# OVERVIEW

Over one million people, including internally displaced people (IDPs) outside of Donbas, are still food insecure and/or require livelihood support. Food insecurity levels in Ukraine are still strongly depend upon seasonal factors, prices, unemployment rates, people's livelihoods and expenditures during the winter and security concerns.

The overall situation remains tense in eastern Ukraine. Infrastructural disruptions between GCA and NGCA continue impacting access to key services and markets, effecting people's livelihoods. Kilometres of land are contaminated with mines and UXO which deprives people of access to critically needed agricultural land and assets. Shelling causes the damage of the water supply, so needed for the local agriculture that requires large quantities of water for irrigation and of good quality for various production processes. Food utilization, as one of the pillars of food security, also implies availability of clean water for cooking and hygiene.

Ukraine's economy is growing; however, vulnerability and poverty rates remain high, especially in Donbas oblasts. Since the beginning of the conflict cost of the food basket increased significantly, though prices continued to stabilize and in case the current trend remains unchanged, often revision of the assistance level is not required (not more than once a year for the cash based transfers for food).

The most vulnerable groups of people and at highest risk could be elderly living alone or in couple (especially with minimum pension payment), as they cannot share expenditure with other members of the household, unemployed people (especially without breadwinner in family) and internally displaced people (IDPs) as they have special needs and face more challenges.

It is estimated that thirty per cent of people affected by the conflict are elderly. Despite increase of pensions during 2017-2018, proportion of those people who cannot cover their basic needs with pension payment could be very high throughout Ukraine. Given the current context food needs are also most closely correlated with the health needs, particularly in areas near the “contact line” (within 5 km).

While Industrial production stabilized in the country, though continues to decrease in Donbas, where unemployment rates remain the highest among the other regions of Ukraine and people with minimum unemployment payment cannot cover more than half of their needs.

As for IDPs, they continue to strongly rely on governmental assistance and own salaries (in case they are employed), however over half of them assessing their financial situation as “enough funds only for food” or “have to limit expenses even for food”, particularly due to the high expenditures on rented housing and utilities.

# KEY FACTS & FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.1M</th>
<th>People in need of some type of food security or livelihoods support</th>
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<td>80K</td>
<td>People targeted by HRP partners</td>
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# FUNDING AND COVERAGE

<table>
<thead>
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<th>64K</th>
<th>Beneficiaries targeted by the FSL members throughout the first quarter of 2019</th>
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<tr>
<td>17K</td>
<td>Beneficiaries targeted by the HRP partners throughout the first quarter of 2019</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Partners active in FSL sector throughout Q1</td>
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<td>$20.1M</td>
<td>Required Funding</td>
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<td>$1.8M</td>
<td>Received / Committed Funding</td>
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# CHALLENGES AND GAPS

Food access is heavily dependent on cash incomes for household purchase of food for consumption. Low-income households tend to spend a large share of their incomes on staple foods, making them potentially vulnerable to food price increases. Food price volatility and in particular price spikes can create serious problems for vulnerable individuals and groups. Monitoring of the cost of the food basket is a necessary activity to be able to understand to which extent individuals have access to appropriate foods for a nutritious diet. As of today, food basket price monitoring on NGCA is a gap.

Demographic trends in Donbas present another alert. Infrastructural disruption, socio-economic environment, lack of adequate livelihoods opportunities and jobs with fair wages in affected areas forces many unemployed people of working age to search for sometimes a non-official employment or even abroad, to be able to sustain their families while those stay left without a breadwinner. In longer term such labour outflow would have a greater negative impact on the demographic situation in the eastern part of the country, considering already prevail of elder generation there.

Despite extensive efforts in reaching those in need, especially residing near the “contact line” and on NGCA, humanitarian food and livelihood assistance remains a high demand in the conflict affected areas due to the physical and/or economical constraints and unemployment, limited partners presence and funding.

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[Dashboard January-March 2019](https://fscluster.org/ukraine/dashboard)

[www.fscluster.org/ukraine](https://www.fscluster.org/ukraine)
6 cluster partners (4 HRP and 2 non-HRP) together with 2 implementing partners provided food support under objective 1 – this includes in-kind as well as cash-based assistance.

Between January and March 2019, food assistance was provided to nearly 63,000 food insecure people in the government-controlled area. A significant gap in food coverage remains on NGCA, where none of the FSLC’s partners were able to reach the food insecure populations.

Throughout the first quarter of 2019, 249 households in GCA were assisted with agricultural inputs to support food production for sustainable results by two HRP partners.

167 households received cash grants for development of their agricultural livelihoods and 82 households received agricultural trainings.

305 individuals received light trainings, such as business plan development or similar, while 275 beneficiaries were trained with more specific vocational programmes. 124 beneficiaries received cash grants for restoration / development of their livelihoods and 58 grants were provided to enterprises for creation of work spaces.

6 cluster partners (3 HRP and 3 non-HRP) supported 762 IDP and host beneficiaries (out of which 80% were supported in Donbas) with income generating activities, including livelihood grants and various types of trainings.

Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund, Caritas, Emmanuil, Norwegian Refugee Council, Rinat Akhmetov Foundation, Triangle GH

Dorcas, People in Need

Danish Refugee Council, International Organization for Migration, People in Need, Save the Children, UN Development Programme, Ukrainian Red Cross Society