

OVERVIEW

The ongoing conflict continues to negatively impact the ability of civilian population to fulfil their food needs forcing them to rely heavily on humanitarian assistance and to resort to harmful coping strategies, which is particularly true of the populations living in proximity to the 'line of contact' and in the NGCAs. The disrupted market connections and slow development of new markets make it difficult for the local economies to grow, obstructing the recovery of the populations' livelihoods. Considering the overall trend, food security situation in the conflict affected areas is expected to remain at its consistently poor level. Humanitarian community (and FSL sector specifically) should continue joint efforts in supporting those in need in order to mitigate negative effects and not to undermine the achievements the Cluster has accomplished during the last years, while proactively exploring the possibilities of bridging the interventions with recovery and development actors.

FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS: CURRENT NEEDS & RESPONSE

According to the FSL Cluster's estimation, **out of 1.1 m. people in need** across the FSL sector, **0.9 m. people** are experiencing different levels of **food insecurity**, including both the resident and IDP populations of eastern Ukraine as well as IDPs residing beyond it.

Around **21,000 rural households** residing within 20-km from the "contact line" in GCA and some **39,000 households** in NGCA rely on self-production of food and are in critical need for support of their food production activities due to the continued lack of access to quality agricultural inputs.

The need for supporting early recovery and income generation also remains high: it is estimated that up to **406,000 unemployed** working age people require **livelihood assistance**, including IDPs who face more challenges. According to the IOM's NMS findings, most of the IDP HHs residing in cites estimated their financial situation as 'enough for basic needs' (50%), while most of the IDP HHs in towns (45%) and villages (52%) estimated their financial situation as 'enough funds only for food'.

FSLC estimates that **116,000 people are severely food insecure in Donbas** (103,000 people in NGCA and 13,000 people in Luhanska and Donetsk oblasts GCA). This is in addition to some 2,000 IDPs residing in other oblasts who are all considered severely food insecure and in need of immediate assistance to ensure their access to food.

Despite the limited funding, the HRP targets across the FSL Cluster have been met at about **80%** with more than **220,000** beneficiaries reached across all three objectives compared to the annual commitment of 276,300 beneficiaries.

CHALLENGES:

Limited funding is hampering the ability of the cluster partners to sufficiently address the sectoral needs. While the 'Access to Food' annual target has been nearly entirely met (largely by non-HRP partners), 'Agriculture' and 'Livelihoods' are short by 34% and 39% of target respectively

Although, prices reportedly remain at the same level in **NGCA**, **lack of employment opportunities** and **restricted access for humanitarian actors** make it much more difficult for the local populations to stay within acceptable levels of food and economic security

KEY FACTS & FIGURES

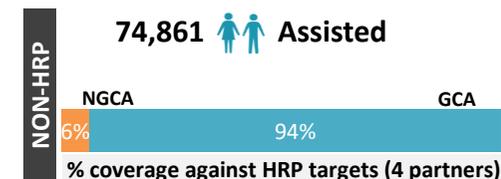
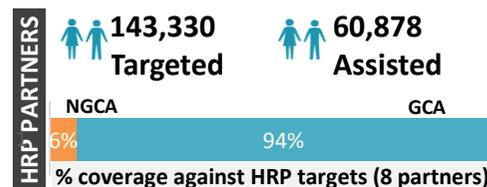
1.6M People in need of some type of food security or livelihoods support.
0.3M People targeted by HRP partners

OBJECTIVE 1

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



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

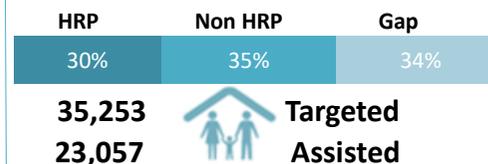


OBJECTIVE 2

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



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

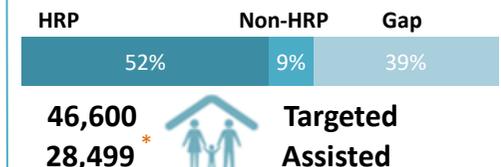


OBJECTIVE 3

Employment and income generation of the conflict affected populations:



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



PARTNERS



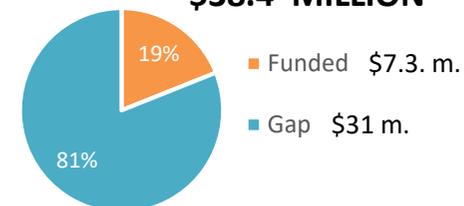
13 FSLC meetings in the field and Kyiv throughout 2018

44 Organisations / Ministries (and departments) participating in FSLC meetings throughout 2018

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS



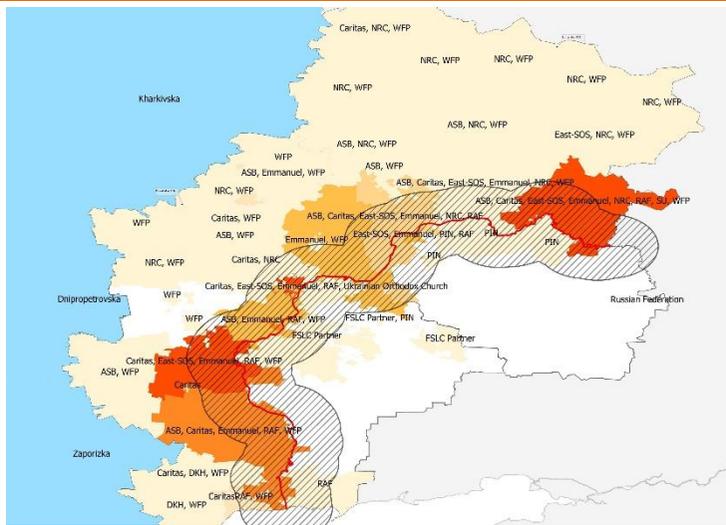
\$38.4 MILLION



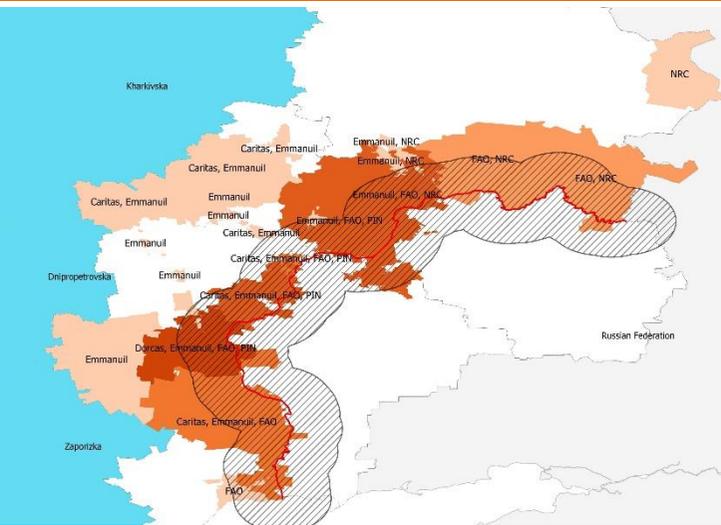
* Estimated number of beneficiaries based on the average HH size in Donbas



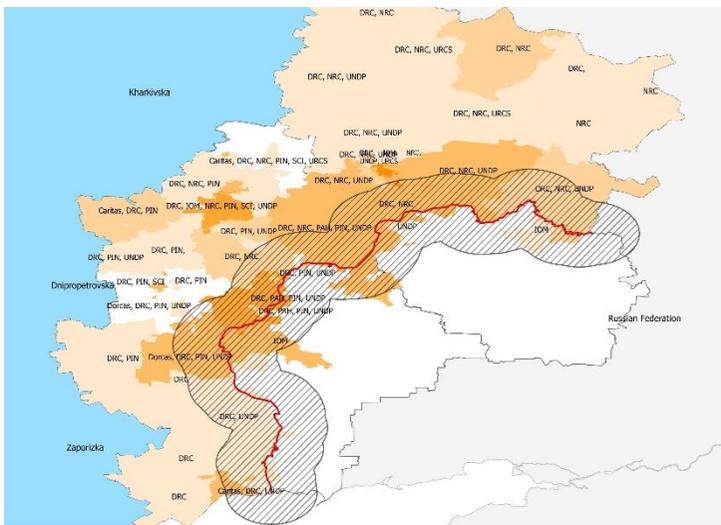
“Access to Food” across 2018 – Number of individuals



“Agriculture” across 2018 – Number of HHs

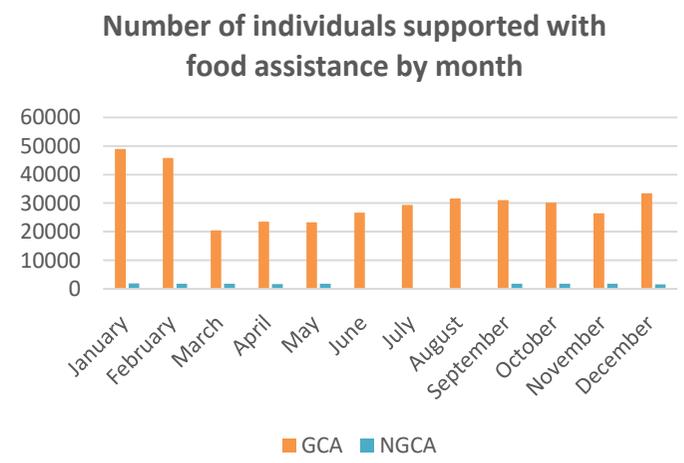
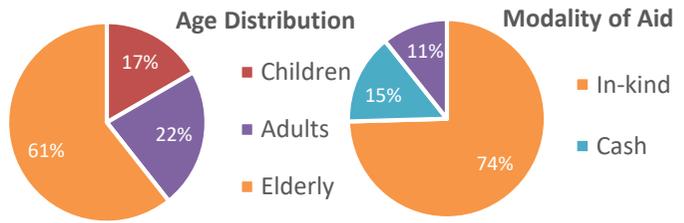


“Livelihoods” across 2018 – Number of HHs



12 cluster partners (8 HRP and 4 non HRP) together with 6 implementing partners provided food support under objective 1 – this includes in-kind as well as cash based assistance

Between January and December 2018, food assistance was provided to 135,739 food insecure people with 127,428 beneficiaries in GCA and 8,311 in NGCA. A sharp reduction can be seen in March and relative stabilization is observed starting from July.



Throughout 2018, around 23,134 households in GCA were assisted with agricultural inputs to support food production for sustainable results by six partners (three HRP and three non-HRP) and one local implementing partner.

About 12,750 households received seeds and seedlings whilst 5,000 households received fodder, poultry was provided to at least 2,753 households and 300 households received other livestock. About 1,077 households received assistance in the form of agricultural grants and another 1,000 households received agricultural vouchers. In addition to those, a small number of households received agricultural trainings.

Nearly 12,391 IDP and host households (around 57% of these are within Donbas) or more than 28,000 beneficiaries were supported with income generating activities, including livelihood grants and different kinds of training by eight partners (five HRP and three non-HRP partners).

Of these, around 5,387 IDP and host households received trainings and livelihood grants outside Donbas.

