

Area-based Assessment: Bakhmut Basic Service Unit Overview

Ukraine, July 2017

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

Introduction

Conflict between Ukrainian forces and armed opposition groups broke out in eastern Ukraine in 2014. Almost 10,000 people have been killed, 22,231 wounded, and about one million displaced from their homes by fighting¹. The humanitarian and recovery response to the crisis is hampered by information gaps regarding access to basic services in communities located close to the contact line.

REACH conducted an assessment of all settlements within 5 km of the contact line with two main objectives: 1. To understand how residents of communities in the area access basic services; 2. To identify gaps in service provision and understand challenges from the perspectives of both service providers and users. The results will be used to inform strategic planning by humanitarian and local government actors.

This assessment collected data at the community level from 100 communities. Interviews were conducted with 350 Key Informants (KIs) representing community members, members of the local administration, and representatives of health and education facilities. The assessment did not conduct representative sampling, and therefore results should be considered indicative only. Through network analysis, the assessed communities were clustered into seven Basic Service Units (BSUs) to determine the main constraints in service access and provision in each BSU.

Key Findings

This overview covers the Bakhmut BSU where six communities were assessed (Figure 1).

- Service access is best in Svitlodarsk, Myronivskiyi, Novoluhanske and Luhanske. These communities have a range of functioning healthcare and education services, and are connected to water and sewage networks. However, conflict affects service provision in all three communities, with most health and education facilities reportedly damaged by shelling.
- Access in Kodema and Semyhiria is poor due to a lack of facilities, markets and financial service points (FSPs) in these communities. Waste management is a key challenge for these communities, which have no running water or sewage network and struggle to access waste disposal sites due to conflict.
- Security concerns, the cost of travel and the distance to facilities are key challenges in accessing all facilities. Cost is a particular issue in accessing healthcare services and FSPs in Bakhmut, the administrative centre of Bakhmut Raion which is located 22 km from the contact line.

Map 1: Locations of assessed settlements in the Bakhmut BSU

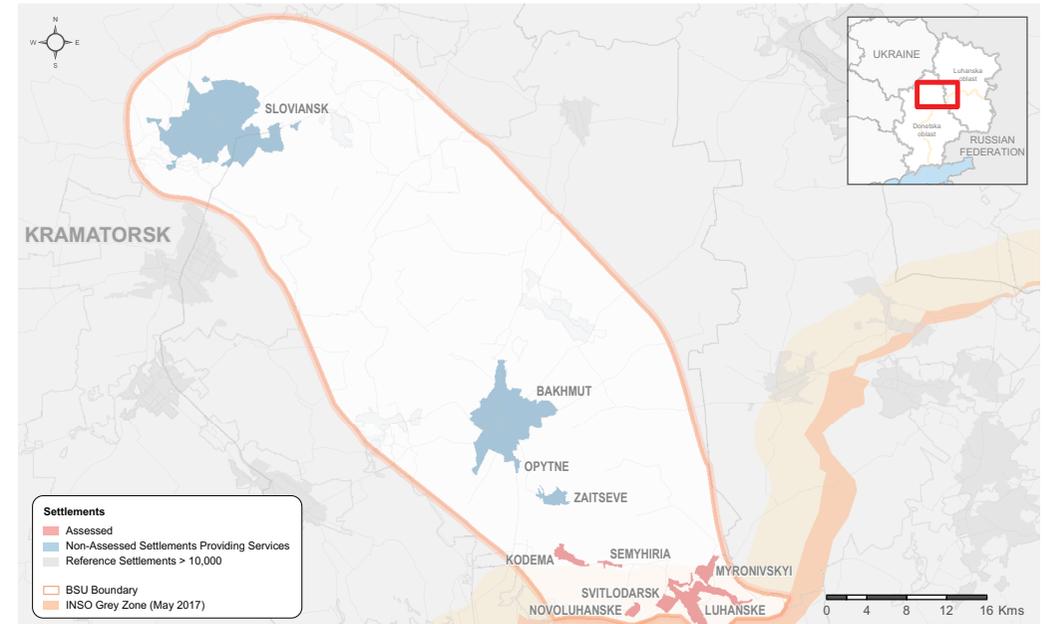


Figure 1: Communities assessed within the Bakhmut BSU

Raion	Settlement	Pop.	Distance from contact line
Bakhmutskiyi	Svitlodarsk	11,959	0.2 km
Bakhmutskiyi	Myronivskiyi	7,845	4.2 km
Bakhmutskiyi	Novoluhanske	3,500	0.7 km
Bakhmutskiyi	Luhanske	482	On contact line
Bakhmutskiyi	Kodema	427	5 km
Bakhmutskiyi	Semyhiria ²	-	4.8 km

Figure 2: Profiles of KIs interviewed

Profile	Female	Male	Total
Community KI	22	5	27
Administration KI	1	4	5
Education facility KI	11	-	11
Health facility KI	1	6	7



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

1. OHCHR, 'Report on the human rights situation in Ukraine', December 2016.

2. Population figure for Kodema includes the population of Semyhiria because they are one administrative unit.

Protection

Physical protection risks are highest in Novoluhanske and Luhanske, where KIs reported daily shelling confirmed by International NGO Safety Organisation (INSO) data. The remaining communities experienced shelling infrequently or not at all between February and June 2017.

Landmine / ERW risks

Landmines/ERW are reported in five of the assessed communities as well as on the outskirts of Svitlodarsk. Community and administrative KIs reported that not all hazardous areas have been marked, except in Kodema. Mine Risk Education (MRE) is reportedly required in Novoluhanske, Myronivskyi and Kodema.

Protection challenges for communities

Mines/ERW are the most frequently cited protection concerns amongst community KIs. Community tension is the second most cited concern, raised by KIs in five communities, and was the most common issue in Kodema and Svitlodarsk. Both settlements host high numbers of IDPs, which can cause tension due to the perception that IDPs may be favoured over the local population in the allocation of resources such as humanitarian aid. Proximity of armed actors, both the Ukrainian military and non-governmental armed groups, is also a key concern.

KIs reported protection services are unavailable or insufficient across the BSU.

Psycho-social support (PSS) services are reportedly insufficient in every community except Kodema. Child Friendly Spaces are present in three communities but more are required in all communities except Kodema.

Vulnerable groups

KIs in three communities reported domestic violence as a protection concern for women. Sexual violence was also reported as a concern in three other communities.

IDPs are reportedly living in all communities assessed, with the highest number in Novoluhanske, indicating a need for IDP-specific services such as documentation support in this area. Administrators in Myronivskyi reported a high number of returnees living in the community who may also require additional support.

Administrators reported high proportions of elderly people in all communities. Data from community KIs suggests elderly residents may struggle to cope with service access challenges related to distance and travel time.

Military checkpoints

The military checkpoint at Semyhiria restricts entry and exit for residents of Semyhiria and prevents residents of Novoluhanske from using some roads, although it does not control access to Novoluhanske.

While access to Svitlodarsk, Luhanske and Myronivskyi is controlled by checkpoints, these checkpoints do not restrict movement.

Map 2: Courts and police stations in the BSU

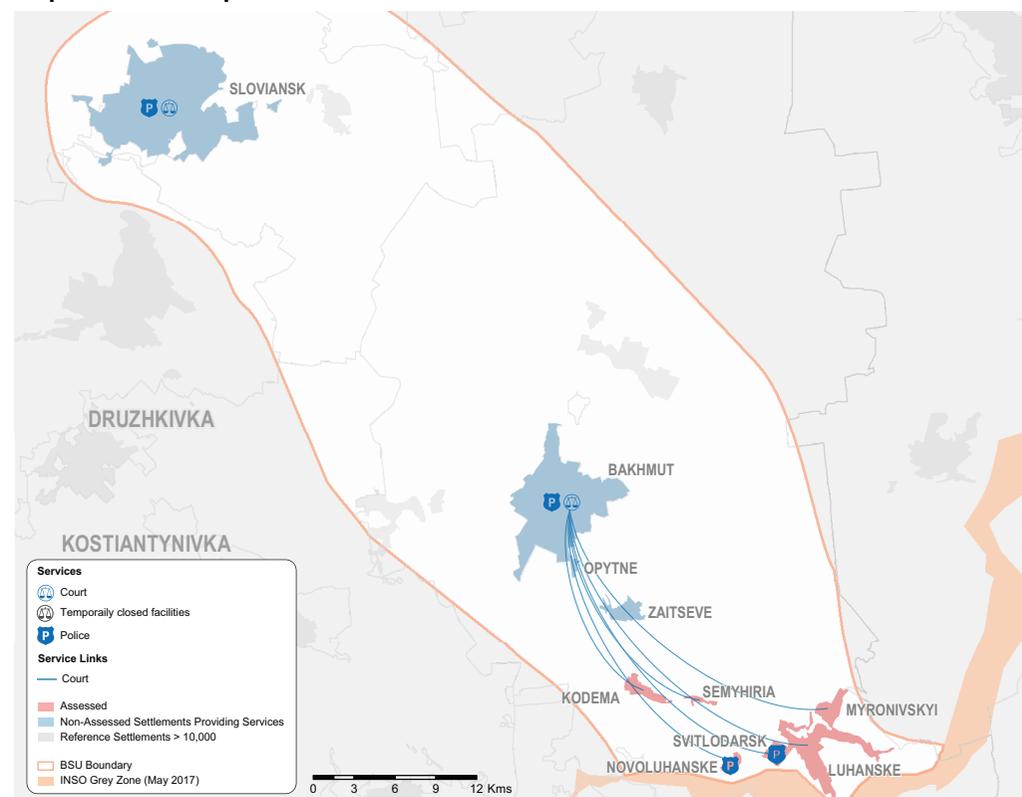


Figure 3: Key protection concerns reported³



Figure 4: Checkpoints affecting communities

Communities where checkpoint controls access	4 / 6
Communities where checkpoint restricts entry or exit	1 / 6
Communities affected by checkpoint elsewhere	1 / 6
Communities where checkpoint restricts delivery of goods	0 / 6

3. KIs could report more than one challenge.

Education

There are 11 functioning schools in the BSU: 5 kindergartens and 6 all-grade schools. Access to education in the assessed communities is good in Svitlodarsk, Myronivskyi and Luhanske area, where there are schools and kindergartens offering all levels of education. Novoluhanske also has an all-grade school, but has no kindergartens. There are no education facilities in Kodema or Semyhiria.

Education access challenges

In Kodema and Semyhiria, children must travel to Bakhmut (19 km) or Zaitseve (7 km), and KIs for these communities reported the distance to schools and security risks children are exposed to when travelling to school as the main access challenges. Security risks when travelling were also reported in Novoluhanske, probably due to shelling and frequent exchanges of fire in the area.

In the other settlements, KIs felt access to education is good, although KIs expressed some concerns over a shortage of teaching staff and the quality of teaching provided.

Education facility conditions

Of the 11 facilities assessed 8 remain in need of repairs due to shelling damage. Two have been repaired and one has not been damaged by shelling.

Schools have consistent access to electricity despite electricity shortages because all schools experiencing shortages have working

generators.

Availability of drinking water is more problematic: four schools are experiencing daily shortages and one has no drinking water storage available. All schools are connected to the water and sewage networks. Pupil-to-toilet ratios meet SPHERE standards⁴ at kindergartens, with 12 pupils per toilet on average, but do not meet standards in all-grade schools where there are 48 pupils per toilet on average.

Three schools reported fuel for heating was not sufficiently available during the last winter, and one reported shortages in centralised heating services.

Challenges delivering education

Shortages of funds and supplies are the key challenge for schools in the BSU, reported by facilities in all communities. The supplies most lacking are gym equipment, computers and books.

Schools in Svitlodarsk and Novoluhanske also reported a lack of qualified teaching staff. Pupil-to-teacher ratios are consistent between types of school, with seven pupils per teacher on average at kindergartens and eight pupils per teacher at all-grade schools.

Map 3: Schools and kindergartens in the BSU

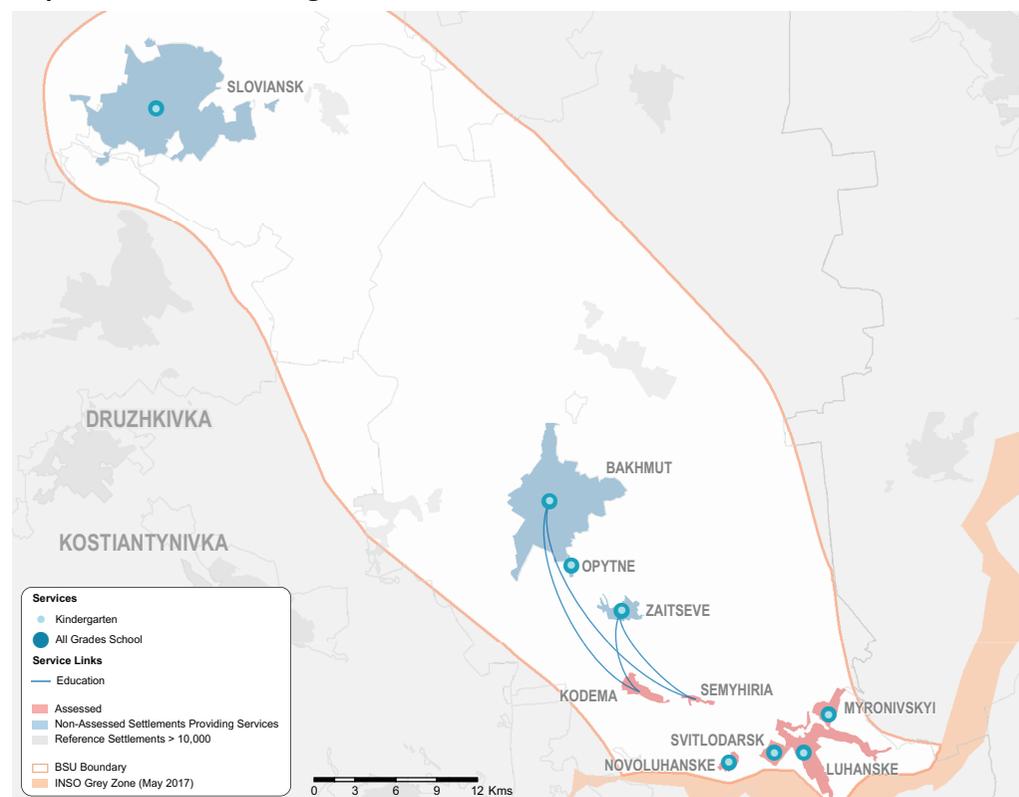


Figure 5: Key education challenges reported⁵

1. No challenges	41%	<div style="width: 41%; height: 10px; background-color: #e377c2;"></div>
2. Distance to school is too great	37%	<div style="width: 37%; height: 10px; background-color: #e377c2;"></div>
3. Route to school is unsafe	11%	<div style="width: 11%; height: 10px; background-color: #e377c2;"></div>

Figure 6: Protection issues in schools

Schools with accessible bomb shelters	7 / 11
Schools reporting mines/ERW in grounds	5 / 11
Schools experiencing regular shelling	3 / 11
Schools with insufficient PSS services	3 / 11

4. The Sphere Project, 'Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response'.

5. KIs could report more than one challenge.

Residents of all settlements are able to access primary healthcare within their communities. There are seven functioning facilities in the BSU: one city hospital, two paramedic-midwife clinics and four larger clinics. In Kodema and Semyhiria the only facilities available are paramedic-midwife clinics offering very basic care. To access hospital services, residents of Semyhiria and Kodema travel to hospital services in Bakhmut. Residents of Svitlodarsk, Luhansk, Myronivskiy and Novoluhanske use the Svitlodarsk City Hospital. Pharmacies are not available in Kodema, Semyhiria or Luhanske

Healthcare access challenges

The cost of transport to facilities is the most commonly reported challenge in the BSU, because travel to facilities in Bakhmut is costly. Lack of facilities and distance to facilities were also mentioned as key challenges. Security risks in travelling (shelling and exchanges of fire) are the most serious challenge for residents in Luhanske and were also reported in Novoluhanske.

Where access to healthcare is best, in Svitlodarsk and Myronivskiy, the cost of healthcare and the cost of travelling to services are reportedly more concerning than travel time or distance. Additionally, KIs in Svitlodarsk highlighted that elderly residents and people with disabilities struggle to access services.

Health facility conditions

Although all 11 facilities assessed are functional, only facilities in Kodema and Semyhiria remain undamaged by conflict.

Access to water is poor: four facilities either reported daily shortages or have no water supply at all, and three reported an insufficient number of toilets available. The clinic in Luhanske is reportedly in particularly poor condition.

Lack of equipment is a key challenge in delivering care, reported by five facilities. Three facilities reported a shortage of qualified doctors while facilities in Kodema and Svitlodarsk are struggling with high patient numbers. The number of ambulances available in the BSU is insufficient, as reported by three of the four clinics with ambulance services.

Availability of supplies and medication is good across all seven facilities, although two facilities reported that they do not always have insulin available.

Map 4: Hospitals and clinics in the BSU

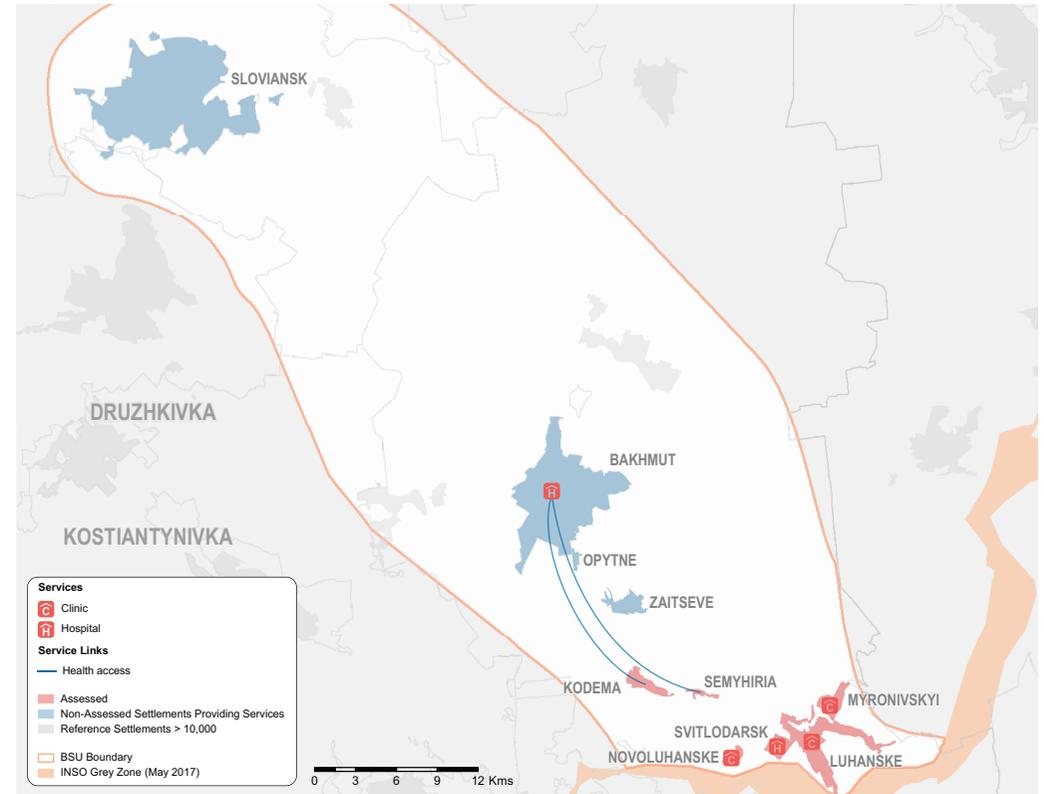
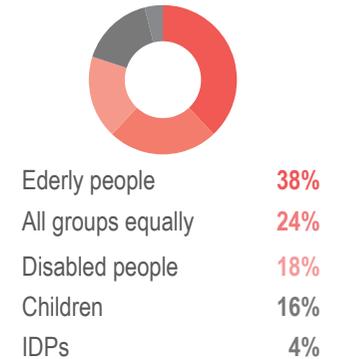


Figure 7: Key healthcare challenges reported⁶



Figure 8: Groups facing most challenges in accessing healthcare



6. KIs could report more than one challenge.

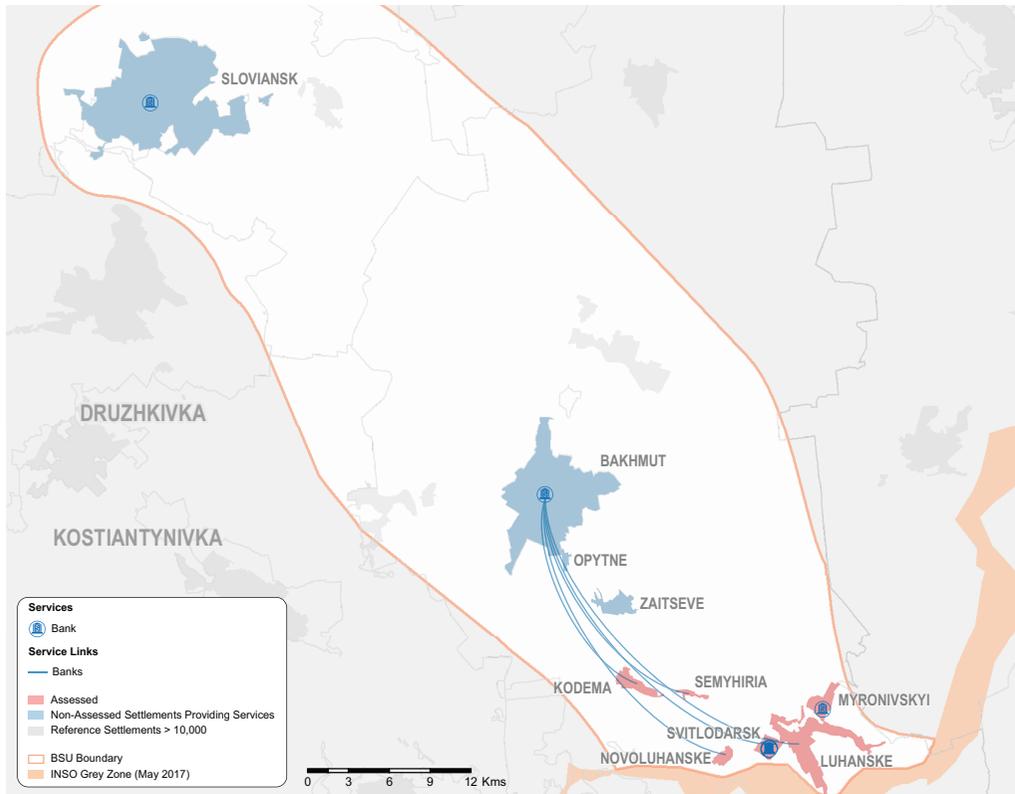
Markets and Livelihoods

Market access is sufficient for residents of Svitlodarsk and Myronivskiy, where a range of shops are available. These communities also have a limited range of banks and ATMs. However, some financial services are not available at banks in Svitlodarsk and therefore residents also use banks in Bakhmut. Residents from other settlements travel to Bakhmut to use banks and ATMs. All settlements have at least one functioning shop.

Challenges accessing markets

Distance to shops and markets is the key access challenge for residents of the BSU, particularly for residents of Kodema and Semyhiria, where there are fewer shops. High prices are the second most reported issue. Security risks while travelling due to shelling were also a primary challenge and were the most commonly reported challenge in Myronivskiy and Luhanske.

Map 5: Banks and ATMs in the BSU



The cost of transport to market is a problem for residents in all settlements but Svitlodarsk. KIs in Kodema and Semyhiria reported overcrowded bus services and insufficient transport as further issues.

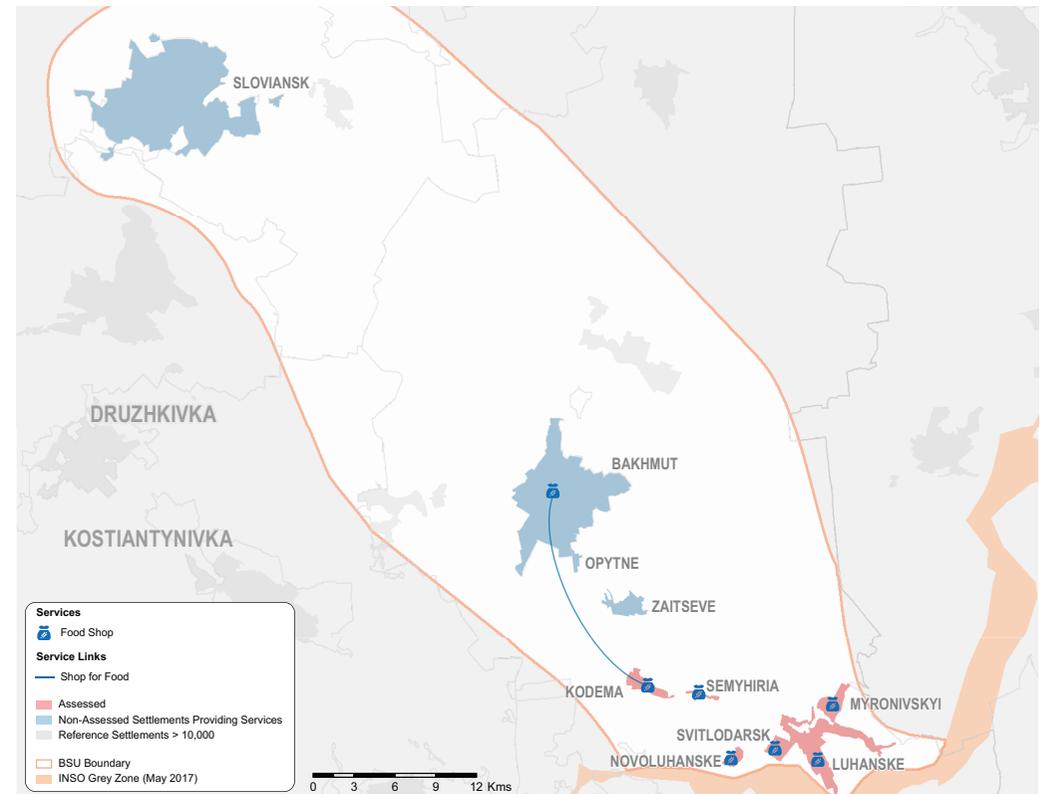
Checkpoints and delivery restrictions

Military checkpoints restrict entry or exit to the community in Semyhiria and Luhanske, but delivery of goods is reportedly not affected.

Challenges accessing FSPs

FSPs are available in Svitlodarsk and Myronivskiy. However, the number of FSPs is insufficient, with the top reported challenges being the lack of FSPs, the cost of travelling to FSPs and the distance to FSPs. Services provided by FSPs are also insufficient, as KIs in Svitlodarsk reported the FSPs do not offer some services and experience technical issues that make using services difficult.

Map 6: Most visited locations for food shopping in the BSU



Availability

Food availability is best in urban areas, while the shops in other settlements offer smaller ranges of products. Semyhiria has the poorest availability, with 11 of 28 assessed products unavailable in the community.

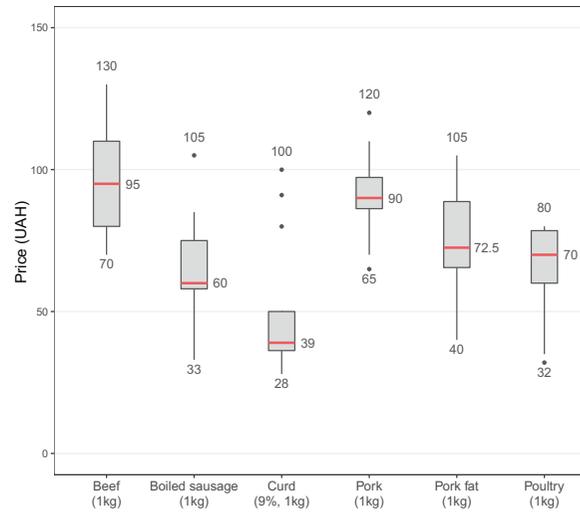
Availability of meat products was poor across the BSU, particularly beef, which was only available in some shops in Svitlodarsk and Myronivskiyi, and pork, which was not available in Luhanske or Semyhiria. Root vegetables were not available in all the rural communities assessed.

Prices

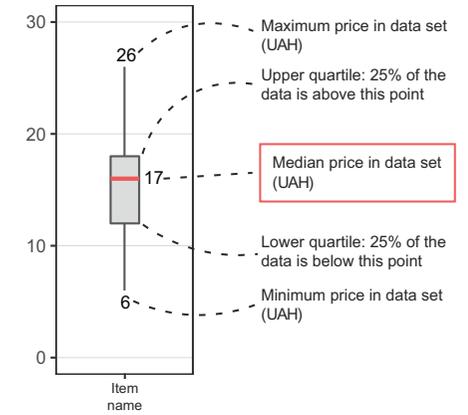
Prices for dry products were consistent across the BSU. The cost of meat, vegetables, butter and milk varied more between communities, with meat showing the greatest variance in price.

In the urban areas of the BSU (Myronivskiyi, Luhanske and Svitlodarsk) prices are slightly higher on average because residents are not able to produce their own vegetables, poultry or dairy products, which is a very common livelihoods strategy in rural areas. Because so many residents grow root vegetables, they are not available in all markets due to lack of demand, and dairy products are cheaper in rural areas.

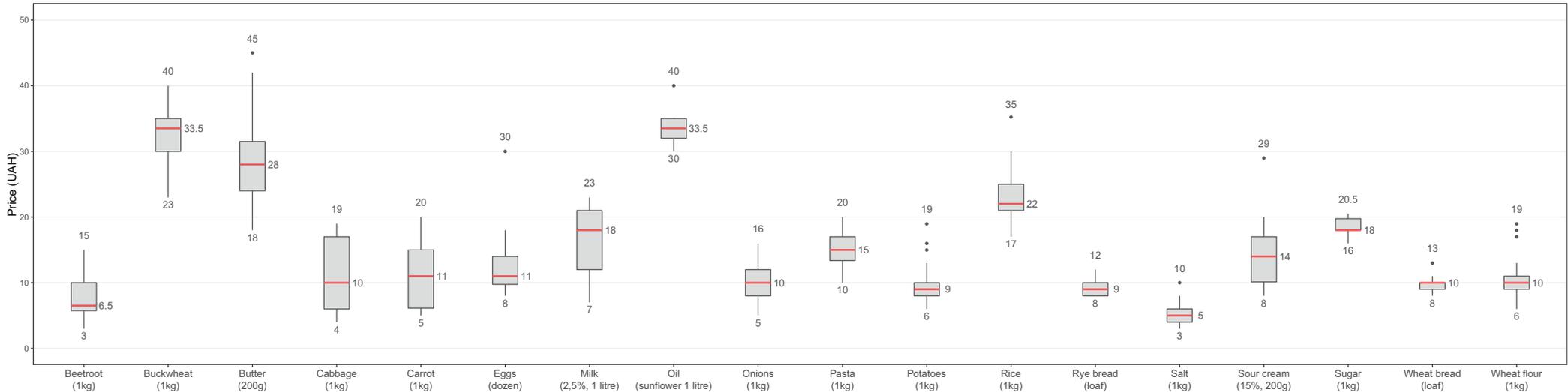
Boxplot 1: Prices of meat and curd



How to read a boxplot



Boxplot 2: Prices of other food items



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Access to drinking water

Running water is available in all communities except Kodema and Semyhiria. Shortages occur in all communities with water supply, although only rarely in Svitlodarsk.

In Kodema and Semyhiria residents rely on water truck deliveries for drinking water, although families who are able to do so prefer to buy bottled water for their children. Water deliveries in Semyhiria are reportedly insufficient for community needs.

WASH challenges for communities

In communities with water, shortages and damage to water infrastructure are the key challenges reported, except in Svitlodarsk where KIs felt there are no WASH challenges.

Kodema and Semyhiria have no running water and are not connected to the sewage networks. Consequently, most residents use flushing toilets connected to septic pits. The inability to empty septic pits is the key challenge in these communities.

Problems emptying septic pits were also reported in Luhanske, where not all households are connected to the sewage network.

Waste management

Waste collection services are available in the Svitlodarsk - Myronivskyi - Luhanske area, but do not serve all residents, with some using designated dumping sites for disposal. There is a dumping site in Semyhiria and Kodema, but it

can only be accessed using a road exposed to frequent shelling and therefore waste is often burnt or dumped in the surrounding areas.

Figure 9: WASH situation in assessed communities

Communities following bad waste disposal practices	3 / 6
Communities without running water	2 / 6

Figure 10: Key WASH challenges reported⁷

1. Cannot empty septic tank	37%	
2. Water shortages	33%	
3. No challenges	33%	
4. Damage to infrastructure	11%	

Shelter

Accommodation types

The majority of IDPs live in rented accommodation, except in Luhanske where administrators reported that 80-100% of IDPs own their accommodation. The local population are more likely than IDPs to live in self-owned accommodation.

Housing damage

Shelling has damaged housing in all communities assessed within the BSU, according to data provided by administrators. However, the density of damage is low in all communities except Luhanske due to its location on the contact line in an area that has experienced intense shelling.

Figure 11: Density of housing damage in assessed communities

Community	Number of damaged units	Damaged units per 100 residents
Luhanske	128	27
Kodema and Semyhiria	54	13
Svitlodarsk	50	0.4
Myronivskyi	28	0.4
Novoluhanske	8	0.2

Access to construction materials

A limited range of construction materials is available in all communities except Semyhiria.

Utility shortages

All communities in the BSU are connected to the electricity network but experience shortages, which are most frequent in Luhanske.

Heating fuel is available in the BSU, but shortages of fuel were reported as an issue by KIs, particularly in Luhanske where solid fuel is not available.

The key reported challenge in obtaining heating fuel is the cost of fuel, followed by shortages and problems with fuel deliveries.

About REACH

REACH facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. All REACH activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. For more information, you can write to our global office: geneva@reach-initiative.org.

Visit www.reach-initiative.org and follow us @REACH_info.

7. KIs could report more than one challenge.