

OVERVIEW

Needs have grown deeper across the food security and livelihoods sector. Food insecurity is now affecting up to 1.2 million in Donbas with especially the most vulnerable struggling to meet their daily nutritional needs. Unemployment has doubled between 2013 and 2017, which significantly affects people's income, their ability to cover basic needs and for some, leads to labour migration as a last resort. Without adequate food, agriculture and / or livelihood support, vulnerable people, many already at breaking point after four years of conflict, will be forced to apply even further negative coping strategies and make stark choices for survival.

FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOOD NEEDS:

With limited funding and a shrinking humanitarian space for cluster partners to respond, the conflict in eastern Ukraine continues to have a devastating impact on its people. The socioeconomic situation has worsened significantly and food insecurity levels have doubled in Eastern Ukraine since 2016 according to the Joint Food Security Assessment (FSLC, September 2017: <http://fscluster.org/ukraine>). In addition, food Consumption and diet diversity have deteriorated especially for elderly people (60+). Expenditure on food has reduced overall but mainly to reflect the increased cost of utilities, which in turn has negatively impacted the food consumption of some vulnerable groups. In NGCA, the percentage of people applying negative coping strategies was found to be as high as 87% (up from 40% in 2016), and in GCA this still affects over half of the population.

URGENT NEEDS:

Significant sectoral needs for both food security and early recovery livelihoods support remain but cluster partners are facing severe constraints, which limit their response. They are increasingly forced to reduce planned targets and activities to reflect restrictions caused by the lack of access to people in need (mainly in NGCA), the lack of funding leading to restricted response capacity as well as the geographical preference and focus of donors.

Nevertheless, FSLC estimates that more than 400,000 of the 1.2 million food insecure people, are in urgent need of food assistance – mainly households headed by women with children, elderly persons living alone and chronically ill or disabled people.

In addition, 93,000 households in rural areas in GCA and NGCA, especially on the 'contact line', are found to be in need of agricultural support to reduce food insecurity through the production of food items.

With the sharp increase of poverty and unemployment, the cluster estimates that more than 360,000 unemployed people in Donbas in addition to 40,000 IDPs outside Donbas are unable to cover their essential basic needs and are in need of livelihoods support.

CHALLENGES:

FUNDING: Severe funding restrictions is limiting the ability of cluster partners to respond sufficiently to needs whilst others have to adjust plans according to the geographical preference and focus of donors.

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

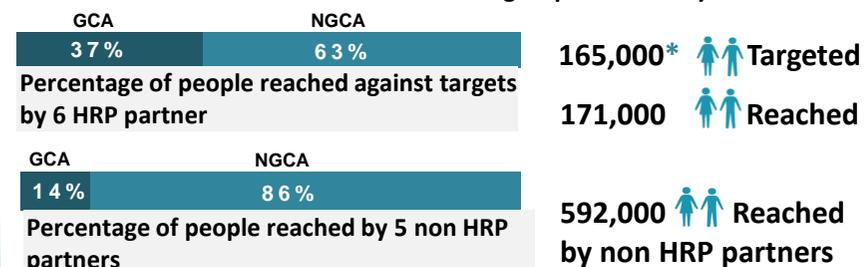
KEY FACTS & FIGURES

600,000 People in Need of food security interventions

500,000 People in Need of livelihood assistance

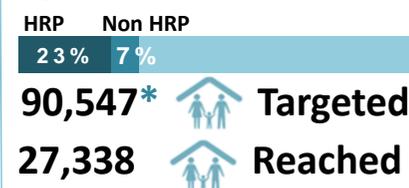
OBJECTIVE 1

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



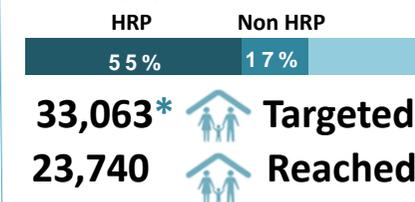
OBJECTIVE 2

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



OBJECTIVE 3

Employment and income generation of the conflict affected populations:



* FSLC targets were revised in the 2017 Mid Year Review

PARTNERS

24

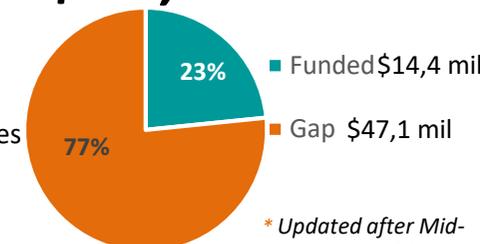
FSLC meetings in the field and Kyiv in the first 9 months of 2017

55

Organisations / Ministries (and departments) participating in FSLC meetings in 2017

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

\$61,5* MILLION



* Updated after Mid-Year Review, 2017

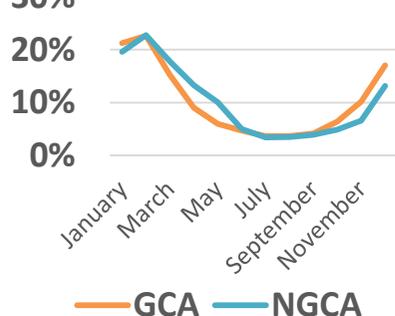
SEASONAL REQUIREMENTS DURING WINTER

Seasonality has a strong impact on prices, coping strategies, food security and food requirements.

During winter, the daily kcal requirement increases as the temperature drops (for every 5 degree drop in temperature below 20° Celsius, needs increase by 100 kcal). It is also during the winter months that the prices of food traditionally reach their highest levels in both GCA and NGCA, whilst the cost of utilities (including for heating from November-April) peak.

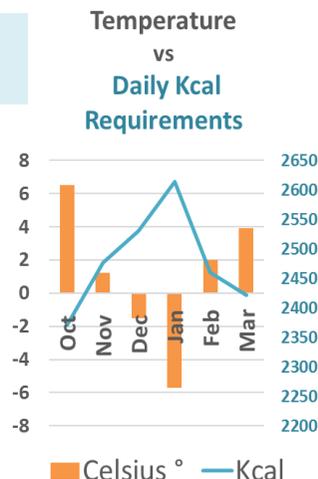
At the same time, there is a clear trend of significantly higher unmet food needs during winter with as many as 23% of HHs in both GCA and NGCA reporting that they did not have enough food to meet their basic food requirements in the height of winter (in the month of February).

Insufficient Food to cover Household Needs



Clear trend of higher unmet food needs during winter:
 → Needs peak in Jan/Febr: 20-23%

Agricultural needs in Winter: During winter especially, vulnerable households near the contact line rely on backyard livestock for protein and other critical food nutrients (e.g. milk, eggs and meat). However, these households do not have sufficient animal feed due to limited access to agricultural fields and pasturelands contaminated by UXOs. During the cold months, there is an urgent need to ensure sufficient feed for livestock to ensure they survive the winter.



During this time, vulnerable groups especially are likely to have depleted their food reserves and will face significant shortage of the nutritious food products during winter without additional food support. With a lack of income, limited access to the heating energy sources, insufficient self-production and the consequent lack of food supplies, children and the elderly will be at high risks of falling deeper into food insecurity.

See the **Cluster Guidance Note on Winterisation:**

<http://fscluster.org/ukraine/document/fscl-winterisation-guidance-note-2017>

CLUSTER RESPONSE: JANUARY – SEPTEMBER 2017

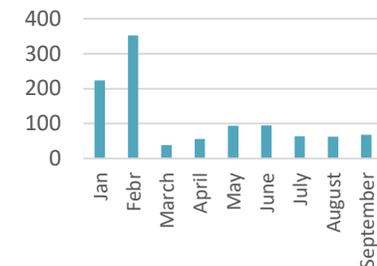
FSLC OBJECTIVE 1

The provision of food assistance by 13 FSLC partners (6 HRP and 7 non HRP) has included both regular assistance but also one-off in kind food parcels and in some cases applying different targeting criteria. This means that high cluster beneficiary numbers not automatically reflect that needs are adequately covered.

Between January and September 2017, food assistance was provided by 13 partners to 763,000 food insecure people with 145,000 beneficiaries in GCA and 618,000 in NGCA. A sharp reduction can be seen after February.

The assistance was provided through food parcels to 734,000 and through Cash based transfers to 29,000 beneficiaries.

Monthly Food/Cash Based Transfer Distribution
 (thousands ben. reached)



FSLC OBJECTIVE 2

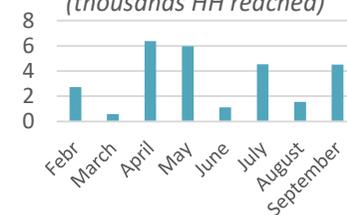
During the first nine months of 2017, around 27,350 households (HHs) in GCA were assisted with agricultural inputs to support food production for sustainable results by 6 partners (4 HRP and 2 non-HRP).

More than 10,900 HHs received seeds and seedlings whilst 5,600 HHs received fodder and 3,000 HHs received assistance with poultry (mainly chickens).

In addition, 5,190 received vouchers for agricultural inputs whereas 2,080 received food for assets, by 6 partners (4 HRP and 2 non-HRP).

In addition, more than 230 HHs received agricultural grants.

Agricultural activities
 (thousands HH reached)



FSLC OBJECTIVE 3

Nearly 23,740 IDP and host population HHs (around 75% of these are within Donbas) were supported with livelihood income generating activities, including livelihood grants and different kinds of training by 11 partners (7 HRP partners and 4 non-HRP partners).

Of these, around 7,140 IDP HHs and host population received trainings and livelihoods grants outside of Donbas.

Livelihoods / Income Generation Activities
 (thousands HH reached)

