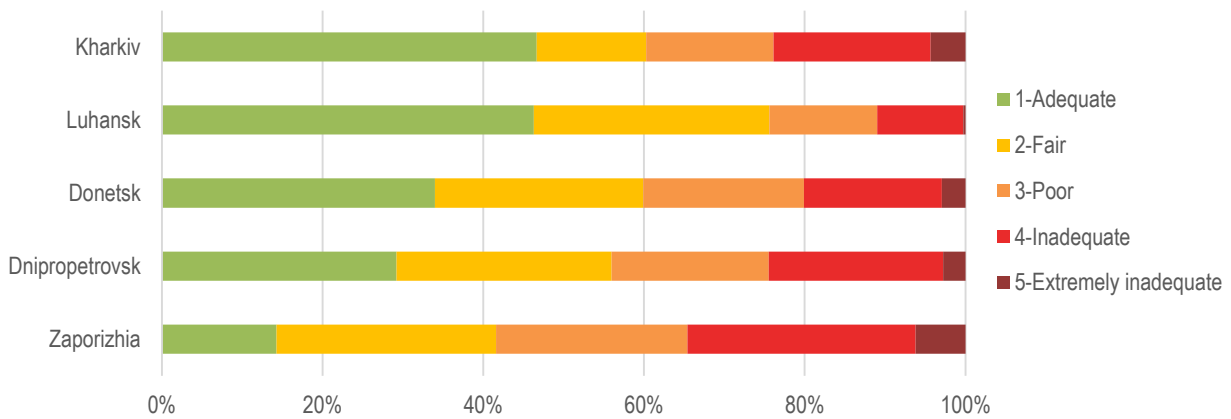
Once scored, shelters were divided into several categories as follows:

Shelter Condition	Score	Description
<b>Adequate</b>	0-1	Nearly all shelter adequacy indicators are met. Shelter is likely to be in adequate condition.
<b>Fair</b>	1-2	Most shelter adequacy indicators are met, minimal assistance required to meet minimum standards.
<b>Poor</b>	2-3	Some shelter adequacy indicators are not met, assistance required to meet minimum standards.
<b>Inadequate</b>	3-4	Many shelter adequacy indicators are not met. Urgent assistance required to meet minimum standards.
<b>Extremely Inadequate</b>	4-10	Shelter fails many key adequacy indicators and is likely to put inhabitants at risk. Urgent assistance required.

Using this score, it is possible to compare shelter condition between rural and urban areas, by shelter type and also by oblast, where several differences can be observed between the shelter conditions of households in these situations.

By these criteria, which seek to identify the most vulnerable IDP households, the majority of assessed IDPs live in accommodation scoring either adequate (34.1%) or fair (24.6%). Similar proportions fall into the poor (18.5%) and inadequate (19.5%) categories. Considerable variation was observed across the assessed oblasts, with over 60% of households in Kharkiv, Luhansk and Donetsk scoring adequate or fair, compared to only 41.6% of households in Zaporizhia.

<sup>26</sup> The shelter condition score takes the following indicators into account: occupancy ratio; access to running water, hot water, waterproofing, insulation; and whether HHs are sharing toilet.

**Figure 25: Shelter condition by oblast**

Differences were also observed between rural and urban areas, with 58.3% of households in rural accommodation scoring adequate or fair, compared to 62.3% in urban areas. When examined in greater detail, rural households are much less likely to report adequate access to basic utilities (piped water, heating, waterproofing, insulation etc.) but also less likely to be overcrowded.

When examined by accommodation type, IDPs in collective shelters made up a higher proportion of those living in inadequate or extremely inadequate accommodation, while IDPs who owned accommodation or were hosted, made up larger proportions of those living in adequate or fair accommodation. In contrast, fairly even proportions of renters were distributed across all shelter scores, suggesting a wide variation in shelter condition for IDPs in this accommodation type.

For those households who paid rent for their accommodation, the monthly rental costs for accommodation in adequate or fair condition were most commonly between 500-2000 UAH. Interestingly the majority accommodation scored as inadequate or very inadequate fell into the same price bracket. However, around one fifth of those in inadequate or very inadequate accommodation (22.2%) were paying a lower monthly rental cost of between 0-250 UAH. 13.5% of IDPs in accommodation scored as inadequate or very inadequate reported paying between 2000-4000 UAH each month, slightly more than the proportion of households in adequate or fair accommodation who fell into this rent bracket (9.4%).

## NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFIs)

The majority of IDP households reported either to own or to have access to basic items such as mattresses, blankets and bed sheets. As shown in figure 26, some limited discrepancies can be noted between IDP households living in urban areas and those in rural settings. For example, IDPs living in urban areas were more likely to own hygiene items, cleaning materials, kitchen utensils, a refrigerator, and cooking pots.

There appear to be very few factors that influence NFI availability at the household level. For example, there is very limited variation across oblasts, or between accommodation types. However, if we look at reported income, the findings were straightforward and anticipated. IDP households that reported monthly incomes lower than 250-500 UAH (68.9% of households) had significantly less access to NFIs when compared to households who reported incomes above 500 UAH, as shown in Figure 27. Moreover, insulation could also be used as a proxy indicator for NFI vulnerability. IDP households living in accommodation without insulation also generally report lower access to NFI items, which could make them more vulnerable than other IDP households during the winter season.

Figure 26: Reported access to Non Food Items, by urban and rural area

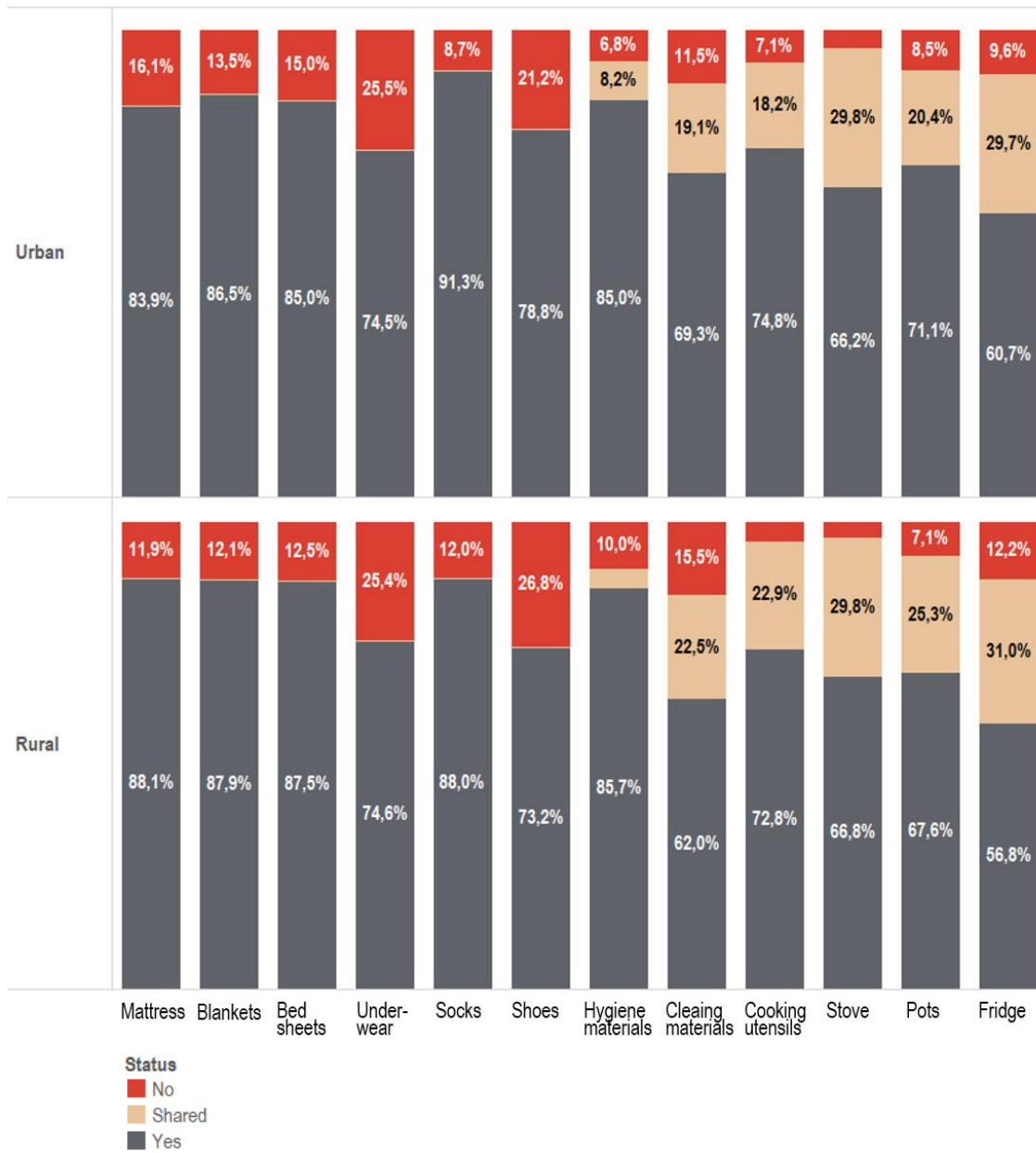
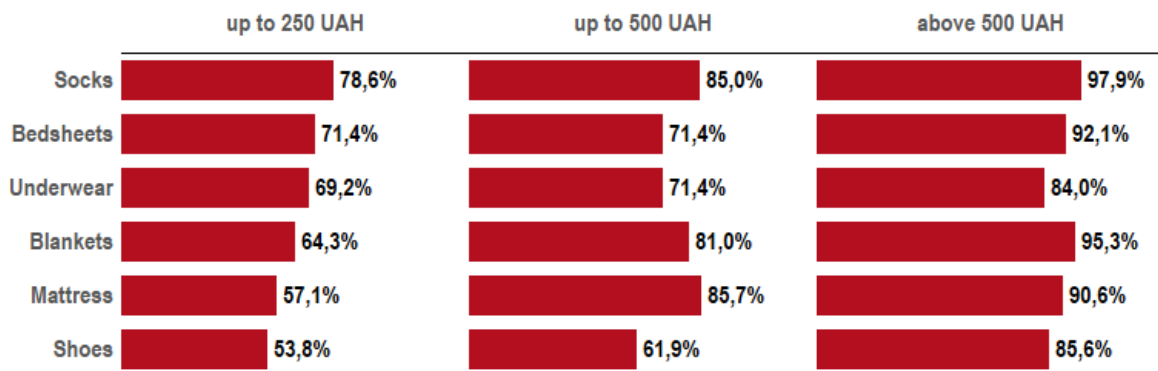


Figure 27: Reported access to Non Food Items, by reported monthly income

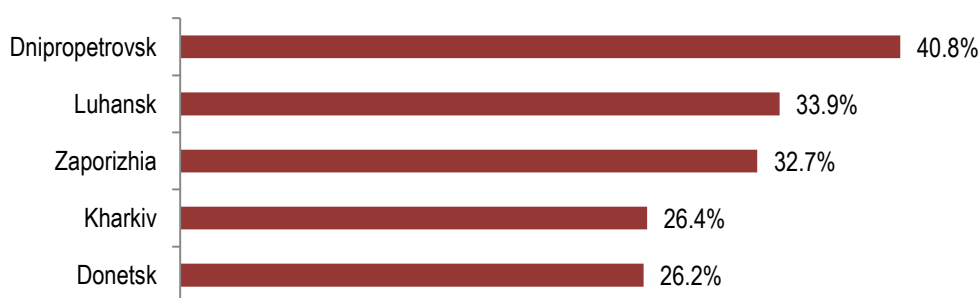


## SHELTER ASSISTANCE

Over half of assessed IDP households (56.2%) reported having received some form of shelter assistance since displacement. This figure includes 62.9% of households in urban areas, and 50% in rural areas. Of those who had received shelter support, 91.8% reported receiving cash, 22.9% vouchers, 13.7% free housing, 4.7% discounts, and 2.7% household items. Negligible proportions of IDPs reported having received either work or supplies. Of the 51.2% of all assessed IDPs who received cash, 93.1% lived in urban areas, and 89.6% in rural areas.

When asked whether they would prefer to upgrade their current shelter or to move to a new location, 41.8% of IDPs reported that they preferred to move, 27.5% to improve, and 29.3% neither. Responses were found to differ by oblast, with the majority of assessed households in Luhansk preferring to improve (45%), compared to only around a quarter of households in other oblasts. Moving was the most popular option in all other oblasts, with particularly high proportions of IDPs in Zaporizhia preferring to move (58.3%), 54% in Dnipropetrovsk, with smaller proportions in the remaining oblasts. Rural households were much more likely to report wishing to move or improve compared to urban households.

**Figure 28: Assessed households wanting to carry out shelter improvements themselves**



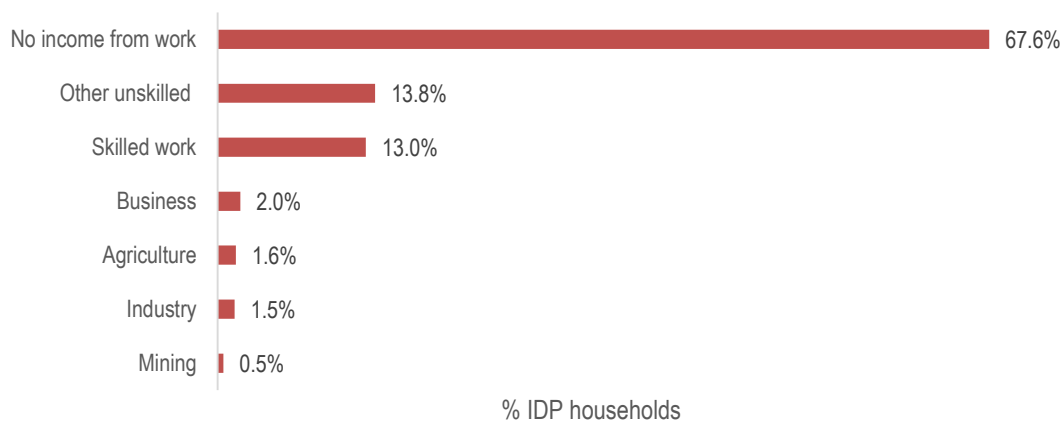
## ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY

67.6% of IDP households reported no income from work activities during the 30 days prior to the survey. Given that shelter and essential NFIs are largely sourced from private funds, this is perhaps one of the most significant findings of the assessment. While the finding that the majority of IDPs had limited or no access to livelihood opportunities is consistent with other sources and assessments, it is worth mentioning that some respondents may have underreported household income.<sup>27</sup> Moreover, this figure includes IDP households receiving a pension and/or other types of assistance and benefits. Taking into consideration the above limitations, there were significant variations across oblasts: in Luhansk and Dnipropetrovsk respectively 58.1% and 61.6% of IDPs reported no income, while these figures increase to 71.7% and 77.4% in Donetsk and Zaporizhia. In rural areas 69.5% of IDPs reported no income, while in urban centres 66.2% reported the same situation.

Amongst the 32.4% of those who did report income from work activities, most of these were employed as skilled labour and unskilled labour, with very few from other sectors such as agriculture, industry, mining, and formal business/trade sector (see Figure 29).

<sup>27</sup> Sources include: WFP Ukraine, [Food Security Assessment](#) (January 2015); Ukraine NGO Forum, [Ukraine Multi-Sector Needs Assessment](#), (March 2015).



**Figure 29: Households reporting income from work activities**

As stated previously, only 31.4% of surveyed households provided an estimation of their monthly income in UAH. Amongst those who did, 30.9% reported to earn between 1001 and 2000 UAH, 24.9% between 2001 and 3000 UAH and 15.9% between 3001 and 4000 UAH. However 16.1% of IDPs reported an average monthly income lower than 1000 UAH per month.

**Figure 30: Reported monthly income, by oblast**

	Dnipropetrovsk	Donetsk	Kharkiv	Luhansk	Zaporizhia
up to 1000 UAH	18,1%	16,7%	14,8%	11,4%	28,5%
1001 - 2000 UAH	30,6%	23,5%	38,9%	38,0%	30,3%
2001 - 3000 UAH	19,5%	28,6%	13,0%	32,1%	19,6%
3001 - 4000 UAH	15,3%	15,6%	23,5%	9,8%	16,1%
above 4000 UAH	16,7%	15,6%	9,9%	8,7%	5,4%

Zaporizhia oblast is currently hosting a higher proportion of IDPs reporting a monthly income of less than 1000 UAH (28.5%), a higher figure than other oblasts. In contrast, Dnipropetrovsk and Donetsk, historically urban and industrial centres in Ukraine, have more IDPs reporting to earn more than 4000 UAH per month, 16.7% in Donetsk and 15.6% in Dnipropetrovsk. In rural areas, IDPs are more likely to report a monthly income below 1000 UAH or between 1001 and 2000 UAH, respectively 17% and 34.9% of respondents. In urban areas, IDPs tend to report higher monthly income, with only 15.5% of IDPs in urban settings reporting to earn less than 1000 UAH, and only 28.5% between 1001 and 2000 UAH. This is largely in line with global trends and is influenced by higher costs of living in urban centres. Moreover, 23.1% of respondents in urban centres declared a monthly income between 2001 and 3000 UAH, 17.5% between 3001 and 4000 UAH and 15.3% above 4000 UAH per month (this compared to only 7.7% in rural locations).

While relatively few households reported income from employment, 73.4% of households reported receiving social benefits. Higher proportions of households in Zaporizhia (78.2%) and Donetsk (76.9%) reported receiving benefits, compared to smaller proportions in the other assessed oblasts. The vast majority of those receiving social benefits were also registered with MoSP (88.3%), suggesting a relationship between registration and the receipt of benefits.

Indeed, the oblasts with the highest rates of IDP registration, Zaporizhia and Donetsk, are also those with the highest proportion of households receiving social benefits.

Since October 2014, Resolution 505 has existed to provide “monthly targeted financial support to internally displaced persons” and assist them in with rent and utility payments and to provide some compensation to make up for loss of livelihoods.<sup>28</sup> Half of all households (49.9%) reported receiving benefits under Resolution 505, with slightly higher proportions of IDPs in urban areas reporting to receive this (52%) than in rural areas (47.1%). Significant variation was found between the proportion of IDPs receiving this benefit, with the lowest proportions found in Zaporizhia (30.6%) and the highest in Dnipropetrovsk (57.8%). As with social benefits, the vast majority of households accessing support under Resolution 505 were registered with the MoSP.

### *Coping strategies*

IDP households employed a number of coping strategies to meet their basic needs, most commonly spending savings (45.7%) or borrowing (31.5%). Around one quarter relied on gifts (25.8%) while smaller proportions turned to charity, or were compelled to sell assets to generate an income and service basic needs. Some variation can be seen between oblasts, with IDP households in Zaporizhia more likely to be spending savings than in any other oblast, while households in Donetsk were much more likely to have received support from charity. The high proportions of IDPs reporting spending savings and borrowing is of particular concern, since these coping strategies are unsustainable in the longer term and cause finite resources to be rapidly depleted. More than that though, the continued reliance on out-of-pocket expenditure to service the costs of shelter, NFIs, food and other basic needs with such high unemployment rates will undoubtedly lead to higher rates of reliance on more severe and less reversible coping behaviours in the medium-to-long term.

**Figure 31: Reported use of coping strategies, by oblast<sup>29</sup>**

	Spending savings	Borrowing	Gifts	Charity	Selling assets
Dnipropetrovsk	43.6%	35.5%	28.4%	14.2%	11.8%
Donetsk	44.5%	32.1%	24.7%	31.5%	11.0%
Kharkiv	48.3%	29.8%	28.2%	6.3%	8.5%
Luhansk	44.0%	24.8%	29.1%	12.4%	8.4%
Zaporizhia	52.0%	39.9%	19.4%	9.7%	9.7%
Total	45.7%	31.5%	25.8%	20.4%	10.1%

Some variation was also observed between the coping strategies employed in urban and rural areas, with IDPs in urban areas more likely to spend savings and sell assets than households in rural areas. In contrast, rural IDPs were more likely to report borrowing or relying on gifts. The higher reliance by urban IDPs on monetary coping strategies rather than in-kind assistance, may be related to the higher cost of living, particularly rent, which was both more commonly paid and more expensive in urban areas.

<sup>28</sup> [Cabinet Ministers of Ukraine Resolution # 505](#), October 2014. Translated by UNHCR.

<sup>29</sup> Respondents could provide multiple answers to this question

**Figure 32: Coping strategies employed by urban and rural IDPs<sup>30</sup>**

	Spending savings	Borrowing	Gifts	Charity	Selling assets
Rural	39.9%	32.4%	28.80%	13.90%	8.90%
Urban	49.8%	30.80%	23.70%	25.00%	11.00%

When disaggregated by sex of household head, small differences were observed between the coping strategies reported by male and female headed households. Female headed households were more likely to report turning to charity (21.4%) than their male counterparts (18.8%), while male headed households were more likely to report selling assets (11.5%) compared to female headed households (9.2%). Approximately one quarter of both male and female headed households reported relying on gifts.

## CONCLUSION

This assessment sought to provide representative quantitative information about the Shelter and NFI needs of internally displaced households in five oblasts across eastern Ukraine. Following over 18 months of ongoing conflict, frequent shocks, and a harsh winter, the findings of this assessment point to a situation in which IDPs are becoming increasingly vulnerable, with many living in sub-standard conditions.

The displaced population is predominantly female, with many adult males having stayed behind to look after property and assets in their area of origin. As a result, many displaced households are separated from immediate family members, although a significant proportion of households reported temporary returns to their area of origin, suggesting a regular flow of information and people in both directions.

Wide variation was observed between the composition and vulnerability the displaced population in each of the assessed oblasts, with particular variations in family size. Despite this, high dependency ratios were observed in all assessed areas, and households reported similar pull factors to their current location: predominantly security, followed by the presence of family and friends.

IDP households were found to live in a variety of shelter types, including both rented and owned accommodation, hosted arrangements with family or friends, and collective shelter. Displaced households used networks of family and friends to find accommodation, often lived rent free in hosted situations, and commonly shared accommodation with others, pooling space and resources to save money.

Significant differences were observed between urban and rural areas, with households living in urban areas more likely to earn higher incomes and enjoy better access to services. IDPs in rural or remote areas are likely to be less visible than their counterparts in urban settings, which may explain why these households were found to be less likely to have received assistance than their urban counterparts. Rural IDP households were also less likely to report access to hot water and sanitation facilities, and large proportions also lacked insulation and waterproofing of their shelters. IDPs in rural areas were also less likely to have access to a heater, and to have fewer non-food items, although also pay lower rents. These households may be considered a particularly vulnerable group whose needs should be considered carefully during preparations for winter, according to the criteria set out in this report.

Given that private funds were the main sources used to pay for and rent and non-food items, and over two thirds of households reported earning no income from work in the month prior to assessment, the depletion of personal funds and lack of livelihood opportunities is likely to become an increasing issue in the coming months. While households

<sup>30</sup> Respondents could provide multiple answers to this question

across all assessed oblasts enjoyed similar access to NFIs, some variation was seen between richer and poorer families, whose comparative lack of resources appeared to affect their ability to access basic items.

While social benefits and payments under resolution 505 appear to be an important source of income for many IDP households, receipt of such assistance appears to be closely related to registration with MoSP. This leaves unregistered households, who are already less visible to government and humanitarian actors, among the more vulnerable. Efforts raise awareness and facilitate the registration of these families is likely to increase their access to social benefits. However, households who have chosen to remain unregistered are likely to have done so for a variety of reasons, and may not feel that it is safe to do so.

As the humanitarian response makes the transition from the emergency phase to a mid-term more protracted approach, it is vital that the approach and modality of assistance focus increasingly on resilience-based programming. The provision of livelihoods opportunities is therefore a key gap, presenting opportunities to collaborate with the Livelihoods and Early Recovery Clusters to identify opportunities for joint programming. The provision of livelihoods support would also help IDPs to earn an income, rather than being mainly reliant on pensions, social benefits and unsustainable coping strategies.

With a third of urban households and almost half of rural households paying no rent at all, and a very small proportion of households reporting they intend to move in the next three months, the majority of households are likely to stay in their current accommodation for the time being. However, IDPs who do pay rent face greater uncertainty about whether they can stay, particularly in urban areas. One third of all households paying rent reported having insufficient funds to afford their rent for more than six months, and an additional third of IDPs did not know how long their funds would last. With one in five IDP households reporting that they were certain to be threatened with eviction, care should be taken to ensure that households facing such immediate protection concerns receive the support they need. Other households are likely to require targeted livelihoods support to continue to afford rental payments.

Finally, a significant proportion of households reported willingness to upgrade shelters themselves, with variation between the assessed oblasts. Shelter Cluster partners should consider providing different modalities of assistance for households willing to improve shelters themselves, and for those who feel less able to do so.