

OVERVIEW OF FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOOD SITUATION IN 2017

The impact of ongoing conflict in Eastern Ukraine has been severe, exacerbating vulnerabilities related to poverty, unemployment and weak social protection systems. A joint cluster Food Security Assessment (September 2017, FSLC) found that up to 1.2 million people faced some level of **food insecurity** in Donetsk and Luhanska and humanitarian needs remained high for the conflict-affected people, especially in NGCA. The assessment found that food insecurity had doubled across Donbas since 2016 (*From 13% to 26% between 2016 and 2017 in NGCA and from 7% to 15% in GCA*) – mainly driven by a growing socio-economic disconnect between GCA and NGCA, which resulted in the disruption of access to markets, inflation, increased unemployment and lack of livelihoods opportunities. In GCA, severe food insecurity, as in 2016, affected around 26,000 (1%) vulnerable people. However, in NGCA, the level increased three times to 150,000 (5%) affected by severe food insecurity. Here, the application of negative livelihood-based coping strategies grew to a concerning 87% (40% in 2016) with families forced to make stark choices between medicine, heating and their children's education to ensure basic daily food intake. In addition, it was estimated that 79,000 IDPs outside of Donbas were food insecure and in need of some type of support.

Conflict has also had a serious impact on **agricultural activities** - one of the major sources of food and livelihoods for thousands of people. FAO's study of the socio-economic impact and needs in eastern Ukraine (SEINA, 2017, FAO) identified the lack of access to quality agricultural inputs as a major impediment. Increased prices, limited functionality of the markets, limited access to pasturelands, mine-contamination and continued insecurity have resulted in insufficient reserves for animal feed needed to sustain self production at households' level. This negatively impacted the livelihoods of the most vulnerable and contributed to the increase of food insecurity. This was reinforced by an overall worsening of the socioeconomic situation especially in Luhanska and Donetsk oblasts, which experienced both a direct impact (losing control of territory, resources infrastructure and markets) and an indirect impact (through negative structural changes and poverty).

A 2017 cluster analysis of state statistical data for the GCA illustrated a link between the consequences of the conflict (such as the closure of enterprises, the high inflation rate, the economic blockade, and damage to critical infrastructure) and the deterioration in the overall **socioeconomic situation**, including the increase of unemployment, prices and widespread and sharply increased levels of poverty, which has affected food security and the ability to meet basic needs. This also impacts IDPs outside of Donbas for whom unemployment remains significant at 20%.

For more detailed overview of needs, please refer to the 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview, which highlights the prioritised humanitarian needs (link on <http://fscluster.org/ukraine>)

CHALLENGES:

Serious limitations in terms of the ability of humanitarian actors to reach people in need, especially in the NGCA, as well as funding shortfalls during 2017, compromised the ability of FSLC partners to meet the cluster's objectives and targets through regular and predictable assistance. Access problems in NGCA especially forced FSLC to revise and reduce targets and funding requirements mid-year despite needs of vulnerable groups deepening NGCA.

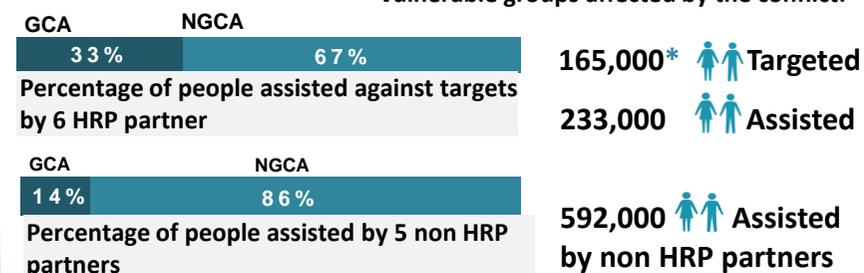
KEY FACTS & FIGURES

600,000 People in Need of food security interventions

500,000 People in Need of livelihood assistance

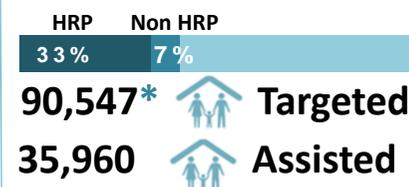
OBJECTIVE 1

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



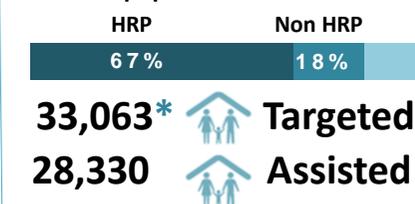
OBJECTIVE 2

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



OBJECTIVE 3

Employment and income generation of the conflict affected populations:



* FSLC targets were revised in the 2017 Mid Year Review

PARTNERS

28

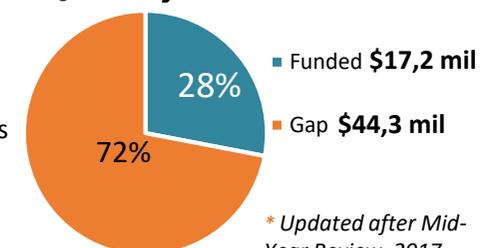
FSLC meetings in the field and Kyiv during 2017

58

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

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

\$61,5* MILLION

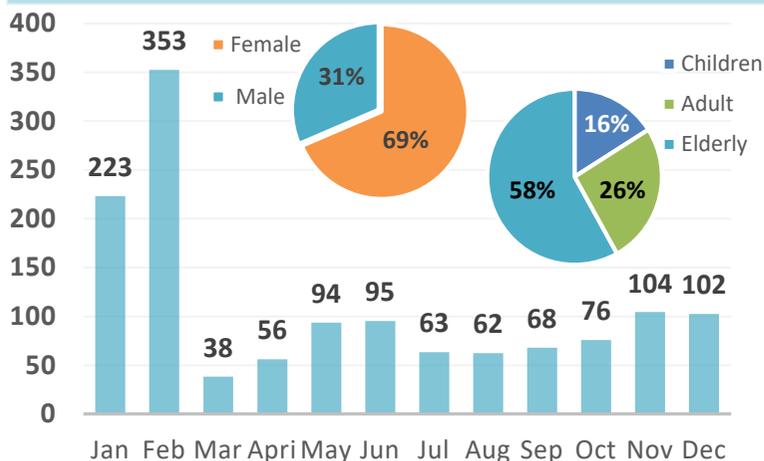


* Updated after Mid-Year Review, 2017



FSLC OBJECTIVE 1

NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES (THOUSANDS) ASSISTED WITH ACCESS TO FOOD ACTIVITIES



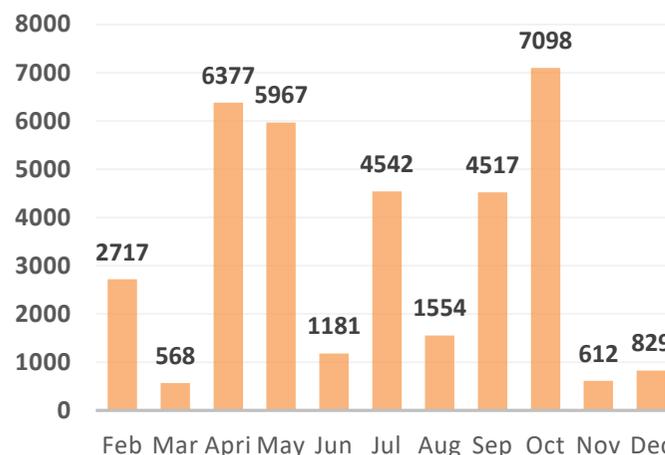
Immediate access to food for the most vulnerable affected by conflict:

With a revised target of 165,300, six HRP partners were able to assist 233,000 people to ensure their immediate food access during 2017. In total, 13 HRP and non-HRP partners provided some type of food support to 825,000 food insecure people (159,000 people in GCA & 666,000 in NGCA).

However, the provision of food assistance included both regular assistance but also one-off in kind food parcels – this means that high cluster beneficiary numbers in 2017 not automatically reflect that needs were adequately covered. Between February-March 2017, food assistance overall declined by 89% in Donbas, reflecting a significant reduction in (non-HRP partner) food distributions in NGCA. Going from around 500,000 beneficiaries in early 2017, between March-December, an average of 70,000 beneficiaries monthly across Donbas received some type of food assistance – in NGCA alone, the monthly average was only 16,900. Several HRP partners faced funding and access constraints, which resulted in the reduction of rounds of assistance, re-allocation of assistance (especially in NGCA) and a reprioritisation of beneficiaries. Despite growing needs, cluster targets had to be reduced mid-year due to access and funding restrictions.

FSLC OBJECTIVE 2

NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS ASSISTED WITH AGRICULTURAL INPUTS



Agricultural inputs to support food production for and to support emergency livelihood activities:

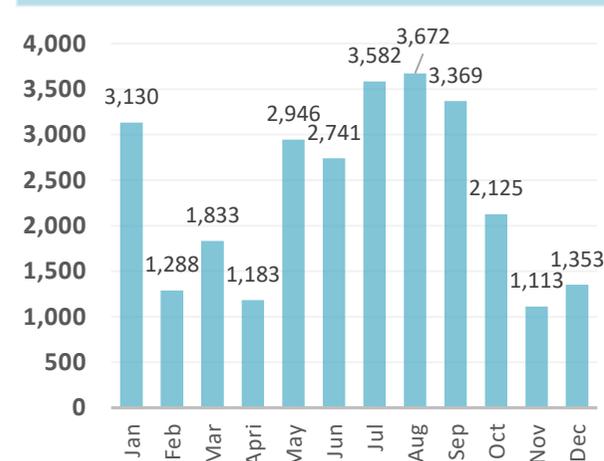
Cluster partners assisted around 35,950 households in GCA with different types of agricultural inputs out of a cluster target of 90,550 HHs. Four HRP and two non-HRP partners assisted more than 22,950 HHs in Donetsk GCA and nearly 12,070 HHs in Luhanska GCA.

The activities mainly included the distribution of vouchers or cash for agricultural inputs (such as tools etc.), of seeds and seedlings (for home gardens and seeds for animal feed production), of livestock/poultry (mainly chickens, duck and turkey, geese, etc.) and distribution of fodder (concentrated types of feed such as grain fodder) as well as of agricultural livelihoods grants. The above trend overview indicates the seasonal aspect of many agricultural activities.

Due to funding restrictions, several seasonal agricultural interventions planned for the spring and summer planting season 2017 did not take place and the target was reduced mid-year to reflect such access and funding constraints.

FSLC OBJECTIVE 3

NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS ASSISTED WITH LIVELIHOODS INCOME GENERATION ACTIVITIES



Livelihood income generating activities for conflict affection:

Of a revised target of 33,000 HHs, cluster partners (seven HRP and six non-HRP) assisted more than 28,330 IDP and host population HHs (two-thirds within Donbas) through livelihood and income generating activities such as livelihood grants, job creation grants, vocational training, food for training, cash for work as well as one-two day workshops during 2017.

This assistance was provided in a context of increasing levels of poverty by actual cost of living especially in Luhanska GCA (from 20% in 2013 to 74% in 2015) and Donetsk GCA (from 22% to 66%) (FSLC, September 2017).

Despite growing needs (increasingly, households with no active employment are found to be vulnerable), targets were reduced mid-year due to access and funding restrictions.