

Rapid Gender and Conflict Analysis Poltava Oblast: Livelihood Findings



JOINT EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN
UKRAINE

Alliance 2015



Gender and Conflict Analysis in Poltava Oblast



- The Joint Emergency Response in Ukraine (JERU), a joint program between Welthungerhilfe, Concern Worldwide, and CESVI, in partnership with Light of Hope, conducted the analysis based on 10 focus groups in Machukhy and Novi Sanzhary villages.
- The aim was to to better understand gender and conflict dynamics of the humanitarian crisis in the surrounding districts to improve current and planned programming.



Legend

Ukraine

- Capital cities ★
- Oblast capitals ○
- Analysis locations ◆

Oblasts

- Poltava ■
- Oblasts borders ▭

Region

- Neighbouring countries ■
- Black and Azov Sea ■

The focus groups



Focus groups were divided along the following gender, age, and displacement status:

1. Displaced women aged 25 – 60.
2. Displaced men aged 25 – 60.
3. Displaced young men and women aged 18-24
4. Displaced older men and women aged over 60.
5. Residents: male and female aged 18 and above.

These five groups were each held in Machukhy and Novi Sanzhary villages, reaching a total of 10 focus groups.

What participants were asked



- The areas of life that have been most affected by the war over the last month.
- If and how gender and age roles, responsibilities, and relationships had shifted over the course of the war.
- The coping mechanisms they were applying and the positive and negative consequences of these.
- Sources of connection or division within communities.
- How they projected humanitarian needs would change over the upcoming months.

Loss of livelihoods: A major area of impact



- All groups highlighted that their financial situation and livelihoods had been one of the main areas of life affected.
- Men and women IDPs highlighted a lack of job opportunities and residents essentially confirmed this.
- Those receiving pensions needed to undertake additional income generation even before the war – many of those activities are no longer available.

Paid work for men



“Some families may fall apart. For example, a man and a woman lived with us since March. His wife said that he is not looking hard enough for a job. She didn’t see prospects, and ultimately a few weeks ago she said “I'd rather go” and left.”

Man, Group of 25-60 year olds

- Shifting from urban-based livelihoods to work in rural areas.
- Big drop in income from those who have found work.
- Loss of breadwinner status increases psychological pressure.

Paid work for women

- Women likewise affected by a lack of paid work on offer. More work is available in the city but not accessible.
- Some women with young children noted the difficulty in finding childcare made it difficult to undertake paid work. Unpaid work has increased overall.
- Often cases of women leaving Ukraine to find work abroad.

“I was in Kharkiv, our house is standing, normal. But to be honest, I don't want to go back there... my relatives are helping but I can't go to work because I have a small child.”

Woman, Group of 25-60 year olds

Coping with the situation



“We planted a small vegetable garden in order to provide ourselves with some fresh foods. Until February 24, I did not do this, since I lived in the city.”

Man, Group of 60+ year olds

- Men and women of all ages looking for alternative employment.
- Strong desire to retrain.
- Gardening and growing fresh food mentioned across many groups.
- Moving to safer areas or abroad – potentially splitting families.

Community Cohesion and Tensions



- Overall positive, but these relationships are being stressed as time passes.
- Inadequate targeting processes from humanitarian organizations can exacerbate tensions.

“There was a charity that gave 70 packages of aid, but there was 120 families that needed it. People were indignant about why they didn't receive it, creating tension in the community.”

Women, Group of 60+ year olds

Humanitarian needs over the next months



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- Strong desire for livelihoods support as a means to reduce reliance on humanitarian assistance. Including: training, equipment, and internet.
- Broad concern that the costs of essential items to meet food and basic needs are rising, along with transportation costs needed to access these.
- Coming winter a big concern.
- Psychosocial Support



Questions?



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Link to report: [Ukraine Crisis: Rapid Gender and Conflict Analysis: Poltava Oblast \(August 2022\) - Ukraine | ReliefWeb](#)