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Food Security & Livelihoods Assessment in Eastern Ukraine, NGCA

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FAO, 2021

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Introduction

I. Context

East Ukraine is in its eighth year¹ of armed conflict, plunging an economically troubled region into a socio-economic decline. Civilian populations of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts (collectively referred to as Donbas) continue to experience ongoing ceasefire violations along the 428 kilometers of the contact line, effectively dividing the conflict area into government-controlled areas (GCAs) and non-government-controlled areas (NGCAs). Prior to the conflict, the East Ukraine conflict area was the most densely populated and productive part of the country.² Because of the conflict, families have been forced to face daily risks to their lives, suffered limited access to food and essential basic services, lacked livelihood opportunities, and faced a deep economic crisis.

450-kilometer contact line separates government-controlled areas (GCAs) and non-government-controlled areas (NGCAs), with about 38 percent of the region outside government-controlled. According to the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2021, about 5.2 million people live in the conflict area, with 3.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance—comprising of 55 percent women—and protection and 1.4 million internally displaced persons (IDP)³. The region's economy has felt the brunt of the conflict partly because of distorted market links, government embargo on NGCA since 2017 and industrial collapse exacerbated by the effects of sporadic shelling, interrupted supply chain further entrenched the affected people into the poverty trap and chronic vulnerability.

The broken trade links, low demand for coal and government embargo on NGCA has forced mining industries to shutdown leading to mass unemployment and dependency on pension. The government of Ukraine allows humanitarian access to NGCA to cross the contact line but not trade⁴.

As a result of the conflict, area of farmlands was reduced significantly: 375K hectares were lost in Donetska NGCA and 215K hectares in Luhanska NGCA. Agricultural land in NGCA that was lost are being used now without control that deteriorates ecological conditions⁵. In addition, significant areas of farmland suffered from fighting and mine contamination and require recultivation efforts.

The COVID-19 pandemic aggravates the humanitarian needs due to closure of the designated enter-exit checkpoints (EECPs) along the contact line. Following the introduction of movement restrictions due to COVID-19 in late March 2020, the number of monthly crossings has been less than 10 per cent of the 1.2 million monthly crossings in 2019. Meanwhile, the volume of humanitarian aid delivered on UN-organised convoys to NGCA between March and October 2020 dropped by 14 per cent compared to the same period during 2019. That resulted in drop in the number of people crossing for their pension, mandatory self-quarantine reinstated by the government, and higher prices in NGCA for food and basic needs. The quarantine measures have taken a significant toll on people's well-being and livelihoods. Since 22 March 2020, an estimated 300,000 residents of NGCA have been deprived of access to their Ukrainian pensions

¹ Since February 20, 2014.

² <https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/acaps-briefing-note-ukraine-conflict-donetsk-and-luhansk-4-november-2019>.

³ <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/ukraine>.

⁴ <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Ukraine%20Humanitarian%20Needs%20Overview%2020%20%28Issued%20January%202020%29.pdf>.

⁵ https://niss.gov.ua/sites/default/files/2021-09/analytrep_11_2021.pdf.

because restricted movement hindered their access to bank accounts⁶. Farmers were unable to travel to their fields to plant essential food crops, which resulted in a spike in food prices and decreases in their income and that of the small traders who relied on their produce. Unemployment, increased food insecurity and lack of access to basic services rendered conflict affected people even more vulnerable and dependent than before on humanitarian assistance.

As a result, price increased in food was observed. According to Joint Market Monitoring led by ACTED and undertaken collaboratively by ACCESS Consortium partners (ACTED, PIN, MdM and IMPACT) jointly with NRC and Save the Children, as of February 2021, food prices in NGCA has increased since February 2020 by 30% and since August 2020 – by 16%. In NGCA food prices were about 5% higher than in GCA⁷.

The volatile context in terms of humanitarian space, security, and political situation in NGCA is a basis for serious concerns related to the security of respondents and organizations involved (or perceived by de facto authorities as to be involved) in the exercise of data collection. It is not only a matter of reliability of data, but of actual “do no harm” approach.

Furthermore, the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine is unique compared to similar protracted humanitarian target population in that the older people account for 37 percent (1.3 million people) of the 3.4 million people in need, according to the HRP, 2021. On top of this, the HRP 2021, estimates people with disabilities at 15 percent of the Donbas region compared to the national average of 6 percent across Ukraine. Percentage of people with disabilities encountered access constraints to social services, food, and health care.

The humanitarian situation in NGCA is complex by the sustained and increasingly restricted humanitarian access entitles in control of the area. Further to this, access to NGCA is restricted, and data collection is complex including humanitarian staff access.

In this context, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), as the lead agency of the Food Security & Livelihoods Cluster (FSLC),⁸ took the responsibility of conducting the present study to determine the most recent conditions in the area.

The partners of the FSLC are international and national organizations working in the country with programs to improve food security, livelihoods, and resilience, from the immediate relief of people in need to longer-term food production and food security objectives. The aim of the FSLC is to ensure an adequate coordination of food security interventions in the country, to avoid overlaps and reduce gaps, to promote the nexus between humanitarian and development interventions, and to strengthen local capacities.

II. Objective of the survey

The objectives of the proposed Food Security and Livelihood Assessment (FSLA) are as follows:

⁶ <https://ukraine.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/UN%20SEIA%20Report%202020%20%281%29.pdf> (p.37).

⁷ <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrjoiYWl4MDFiYTgtYTU2OC00OGM0LWlxMTktNGRkYzBkNDRmMDIliiwidCI6ImQyMDBlOTAzLTE5YjAtNDUyZS1iZDIxLWQxYWVwMTEzOTBkNSlsmMiOjh9.>

⁸ The Food Security & Livelihood Cluster (FSLC) has been established globally to coordinate the food security response during a humanitarian crisis, addressing issues of food availability, access, utilization, and stability. The FSC was established by the Interagency Standing Committee (IASC; <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/>) and is co-led by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and the World Food Programme (WFP) at the global level.

1. Identify the food security needs and gaps which will inform the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP),
2. Carry out evidence-based analysis for informed decisions and prioritization of the response,
3. Provide better targeting of the affected population and thus better programming.

As there exists no baseline assessments of the food security and livelihood situation in the target areas, this study will be considered as a baseline for future assessments, using the most relevant tools for food security measurement and evaluation of livelihood conditions.

Methodology

I. Survey design

The FSLA is planned to be conducted in two rounds, to cover the two main agricultural seasons (Winter and post-harvest) targeting the population of the Non-Government-Controlled Area (NGCA) of the Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts. The first round of data collection, conducted between June and July 2021, data has been collected for 920 households distributed as in Table 1 below. The sample has been designed as stratified by location, with the aim to ensure adequate representativeness of the population of interest and has been created with the objective of enhancing the data quality and minimizing the statistical errors to the maximum possible extent, considering the modalities adopted for data collection. The sample size is determined based on a maximum expected theoretical statistical error of 5.0% in the most difficult to reach areas (those in the 10km buffer zone between GCA and NGCA).

The actual sample distribution is presented in Table 1 below, while more details are provided in the appendix.

Table 1. Sample Size Distribution for the first round of data collection

Coverage	Sample size	Target population size	Theoretical statistical error (%)
Donetsk NGCA	400	2 192 554	2.7
Urban 50+	280	1 679 893	3.3
Urban 50- & Rural	120	512 661	5.0
Luhansk NGCA	400	1 189 467	2.7
Urban 50+	260	777 957	3.5
Urban 50- + Rural	140	411 510	4.5
Donetsk + Luhansk 0-10 km zone NGCA	120	530 848	5.0
Total sample size NGCA	920	3 912 869	

Urban 50 +: the populated urban centres with 50 thousand inhabitants or more

Urban 50- + Rural: the smaller urban centres (less than 50 thousand inhabitants) plus rural areas

Donetsk + Luhansk 0-10 km zone NGCA: the areas within 0 to 10 kilometre from the conflict line

Source: KIIS

II. Questionnaire

The study uses some of the most recent and advanced survey-based tools to assess the food security and livelihoods condition of the population

The **Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)**, the main tool used in this study to assess food insecurity, is a food security measurement system developed by FAO and applied worldwide since 2014.⁹ In addition to its primary use to measure the prevalence of annual food insecurity, in the context of the global SDG monitoring framework, it is also an effective tool in assessing the recent food security situation in emergency situations, by appropriate adaptation of the reference period, (see Boero et al., 2021).¹⁰

The FIES survey module is composed of a small set of questions inquiring on the occurrence of conditions that are typically associated with food insecurity. The responses provided are used to derive a quantitative

⁹ <http://www.fao.org/in-action/voices-of-the-hungry/using-fies/en/>

¹⁰ <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb5623en/>

scale of severity and to estimate the probability of being food insecure, at various levels of severity, for each interviewed individual/household. Those probabilities, in turn, are used to estimate the prevalence of food insecurity in the study population, at different levels of severity. Two classes of food security, described as “moderate” and “severe” in the context of the SDG monitoring framework and intended to be comparable cross countries and over time are used in this report.

Another set of questions used in this study to complement the food security assessment of the target population is based on the livelihood Coping Strategy Index (L-CSI)¹¹. Those who reported having experienced food insecurity, are prompted to report which livelihood adaptation strategies they used to cope with it, choosing among a set of common ones. Further, relevant information on the socio-economic conditions of the surveyed households is collected and used to contextualize the food security and livelihood assessment. Hence, the questionnaire includes sections on demographic information, main incomes sources and changes in income over the reference period in addition to the main aspects of agriculture income and production.

The full questionnaire is reproduced in the **Annex 2**.

As mentioned, the study is designed to eventually cover two main periods: Winter and post-Summer, which are considered to be, respectively, the most and least problematic ones in terms of economic stress for the population in both areas. For the assessment of the food security situation during the 2020/21 Winter season, reported here, the reference period used for the FIES questions was the month of April 2021, while other information has been collected with reference to the period between March and May 2021. A second round of data collection is planned to collect information that refer to the period from the beginning of June to the end of August.

III. Data collection method

FAO implemented the FSA with the support of a local partner, the **Kyiv International Institute of Sociology (KIIS)**¹², a leading sociologic research institution with proven capacity for data collection and analysis in Ukraine. In the recent past, KIIS has been providing survey services to various international organizations in Ukraine, including the World Bank, OSCE and various UN agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, WFP), using telephone interviews to people selected from a verified database of respondents residing in the GCA and NGCA.

With FAO support, KIIS translated, pre-tested and adapted to the local context the questionnaire provided by FAO in English. The adaptation included discussing and choosing the most appropriate phrasing of each of the questions and of the coded responses to ensure their applicability to the context of Eastern Ukraine. FAO led training sessions with KIIS’s enumerators to assure an accurate common understanding of the overall questionnaire (and of the FIES module in particular) and to agree on the most appropriate way of asking the questions during the interviews. Considering the ongoing situation with the COVID-19 pandemic and related quarantine restrictions, KIIS collected data remotely, through phone interviews. The sampling frame was based on their available phone numbers database. Respondents were selected randomly from that list, and interviews continued until the established number of interviews had been completed in each of the areas as described in Table 1.

KIIS delivered a final, cleaned, vetted, and weighted dataset in Excel format to FAO including a description of how sampling weights were computed.

¹¹ https://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/manual_guide_proced/wfp211058.pdf

¹² <https://www.kiis.com.ua/?lang=eng>

IV. Data analysis

The Food Security and Nutrition Statistics Team (FSNST) at FAO headquarters in Rome, in strict coordination with the FAO Ukraine office and members of the Food Security Cluster, has conducted the data analysis and led the writing of this report.

The various sections of the micro dataset have been analysed using customized routines written in R, assuring compliance with international standard methods of analysis for this type of data.

When relevant, appropriate post-stratification weights have been used in the analysis. These were computed to compensate for the difference in the sex and age composition in the realized sample and in the population and to limit the possibility of bias induced by the sample selection procedure and possibly by self-selection linked to refusals and non-response.

V. Study limitations

The context of the study, which has been conducted in the middle of the on-going COVID-19 pandemic and which targets areas and populations located in a conflict zone, has determined conditions that required some adaptations and that deserves attention as possible limitations.

First, face-to-face interviews (which would have been the preferred mode of data collection for these type of studies) were not an option, as the target populations are located in conflict areas with limited access, but also because of the restrictions to movements imposed as measures to contain the spread of COVID19. This forced the use of phone interviews, whose main limitation is the target population will not include people who do not have access to a phone. In the context of Eastern Ukraine, we expect phone coverage to be rather complete, and the database of phone numbers used by KIIS to be sufficiently representative of the general population in the areas to exclude large coverage bias. Nevertheless, to the extent that there exist people in the target population who have no access to phone and that those people are more likely found among the food insecure, **results in this study may be somewhat underestimating the actual extent of food insecurity.**

A second limitation is that the beginning of data collection was delayed compared to the initial plan, imposing further adaptations to the originally designed questionnaire in terms of the reference period to be used. Rather than to the “last three months” or the “last 30 days”, as it is the customary with the standard modules included in the study, the questions had to be adapted to refer to specified periods of the past (e.g., “the month of April 2021”, or “the period between February and April 2021”). While we expect such minor adaptation to have negligible effects, if at all, on the results, it is nevertheless an innovation that must be considered in interpreting the results.

Key Results

I. Characterization of the represented population

The total sample of 920 respondents from the NGCA has been stratified by area as described in Table 1 above, and post-stratification weight have been used to reflect the distribution of actual respondents by oblast, urban/rural, and sex and age structure.

After applying the sampling weights, the represented population will have the characteristics summarized in Table 2 below. (For a description of the characteristics in the actual sample, see the Annex 1).

II. Incomes, Livelihoods and Vulnerability

This section provides an overview of the livelihood profile of the target population as emerged from the analysis of the responses. Data have been processed taking the appropriate sampling weights into consideration so that results refer to the entire target population of the people living in the studied areas. The objective of this section is to present readers with an overall picture of the socio-economic vulnerability.

Main income sources

Respondent were asked to indicate and rank their “main” sources of income, chosen among the categories that can be read on the horizontal axis of the chart in Figure 1 below.

Income derived from “Pensions” is the category reported most frequently (by 45.4% of households in NGCA) among their main sources of income. The second important source of income is “Humanitarian/Social assistance” (reported by 20.5% but higher in Donetsk by 24.2% than in Luhansk by 14.5%) followed by the “Non-agricultural wage” (19.8%, but less observed in Donetsk by 16.8% than in Luhansk by 24.5%). The “Own non-agricultural” and the “Own agriculture”, instead, are claimed to be among the main sources of income just by 7.5% and 2.4% of the respondents, respectively, which reflects the relatively minor importance of both sources of income in the study areas. The distribution of the relative frequency with which these sources of income are reported is rather similar across locations and population groups. However, the humanitarian and social assistance seems to be more relevant source of income for bigger households than smaller size households observing a smooth trend. Naturally, the own agriculture/wage labour source of income has a fair share (18%) among other sources of income in rural areas (village). Lastly, in “NGCA Donetsk & Luhansk 0-10 km” area, “Pensions” (reported by 57%) of households is the dominate income source.

The frequency with which pensions and humanitarian and social assistance are mentioned among the main sources of income, clearly presents a picture of a highly vulnerable community.

Diversification of income sources

Diversity of income sources is an important determinant of resilience against possible economic shocks and low diversity can be interpreted as an indicator of economic vulnerability. Figure 2 below shows that more than half of the households in the surveyed areas (58.2%) have declared to depend on only one “main” source of income. While some degree of diversification on income sources is notable (about 40% of the households have 2 or 3 main sources of income), very few households (only 4.7%) have declared to rely on four or more “main” income sources.

Table 2. Characteristics of the represented population in the FSLA survey

Coverage	Represented Population	Male/Female		Male/Female (HHead)	% by age (HHead)				% by education of HHead*				% residency type	
		unweighted	weighted		≤ 25	26-45	46-60	> 60	a	b	c	d	Resident	Internally Displaced
Donetsk NGCA 10+ zone	2 369 918	22/78	44/56	56/44	3.6	34.0	26.1	36.2	3.3	15.4	42.0	38.5	88.4	7.0
Urban 50+	1 795 437	24/76	47/53	54/46	6.0	38.8	21.5	33.7	3.2	11.4	41.4	43.6	89.5	5.8
Urban 50- & Rural	574 482	17/83	36/64	53/47	0.0	16.6	38.8	44.7	2.7	25.4	49.7	19.4	89.4	4.6
Luhansk NGCA 10+ zone	1 592 144	33/67	45/55	54/46	3.3	34.5	27.0	35.2	3.7	16.3	42.2	35.5	82.7	5.3
Urban 50+	846 214	38/62	52/48	57/43	5.9	32.8	28.2	33.1	1.4	13.7	42.8	42.1	81.6	6.4
Urban 50- + Rural	745 930	30/70	39/61	54/46	0.0	43.0	23.6	33.4	4.2	18.7	47.0	29.0	83.2	4.0
Donetsk + Luhansk 0-10 km zone NGCA	580 627	23/77	42/58	58/42	0.0	32.7	28.0	39.3	7.3	18.0	36.0	38.8	84.5	11.8
NGCA City/Urban-type settlement	3 973 414	28/72	44/56	54/46	3.9	36.2	24.3	35.6	3.8	14.3	42.9	38.8	85.7	6.6
NGCA Village (Rural)	569 275	32/68	56/44	67/33	0.0	14.1	48.2	37.6	0.0	30.3	42.6	22.9	91.2	3.7
Total sample size NGCA	4 542 689	28/72	45/55	55/45	3.5	34.2	26.5	35.8	3.4	15.7	42.8	37.3	68.2	6.3

* a: primary education. b: secondary education. c: secondary special/technical school. d: completed higher education/graduate school

Source: FAO analysis of Ukraine FIES data

Figure 1. Households' main sources of income

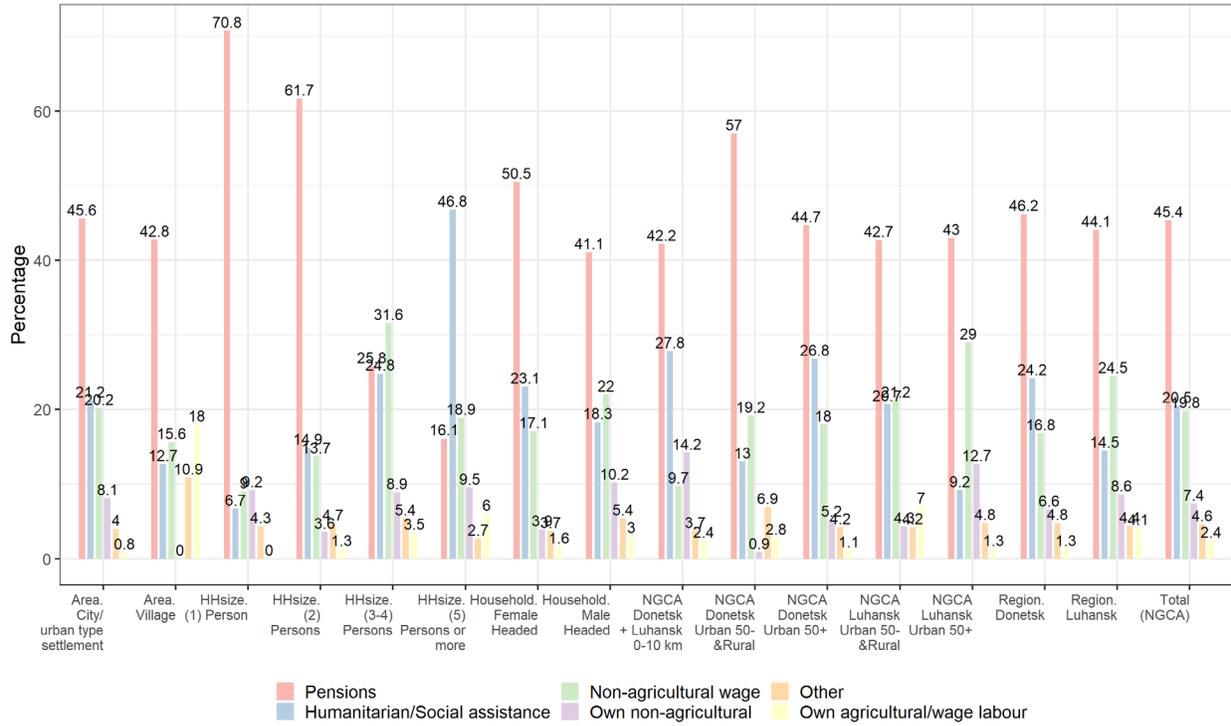
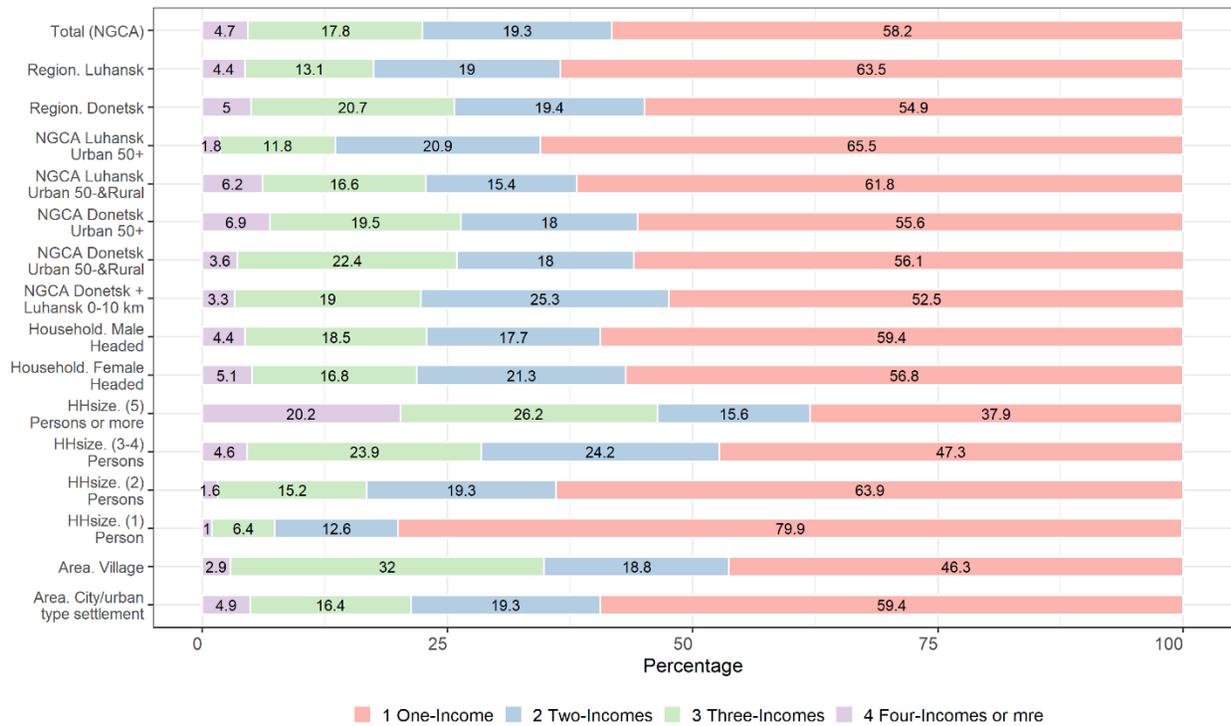


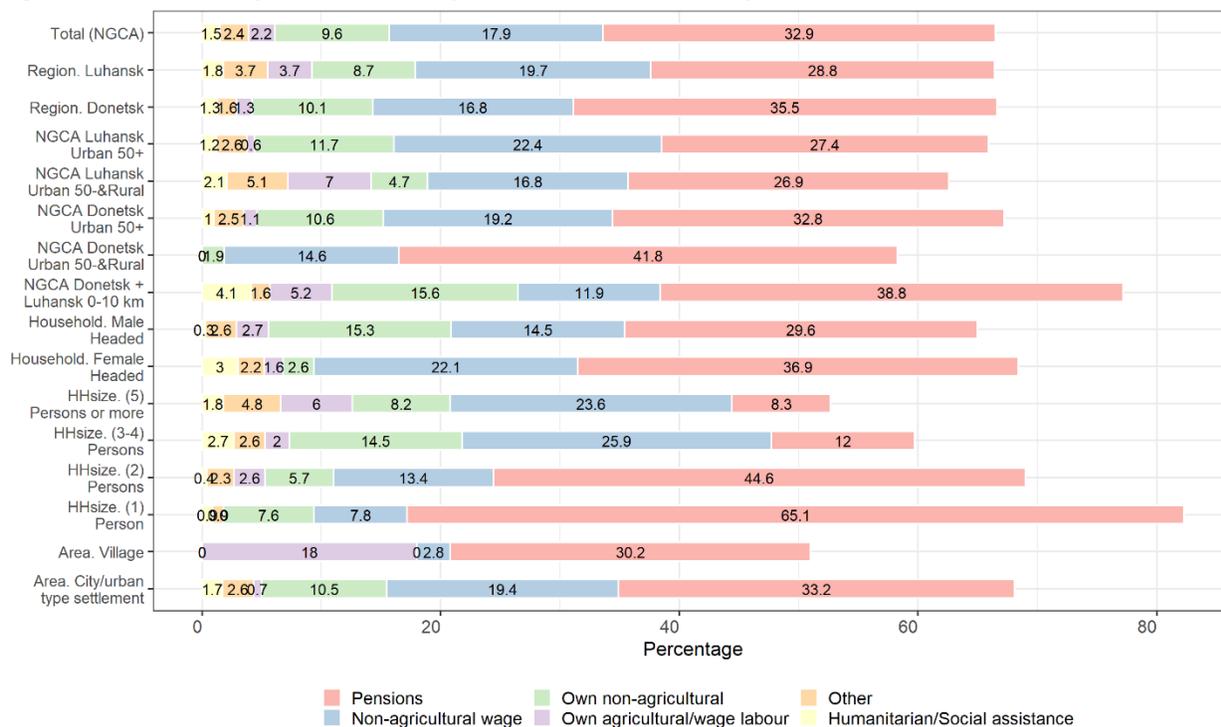
Figure 2. Income sources diversification: distribution of households by reported number of sources



Relevance of the different sources of income

To explore the real importance of the reported main sources of incomes, respondents were asked to indicate the approximate share of total income provided by their main sources. Analysis of the responses reveals that “Pensions”, and “Non-agricultural wages” are often large contributors to the majority of households’ income (providing 75% or more of the total household income). Figure 3 shows that, overall, 32.9% of the households in the represented population receive more the majority of their income from pensions compared to 17.9% who receive “75% or more” of their income from non-agricultural wages. The “Own non-agricultural” source of income has been declared as a “major” one by only 9.6% of the households. Notably, income sources linked to agriculture have been reported as only marginally contributing (2.2%) to the majority (75% or more) of households’ incomes. Detailed distribution among locations and population groups can be checked in Figure 3 below.

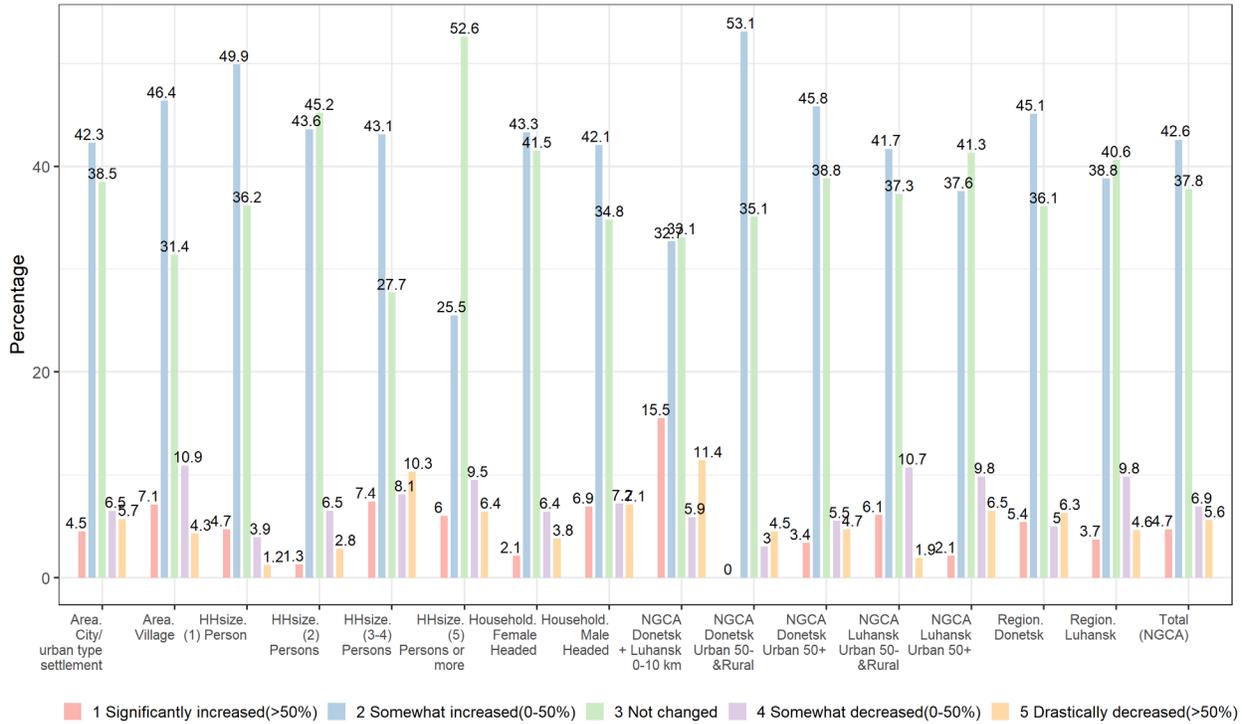
Figure 3. Relevance of main sources of income (75% or more of HH income)



Income stability

Self-reported income changes relative to the same reference period of (February – April) of the previous year, as shown in Figure 4, reveal that for most households 85.1% of the total in NGCA) income levels were stable or increased compared to last year. This income stability is more pronounced in the big families (52.6% without income change). A small share of the households (4.7%) declared a “more than 50% increase” compared to 5.6% who declared “more than 50% decrease” in their income. While a significant share of the households (42.6%) reported a moderate increase (up to 50%) of their income only small share (6.9%) reported a moderate decrease (up to 50%), revealing a certain heterogeneity in the income dynamics that seem more oriented toward income increase. In general, while 12.5% reported experiencing income deterioration, 47.3% reported income increase and the rest of NGCA households have income stability. This is not specific to certain locations or population groups but similarly distributed across different categories.

Figure 4. Income stability



The above findings call for a deeper analysis of the characteristics of sources of income for the households that reported different income change dynamics.

Analysing the households’ sources of income for those that show a moderate increase (plus 0-50% of their main income) in the last year reveals that pension is the main sources of income that has moderately increased as declared by 22.8%, Figure 5. The “non-agriculture wages” comes in the second place by 16.6% followed by “own non-agriculture” by 2.3%. The rest of the main sources of income have hardly positively changed, instead.

The other main category of households’ income change is the “No Change” category shows a slightly different behaviour than the previous one, including slight shares of other income sources than pension and non-agricultural wages. Figure 6 below shows that all main first income categories have been declared by households not to be changed over the last year at different degrees. Big families show a slightly different picture than other population groups with higher shares of “non-agricultural wages” (31.2%) and “own non-agricultural” (10.6%), which reveals a kind of income stability for the bigger households.

The number of people engaged in paid work in a household is also a good indication of the household’s income stability. Households that depend on only one member engaged in paid work are likely to be more vulnerable to various shocks. Figure 7 shows very clearly that income vulnerability is an issue in NGCA area, as the vast majority of respondent reported relying on either no paid work at all (36.5%) or on only one paid work (32.7%). It is required, however, to clarify that households that observe a high share of no paid work might still have different sources of income as pension, for example.

26%, of the respondent, however, reported relying on 2 paid work but only 2.5% declared that three or more members engaged in paid work.

Figure 5. Income Change (Plus 0-50%) of Main first Income

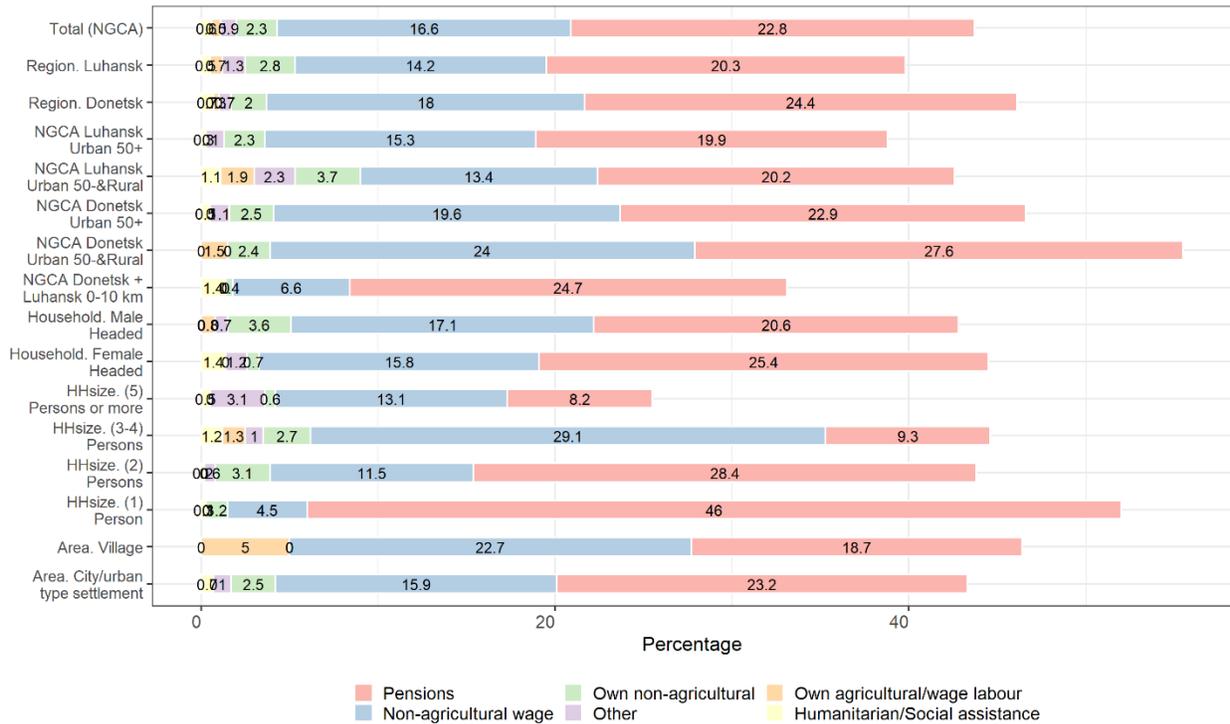


Figure 6. Income Change (No Change) of Main first Income

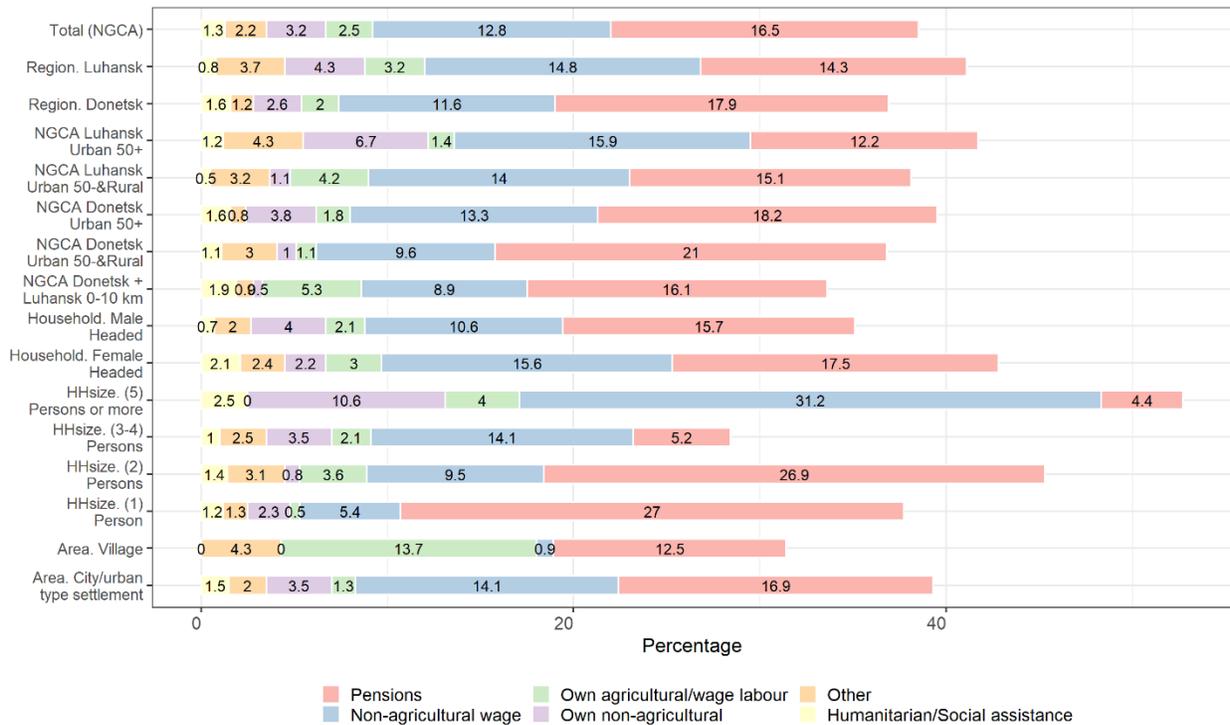
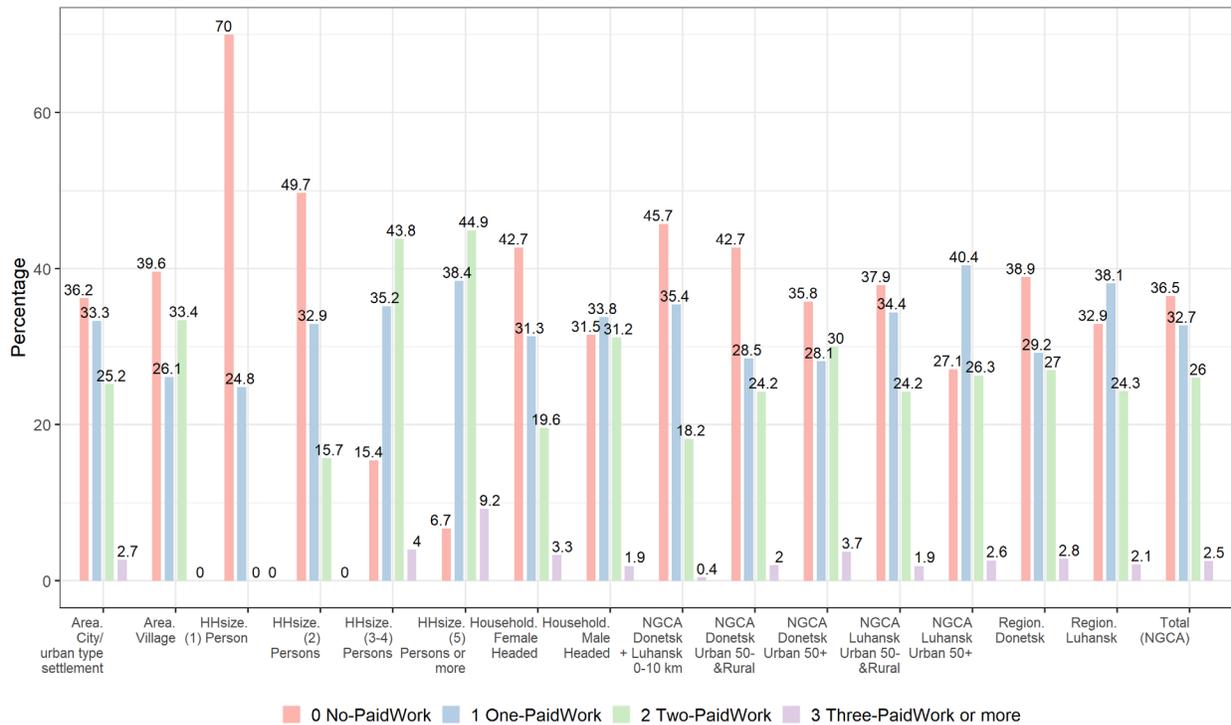


Figure 7. Income from paid work



Contrary to other statistics on income reported thus far, the distributions in terms of number of units engaged in paid work seems quite different across areas. Households in villages, the 0-10 Km buffer zone, smaller family sizes and those headed by female appear to be much more vulnerable in terms of paid work, with distributions skewed towards no sources of paid work and lower shares of households relying on more than one source of paid work.

To make better sense of the information provided on the number of the household’s members engaged in paid work, it is analysed with regards to the household demographic characteristics to generate its economic dependency ratio. It is the ratio between the number of household members who are not in working age to the number of members who work (pensioners, unemployed, children or minors relative to member in employment).

The age dependency ratio for Ukraine, calculated as the ration of people younger than 15 and older than 64 over people working ages (15-64) was equal to 49.12% in 2020¹³. The higher the value of age dependency ratio means that employed people need to support extra non-working household’s members indicating to higher vulnerability levels.

Figure 8 below shows that the economic dependency ratio of over 100 in NGCA (54%) is a bit over the age dependency ration of Ukraine that indicates further economic burdens for families in the study area compared to the whole country. Overall, 38% of households suffer from higher levels of economic dependency ratio (>150), that is where two household members has to sustain three or more non-employed members. This category is more pronounced in big families (94.9%).

¹³ https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/Ukraine/Age_dependency_ratio/ 49.12 in 2020

Indebtedness

In general, indebted households are arguably economically vulnerable ones. Figure 9 reveals that 12.4% of the households in NGCA took debts during the three months preceding the interview. Relatively similar portions of HHs suffering under debt in different locations and population groups. Nevertheless, relying on debts were further adopted in the relatively big families (3-4 members), female headed households, “Luhansk Urban -50&Rural” and the buffer zone 0-10 km.

The main reasons for the households to take out debts are explored highlighting the most urgent financial needs of the households as shown in Figure 10 below. The graph reveals that a significant share of households (41.7%) took loans because they needed to pay for medical services and/or medicines. This reason is more pronounced for the smaller one-person families by 68.2%, probably because they are mainly elderly persons who extremely need health caring. The second key reason for taking debts (declared by 28.1% of the households in NGCA) was in order to fill in monetary gaps to pay for housing utilities or other relevant expenses, e.g., the expenses of heating the house in the cold winter. To pay the housing rent is another similarly related reason for people taking loans (1.1%). Other less important reasons to take loans are to pay for agricultural inputs that was declared by 7.4% (but naturally with higher share in the villages, 47.1%), to pay for education (4.9%) and to pay outstanding debt (1.9%).

Taking debts to pay for food is reported by non-negligible share of households (14.8%) indicating the need for money in order to acquire food in the study area, especially for big family size reported by 29.4%. Incurring debt to pay for food is also more prevalent in urban areas as compared to rural areas (15.8% vs 6.7%, respectively). Similar percentages for debt reasons are shown across regions and locations and population groups.

Finally, 57.8% of the households that took debts during the last three months still need to pay them back. This problem is more concentrated in the villages (where 93.3% of the debts are still outstanding) and in “Luhansk Urban 50-&Rural” areas (84.1%) indicating the difficulties faced by households to repay loans that were taken to pay for agricultural inputs (e.g., fertilizers, pesticides, seeds, fuel, etc.) with different extents. Quite heterogeneous parentages are revealed by different locations and population groups as seen in Figure 11 below, indicating high shares for female headed and big size households among others.

Exposure to shocks

Given the conditions prevailing in the study area during the period of the survey, it is unsurprising that households have been exposed to shocks that may imply risks for their livelihoods. Figure 12 shows that 36.2% of the households have not been exposed to any shocks during the previous three months. However, 43.8% of NGCA households have been exposed to one shock, a distribution that is quite similar across locations and population groups but more concentrated in the villages (57.3%) and in big families (51.5%). A fair share of households (14.9%) indicated that they have been exposed to two shocks and the rest of them (5%) have been exposed to three shocks and more.

By far the most frequently reported among the shocks observed in the studied areas are related to inflation and increasing prices of basic commodities that was reported by 44.7% (Figure 13). This is consistent with the 2020 high consumer price index in Ukraine (289.4) as reported by the World Bank¹⁴. Other shocks are reported much less frequently, with a certain prevalence of reported sickness and related health expenditures (23.4%), followed by loss of employment and salaries (6.2%), death of household member (5.2%), asset damage caused by the on-going military operations (4.9%), and poor harvest (2.7%). The notable incidence of losses due to military operation, reported by big household size

¹⁴ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/FP.CPI.TOTL?locations=UA&view=chart>

(9.9%) and villagers (8.9%) with the high incidence of inflation and price increase reported by big families (71.7%) are in particular the most distinguished incidence in different locations and population group.

Figure 8. Economic Dependency Ratio

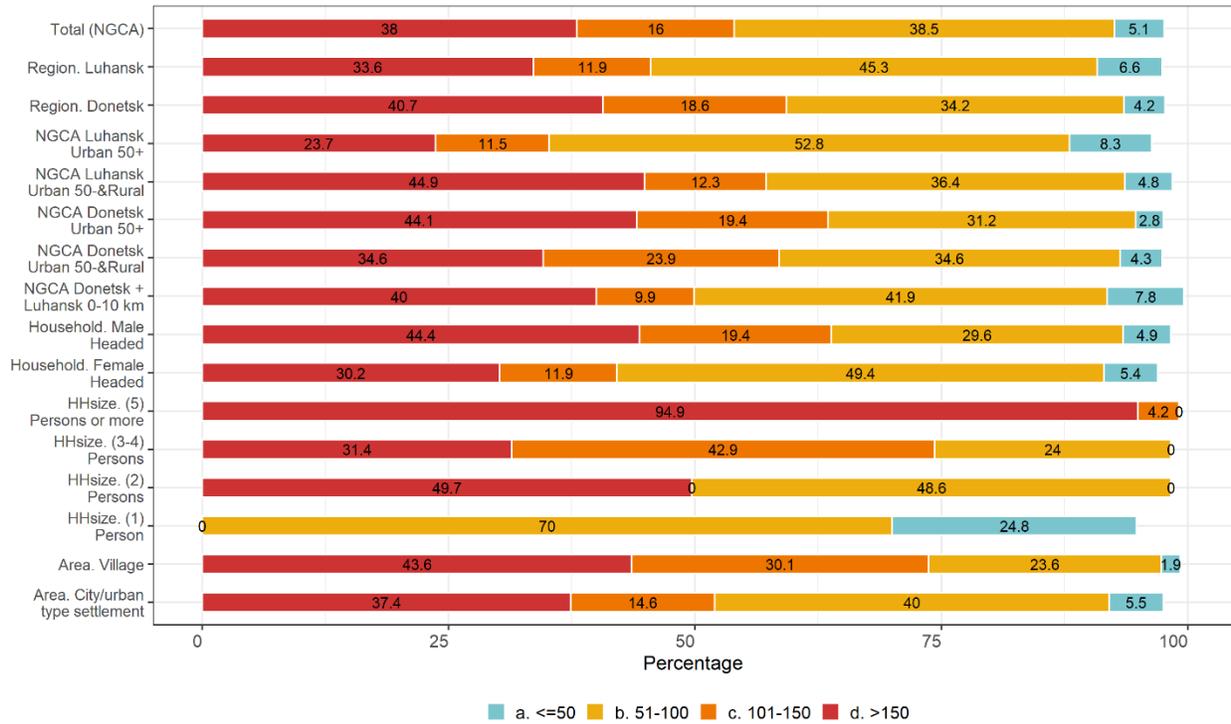


Figure 9. Indebtedness

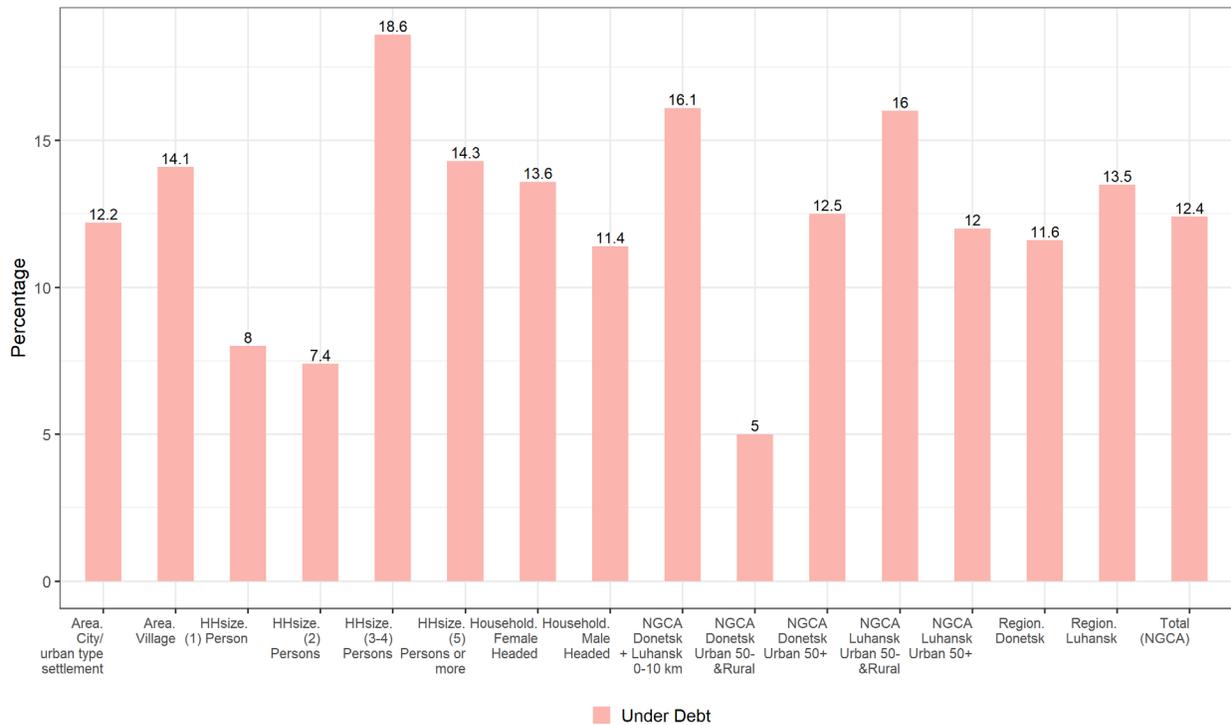


Figure 10. Main reasons for indebtedness

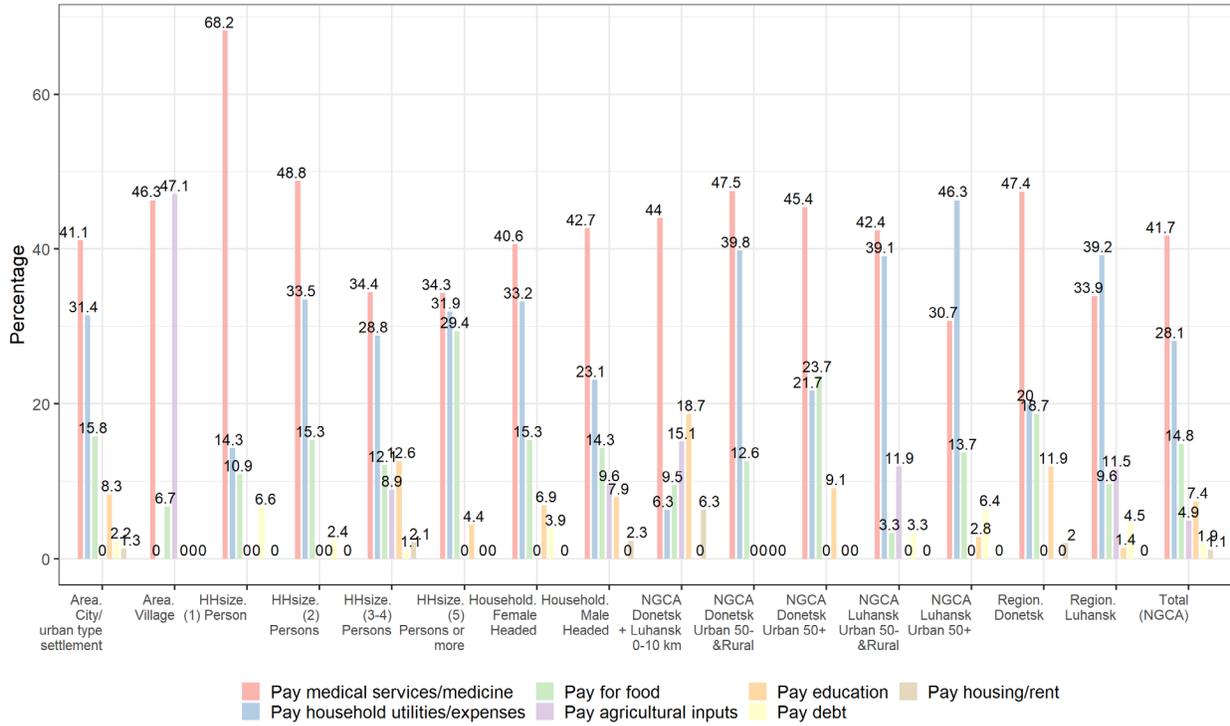


Figure 11. The difficulty to repay debts

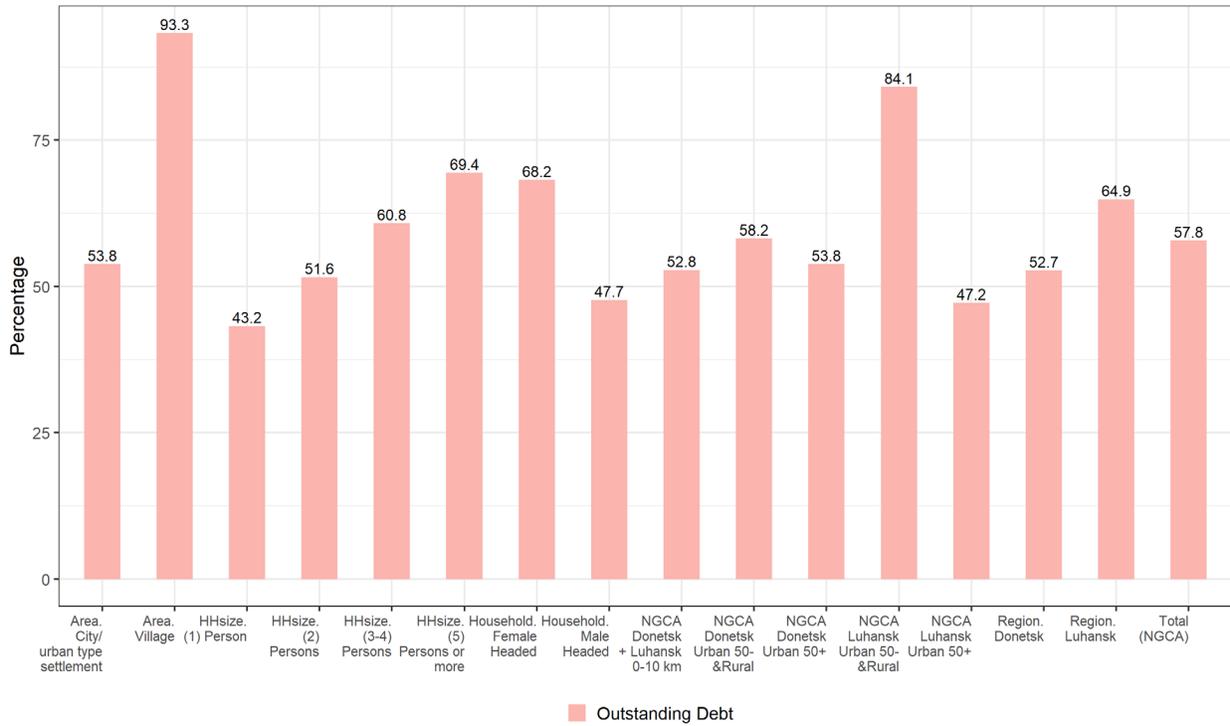


Figure 12. Exposure to shocks

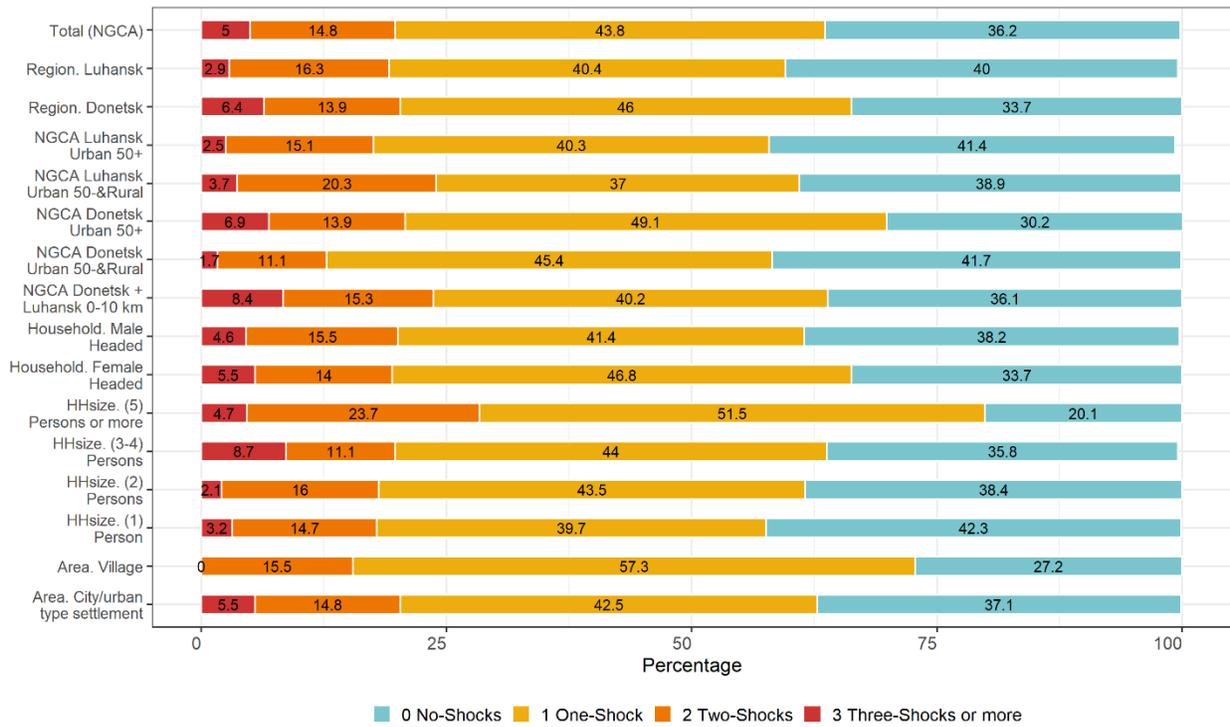
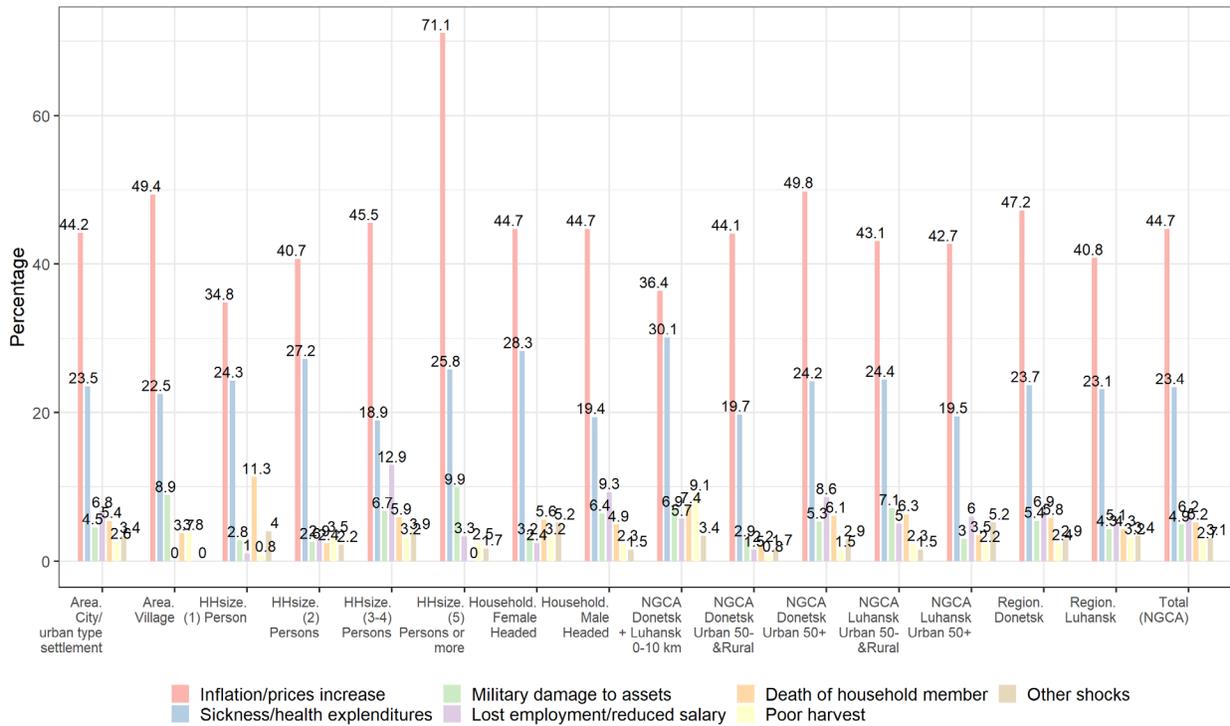


Figure 13. Frequency of main shocks reported



III. Food Security

Food security levels of the households have been measured mainly the food insecurity experience scale (FIES). This allows estimating the prevalence of food insecurity at different levels of severity and classifying households into food security categories.

After presenting the results in terms of prevalence of food insecurity, the association between food insecurity status, share of total income spent on food, and livelihood coping strategies will be also explored.

FIES-based measures of food insecurity

To assess the extent and severity of food insecurity levels experienced in the study area in the winter season, data collected with the Food Insecurity Experience Scale module referenced to the month of April have been used to compute the prevalence of food insecurity at different levels of severity. Results (Figure 14. FIES-based prevalence of food insecurity categories by area and population group) show that a total of 17.1% of the households in the reference population have experienced food insecurity at either “moderate” or “severe” levels during the month of April. For, 1.3% of the households, experienced food insecurity has been “severe”, implying a non-negligible chance of going for a whole day without eating, at least once over the reference period.

These are a slightly lower levels of overall food insecurity, if compared to current assessments in Ukraine and in other countries. As a reference, consider for example that unpublished results from FAO, based on data collected through the Gallup World Poll since 2014, point to a prevalence of annual combined moderate or severe food insecurity of only about 20% in the overall population of Ukraine, as an average over the 2018-20, a prevalence that increases to about 24% in 2020, with a likely increase due to impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In comparing those results, which refer to prevalence of food insecurity experienced at any moment during the year, with the one reported here, one must consider that, depending on the extent of seasonality and persistence of food insecurity, the prevalence of food insecurity measured with reference to a single month, as in this study, is expected to be significantly lower than the annual prevalence of food insecurity. This implies that the population in NGCA area of Eastern Ukraine, in the Winter of 2021, has been relatively more food insecure than in the rest of the country.

Another useful reference is provided by a recent FAO report on access to food in 2020¹⁵, which presents estimates of the prevalence of recent moderate or severe food insecurity in twenty food crisis countries, measured with reference to the four weeks preceding the surveys that range from a minimum of 13.3% to a maximum of 61.9%. The values we record in the study population of Eastern Ukraine are higher than those found, for example, in Myanmar, Iraq, El Salvador and Cameroon and similar to levels experienced in the general population of Ethiopia.

To put the reported FIES-based estimates for Eastern Ukraine in the context of typical assessments conducted to inform humanitarian response, an important reference is the benchmark provided by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) acute food insecurity assessments. To make a correct comparison, consider the chart in Figure 15.

When properly considering the differences in severity levels used as thresholds, the class described as “moderate or severe food insecurity” in the context of SDG global monitoring includes all cases classified in IPC acute food insecurity Phase 3 or more and some of those that would be classified in Phase 2. The results presented in this report for the NGCA of Donetsk and Luhansk (with moderate or severe combined

¹⁵ <http://www.fao.org/3/cb5623en/cb5623en.pdf>

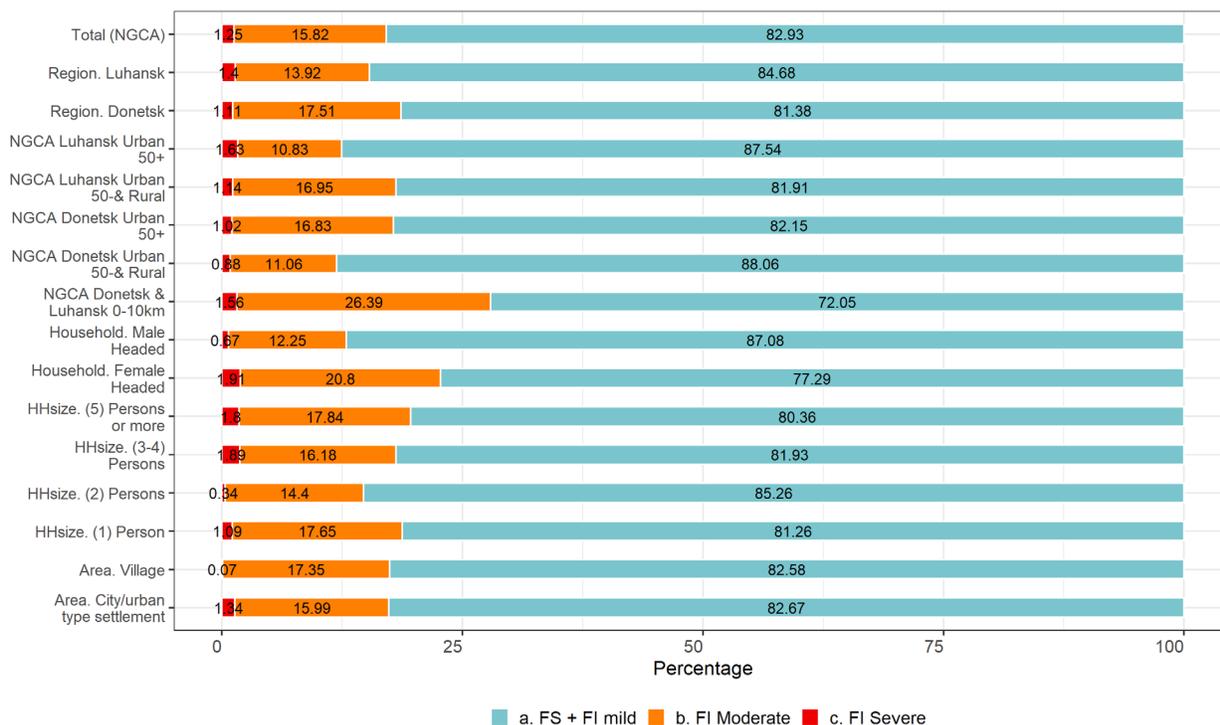
amounting to almost 17.1% of the population) would therefore likely support the classification of these areas under “Phase 2 or worse” of the IPC, a benchmark often used by the international community to flag the need for activating emergency response.¹⁶

Also, these results would point to about 17.1% of the population falling into one of the three categories of marginally, moderately or severely food insecure typically used in the CARI approach promoted by WFP.¹⁷

To the extent that the sample size allows, food insecurity levels can be separately assessed and compared across different locations and population groups (Table 3 below).

The area labelled as “NGCA Donetsk & Luhansk 0-10 km” reveals the highest prevalence of recent moderate or severe food insecurity [28.0 (± 16.6)] compared to “NGCA Donetsk Urban” and “NGCA Luhansk Urban” that revealing a prevalence of 17.9% and 12.5% (±10.6 and ±6.2 respectively). A striking difference is notable among households when classified based on the gender of the household’s head, with female headed households significantly more food insecure [22.7% (±6.8)] than male-headed ones [12.9% (±7.7)].

Figure 14. FIES-based prevalence of food insecurity categories by area and population group

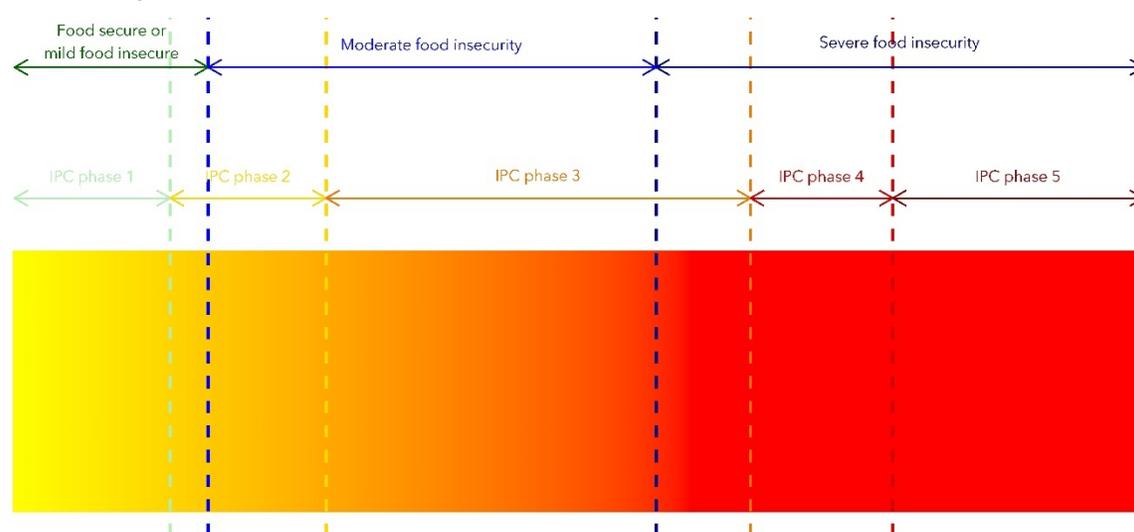


¹⁶ The IPC acute food insecurity classification follows a “20% rule” according to which an area is classified in the most severe category that includes at least 20% of the households.

¹⁷ The consideration stems from observing that the FIES-based category of “moderate” food insecurity is less severe than the IPC Phase 3 food insecurity, which in turn, roughly correspond to the CARI based “moderate” food insecurity. Therefore, some of the people falling into the FIES-based category of “moderate” food insecurity would be classified as only “marginally” food insecure as defined in the CARI approach.

To explore the comparability of food insecurity classifications based on the IPC and on the CARI approach, see https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/cari_vs_ipc_fact_sheet_and_annex_june2016.pdf

Figure 15. Comparison between FIES-based and IPC thresholds



Source: Boero et al. (2021, p.7)

Table 3. Disaggregated Food Insecurity Levels Based on FIES data

	N of households	FI_mod.sev	MoE_mod.sev	FI_sev	MoE_sev
Overall NGCA	925	17.07	5.51	1.25	0.98
City/urban type settlement	887	17.33	5.38	1.34	0.92
Village	38	17.42	20.34	0.07	0.22
Region. Donetsk	477	18.62	7.73	1.11	1.18
Region. Luhansk	448	15.32	5.68	1.40	1.08
Household. Male Headed	391	12.92	7.67	0.67	1.04
Household. Female Headed	534	22.71	6.75	1.91	1.34
NGCA Donetsk Urban 50+	280	17.85	10.58	1.02	1.31
NGCA Donetsk Urban 50-&Rural	120	11.94	9.67	0.88	1.95
NGCA Luhansk Urban 50+	255	12.46	6.16	1.63	1.59
NGCA Luhansk Urban 50-&Rural	150	18.09	11.64	1.14	1.69
NGCA Donetsk + Luhansk 0-10 km	120	27.95	16.55	1.56	3.37
HHsize. (1) Person	275	18.74	7.53	1.09	1.08
HHsize. (2) Persons	316	14.74	9.00	0.34	0.47
HHsize. (3-4) Persons	256	18.07	10.02	1.89	1.93
HHsize. (5) Persons or more	78	19.64	17.41	1.80	3.35

Source: FAO analysis of Ukraine NGCA FIES data

Overall, prevalence of recent *severe* food insecurity, at 1.3% is not particularly high when compared for example to the indicator published by FAO for Ukraine in the 2021 State of Food Security and Nutrition report (2.5%, as an average over 2018-20) even though, once again, it must be considered that the latter refers to the *annual*, rather than recent food insecurity.

The highest prevalence of recent severe food insecurity is found in the area labelled “NGCA Luhansk Urban 50+” where it reaches 1.63%, as opposed to the 1.0% value for the “NGCA Donetsk Urban 50-&Rural”. These differences must be interpreted with caution, due to relatively wide margins of error associated with samples of the size used in this assessment.

Convergence of FIES-based measures with evidence from other indirect measures

To explore the robustness of the FIES-based assessments of food insecurity, we present the result of the association between the FIES raw score, which has proven to be a valid ordinal measure of severity, and two commonly used proxy indicators of food insecurity.

Table 4 shows the cross-tabulation of the 925 cases in terms of FIES raw score (from 0, corresponding to the least food insecure category, to 8, the most food insecure) against the reported share of income spent on food, on average, over the previous three months. Household expenditure on food is a measure of household food access whereby households with a larger share of expenditure on food are considered more food insecure.

Households are classified by food insecurity severity according to generally accepted thresholds of food expenditure share: 80% or above expenditure on food = “Very high” food insecurity; 70-79% = “high”; 50-69% = “medium”, and <50% = “low”.

Table 4. Association between food insecurity and share of income spent on food

Share of income spent on food	Number of households by FIES raw score									Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
<50%	244.7	24.1	21.1	11.4	8.9	15.8	3.0	2.8	0.7	332.4
50-69%	157.4	40.9	15.3	20.0	11.9	22.6	12.8	6.9	3.3	291.1
70-79%	36.9	23.0	11.4	11.3	7.5	14.3	9.0	4.3	2.2	119.9
=> 80%	25.0	14.5	8.0	10.5	12.4	7.5	6.5	6.8	1.9	92.9
#N/A	63.5	2.2	1.9	6.7	2.5	2.0	6.8	1.7	1.3	88.6
Grand Total	527.4	104.6	57.7	60.0	43.2	62.1	38.1	22.5	9.4	925.0

Source: FAO analysis of Ukraine NGCA FIES data

The results (also presented in the chart of Figure 17) clearly show a gradient in the expected direction, revealing that households with raw scores 7 or 8 are significantly more likely to be spending considerable shares (=> 70%) of their income on food, when compared to other groups. Equally significant the observation that reporting a raw score of zero implies spending relatively lower shares on food. However, the presence of missing values, with different shares, slightly alters the distribution of food expenditures within different raw scores.

Another interesting analysis compares the FIES raw score with the reported coping strategies, measured using the Livelihoods-based Coping Strategies Index.

Respondents who affirmed any of the FIES items (and therefore report a raw score greater than zero) were asked to indicate if they resorted to one or more from a list of possible strategies, to cope with their difficulty in accessing food.

In similar analyses, coping strategy are typically classified by the researchers in three different categories (“stress”, “crisis”, and “emergency”) following the implied increasing level of severity. For example, “buying food on credit” or “borrowing food” would be considered relatively mild, and then included in the group of “stress” level strategies, “selling productive assets”, or “withdrawing children from school” would be considered “stress level”, while very serious, and therefore indicative of an “emergency” level. Based on which strategy was reported, the households is classified in one of four groups, and the results contrasted with the reported FIES raw score. Table 5 and Figure 17 show the results.

Figure 16. Distribution of the of income spent on food in FIES Raw Score

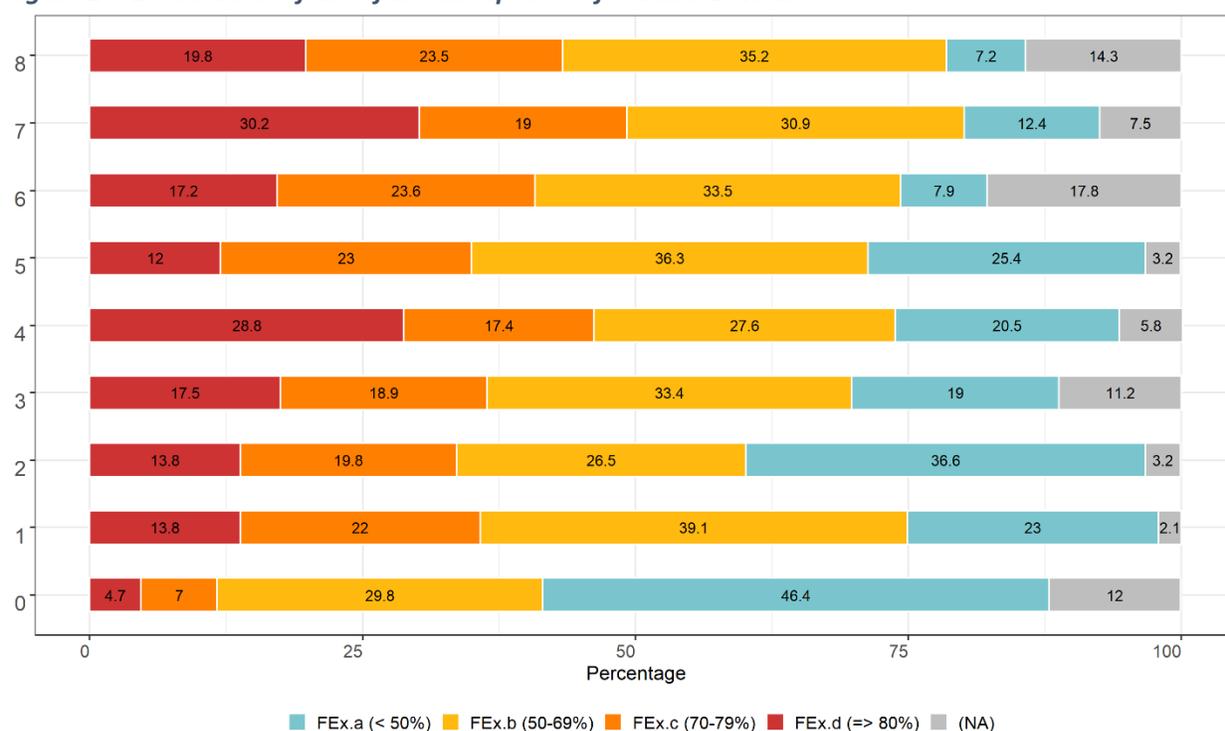


Table 5. Association between food insecurity and Livelihood Coping Strategies

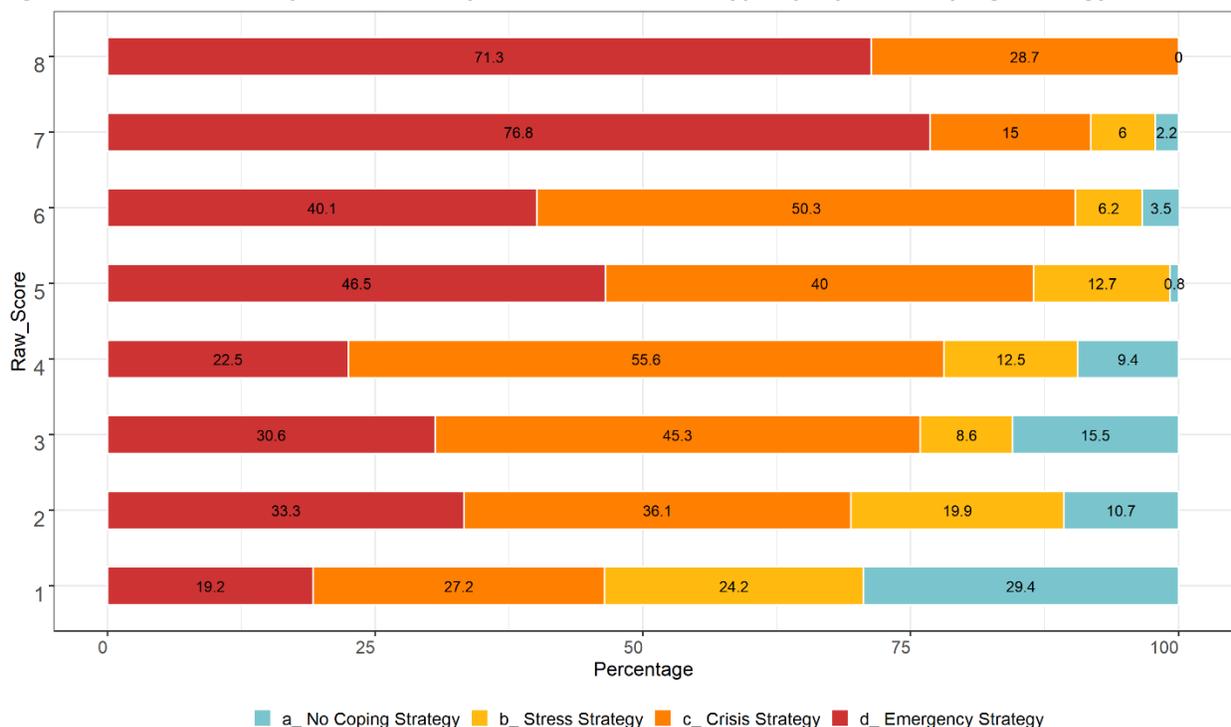
Type of coping strategy adopted	Number of households by FIES raw score								Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
No Coping Strategy	30.7	6.2	9.3	4.1	0.5	1.3	0.5	NA	52.6
Stress Strategy	25.3	11.5	5.2	5.4	7.9	2.3	1.3	NA	58.9
Crisis Strategy	28.4	20.8	27.2	24.1	24.9	19.2	3.4	2.7	150.6
Emergency Strategy	20.1	19.2	18.3	9.7	28.9	15.3	17.3	6.7	135.4
Grand Total	104.6	57.7	60.0	43.2	62.1	38.1	22.5	9.4	397.6

Source: FAO analysis of Ukraine NGCA FIES data

The strong association and the gradient in the expected direction is strikingly evident: the frequency in which more severe coping strategies are reported increases with the reported raw score, to the point that reporting raw score 7 or 8 is pretty much indicative of having had to recur to “emergency level”, and therefore indicative of very severe food insecurity. The reporting raw score 8, 7, 6, or 5 is indicative of resorting to “emergency” and at higher level to “crisis” strategy.

It is important to note that even households who report a low FIES raw score demonstrate fairly high levels of coping behaviour. Nearly 50% of households with a FIES raw score of 1, indicating a low or mild actual experience of food insecurity, report having used emergency or crisis coping mechanisms, suggesting that their food security status would likely have been worse had the household not been able to employ coping strategies to mitigate food insecurity.

Figure 17. Distribution of households by FIES raw score and type of reported coping strategy



Overall, these results give strong credibility to the assessment based on the FIES. This is a remarkable result, considering that this was the first time the FIES had been used in the emergency context of a country in Europe.

IV. Assistance

The occurrence that the households received assistance over the reference period and the kinds of assistance received by them are important aspects for households’ food security and livelihoods. Figure 1 above shows that on average 20.5% of the total income has been channelled to households in NGCA through social, humanitarian or other kinds of assistance, which reflects the vitality of the tool to people’s income in the studied area.

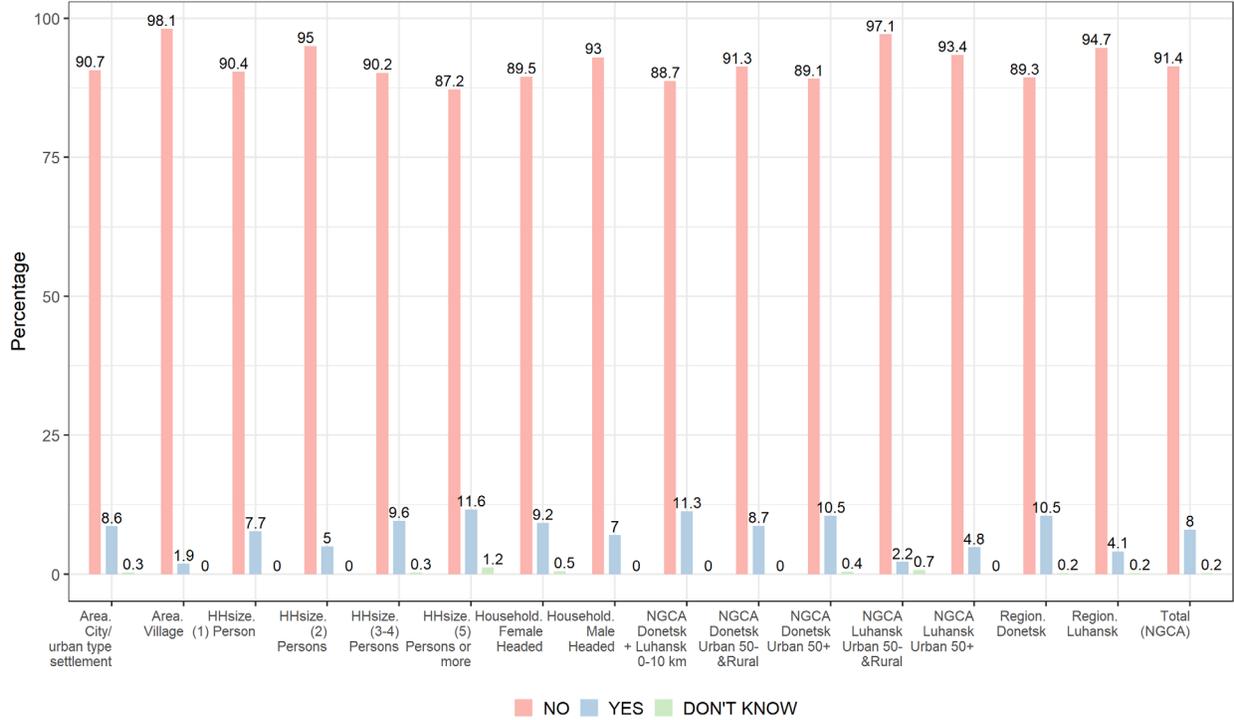
The extent and impact of the received assistance

Figure 18 shows that only 8.0% of the households in the study areas report receiving any kind of assistance over the last three months. This percentage is quite homogenous across different locations and population groups with a bias towards the urban areas (8.6%) compared to pure rural (1.9%). Notably, bigger households (five persons or more) or female headed ones report receiving more assistance than smaller or males headed households. People in Donetsk report receiving more assistance than their neighbours in Luhansk (10.5% vs 4.1%).

Highlighting on the impact of receiving any kind of assistance, the assisted and non-assisted households in NGCA are analysed in terms of their food security situation. Figure 19 clearly shows the divergence of assisted and non-assisted households’ “severe” and “moderate” FIES-based food insecurity levels. The “sever food insecurity” level is significantly different between households that have been assisted (4%) compared to those that have not been assisted (0.7%). Although it seems a bit contradictory, but assuming

that the assistance was directed to people in most need to food, this results still make sense in the absence of a previous assessment to compare the food security situation for those households that received the assistance. The level of the “moderate food insecurity”, however, point to lower shares in the assisted households (12.5%) compared with non-assisted ones (18.5%), which indicates that the assistance received was effective to reduce the moderate food insecurity, but more efforts are needed to combat the severe food insecurity in NGCA area. Given the small share of assisted households (8%), the above analyses still to be considered with caution due to the relatively small sample size and due to other factors can contribute to the food security situation rather than the assistance received.

Figure 18. Assistance: percentages of households receiving assistance



The extent of satisfaction with the received assistance

Of the 8% of households who reported receiving assistance, nearly 80% expressed that they were somewhat or highly satisfied with the assistance they received, while 15% were not satisfied with theirs, pointing to the possible need for more or different kinds of assistance by those households. Detailed percentage according to different locations and population groups are shown in Figure 20 below.

Households perceived needs

The main assistance needs envisaged by the households in the study area for the next period (the coming three months) are categorized as shown in Figure 21. Access to fuel seems to be the first priority as 28.2% households’ needed assistance followed by the need to access healthcare and medicines by 22.7%. Cash money and loans seem to be needed by non-negligible share of the households (7.2%). The housing repair and housing utility services needs have been expressed by 4.9% followed by the need for food that was claimed by 2.4% (which is, on average, consistent with the severe food insecurity levels for the assisted and non-assisted households in NGCA).

Figure 19. FIES-based food insecurity categories among assisted and non-assisted households

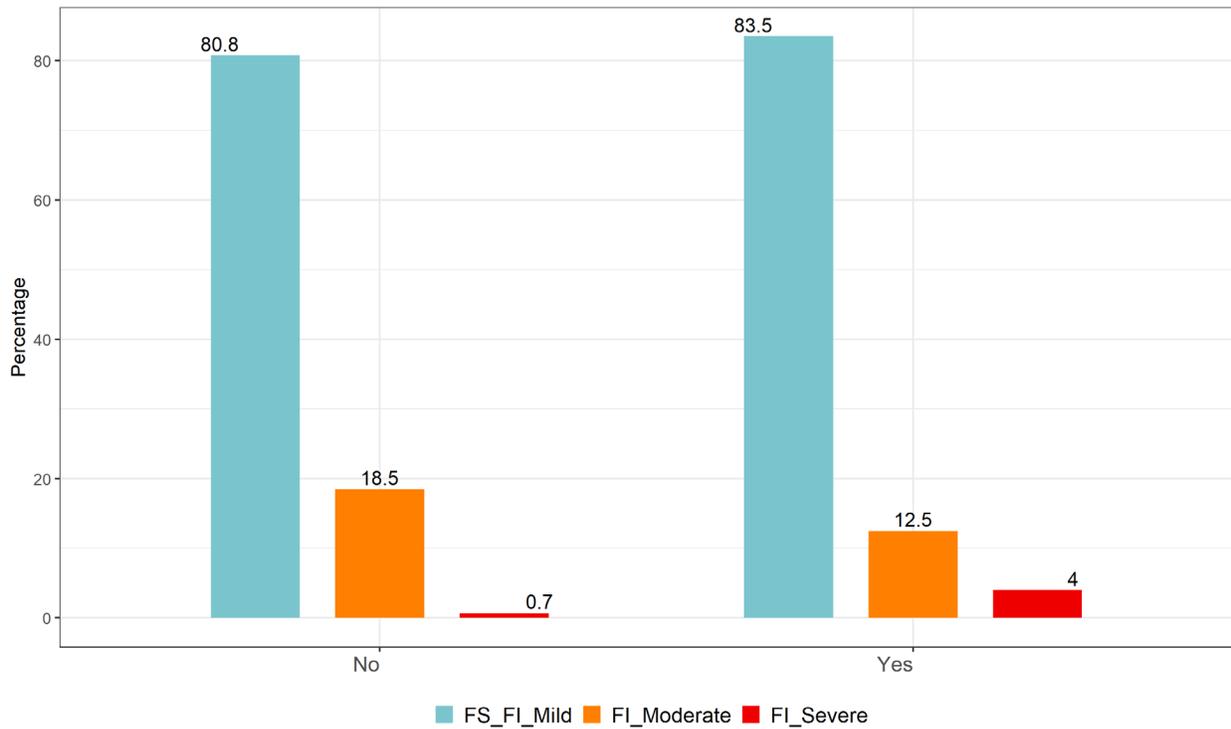


Figure 20. Degree of satisfaction with the assistance received

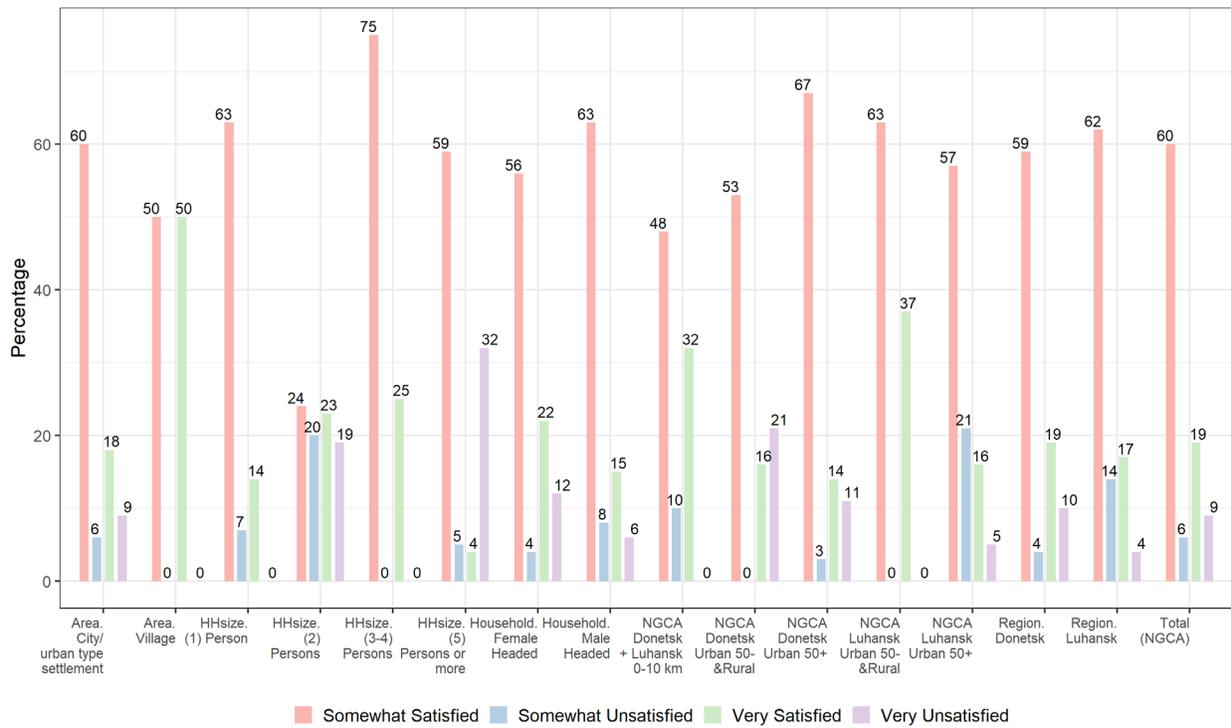
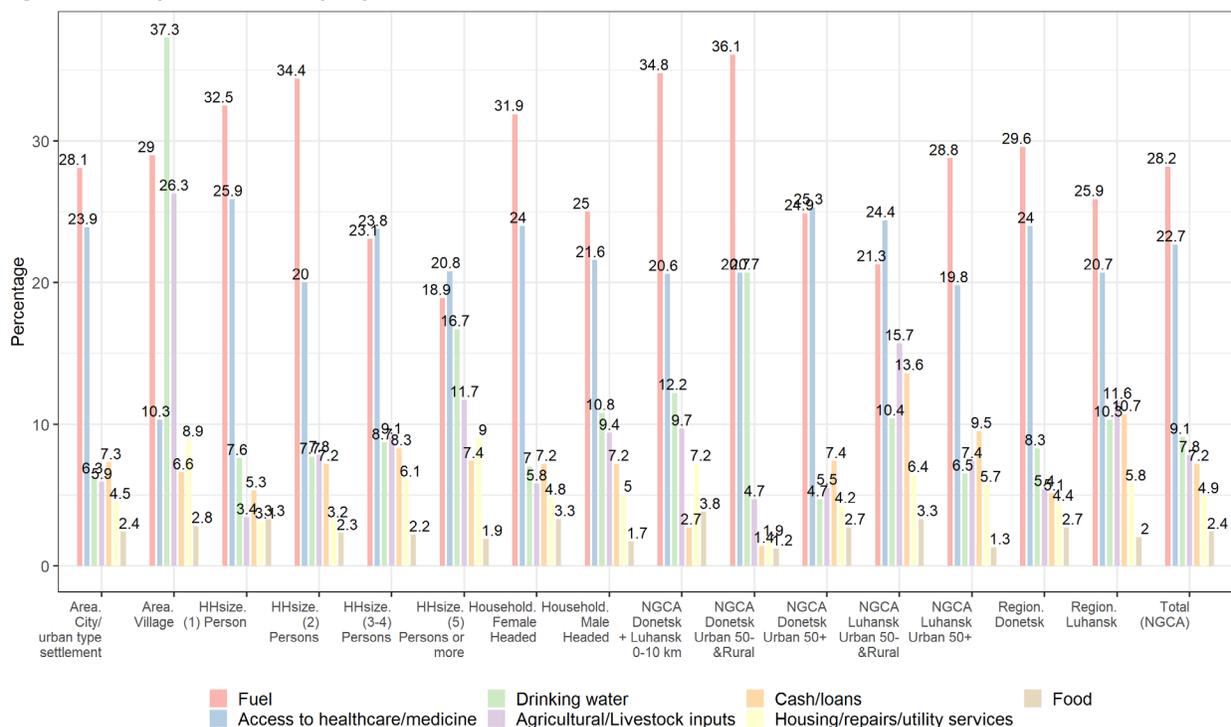


Figure 21. Reported needs for future assistance



Analysing the households’ perceived needs against their food (in)security classes does make sense by looking to the moderate food insecurity class as the 59.2% of those who expressed the need to food fall into this class followed by 44.5% of households that expressed their needs to drinking water and cash money by 32.4%, Figure 22. This is somewhat consistent with what Figure 19 above shows: households that have been already assisted observe lower levels of moderate food insecurity compared to non-assisted households. However, the distribution of the severely food insecure households against their expressed future needs is not in line with the distribution of the moderate, probably because those households have already assisted by food, cash or other means.

V. Agriculture

Although engagement in some form of agriculture is declared by a fair share of households in NGCA, the agriculture sector seems to be only marginally relevant from the economic point of view as for the majority of respondents (on average 95%) it consists mainly of vegetable fruits, field crops and livestock for own consumption. The general aspects of both crop and livestock productions are highlighted in the subsequent sections.

The households that are involved in any kind of agriculture activities forms 40% of all surveyed households (Figure 23). Different regions and locations show relatively different levels of involvement in the sector. In general, Luhansk’s households appear to have been engaged more in agriculture activities (46.6%) compared to Donetsk’s households (35.8%). Not surprising, the location most engaged in agriculture is the villages by 82.3% followed by “NGCA Luhansk Urban 50-& Rural”, with 58.5% of the households reporting agricultural activities, compared to the lowest share by only 26.1% of households reporting such engagement in “NGCA Donetsk Urban50+” area.

Figure 22. The distribution of food insecurity levels within people's different perceived needs

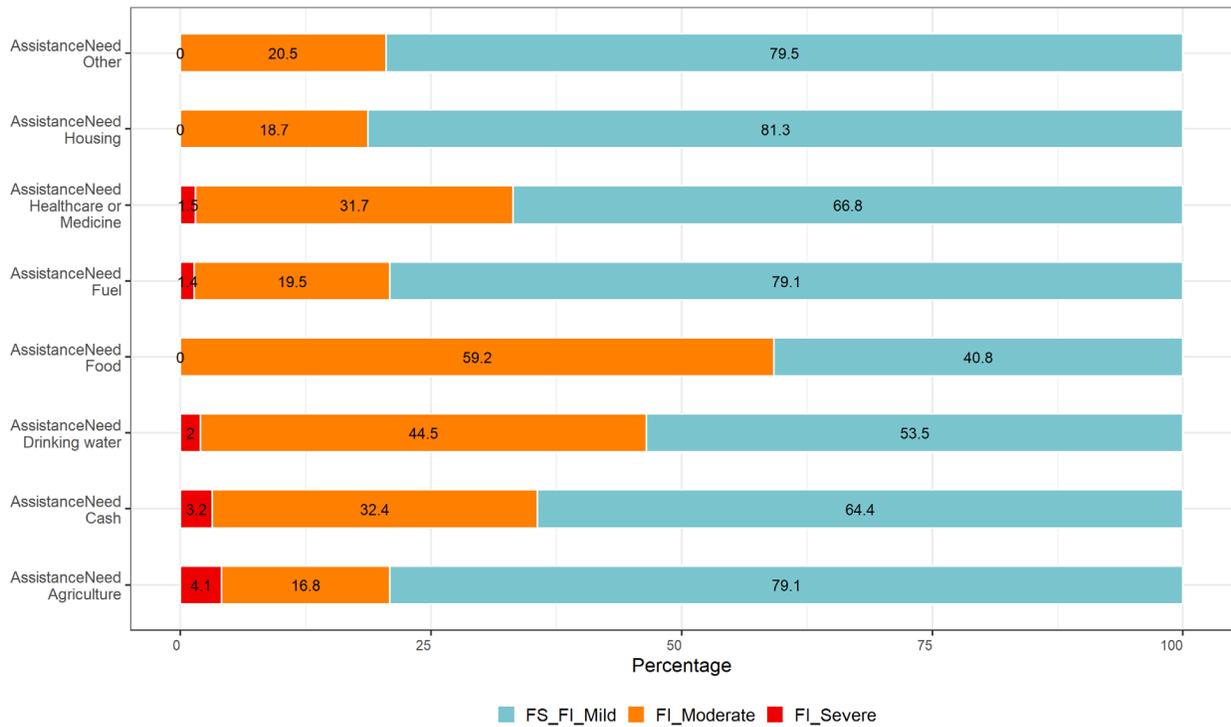


Figure 23. Frequency of households' engagement in agriculture

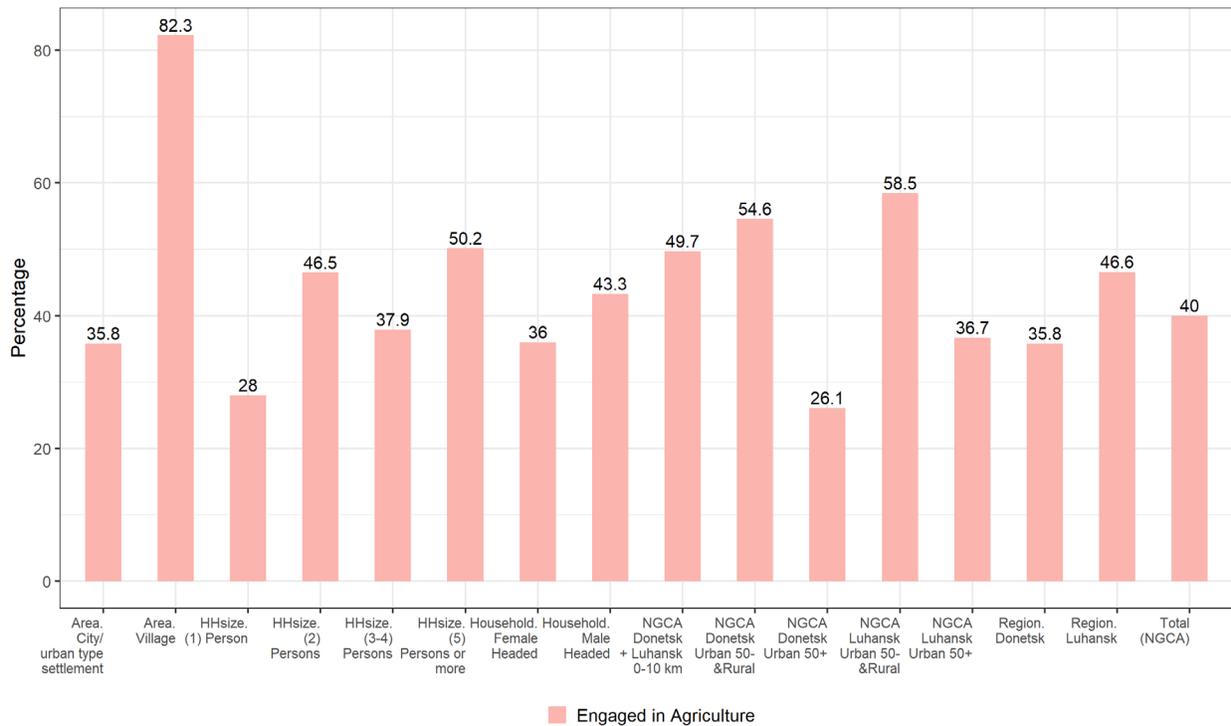


Figure 24 shows the agricultural households' relative engagement in different types of agricultural activities. The importance of producing fresh food is quite evident, as 81% of these households are engaged mainly in vegetable production. The second important set of agricultural activities includes those

pertaining to fruits (42%), livestock (23.7%) and field crop production (21.7%). The least/marginally adopted agricultural activities by the households are the fisheries and aquaculture (4.5%), the bee keeping (4.5%) and finally the food gathering by 2.5%. The percentages of the households' engagement in different agricultural activities are somewhat consistent across locations and population groups.

Crop Production

Vegetables are the most frequently grown crop by households in the study areas as 69.7% of the households involved in agricultural activities declared their engagement in vegetables production. Figure 25 shows that the households' involvement in tuber vegetable production comes secondly but considerably with lower rates (36%). To a rather lower extent 3.7% of the households reported being engaged in the production of grains and only 1.7% are growing fodder crops. A fair share (11.6%) of households grows cucurbits compared to others crops, including oilseed production, that are declared by 7.1% of households. Similar percentages are observed across different locations and population groups.

It is evident that the main purpose of the households' engagement in crop production is to fulfil their own consumption needs. Figure 26 reveals that almost all households (95%) declare growing crops for own consumption. However, a small proportion (7%) of those households are growing crops for income as well. Only a tiny share (5%) of the households declared to be growing crops only for income generating purposes. Consistent percentages are shown across different regions and locations confirming the homogeneity of crop production's purposes within different locations and population groups.

The crop producers faced various difficulties in growing their crops as revealed by the households in the studied areas. Drought comes in the first place as the main difficulty faced by crop producers, being reported by 17.6% of the households. Figure 27 shows the other reported difficulties according to their magnitude starting from the environmental adversaries of the form of heavy rain, wind or flood (17%) followed by the outbreak of pests and diseases (10.3%) and the lower irrigation water services than usual, reported by 8.2% of the households. The sickness of household member is reported next by 6.1% followed by the lack of or higher costs labour force (5.8%). Difficulties accessing fertilizers, seeds and pesticides are reported by 5.3% and other miscellaneous difficulties (3.5%) are also challenging crop producers. Somehow homogenous rates of crop producers' difficulties are common across locations and population groups.

Livestock Production

The main aspect of livestock production is its minor share in the surveyed areas as it is involved by 69 households forming 7.5% of the population and 23.7% of those who are involved in agriculture. The following paragraphs will highlight the main aspects of livestock production.

The main animals raised by households in NGCA are poultry, pigs, cattle and others. Figure 28 shows that poultry producers come in the first place as 41.5% of households declared raising livestock followed by pig producers by 23.7%. Then comes cattle producers (12.6%) and households who keep small ruminants (2%). The rest of livestock producers (3%) raised other kinds of animals. The distribution of the share of different kinds of animals raised by households across different locations and population groups is slightly heterogeneous as seen in the graph below.

As for the crops, households' engagement in animal production in this area is essentially a way to complement their own food consumption, contributing to their food security Figure 29 reveals that the majority of the households (57%) raise animals only for self-consumption. In addition, 38% of the households are raising animals for both income as well as for their own consumption. However, only a tiny share (5%) of the households declared to keep animals only for the income generating purpose.

Different percentages are shown across different locations population groups maintain the prevalence of subsistence aspect.

Figure 24. Main agricultural activities reported by those engaged in agriculture

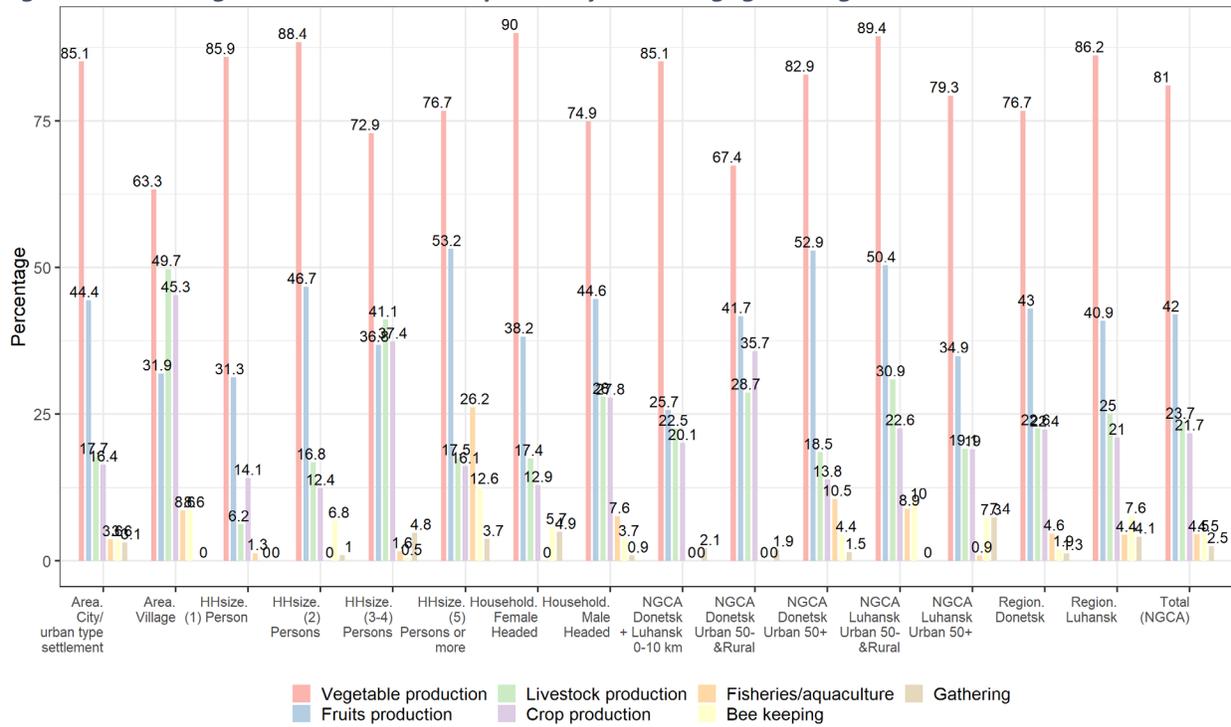


Figure 25. Agricultural activities: Crops reported as the main crop

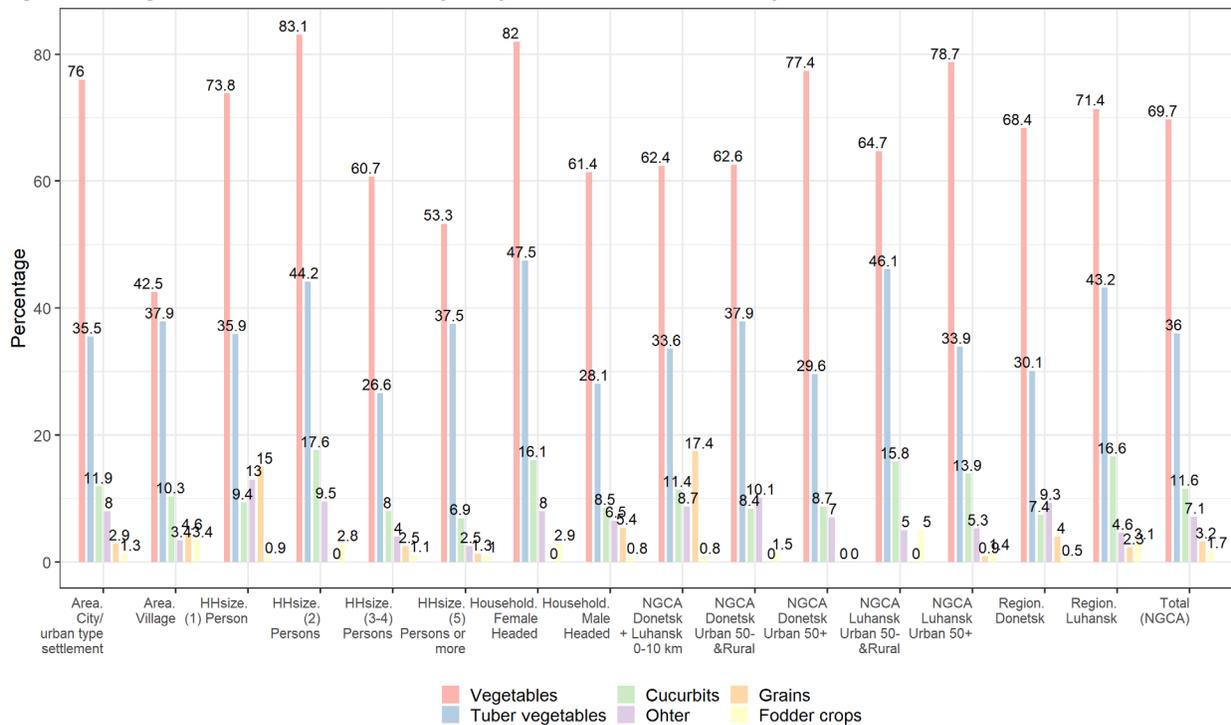


Figure 26. Reasons for growing crops

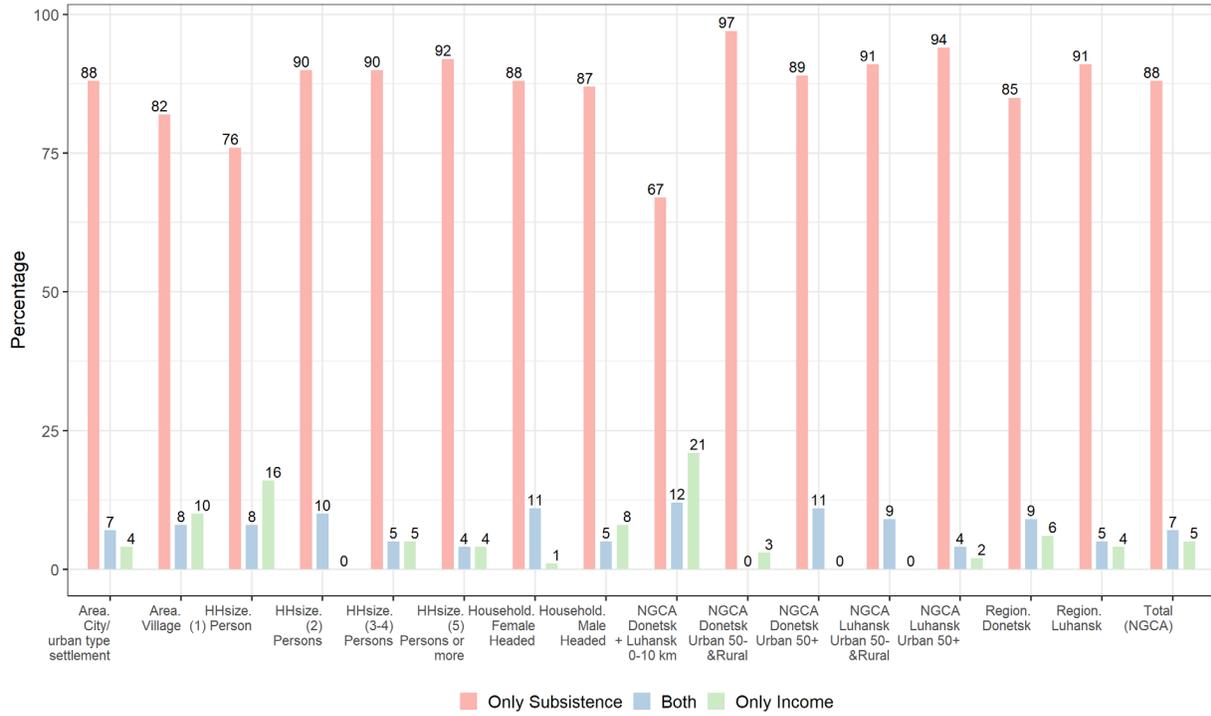


Figure 27. Main reported problems in growing crops

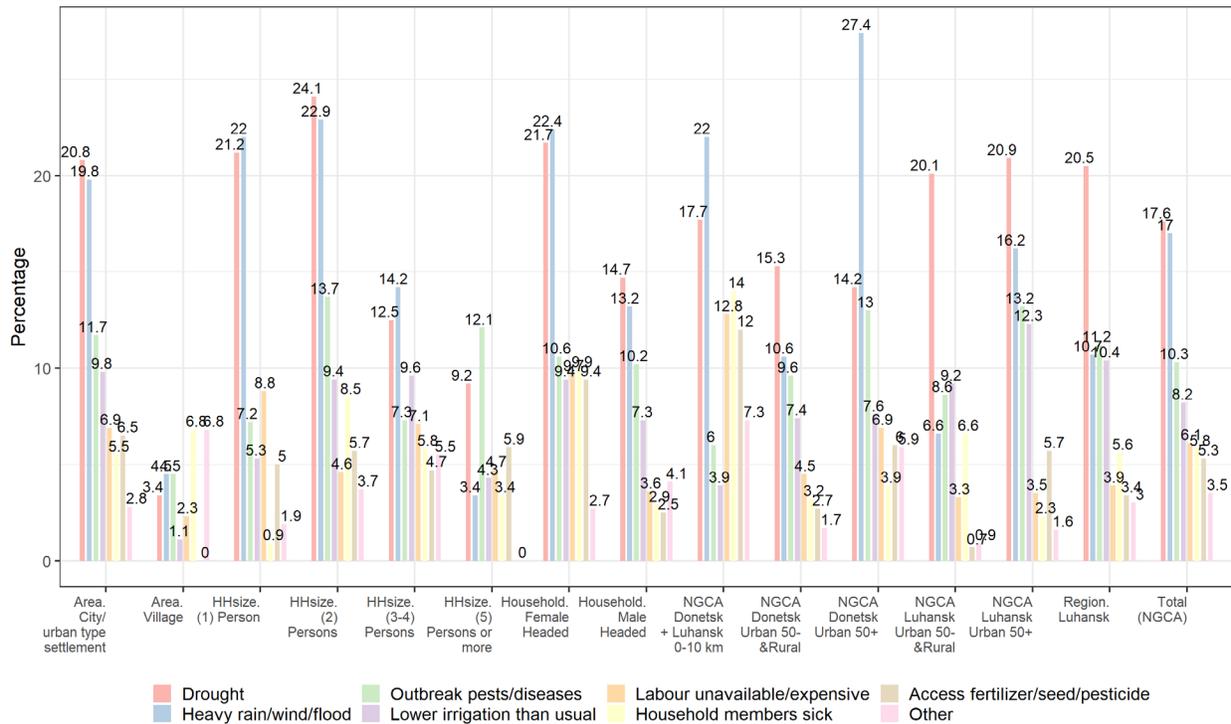


Figure 28. Relevance of livestock raising activities by type of animal

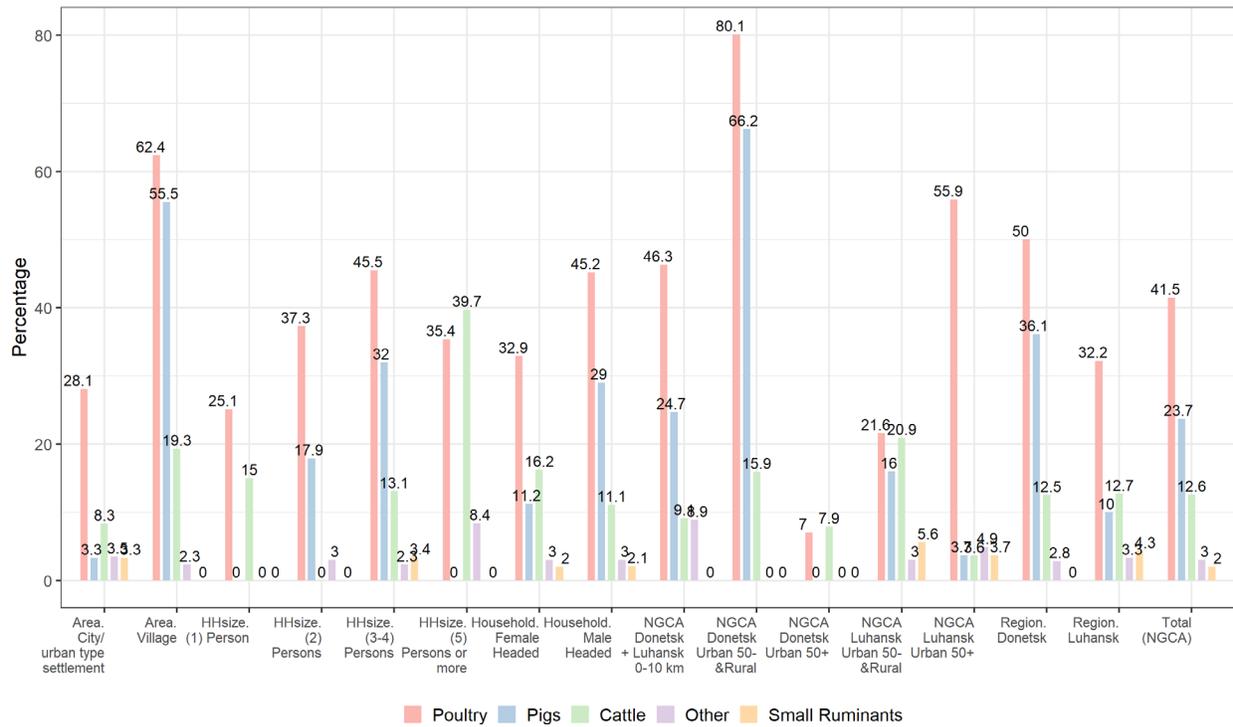
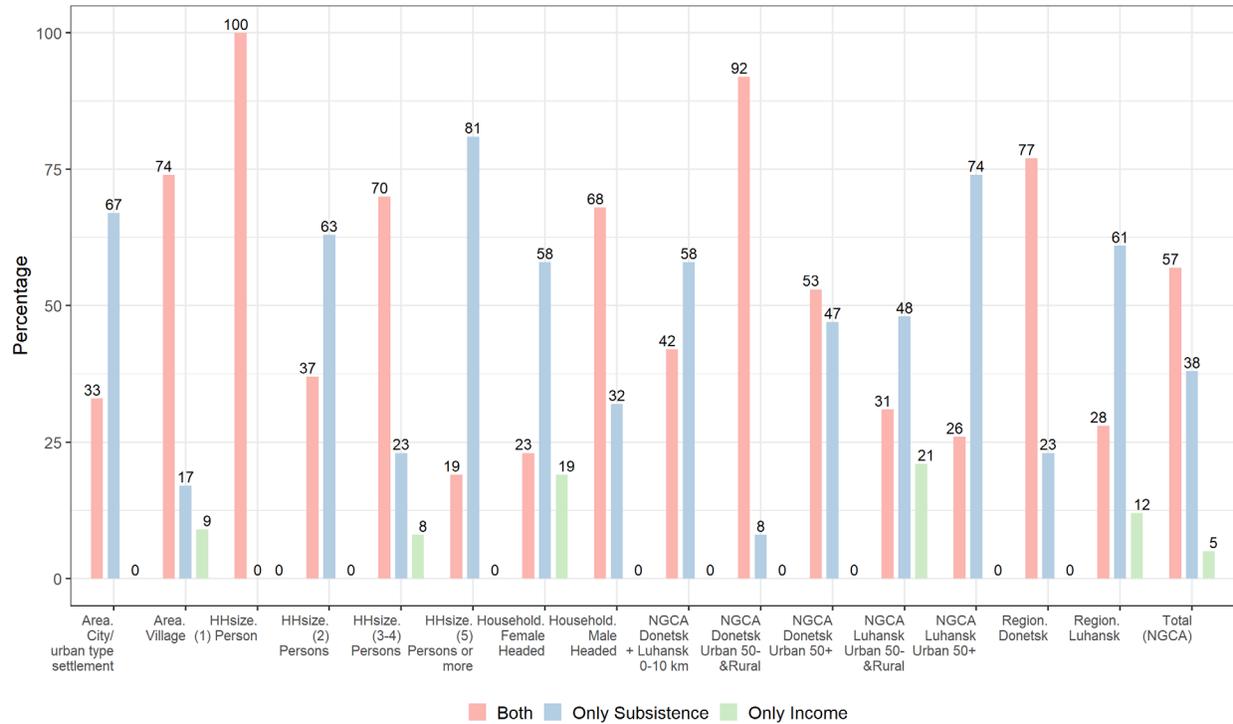


Figure 29. Reasons for raising livestock



Conclusion

The Food Insecurity Expenditure Scale (FIES) provides a rich look into the lives of the conflict-affected population residing in NGCA to support the humanitarian community to better understand the food security and livelihood situation despite the limited humanitarian access to the area. Households that observed any level of food insecurity according to FIES seem to rely on various coping strategies to meet their food needs, with about 34 percent of the respondent reported employing “emergency” or irreversible coping strategies and 38 percent crisis strategies. The coping behaviour, in part, implies that vulnerable households are overstretching and exhausting their ability to feed themselves and further risks a deterioration in their food and livelihoods security.

Moreover, the household expenditure share by the households is larger thus indicating considerable level of food insecurity. According to the results from the assessment, about 17.1 percent of households have experienced food insecurity at either “moderate” or “severe”. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the food insecurity situation and the impact on vulnerable households are evident because of the lockdown, closure of the EECF which led to 90 percent in crossing the contact line and pensioners being unable to access their pension as a result of the closure and the pandemic restrictions. Therefore, a need for developing a holistic and multi-sectoral response to the humanitarian needs in NGCA with more efforts to combat the severe food insecurity.

The revealed correlation between food expenditure share and coping strategies used from one side and food insecurity from the other side could be considered as evidence for need to increase people’s access to livelihoods and sources of income to tackle with food insecurity in a sustainable way.

Women-headed households found to be more vulnerable with significantly higher prevalence of food insecurity, using coping strategies, less access to paid work. Together with the fact that female headed households received more often humanitarian assistance, we could draw to conclusion that female-headed households should be a target for more sustainable livelihood solutions to promote their self-sustenance and facilitate their access to income-generating opportunities.

The multi-dimensional aspect of the assessment shows the humanitarian needs and prioritization in other sectors, which requires a joint inter-sectoral approach to tackling vulnerability in NGCA. However, the assessment has also shown an imbalance in the humanitarian response in Donetska and Luhanska region, with Donetska.

One-quarter of the households in rural areas cited a need for assistance with agricultural and livestock inputs. While the report recognizes the need for lifesaving support, humanitarian assistance alone is not enough, and therefore, a need to address the root causes of food insecurity and poverty to end chronic food insecurity in NGCA. It will support people’s transition from humanitarian assistance to food and livelihood security, and self-reliance.

Recommendations

The report emphasized a holistic and strategic response to improve the food and livelihoods security of the most vulnerable population. Therefore, the recommendations below areas related to short-, and medium-term solutions. The short-term recommendations focus on lifesaving needs, while the medium recommendations look at sustainable assistance to restore and protect livelihoods, resilience building, address the underlying causes of chronic food insecurity, and overall strengthen agriculture and livelihood of the affected population. This will help the affected population transition from humanitarian assistance to food security and self-reliance. These cannot be achieved without unabated humanitarian access, better targeting, and community engagement. In addition, the need to seek safe and predictable access to NGCA — both for humanitarian assistance and assessment remains critical.

Short-term

Scale up food assistance particularly during winterization months when access to food for the most vulnerable is scares. Life-saving assistance is required for “moderate” to “severe” households experiencing food insecurity. It is also recommended to provide food or cash transfer assistance to increase immediate access to food and the need to increase access to safe water remains critical for the most vulnerable. Cash and voucher assistance also will have a positive impact on local economy by stimulating the demand on food and basic items. To increase access to food the following activities should be considered:

- Unconditional cash transfer or multipurpose cash as direct support to vulnerable households.
- Emergency agriculture support for household with capacity to cultivate, keep livestock and poultry and timely and appropriate agriculture assistance. A timely and appropriate agriculture support and extension services to support households to improve their overall food security situation.
- Provision of WASH kits and safe drinking water, coal for heating and other essential non-food items, Shelter and protection.
- Cash for work to improve agriculture infrastructure including irrigation and restoration of farmland, restoring market and community infrastructure.

Medium-term

For the medium term, we recommend a consolidated nexus approach that focuses on protection and restoration of livelihoods, resilience building, restoring, and building market linkages, and agriculture and human capital enhancement, creating enterprises that could provide additional workplaces. The recommendation also includes access to water, and peace dividend to propel households to longer term development. The recommendations on this section also include responsive social safety net program put in place for the most vulnerable including:

- Access to micro and small business enterprise including business grants and development.
- Access to skills development including vocational education.
- Building people’s resilience to climate change that could include irrigation, crop, and livelihood diversification activities, awareness raising on more sustainable agricultural practices.
- Access to agriculture extension services and restoring market linkages.
- Access to finance and value chain development.
- Rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure and restoring agricultural land from mines and farmland re-cultivation.

- Working with communities and academia on safe conservation of abandoned coal mines and their possible usage as farms or other productive facilities.
- Access to non-farm and on-farm income sources.
- Access to household livelihood asset creation.

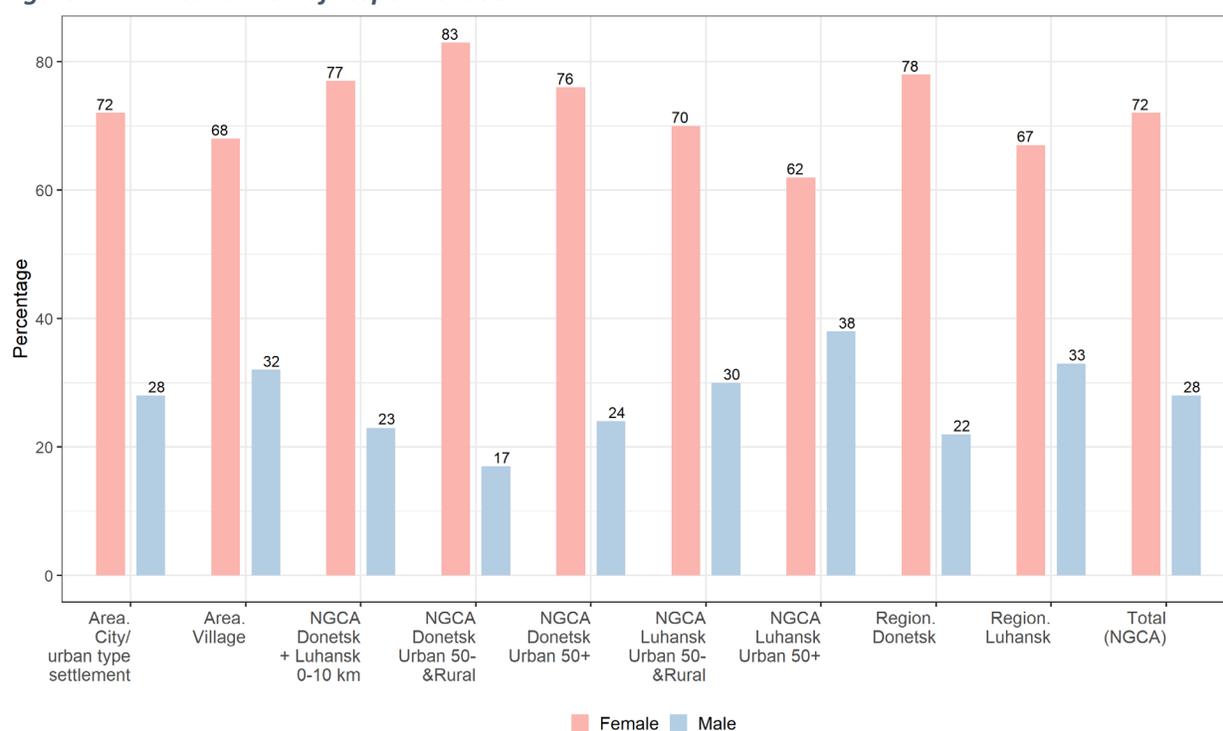
Annexes

Annex 1. Sample and household characteristics

The share of respondents' sex

The random sample favours female 72 percent compared to 28 percent of male respondents who generally answered the call in NGCA zone. Figure A1.1 shows that this percentages are quite consistent through different locations with the highest percentage of female respondent (83%) in “NGCA Donetsk Urban 50- Rural” area. The lower percentage of female respondents (62%) is in “NGCA Luhansk Urban 50+”.

Figure A1.1. Distribution of respondent sex



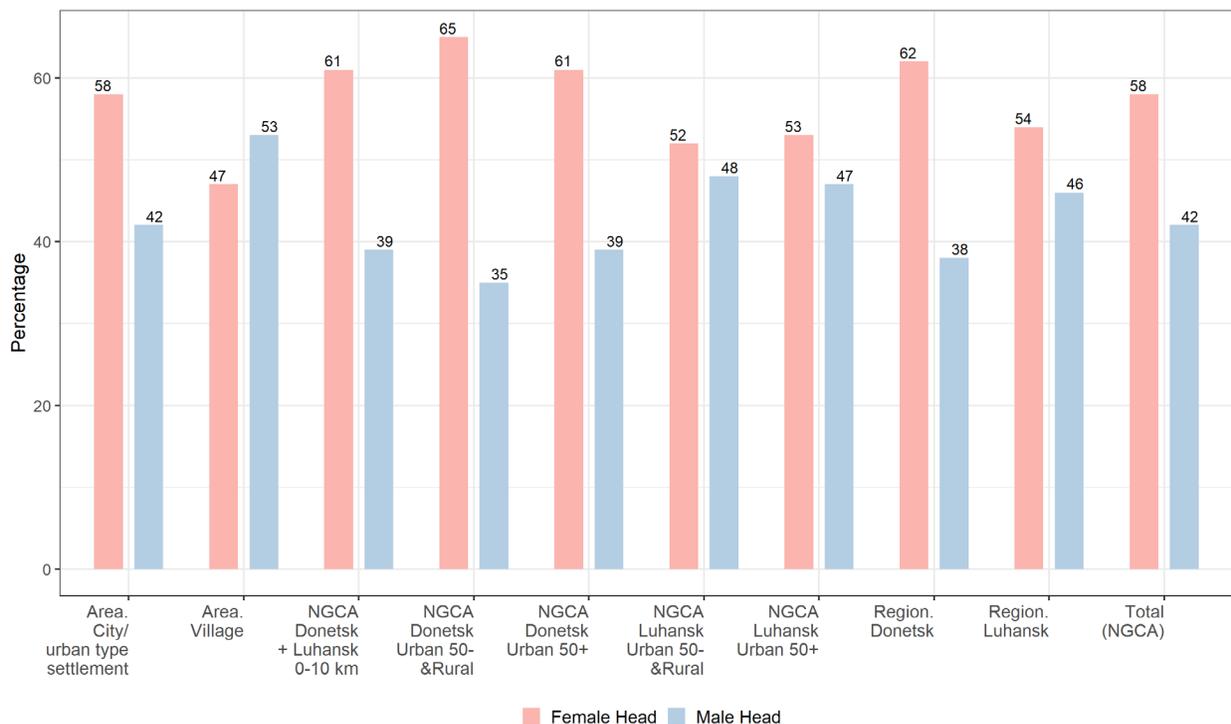
Households Characteristics:

This section is devoted to observing the main characteristics of the surveyed households in the studied area as a whole and disaggregated to the level of each single region (Oblast) and to the target locations and population groups.

The share of the households' head sex

Similar to the share of the respondents' sex, the sex of the households' head is dominant by females. Figure A1.2 shows that 58% of households are led by females in NGCA areas. However, the most characterised area by male headed households is the villages by 53%.

Figure A1.2. Distribution of the household head sex



The share of households' head age group

The average age of the household head is an important indicator that could be related to the HHs different socioeconomic aspects and their food insecurity levels and coping strategy eventually. Figure A1.3 generally shows that the older of “60 year and above” is the most frequent age group of the household head (54.4%) followed by the middle age group (46-59) that covers 23.5% within the surveyed HHs. The less frequent age group, instead, is the youngest group (25 years and below (0.7%). The only location that observes different characteristics is “NGCA Luhansk Urban 50- & Rural”, which has higher share of age groups (26-45) than the (46-59) by 33.3% and 28% respectively.

The share of the households' members' age group

The composition of the households explicitly reveals that the elderly category (60-year and above) is the dominant one within families as it was presented in 64% of the surveyed households in NGCA. Figure A1.4 shows that older population seems to be more dominant in “NGCA Donetsk Urban 50- & Rural”, where 81% of people were belonging to elderly group above and in the villages by 79%. Although they have homogenous distribution, the location that characterised by the highest presence of children below 18 is “NGCA Luhansk Urban 50- & Rural” by 37%.

The higher education level of the head of the households

An important characteristic of the households that would shape their economic and social conditions is the education level of the household member in general and of the head of the household in specific. Figure A1.5 reveals that generally the most dominant education category is the “Secondary Specialised/technical school” category (46.2%) followed by the “Complete higher/graduate school” education (32.5%) and the complete secondary education by (16.9%). The distribution of these education levels of the head of the household seems to be consistent in both oblasts, Donetsk and Luhansk. But in general urban areas shows higher levels of the higher education category than rural areas.

Figure A1.3. Distribution of the household head age category

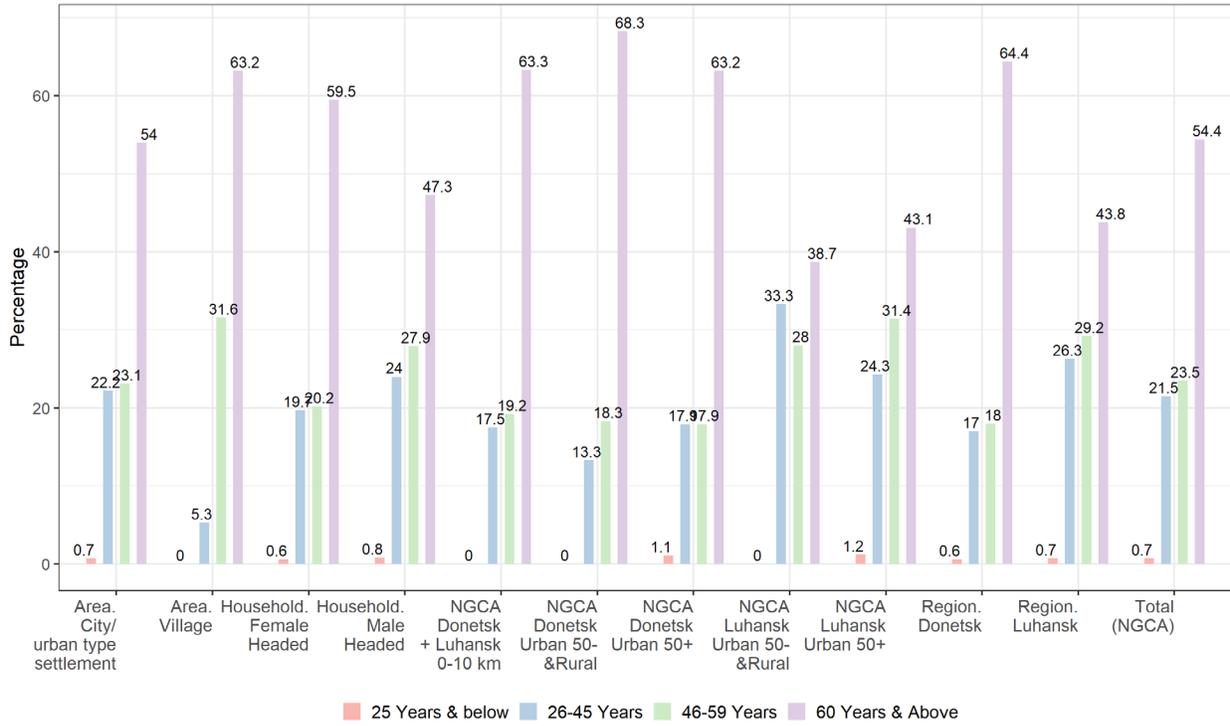


Figure A1.4. Distribution of the household members by age categories

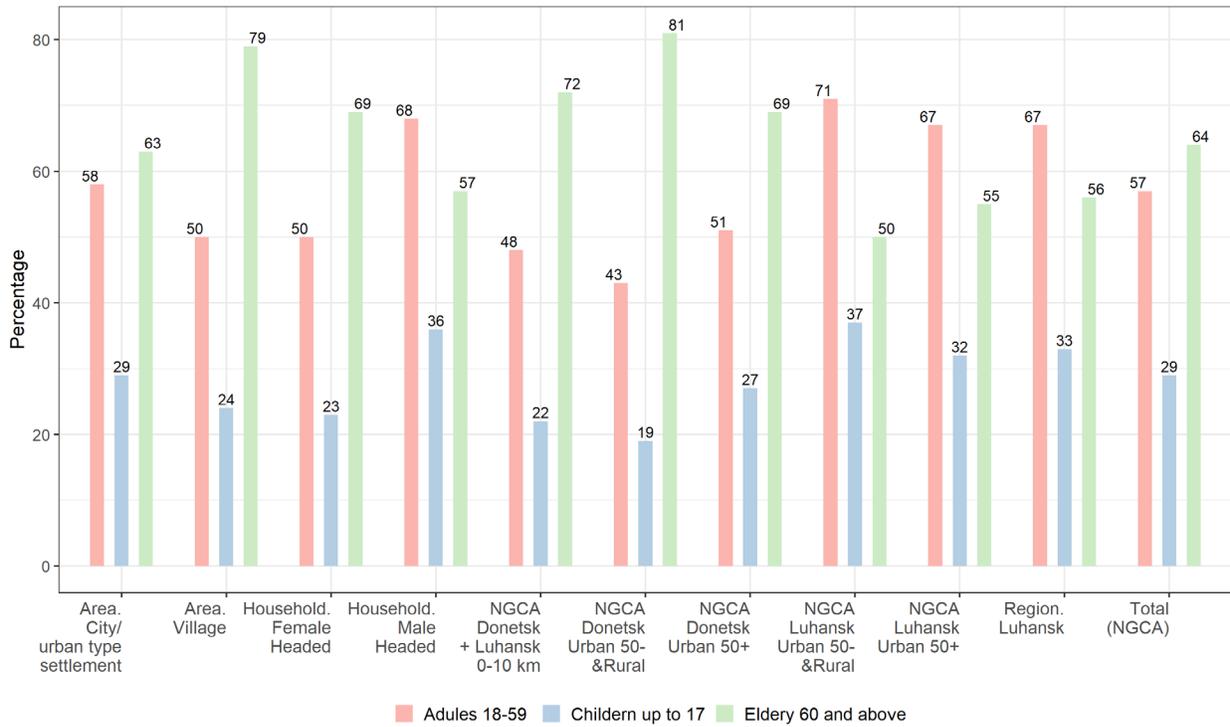
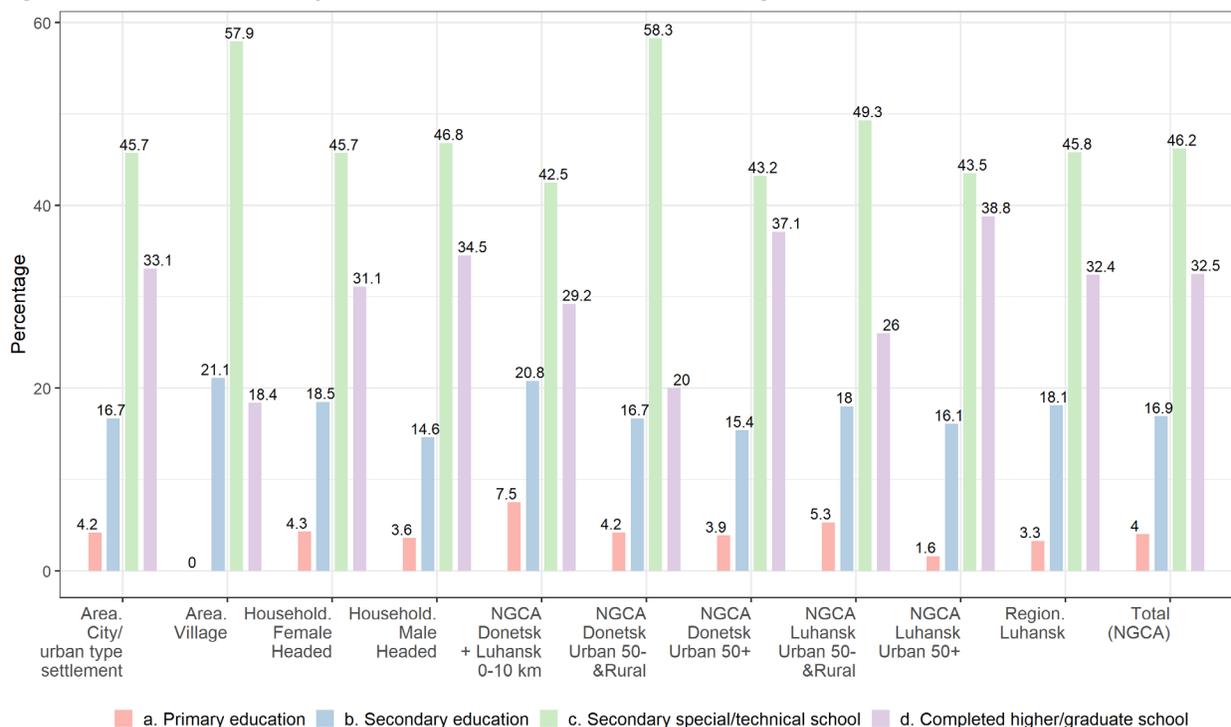


Figure A1.5. Distribution of the household head education categories



The higher education level of the households' members

Acknowledging the impact of including different generations, the education level categories of households' member show different distribution than those of the head of the household, putting the higher education category at the top of the rank (40.6%) as shown by Figure A1.6 below. It is notable the presence of almost all categories except the "no education" that seems to be missing indicating the presence of minimum education levels in the surveyed areas. The distribution of these education levels seems to be quite different across locations, stressing the dominance of secondary education compared to higher education in rural areas (47.4% vs 23.7%). The same applied to "NGCA Donetsk Urban 50-&Rural" where secondary education (45.8%) is much higher than the completed high education (26.7%). The figure below shows the distribution of the higher education level of the household member across locations and population groups.

Employment of the head of the households

The employment status of the head of the household is another important determinant of the economic conditions and those HHs and their food security levels accordingly. The majority of the households that revealed their employment status (12.3%) declared that the household head is "Retired" as shown in Figure A1.7. The second and third employment categories are "non-government employee" (4.3%) and "government employee" (2.8%). The distribution of these categories is somewhat consistent in across locations, with a complete dominance of the "Retired" category in "NGCA Donetsk Urban 50-&Rural" area, the villages and male headed households.

Households' composition

The dominant household type in NGCA areas are the middle size "2 Persons" households (34%). Figure A1.8 also shows that the single person households whose share is relatively high comes next by 30%. The "3-4 Persons" household is the third frequent household's size (28%) followed by the big households "5

Persons and above” that seem to be less frequent instead (8%). A similar distribution is dominant across locations and population groups.

Households’ residency status

The residency structure of the surveyed populations reveals the existence of mainly three categories as shown in Figure A1.9 below. While the “Ukrainian citizen” category is the dominant residency type that account for 83% of total households, the rest are mainly IDPS (7.6%). However, the data also show a little presence of Non-Ukrainian Citizens (1.8%). This structure is quite homogenous among different locations and population groups.

Households’ vulnerabilities

The households’ vulnerability situation is another determinant factor that would impact their income, livelihoods and food security situation as a sequence. Figure A1.10 shows the presence of different vulnerabilities that are dominated by incidence of chronic illness (50.5%), which reveals a health problem and/or health care issue in the NGCA area. While the presence of this kind of vulnerability is more or less consistent among locations and population groups, it is more pronounced for the female headed households (54.7%), the small household sizes (58.9%) and in the villages (57.9%). The second common vulnerability type is the “Unemployed” (18.9%) followed by the presence of physical or mental disability “Physically/mentally disability” (14.8%) and the “Single Parent” (12.2%). The “Veteran of war/ATO” comes then by 3.8% followed by the existence of foster children in the household (1.3%). Assumingly, all these kind of vulnerability categories are connected to the effect of the conflict on the households in the dispute areas. The distribution of these vulnerabilities across locations and population groups is somewhat homogenous.

Figure A1.6. Distribution of the household members’ education categories

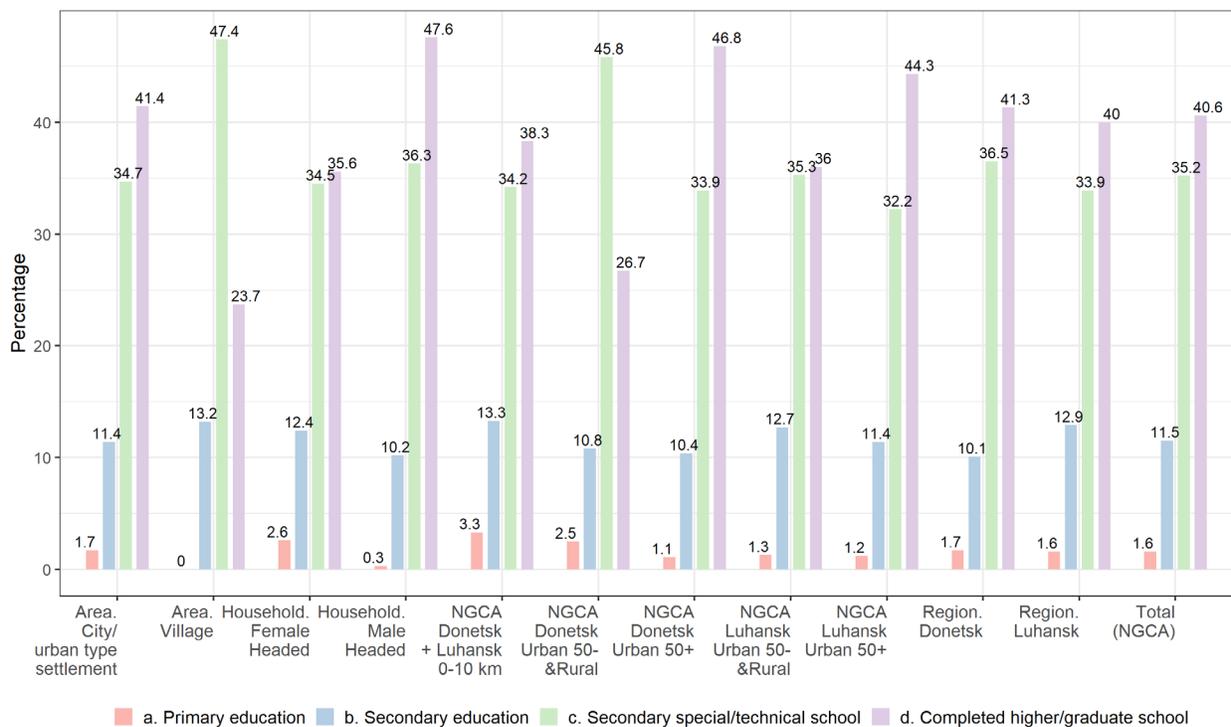


Figure A1.7 Distribution of the household head employment categories

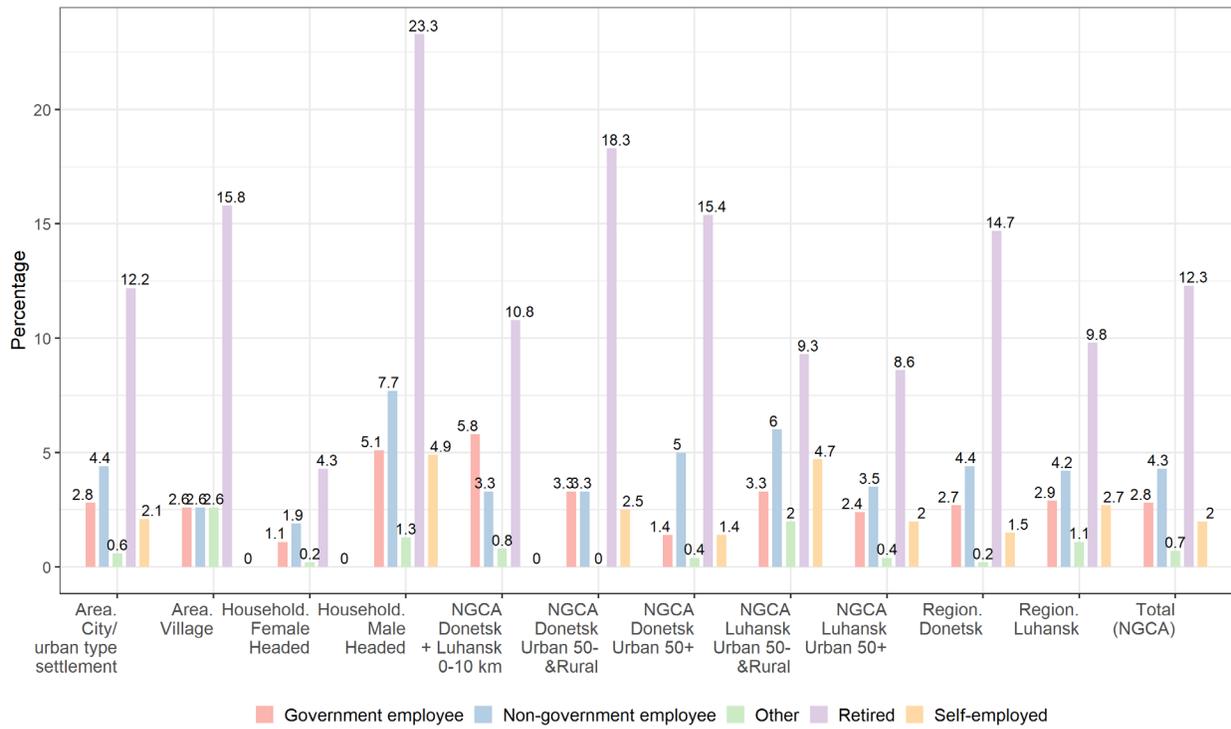


Figure A1.8 Distribution of the household size categories

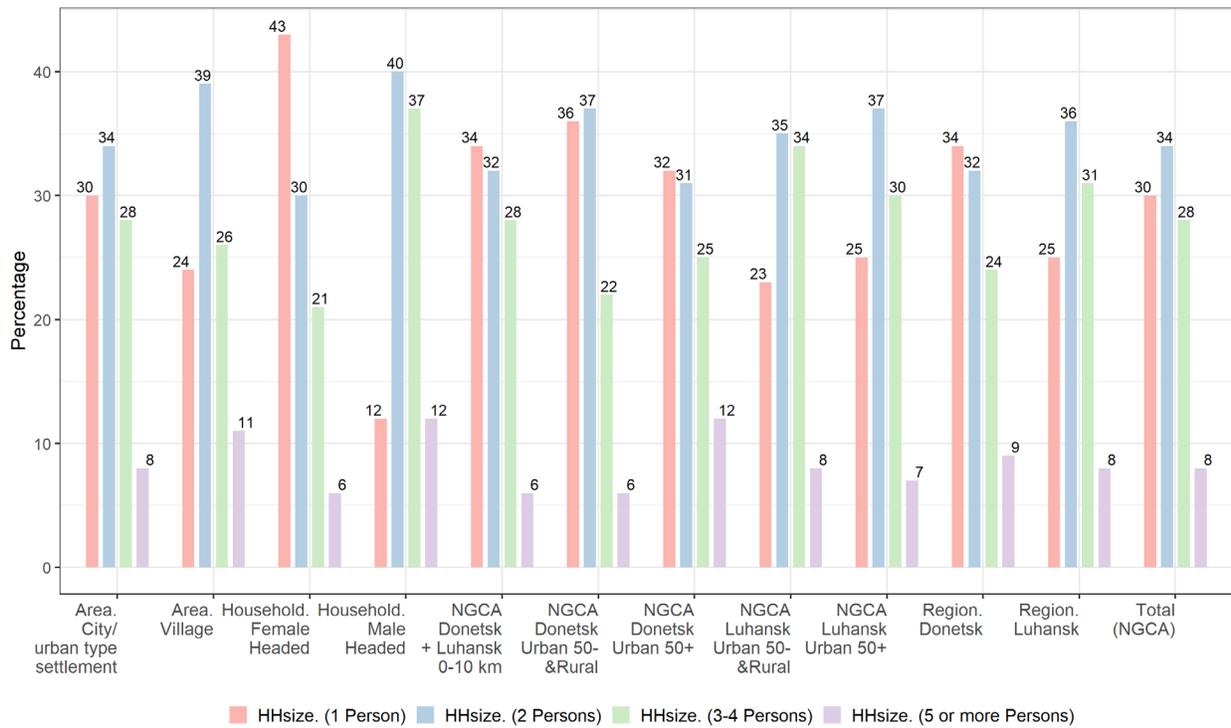


Figure A1.9 Distribution of the household residency categories

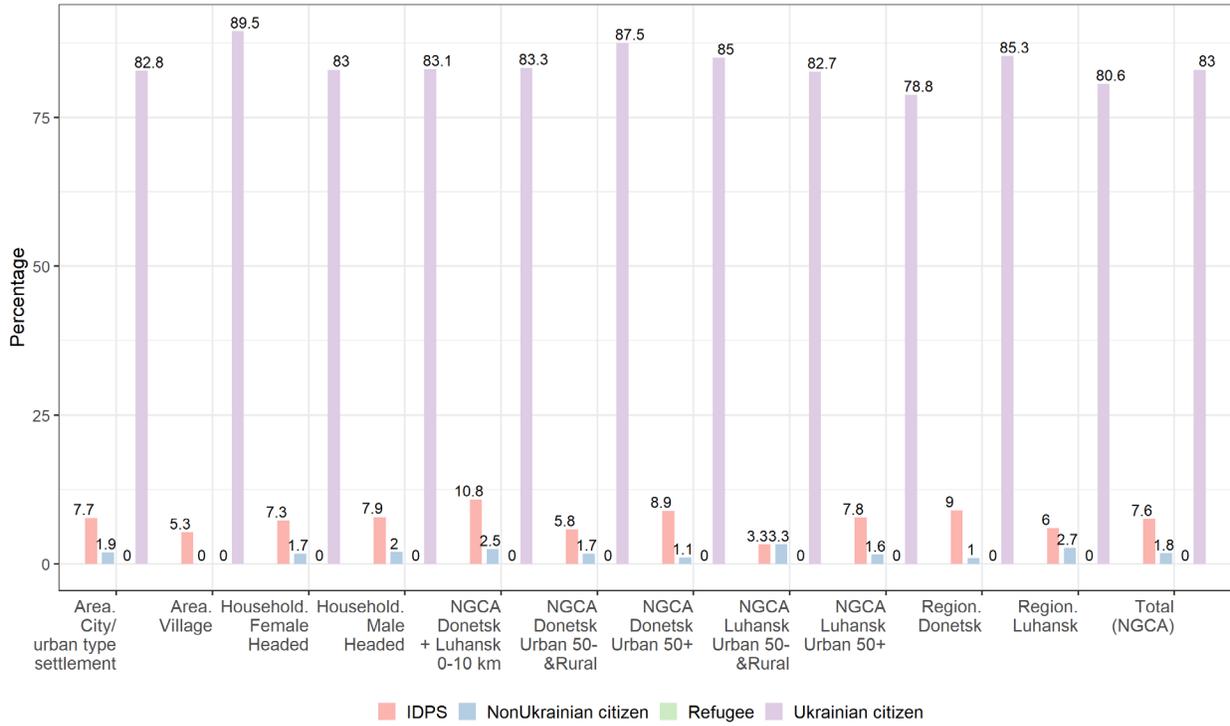
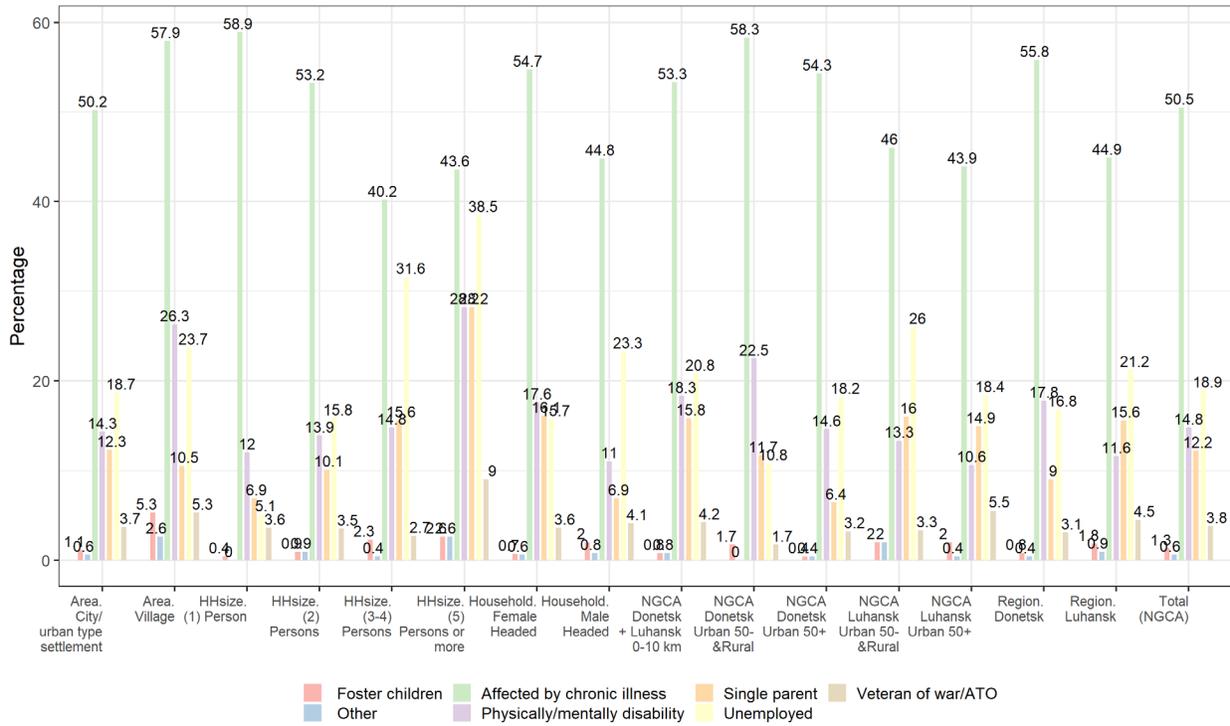


Figure A1.10 Distribution of the household vulnerability categories



Annex 2. FSLA Questionnaire

**FAO Ukraine
Food Security and Livelihood Assessment
Eastern Ukraine**

Q#	Q Name	English	Question Type	Skip Pattern
A. INTRODUCTION AND ELIGIBILITY				
A1	Opting	Opting		Any Response = Call Dispo
A2	Call Dispo	Phone number: #CATI_MOBILENUMBER# 1) Someone answers 2) Answering machine 3) No Answer 4) Hang Up/Refusal 5) Call Back 6) Under Review 7) Disconnected	Single Choice	1 = Language1 2 = End Poll Answering machine 3 = End Poll No Answer 4 = End Poll Refusal 5 = When Callback 6 = End Poll Under Review 7 = End Poll Disconnected
A3	Language1	Which language do you wish to proceed with? [OPERATOR: READ ANSWER CHOICES, SINGLE RESPONSE] 1) Ukrainian 2) Russian	Single Choice	1 = Introduction [] 2 = Introduction []

Q#	Q Name	English	Question Type	Skip Pattern
A4	Introduction	<p>Hello sir/ma'am, my name is #OPERATOR#, and I am calling on behalf of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Currently, FAO is conducting a survey in your community to understand issues related to food, agriculture, and livelihoods over the winter period. Your household has been randomly selected. Should you agree to participate, all the information you provide will be strictly kept confidential and be used only for the purpose of the survey. Your decision to participate or not will in no way affect your ability to access any forms of assistance.</p> <p>The survey will take about 15-20 minutes of your time.</p> <p>1) CONTINUE</p>	Single Choice	1 = Agree
A5	Agree	<p>Are you interested in participating in this survey?</p> <p>1) Yes 2) Not now but another time in the week 3) No</p>	Single Choice	1 = RESP Age 2 = When Call Back 3 = Refusal
A6	When Callback	<p>When would it be a good time to call you back?</p> <p>[RECORD HH/MM/DD/MM OF CALLBACK]</p>	Open Ended	Any Response = Callback Message
A7	Callback Message EN	<p>Thank you, we will call you back at #WhenCallBack# you requested. Thank you again and have a great day!</p> <p>[OPERATOR: ENTER CALL NOTES BELOW, WHO YOU SPOKE TO AND WHAT THEY SAID]</p>	Open Ended	End poll callback
A8	RESP. Age	<p>How old are you?</p> <p>[OPERATOR: RECORD THE AGE IN YEARS – ROUND UP TO NEAREST WHOLE NUMBER. IF THE RESPONDENT GIVES BIRTH YEAR, REPEAT THE QUESTION. ENTER 00 for DON'T KNOW]</p>	Range	0-17 = Ineligible Young 18-100 = RESP Name 00 = Ineligible
A9	Ineligible Young	<p>[If age < 18] Is there someone else in your household whose age is 18 or above who would be willing to participate in the survey?</p>	Single Choice	1 = Pass Phone 2 = Ineligible

Q#	Q Name	English	Question Type	Skip Pattern
		1) Yes 2) No		
A10	Pass Phone	[If yes] Can you please pass the phone to them? 1) Continue	Single Choice	1 = Introduction
A11	Ineligible	You are ineligible for this survey. Thank you for your time.	Single Choice	End Poll Ineligible
A12	Refusal	Thank you for your time, you will be removed from today's survey.	Single Choice	End poll declined
B. SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION				
B1	RESP. Name	What is your name? [OPERATOR: RECORD THE RESPONDENT'S NAME. ENTER 99 FOR REFUSED]	Open Ended	Any Response = ADM1
B2	ADM1	Currently, which oblast does your household reside in? [OPERATOR: DO NOT READ THE OPTIONS. SINGLE SELECTION]	Single Choice	Any Response = ADM2
B3	ADM2	Currently, which raion in #ADM1# does your household reside in? [OPERATOR: DO NOT READ THE OPTIONS. SINGLE SELECTION]	Single Choice	Any Response = Village Name
B4	Village Name	Currently, in which settlement/village in #ADM2# does your household reside in? [OPERATOR: RECORD THE RESPONDENT'S VILLAGE NAME. ENTER 88 FOR DON'T KNOW & 99 FOR REFUSED]	Open Ended	Any Response = Quota_ Reached
B5	Quota Reached	[OPERATOR: DO NOT READ. ANSWER QUESTION BELOW.] THIS RESPONDENT REPORTED THEY LIVE IN: #ADM1# #ADM2# 1) THE GOAL FOR THIS LOCATION HAS BEEN ACHIEVED - END SURVEY 2) THE GOAL FOR THIS LOCATION IS OPEN - CONTINUE SURVEY	Single Choice	1 = End Poll Quota Reached 2 = RESP Sex

Q#	Q Name	English	Question Type	Skip Pattern
B6	RESP-Sex	<p>WHAT IS THE GENDER OF THE RESPONDENT?</p> <p>[OPERATOR: LISTEN TO THE VOICE AND CHECK THE BOX WHETHER THE RESPONDENT IS MALE OR FEMALE.]</p> <p>1) MALE 2) FEMALE</p>	Single Choice	1-2 = HH explain
B7	HH-explain	<p>The following questions ask about your household. By household we mean the people who have been living together in the same house, and/or shared the food for the past 6 months. The head of household is the person who makes most of the decisions regarding how to share the available resources and generally is the main earner of the household.</p> <p>[OPERATOR: READ THE EXPLANATORY TEXT, NO ANSWER IS REQUIRED]</p> <p>1) Continue</p>	Single Choice	1 = HH Head
B8	HH Head	<p>Are you the head of the houshold?</p> <p>1) Yes 2) No</p>	Single Choice	1 = HHH Marital 2 = HHH Sex
B9	HHH Sex	<p>Is the head of your household male or female?</p> <p>[OPERATOR: CHOOSE ONLY ONE OPTION]</p> <p>1) MALE 2) FEMALE</p>	Single Choice	1-2 = HHH Age
B10	HHH Age	<p>What is the age of the Head of Household?</p>	Range	Any Response = HHH Marital
B11	HHH Marital	<p>What is the marital status of the head of household?</p> <p>1) Married 2) Widow/Widower 3) Single 4) Common law 5) Other 6) Don't know</p>	Single Choice	1-6= HH. Size

Q#	Q Name	English	Question Type	Skip Pattern
B12	HH Size	We would like some information on the composition of your household. How many people in your household belong to each of the following categories? [OPERATOR: READ EACH CATEGORY AND RECORD THE ANSWER]	Range	Any Response = Num. Phones
B12_1		Boys, between 0-4 years of age		
B12_2		Boys between 5 and 17 years of age		
B12_3		Men between 18 and 59 years of age		
B12_4		Men 60 and older	Range	
B12_5		Girls, between 0-4 years of age		
B12_6		Girls between 5 and 17 years of age		
B12_7		Women between 18 and 59 years of age		
B12_8		Women 60 and older		
B13	Num Phones	How many active phones numbers are currently being used by your household?	Range	Any Response = Res. Type
B14	Res Type	How would you describe the residency status of the head of your household [OPERATOR: SINGLE RESPONSE] 1) She/he is a national permanent resident (Ukrainian citizenship) 2) She/he is a foreigner legal resident (non-Ukrainian citizenship) 3) She/he is an Internally Displaced Person 4) She/he is a Refugee 5) Other (specify) 6) DON'T KNOW 7) REFUSED	multiple Choice	1-7 = Vulnerable

Q#	Q Name	English	Question Type	Skip Pattern
B15	Vulnerable	<p>Are there people in your household who are?</p> <p>[OPERATOR: CHECK ALL THAT APPLY</p> <p>1) Physically or mentally disability (not including chronic illness) (YES/NO) 3) Unemployed (YES/NO) 4) Veteran of war/ATO (YES/NO) 5) Single parent 6) Foster children 7) Affected by chronic illness</p> <p>8) Other special needs/disabilities (specify) 9) None</p>	Multiple Choice	1-11 = Education
B16	Education	<p>What is the highest level of education achieved by the Head of Household?</p> <p>[OPERATOR CHOOSE ONLY ONE BASED ON THE RESPONE GIVEN]</p> <p>1) No formal schooling / self-study 2) Incomplete primary education (less than 4 grades) 3) Primary education 4) Incomplete secondary education (less than 10 grades) 5) Complete secondary education (11 grades) 6) Secondary special / technical school 7) Incomplete higher education (3 courses or less) 8) Complete higher education 9) Completed graduate school 10) Don't know / Refusal to answer</p>	Single Choice	1-10= Education 2

Q#	Q Name	English	Question Type	Skip Pattern
B17	Education 2	<p>What is the highest level of education achieved by anyone in the Household?</p> <p>[OPERATOR: CHOOSE ONLY ONE BASED ON THE RESPONSE GIVEN]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) No formal schooling / self-study 2) Incomplete primary education (less than 4 grades) 3) Primary education 4) Incomplete secondary education (less than 10 grades) 5) Complete secondary education (11 grades) 6) Secondary special / technical school 7) Incomplete higher education (3 courses or less) 8) Complete higher education 9) Completed graduate school 10) Don't know / Refusal to answer 		1-10 = Employment1
B18	Employment1	<p>What is your current employment status?:</p> <p>[OPERATOR: CHOOSE ONLY ONE BASED ON THE RESPONSE GIVEN]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Government employee 2) Non-government employee 3) Self-employed 4) Student 5) Homemaker 6) Retired 7) Unemployed, able to work 8) Unemployed, unable to work 9) Other. Enter, please: _____ 10) Don't know / Refusal to answer 		1-10 = Employment2

Q#	Q Name	English	Question Type	Skip Pattern
B19	Employment2	<p>What is the current employment status of the household head?:</p> <p>[OPERATOR: CHOOSE ONLY ONE BASED ON THE RESPONSE GIVEN]</p> <p>1) Government employee 2) Non-government employee 3) Self-employed 4) Student 5) Homemaker 6) Retired 7) Unemployed, able to work 8) Unemployed, unable to work 9) Other. Enter, please: _____ 10) Don't know / Refusal to answer</p>		1-10 = Main Income Source
C. INCOMES & LIVELIHOODS				
C0	RefPeriodText	<p>We are now moving on to questions about incomes, livelihoods, food, and agriculture. Unless otherwise noted, the following questions refer to the period March to May and are intended to capture information about the winter period.</p>	String	

Q#	Q Name	English	Question Type	Skip Pattern
C1	Main Income Source	<p>Which have been your household's main sources of income over the period March to May?</p> <p>[OPERATOR: SELECT ALL THAT APPLY BASED ON THE RESPONSE. IF LESS THAN THREE, PROMPT WHETHER THERE ARE OTHERS, CONSIDERING ALL HOUSHOLD MEMBERS]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Income from own agricultural activities 2) Income from own non-agricultural activities 3) Agricultural wage labour (employed by others for farm work) 4) Non-agricultural wage labour (employed in the private or governmental sector outside agriculture) 5) Pensions 6) Benefit from social cash transfer - social benefits - Humanitarian assistance/ charity 7) Remittances from migrants (inside or outside the country) 8) Rents (from owned land or buildings) 9) Returns on financial investments (shareholder related dividends) 10) Other 11) Don't know 12) Refuse 	Multiple Choice	1-17 = Income First Main 18-19 = IncomeChangeP30D
C2	Income First Main	Of these income sources [READ ALL THAT HAVE BEEN REGISTERED IN THE PREVIOUS QUESTION] which one you consider your household's main income source?	Single Choice	Any Response = Total Income Share
C3	Total Income Share	<p>Over the period March to May, what share of your household's total income, in percentage, has come from #MainIncomeSource#?</p> <p>[OPERATOR: SINGLE RESPONSE]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The totality or almost (over 75%) 2) The large majority (50 to 75%) 3) A significant part (25 to 50%) 4) DON'T KNOW 5) REFUSED 	Single Choice	Any Response = IncomeChangeP30D

Q#	Q Name	English	Question Type	Skip Pattern
C4	IncomeChangeP30D	<p>Has your household's overall income in the period March to May changed compared to the same period last year? Would you say it has...</p> <p>[OPERATOR: SINGLE RESPONSE]</p> <p>1) Significantly increased (>50%) 2) Somewhat increased (0-50%) 3) Not changed 4) Somewhat decreased (0-50%) 5) Drastically decreased (> 50%) 6) DON'T KNOW 7) REFUSED</p>	Single Choice	1-7 = Num Paid Work
C5	Num Paid Work	How many members of your household have engaged in any kind of paid work in the months March to May?	Range	Any Response = Shocks
C6	Shocks	<p>Has anyone in your household experienced the following shocks in the period March to May?</p> <p>1)Lost employment/reduced salary 2)Sickness/health expenditure 3)Death of household member/funerals/death of breadwinner 4)Inflation or unexpected price increase (for food, fuel, rent payment, utilities etc.) 4)Court expenditures 5)Insecurity/theft 6)Poor harvest 7)Natural disasters 8)Military damage to the assets 9)Other shock</p> <p>10) None 11) Don't know 12) Refuse</p>	Multiple Choice	Any Response = Debt
C7	Debt	<p>Has the head or any other in f the household taken out any debts over the period March to May?</p> <p>1) Yes 2) No</p>	Single Choice	1 = Debt Reason 2 = FOOD SECURITY

Q#	Q Name	English	Question Type	Skip Pattern
C8	Debt Reason	What was the reason for taking out these debts? 1) To pay for food 2) To pay for housing/rent 3) To pay for medical services or medicine 4) To pay for household utilities 5) To purchase agricultural inputs 6) To pay for education 7) To pay for other household expenses 8) To pay debt 9) Other 10) Don't Know 11) Refused	Multiple Choice	1-11 = Debt Outstanding
C9	Debt Outstanding	Are any of these debt(s) still outstanding? 1) Yes 2) No 3) Don't Know 4) Refused	Single Choice	1-4 = FOOD SECURITY
D. FOOD SECURITY				
D1	FS_Introduction	Now I would like to ask you some questions about the food consumed by your household. 1) NEXT	Single Choice	1 = Food Exp Share
D2	Food Exp Share	Approximately what proportion of your household income was spent on food in the months March to May? 1) 10 - 19% 2) 20 - 29% 3) 30 - 39% 4) 40 - 49% 5) 50 - 59% 6) 60 - 69% 7) 70 - 79% 8) 80 - 89% 9) 90 - 100% 98) Don't know 99) Refuse	Single Choice	1-99 = FoodMainSrc

Q#	Q Name	English	Question Type	Skip Pattern
D3	Food Main Src	<p>In the months March to May, what has been the main habitual source of food for your household?</p> <p>1) Own production 2) Small local shops 3) Local farmers' markets 4) In-kind food assistance / humanitarian aid 5) Supermarket or other larger retailer 98) Don't know 99) Refuse</p>	Single Choice	1-6 = FIES Worried
D4	FIES Worried	<p>During the month of April, was there a time when you or others in your household were worried about not having enough food to eat because of lack of money or other resources?</p> <p>[OPERATOR: SINGLE RESPONSE]</p> <p>1) YES 2) NO 98) DON'T KNOW 99) REFUSED</p>	Single Choice	1-99 = FIES Healthy
D5	FIES Healthy	<p>During the month of April, was there a time when you or others in your household were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food because of lack of money or other resources?</p> <p>[OPERATOR: SINGLE RESPONSE]</p> <p>1) YES 2) NO 98) DON'T KNOW 99) REFUSED</p>	Single Choice	1-99 = FIES Fewfoods
D6	FIES Fewfoods	<p>During the month of April, was there a time when you or others in your household had to eat only a limited variety of foods because of lack of money or other resources?</p> <p>[OPERATOR: SINGLE RESPONSE]</p> <p>1) YES 2) NO 98) DON'T KNOW 99) REFUSED</p>	Single Choice	1-99 = FIES Skipped

Q#	Q Name	English	Question Type	Skip Pattern
D7	FIES Skipped	<p>During the month of April, was there a time when you or others in your household had to skip one of the main meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) because of lack of money or other resources to get food?</p> <p>[OPERATOR: SINGLE RESPONSE]</p> <p>1) YES 2) NO 98) DON'T KNOW 99) REFUSED</p>	Single Choice	1-99 = FIES Ateless
D8	FIES Ateless	<p>During the month of April, was there a time when you or others in your household ate less than they thought they should because of lack of money or other resources?</p> <p>[OPERATOR: SINGLE RESPONSE]</p> <p>1) YES 2) NO 98) DON'T KNOW 99) REFUSED</p>	Single Choice	1-99 = FIES Ranout
D9	FIES Ranout	<p>During the month of April, was there a time when your household ran out of food because of lack of money or other resources?</p> <p>[OPERATOR: SINGLE RESPONSE]</p> <p>1) YES 2) NO 98) DON'T KNOW 99) REFUSED</p>	Single Choice	1 = FIES Ranout_Freq 2-99 = FIES Hungry
D9_1	FIES Runout_Freq	<p>How often did this happen? Was it only once or twice? Did it happen in some weeks but not every week, or it was every week?</p>	Single Choice	1-99 = FIES Hungry

Q#	Q Name	English	Question Type	Skip Pattern
		<p>[OPERATOR: SINGLE RESPONSE]</p> <p>1) Rarely (once or twice) 2) Sometimes (in some weeks but not every week) 3) Often (every week) 98) Don't know 99) Refused</p>		
D10	FIES Hungry	<p>During the month of April, was there a time when you or others in your household were hungry but could not eat because there was not enough money or other resources for food?</p> <p>[OPERATOR: SINGLE RESPONSE]</p> <p>1) YES 2) NO 98) DON'T KNOW 99) REFUSED</p>	Single Choice	1 = FIES Hungry_Freq 2-99 = FIES Wholeday
D10_1	FIES Hungry_Freq	<p>How often did this happen? Was it only once or twice? Did it happen in some weeks but not every week, or it was every week?</p> <p>[OPERATOR: SINGLE RESPONSE]</p> <p>1) Rarely (once or twice) 2) Sometimes (in some weeks but not every week) 3) Often (every week) 98) Don't know 99) Refused</p>	Single Choice	1-99 = FIES Wholeday
D11	FIES Wholeday	<p>During the month of April, was there a time when you or others in your household went without eating for a whole day because of lack of money or other resources?</p> <p>[OPERATOR: SINGLE RESPONSE]</p> <p>1) YES 2) NO 98) DON'T KNOW 99) REFUSED</p>	Single Choice	1 = FIES Wholeday_Freq 2-99 = Any FIES

Q#	Q Name	English	Question Type	Skip Pattern
D11_1	FIES Wholeday_Freq	How often did this happen? Was it only once or twice? Did it happen in some weeks but not every week, or it was every week? [OPERATOR: SINGLE RESPONSE] 1) Rarely (once or twice) 2) Sometimes (in some weeks but not every week) 3) Often (every week) 98) Don't know 99) Refused	Single Choice	1-99 = Any FIES
D12	Any FIES	[OPERATOR: DID THE RESPONDENT ANSWER "YES" TO ANY OF FIES QUESTIONS?] 1) Yes 2) No	Singel choice	1 = Coping Strategies 2 = ASSISTANCE
D13	Coping Strategies	Given the difficulties in getting food you just reported on, did anyone in your household engage in any of the following strategies during the period March to May, in order to be able to get food? 1) NEXT	Single Choice	1 = Sell HH Goods
D14	Sell HH Goods	Sell household assets/goods (e.g., TV set, furniture, etc.)? [OPERATOR: SINGLE RESPONSE] 1) YES 2) NO – because it wasn't necessary 3) NO - because you already sold those assets or did this activity within the last 12 months and you cannot continue to do it 4) DON'T KNOW 5) REFUSED	Single Choice	1-5 = Take Debt
D15	Take Debt	Purchase food on credit or borrowed food? [OPERATOR: SINGLE RESPONSE] 1) YES 2) NO – because it wasn't necessary	Single Choice	1-5 = Send HH Members Away

Q#	Q Name	English	Question Type	Skip Pattern
		3) NO - because you already sold those assets or did this activity within the last 12 months and you cannot continue to do it 4) DON'T KNOW 5) REFUSED		
D16	Send HH Members Away	Send households members to eat/live with another family or friends? [OPERATOR: SINGLE RESPONSE] 1) YES 2) NO – because it wasn't necessary 3) NO - because you already sold those assets or did this activity within the last 12 months and you cannot continue to do it 4) DON'T KNOW 5) REFUSED	Single Choice	1-5 = Spent Savings
D17	Spent Savings	Spent savings? [OPERATOR: SINGLE RESPONSE] 1) YES 2) NO – because it wasn't necessary 3) NO - because you already sold those assets or did this activity within the last 12 months and you cannot continue to do it 4) DON'T KNOW 5) REFUSED		1-5 = Sell Prod Assets
D18	Sell Prod Assets	Sell productive assets or means of transport (e.g., sewing machine, bicycle, car)? [OPERATOR: SINGLE RESPONSE] 1) YES 2) NO – because it wasn't necessary 3) NO - because you already sold those assets or did this activity within the last 12 months and you cannot continue to do it 4) DON'T KNOW 5) REFUSED	Single Choice	1-5 = Withdraw School
D19	Withdraw School	Withdraw children from school?	Single Choice	1-5 = Reduce Health

Q#	Q Name	English	Question Type	Skip Pattern
		<p>[OPERATOR: SINGLE RESPONSE]</p> <p>1) YES 2) NO – because it wasn't necessary 3) NO - because you already sold those assets or did this activity within the last 12 months and you cannot continue to do it 4) DON'T KNOW 5) REFUSED</p>		
D20	Reduce Health	<p>Reduce essential health expenditures (e.g., doctor fees, medicines, etc.)?</p> <p>[OPERATOR: SINGLE RESPONSE]</p> <p>1) YES 2) NO – because it wasn't necessary 3) NO - because you already sold those assets or did this activity within the last 12 months and you cannot continue to do it 4) DON'T KNOW 5) REFUSED</p>	Single Choice	1-5 = Reduce Edu
D21	Reduce Edu	<p>Reduce essential education expenses (e.g., school fees, books, etc.)?</p> <p>[OPERATOR: SINGLE RESPONSE]</p> <p>1) YES 2) NO – because it wasn't necessary 3) NO - because you already sold those assets or did this activity within the last 12 months and you cannot continue to do it 4) DON'T KNOW 5) REFUSED</p>	Single Choice	1-5 = Sell House Land
D22	Sell House Land	<p>Sell a house or land?</p> <p>[OPERATOR: SINGLE RESPONSE]</p> <p>1) YES 2) NO – because it wasn't necessary 3) NO - because you already sold those assets or did this activity within the last 12 months and you cannot continue to do it</p>	Single Choice	1-5 = Migrate Household

Q#	Q Name	English	Question Type	Skip Pattern
		4) DON'T KNOW 5) REFUSED		
D23	Migrate Household	Migrate with the entire household? [OPERATOR: SINGLE RESPONSE] 1) YES 2) NO – because it wasn't necessary 3) NO - because you already sold those assets or did this activity within the last 12 months and you cannot continue to do it 4) DON'T KNOW 5) REFUSED	Single Choice	1-5 = High Risk Job
D23	High Risk Job	Accept high risk, socially degrading or exploitative temporary jobs? [OPERATOR: SINGLE RESPONSE] 1) YES 2) NO – because it wasn't necessary 3) NO - because you already sold those assets or did this activity within the last 12 months and you cannot continue to do it 4) DON'T KNOW 5) REFUSED	Single Choice	1-5 = Other_coping
D24	Other_coping	Was there any other strategy , not mentioned thus far, you or any other member in your household had to engage to be able to get food? [OPERATOR: RECORD VERBATIM]	Open ended	ASSISTANCE
E. ASSISTANCE				
E1	Assistance Received	Has your household received any kind of aid or assistance in the period March to May? 1) Yes 2) No 3) Don't know 4) Refused	Single Choice	1 = Assistance Satisfied 2-4 = Assistance Need

Q#	Q Name	English	Question Type	Skip Pattern
E2	Assistance Satisfied	<p>How satisfied were you with the aid you received?</p> <p>1) Very satisfied 2) Somewhat satisfied 3) Somewhat unsatisfied 4) Very unsatisfied 5) Don't know 6) Refuse</p>	Single Choice	1-6 = Assistance Need
E3	Assistance Need	<p>What is your three GREATEST needs for assistance for your household over in the current month (July or August 2021)?</p> <p>1) Agricultural inputs - Seeds, Fertilizers, Pesticides, etc 2) Access to irrigation 3) Livestock support - Veterinary services, Veterinary inputs, Destocking 4) Marketing support 5) Cash assistance 6) Loans 7) Housing 8) Drinking water 9) Fuel 10) Access to healthcare or medicine 11) Other (specify) 12) DON'T KNOW 13) REFUSED</p>	Multiple Choice	1-13 = AGRICULTURE
F. AGRICULTURE				
F1	AgricAny	<p>In the period March to May, has your household been involved in any agricultural activities?</p> <p>1) Yes 2) No 3) Don't Know 4) Refused</p>	Single Choice	1 = Agric Activity Involved 2-4 = Closing

Q#	Q Name	English	Question Type	Skip Pattern
F2	Agric Activity Involved	<p>Which agricultural activities have you been involved in?</p> <p>[OPERATOR: MULTIPLE RESPONSE]</p> <p>1) Crop production 2) Vegetable production 3) Fruits production 4) Livestock production (live meat, products, fur) 5) Fisheries/aquaculture 6) Gathering (berries, mushrooms) 7) Bee keeping</p> <p>8) Don't know 9) Refused</p>	Multiple Choice	1-7= Agric Activity Involved Main 8-9 =closing
F3	Agric Activity Involved Main	<p>Which agricultural activity have you been mainly involved in?</p> <p>[OPERATOR: SINGLE RESPONSE]</p> <p>1) Crop production 2) Vegetable production 3) Fruits production 4) Livestock production (live meat, products, fur) 5) Fisheries/aquaculture 6) Gathering (berries, mushrooms) 7) Beekeeping</p> <p>10) Don't know 11) Refused</p>	Single Choice	1-3= Crops1 4 -7= Livestock1 8- 9 = Closing
F1. CROP PRODUCTION				
F1.1	Crops1	<p>In the period March to May, have you been growing crops mainly for the purpose of subsistence (own consumption) or mainly for income?</p> <p>1) Subsistence 2) Income 3) Both</p>	Single Choice	4-5-6= F1.6 1-2-3 = Crop List

Q#	Q Name	English	Question Type	Skip Pattern
		4) Not applicable (not the right season for growing) 5) Don't know 6) Refuse		
F1.2	Crop List	What are the main crops that you have been growing in the months March to May? [OPERATOR: MULTIPLE RESPONSE] 1) Grains 2) Oilseeds 3) Vegetables 4) Tuber vegetables 5) Cucurbits 6) Fodder crops 7) Other (specify) 8) REFUSED	Multiple Choice	1-8 = Main Crop If it was 1 in F1.1 go to F1.6
F1.3	Main Crop	Which crop provides you with the greatest share of your income? [OPERATOR: MULTIPLE RESPONSE] 1) Don't know 2) REFUSED	Single Choice	X-X = Area Planted
F1.4	Area Planted	Compared to the area planted last year, have you planted more or less of #MainCrop# this year?? [OPERATOR: SINGLE RESPONSE] 1) Significantly more 2) Somewhat more 2) Same 4) Somewhat less 5) Significantly less 6) Have not been able to plant this season 7) DON'T KNOW 8) REFUSED	Single Choice	1-8 = Crop Prod Expect

Q#	Q Name	English	Question Type	Skip Pattern
F1.5	Crop Prod Expect	<p>What is or what do you expect your crop production of #MainCrop# to be compared to [last year]? Do you think it will be...</p> <p>[OPERATOR: SINGLE RESPONSE]</p> <p>1) Significantly more 2) Somewhat more 2) Same 4) Somewhat less 5) Significantly less 7) None or almost none 7) DON'T KNOW 8) REFUSED</p>	Single Choice	1-8 = Main Crop Difficulty
F1.6	Main Crop Difficulty	<p>What are the three major difficulties, if any, that you have faced over the period March to May with your crop production?</p> <p>1) No particularly unusual difficulties 2) Outbreak of pests or diseases 3) Heavy rains / floods 4) Hail / storms / strong winds 5) Dry spell / drought 6) Difficulty to access seeds 7) Difficulty to access fertilizers or pesticides 8) Labour not available 9) Labour too expensive or income insufficient to hire labour 10) Access to land restricted by containment measures 11) Lower irrigation than usual 12) Household members sick 13) Lack of markets 14) Access to land 14) Other (specify) 15) DON'T KNOW 16) REFUSED</p>	Multiple Choice	1-16 = Closing
F2. LIVESTOCK				

Q#	Q Name	English	Question Type	Skip Pattern
F2.1	Livestock1	In the past period March to May, have you been raising livestock mainly for the purpose of subsistence (own consumption) or mainly for income? 1) Subsistence 2) Income 3) Both 4) Don't know 5) Refuse	Single Choice	1-2-3 =F2.2 4-5 = Difficulty Raising Animals
F2.2	Animals Raised	What are the main animals you have been raising for income generation? [OPERATOR: SINGLE RESPONSE] 1) Cattle 2) Small ruminants 3) Poultry 4) Pigs 5) Other (specify) 6) REFUSED	Multiple Choice	1-5 = Main Animal 6 = Difficulty Raising Animals If it was 1 in F2.1 go to F2.7
F2.3	Main Animal	Which animal would you say <u>has</u> provided you with the greatest share of your income in the period March to May? [OPERATOR: SINGLE RESPONSE] 1) DON'T KNOW 2) REFUSED	Single Choice	Dynamics = Main Animal_Num 1-2 = F2.7
F2.4	Main Animal_Num	How many #MainAnimal# do you have now? [OPERATOR: ENTER 88 FOR DON'T KNOW & 99 FOR REFUSED. ONLY READ ITEMS IN PARENTHESES TO CLARIFY FOR RESPONDENT. MULTIPLE RESPONSE.]	Range	Any Response = Animal Num Comparison
F2.5	Animal Num Comparison	Compared to the same period last year, do you have more or less of your main animals ? [OPERATOR: SINGLE RESPONSE] 1) Much more 2) A bit more 3) The same 4) A bit less 5) Much less 6) DON'T KNOW 7) REFUSED	Single Choice	1-3 = Difficulty Raising Animals 4,5 = Reason Animal Less 6,7 = Difficulty Raising Animals

Q#	Q Name	English	Question Type	Skip Pattern
F2.6	Reason Animal Less	<p>Why do you have fewer animals now compared to the same period last year?</p> <p>[OPERATOR: MULTIPLE RESPONSE]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Higher mortality due to lack of veterinary services 2) Better sales than usual 3) Distress sales for urgent cash needed 4) Sold animals because unable to feed them 5) Culled animals for household consumption 6) Other 7) DON'T KNOW 8) REFUSED 	Multiple Choice	1-8 = Difficulty Raising Animals
F2.7	Difficulty Raising Animals	<p>What are your three greatest difficulties, if any, faced over the period March to May in terms of raising your animals?</p> <p>[OPERATOR: INSIST ON THE UNUSUAL CHARACTER OF THESE DIFFICULTIES. STRUCTURAL DIFFICULTIES SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED. SINGLE RESPONSE]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Difficulty to access feed 2) Constrained access to pasture 3) Constrained access to water 4) Difficulty to access veterinary services 5) Difficulty to access veterinary inputs 6) Other (specify) 7) No unusual difficulties faced 8) DON'T KNOW 9) REFUSED 	Multiple Choice	<p>1 = Difficulty Access Feed</p> <p>2-3 = CALLBACK</p> <p>4 = Difficulty Access Vet</p> <p>5 = Difficulty Access Vet Input</p> <p>6-9 = CALLBACK</p>
F2.8	Difficulty Access Feed	<p>Why have you been facing difficulties to access feed for your animals over the period March to May?</p> <p>[OPERATOR: SINGLE RESPONSE]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Prices higher than usual 2) Not available from usual vendor 3) Not able to access market to purchase 4) Income insufficient to purchase 5) Other (specify) 6) DON'T KNOW 7) REFUSED 	Multiple Choice	1-7 = CALLBACK

Q#	Q Name	English	Question Type	Skip Pattern
F2.9	Difficulty Access Vet	<p>Why have you been facing difficulties to access veterinary services for your animals over the period March to May?</p> <p>[OPERATOR: MULTIPLE RESPONSE]</p> <p>1) Prices higher than usual 2) Not available from usual service provider 3) Not able to access service provider 4) Income insufficient to access service 5) Other (specify) 6) DON'T KNOW 7) REFUSED</p>	Multiple Choice	1-7 = CALLBACK
F2.10	Difficulty Access Vet Input	<p>Why have you been facing difficulties to access veterinary inputs for your animals over the period March to May?</p> <p>[OPERATOR: MULTIPLE RESPONSE]</p> <p>1) Prices higher than usual 2) Not available from usual vendor 3) Not able to access market/shop to purchase 4) Income insufficient to purchase 5) Other (specify) 6) DON'T KNOW 7) REFUSED</p>	Multiple Choice	1-7 = CALLBACK
G. CLOSING				
G1	Callback	<p>Thank you for participating in this survey. Your answers will help us to understand and respond to your community needs. May we call you back again in the near future?</p> <p>[OPERATOR: DO NOT READ OPTIONS. CHOOSE ONLY ONE OPTION]</p> <p>1) YES 2) NO</p>		1-2 = Language2

Q#	Q Name	English	Question Type	Skip Pattern
G2	Language2	Select the language that was mostly used to complete the interview. [OPERATOR: DO NOT READ OPTIONS. CHOOSE ONLY ONE OPTION] 1) Russian 2) Ukranian		1-2 = Close-Out
G3	Close-Out	Thank you for your time. The interview has come to an end.		NA