

OVERVIEW - FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOOD NEEDS & RESPONSE

With continued funding shortages for humanitarian response, the conflict in eastern Ukraine continues to have a negative impact on its people.

During the first quarter of 2018, despite significant sectoral needs for both food security and early recovery livelihoods support, cluster partners have faced severe constraints. Many have had to put their plans on hold either due to lack of funding - especially local organizations, or continued restrictions caused by the lack of access to people in need - mainly in Non-Government Controlled Areas (NGCA).

FOOD SECURITY & SOCIO-ECONOMIC TREND ANALYSIS:

The cluster's analysis of Food Security & Socio-Economic trends (March 2018) highlights the impact of four years of conflict in Luhanska and Donetsk oblasts.

The analysis observed continued food insecurity trends in both GCA and NGCA and a clear correlation between food insecurity, vulnerability and socio-economic trends. Below are some of the main trends observed ([full report is here: http://fscluster.org/ukraine](http://fscluster.org/ukraine)):

- In GCA, food insecurity increased from 15% in June 2017 to 18.7% in February 2018, due to winter severe conditions
- In GCA, the pension reform (October 2017) was observed to have had a slight positive impact on the food insecurity levels of pensioners with a decrease from 21% in June 2017 to 18% in February 2018
- In NGCA, food insecurity improved from 26% in June 2017 to 17.4% in NGCA likely due to seasonal impact on food prices
- New key vulnerability group: 37% of households headed by someone who is unemployed and aged 40-60 are food insecure.
- Vast increases has been observed in both consumer (utilities) and food prices
- Real Cash Income continued to decrease in 2016
- Through 2013-2016 household expenditure was growing faster than total income (mainly due to increase of food and utilities expenditure). In 2016 the difference between income and expenditure decreased to 7% in Donetsk and 20% in Luhanska oblast
- The trend of growing poverty levels stabilised in 2016 but the depth of the poverty slightly increased impacting especially vulnerable people
- Unemployment continued to grow from 2015-2017 (15% in Donetsk and 17,4% Luhanska)

CHALLENGES:

FUNDING: Limited funding continues to limit the ability of cluster partners to respond to needs whilst others have to adjust plans according to the geographical preference and focus of donors.

LACK OF ACCESS: A lack of access continue to prevent cluster partners from ensuring that vulnerable groups are targeted and reached with assistance.

KEY FACTS & FIGURES

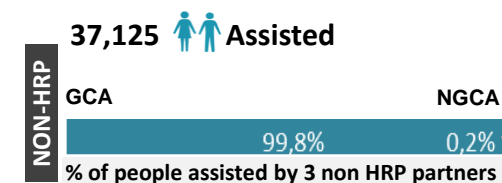
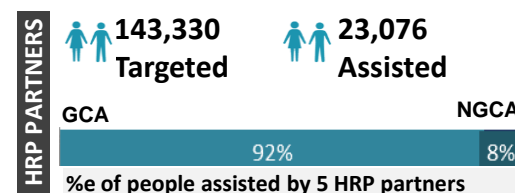
1.6M People in need of some type of food security or livelihoods support.

0.3M People targeted by HRP partners

OBJECTIVE 1

Ensure immediate access to food for the most vulnerable groups affected by the conflict:

Prioritised Needs: Of 1.2 million food insecure people, up to **408,000 people** are in serious need



OBJECTIVE 2

Help affected people with food security/livelihood assistance & support food production (agricultural inputs):

Prioritised Needs: 93,000 rural households in the East along the 'contact line'



35,253 Targeted
10,586 Assisted

PARTNERS

4 FSLC meetings in the field and Kyiv in Q1 of 2018

31 Organisations / Ministries (and departments) participating in FSLC meetings in Q1 of 2018

OBJECTIVE 3

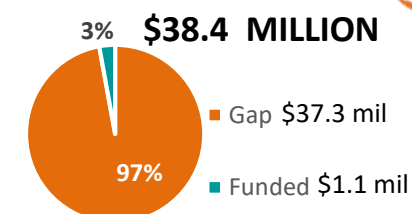
Employment and income generation of the conflict affected populations:

Prioritised Needs: 363,000 unemployed in Luhanska & Donetsk aged 25 to 69 plus 44,000 IDPs in rest of Ukraine



46,600 Targeted
2,216 Assisted

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

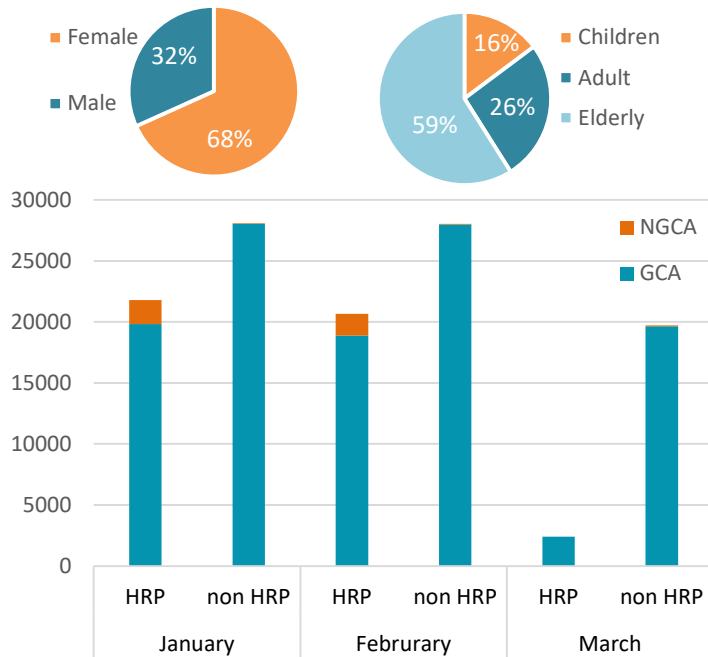




CLUSTER RESPONSE: JANUARY – MARCH 2018

FSLC OBJECTIVE 1

Monthly Food/Cash Based Transfer Distribution (beneficiaries assisted)



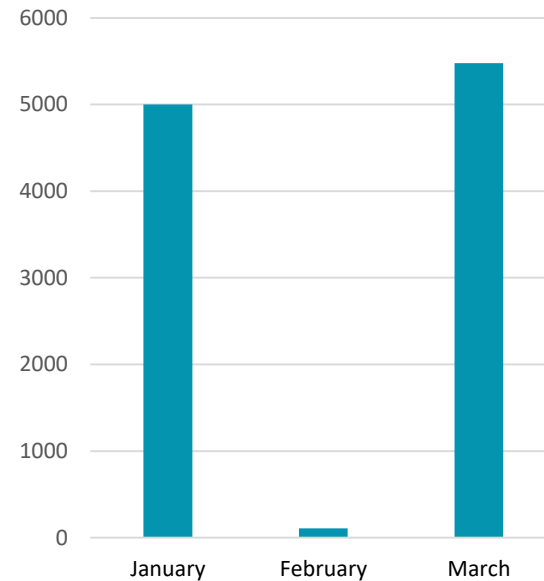
Eight cluster partners (five HRP and three non HRP) has provided assistance under objective 1 – this has included food both regular assistance but also one-off in kind food parcels.

Between January and March 2018, food assistance was provided by 8 partners to food insecure people with 58,169 beneficiaries in GCA and 2,032 in NGCA. A sharp reduction can be seen after February.

The assistance was provided through in-kind food parcels to around 30,873 people whereas 29,328 were assisted through cash based.

FSLC OBJECTIVE 2

Agricultural Activities (Households assisted)



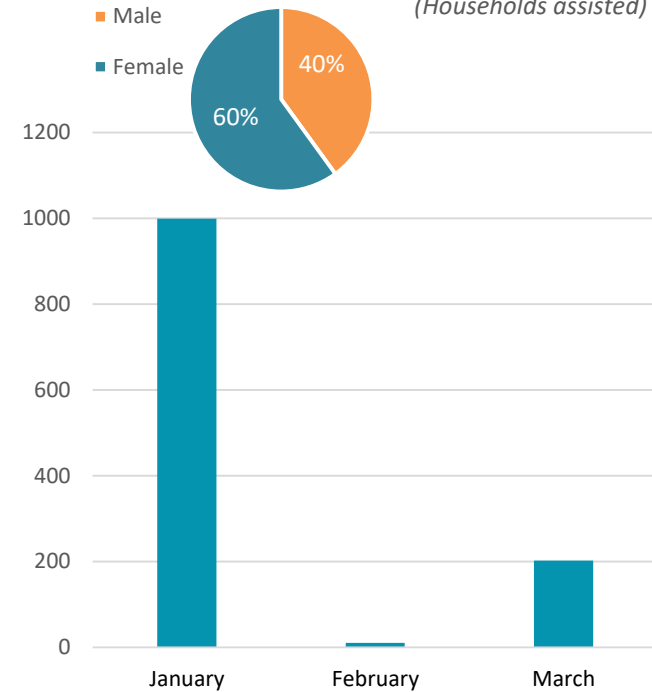
During the first three months of 2018, around 10,586 households in GCA were assisted with agricultural inputs to support food production for sustainable results by five partners (three HRP and two non-HRP).

More than 5,345 HHs received seeds and seedlings whilst 5,000 households received fodder – and at least 100 households received assistance in the form of agricultural grants, by two partners (one HRP and one non-HRP).

In addition, 90 households received vocational trainings whereas around 50 households were assisted with basic agricultural tools.

FSLC OBJECTIVE 3

Livelihoods / Income Generation Activities (Households assisted)



Nearly 2,216 IDP and host population households (around 44% of these are within Donbas) were supported with livelihood income generating activities, including livelihood grants and different kinds of training by seven partners (five HRP partners and two non-HRP partners).

Of these, around 1,241 IDP households and host population received trainings and livelihoods grants outside of Donbas.