

Area-based Assessment: West Donetsk Network 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 West Donetsk BSU where eight communities were assessed (Figure 1).

- Access to services is best in the larger communities of Krasnohorivka and Marinka. These communities have primary healthcare clinics, education facilities, and some shops and markets. They also have waste disposal services and running water. However, heavy shelling affects service access in both communities, presenting risks to facility users and damaging facilities.
- In the smaller communities of the BSU, access to services is poor. Three communities have no education facilities, four have no running water and five have no primary healthcare facilities.
- Access to Financial Service Points (FSPs) is difficult, as none of the assessed communities have FSPs and residents must therefore travel long distances to use these services.
- Due to the lack of facilities, distance, security risks while travelling and the cost of transport are the key challenges in accessing most services in the BSU.

Map 1: Locations of assessed settlements in the West Donetsk BSU

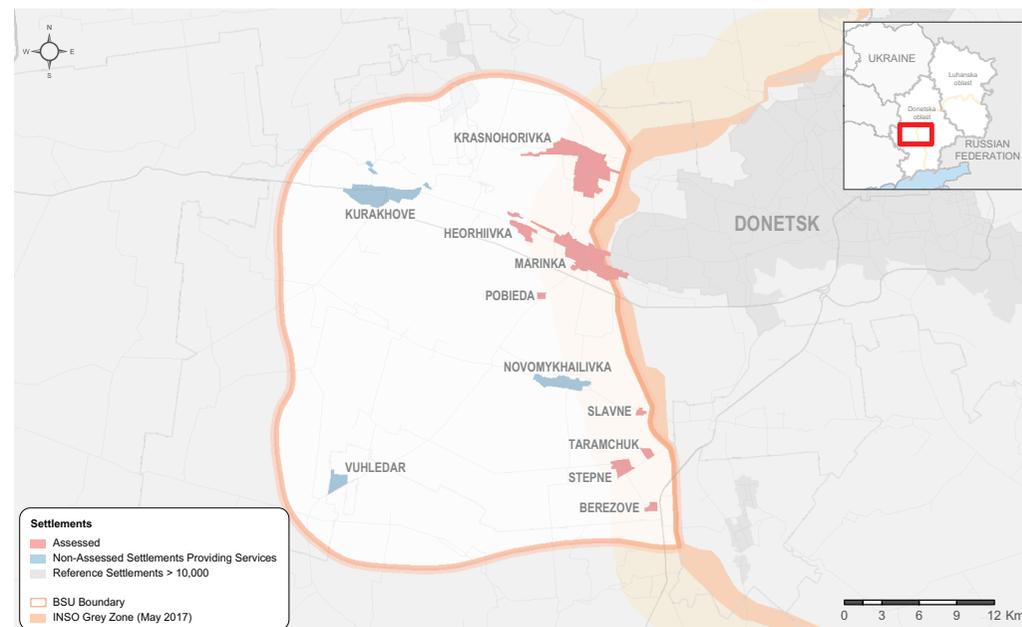


Figure 1: Communities assessed within the West Donetsk BSU

Raion	Settlement	Pop.	Distance from contact line
Marinskyi	Krasnohorivka	8,000	On contact line
Marinskyi	Marinka	7,000	On contact line
Marinskyi	Stepne	1,150	2.7 km
Marinskyi	Berezove	500	1.3 km
Marinskyi	Taramchuk	60	0.9 km
Marinskyi	Pobieda	95	5.1 km
Marinskyi	Heorhiivka	No data ²	4.4 km
Marinskyi	Slavne	No data	0.2 km

Figure 2: Profiles of KIs interviewed

Profile	Female	Male	Total
Community KI	20	10	30
Administration KI	4	1	5
Education facility KI	10	-	10
Health facility KI	4	-	4



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

2. Administrators in Heorhiivka and Slavne were unable to provide population data for these communities.

Protection

Protection risks due to conflict are high across the BSU. All but two of the communities assessed are located under 3 km from the contact line in an area experiencing intense conflict. KIs reported daily or weekly shelling in all communities except Heorhiivka and Stepne between February and June 2017, confirmed by International NGO Safety Organisation (INSO) data. All communities have experienced shelling since the conflict began.

Landmine / ERW risks

Landmines/ERW are reportedly present in all assessed communities. In Heorhiivka, all known hazardous areas have been marked, while some of the hazardous areas have been marked in the remaining seven communities. Six communities are reportedly in need of Mine Risk Education (MRE), three of which have received no MRE at all. KIs in Heorhiivka and Berezove felt the community had received sufficient MRE.

Protection challenges for communities

Mines/ERW are the most frequently cited protection concern amongst KIs, raised in all communities assessed. Shelling is also a major concern, followed by the presence of armed actors, which was reported in four communities. Destruction of property due to shelling was also a key issue.

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

support (PSS) services are insufficient in every community. There are no PSS services at all in Pobieda, Slavne and Taramchuk. Child Friendly Spaces are reportedly required in five of the assessed communities.

Vulnerable groups

KIs reported no specific protection concerns for women in the communities assessed.

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are reportedly living in five of the assessed communities, and four communities also reported that some current residents were previously displaced by conflict and have now returned to the community. The highest number of IDPs was reported in Marinka, where there are also a high number of returnees. The presence of IDPs and returnees indicates a need for additional assistance such as documentation support in the area for these groups.

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

Military checkpoints

Military checkpoints restrict entry or exit to the community for residents of Slavne. While access to the community is controlled by a checkpoint in five other communities, residents reported these checkpoints do not restrict their freedom of movement.

Map 2: Courts and police stations in the BSU

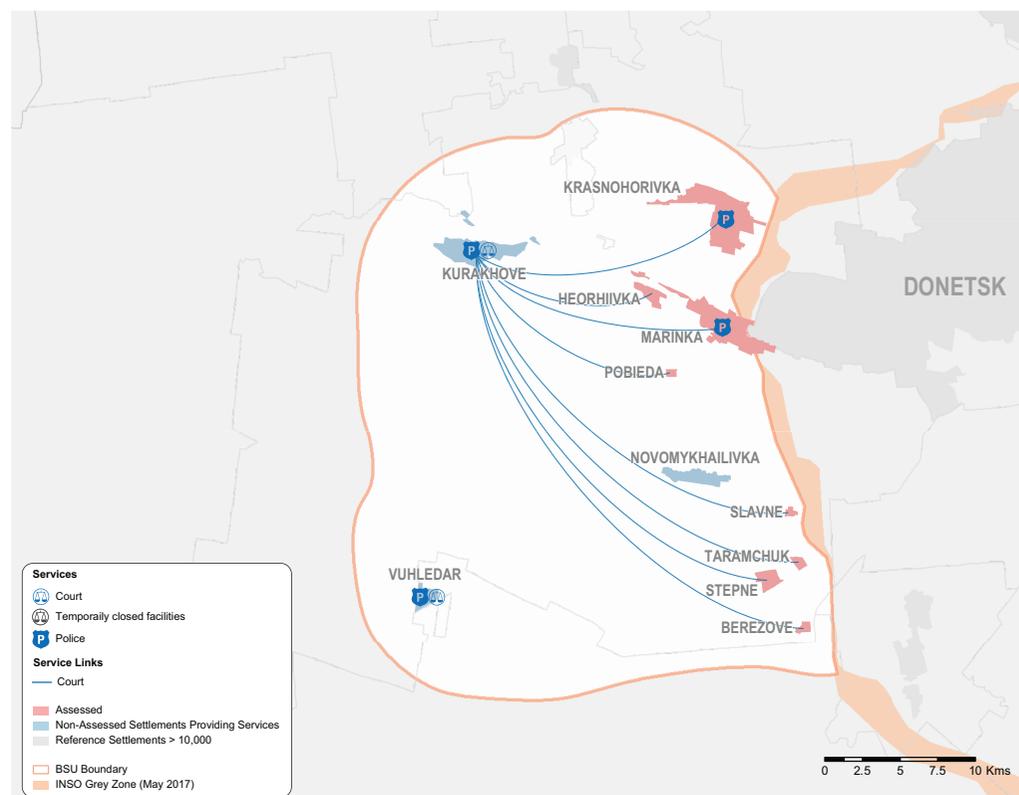
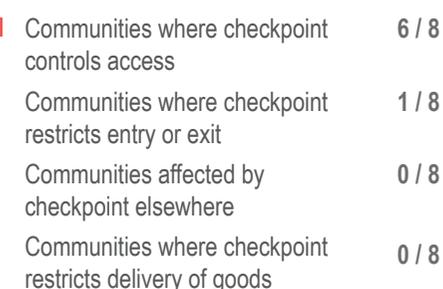


Figure 3: Key protection concerns reported³



Figure 4: Checkpoints affecting communities



3. KIs could report more than one challenge.

Education

There are 10 functioning schools in the BSU: 5 kindergartens and 5 all-grade schools. Taramchuk, Pobieda and Slavne have no facilities at all. Children in these communities use schools in Marinka, Novomykhailivka (5 km west of the contact line) and Stepne. All levels of education are available in four communities.

Education access challenges

The primary access challenge is security risks while travelling to school, reported in all communities due to shelling across the BSU and the presence of mines/ERW in all areas. Security risks were most concerning for KIs in Pobieda as children here travel towards the contact line to attend school in Marinka, where shelling is occurring daily.

Distance to schools is reportedly a key issue in Berezove, Taramchuk and Pobieda. In these communities the average distance travelled to school is 4 km. Access is best in Heorhiivka and Stepne: most KIs reported no challenges in accessing education in these communities.

Education facility conditions

All 10 facilities assessed have been damaged by shelling and 8 remain in need of repairs, although all are functioning. Five facilities reported daily or weekly shelling between February and June 2017, although four of these have no accessible bomb shelters.

Access to drinking water is limited in four

schools. Heorhiivka Grade 1 – 3 School has no water supply at all, and three other schools experience daily shortages. Seven schools have drinking water storage and are therefore able to provide water consistently despite shortages.

Pupil-to-toilet ratios meet SPHERE standards⁴ at kindergartens (7 pupils per toilet on average) and all-grade schools (27 pupils per toilet on average). Two schools are not connected to the sewage network and use pit latrines or flushing toilets connected to a septic pit.

Electricity shortages were reported at four schools. Three of these schools do not have working generators. Seven facilities struggled due to heating shortages during the last winter, with daily shortages at two kindergartens and one all-grade school.

Challenges delivering education

Shortages of supplies are the key challenge for schools in the BSU, reported by facilities in all communities. The supplies most lacking were computers, desks and gym equipment. Insufficient services are the second most reported issue. Schools highlighted first aid kits, PSS and medical services as the most required services.

Pupil-to-teacher ratios are consistent between types of school, with nine pupils per teacher on average at kindergartens and six pupils per teacher at all-grade schools.

Map 3: Schools and kindergartens in the BSU

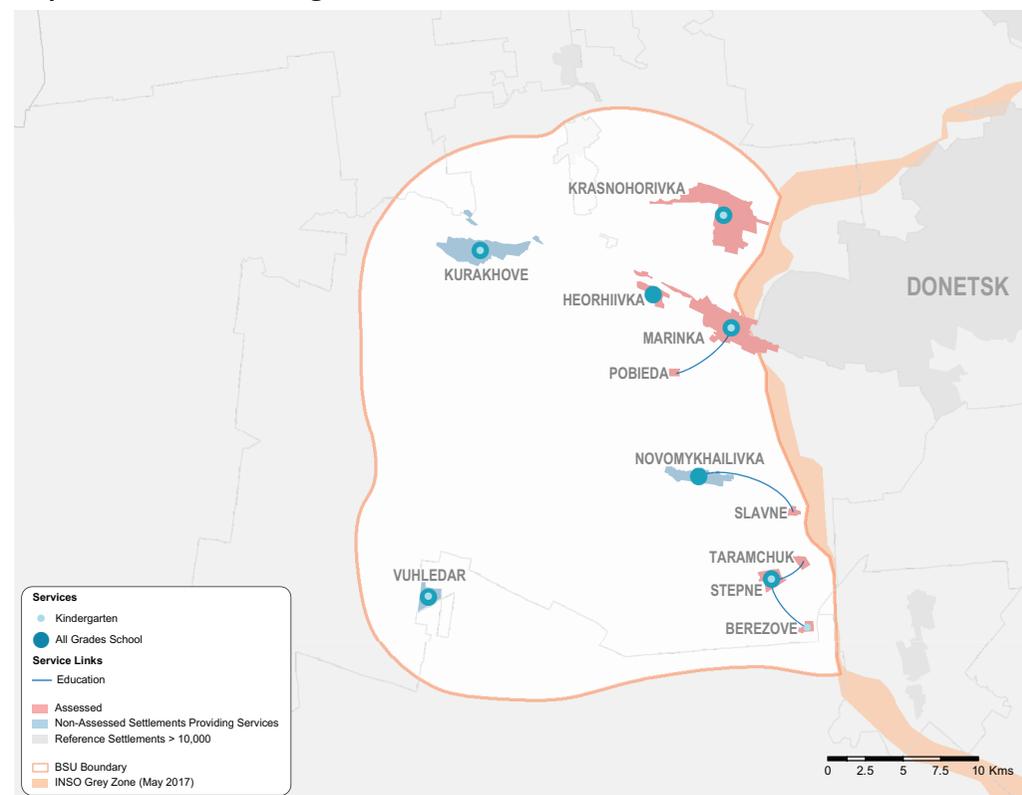


Figure 5: Key education challenges reported⁵

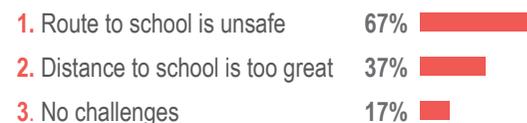
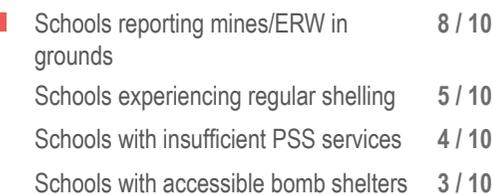


Figure 6: Protection issues in schools



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

5. KIs could report more than one challenge.

Health

There are four functioning facilities in the BSU: one ambulatory clinic (Stepne), two medical centres (Marinka) and one raion hospital (Krasnohorivka).

Primary healthcare is available in Krasnohorivka, Marinka and Stepne. Residents of the other communities use primary healthcare in Marinka, Novomykhailivka and Stepne.

There is a raion-level hospital in Krasnohorivka which is used by residents of Marinka and Pobieda. Residents of other communities go to hospitals in Kurakhove (20 km west of the contact line) and Vuhledar (25 km west of the contact line). Pharmacies are available in three communities, and residents of other communities use pharmacies in Marinka, Stepne, Kurakhove and Vuhledar.

Healthcare access challenges

Healthcare access is poor across all communities assessed. Although Marinka and Krasnohorivka offer the best facilities, KIs in these communities stated that access was difficult due to the risk of being injured or killed while at facilities due to ongoing shelling at both facilities. The cost of care was also a key problem.

Across the remaining communities, the lack of facilities was the primary reported challenge. Lack of facilities forces residents to travel to access care and security risks while travelling were the second most commonly reported

issue amongst these communities. Transport to health facilities is reportedly insufficient, particularly from Berezove, Slavne, Pobieda and Taramchuk.

Health facility conditions

Three of the four assessed facilities have been damaged by conflict and two still require repairs. Between February and June 2017 shelling affected three facilities in the BSU, with facilities in Marinka reporting daily or weekly shelling.

Running water is available at three facilities, while the clinic in Stepne is not connected to water or sewage networks. Daily water shortages were reported at the hospital in Krasnohorivka and one of the medical centres in Marinka. Three facilities have no water storage and therefore cannot consistently provide drinking water for staff and patients.

Poor gas, electricity and heating services were reported as a key challenge for three of the facilities, two of which reported daily heating shortages during the last winter and ongoing daily gas shortages. Lack of qualified staff, outdated equipment and security risks for staff travelling to work were also reported as issues.

Map 4: Hospitals and clinics in the BSU

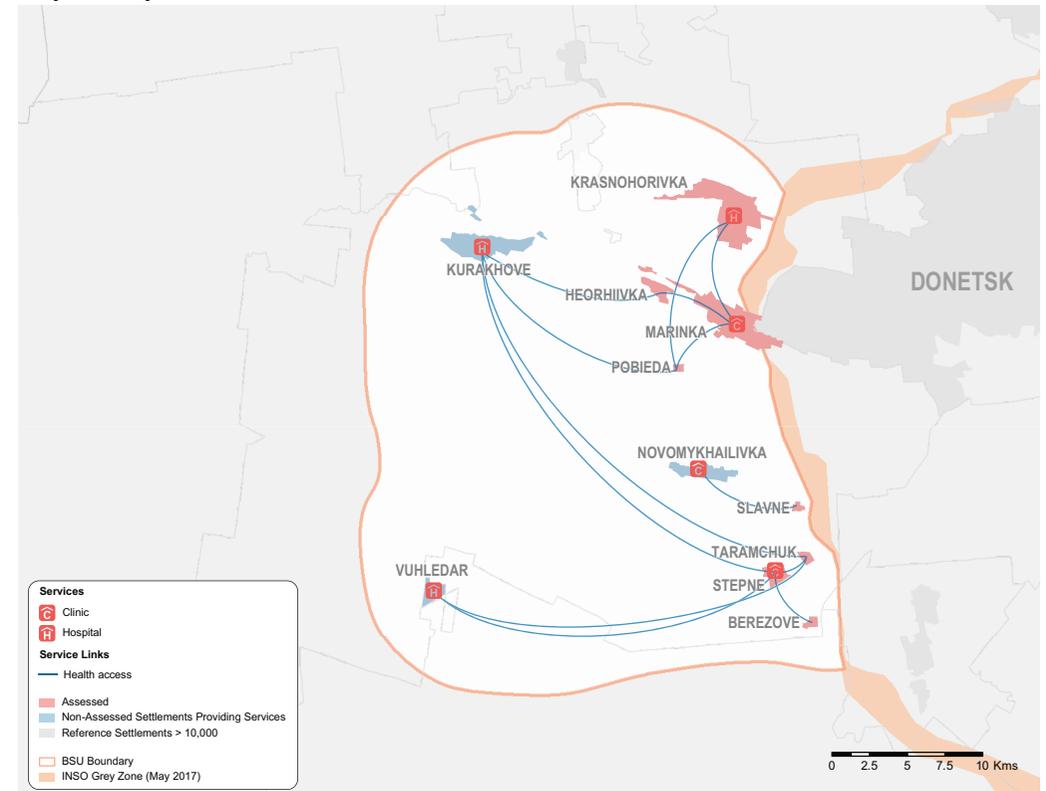


Figure 7: Key healthcare challenges reported⁶

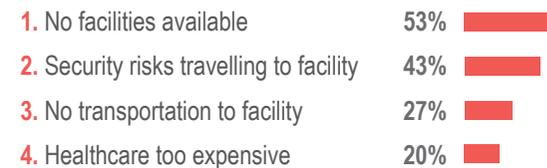
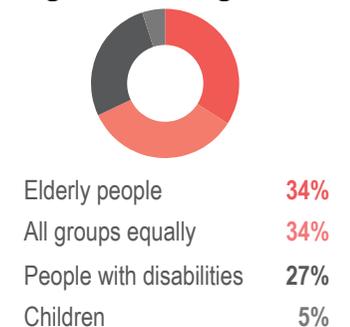


Figure 8: Groups facing most challenges in accessing healthcare



6. KIs could report more than one challenge.

Markets and Livelihoods

Access to FSPs is poor across the BSU due to a lack of facilities in the assessed communities. Market access is better, with functioning food shops available in six communities. Residents of the two remaining communities use shops in Stepne and Novomykhailivka.

Challenges accessing markets

Distance to shops and markets is the primary reported challenge, followed by security risks

when travelling and the high cost of products. Residents of Marinka and Taramchuk were most concerned by security risks due to heavy shelling and the presence of landmines/ERW in the area.

While transport to markets is available from most communities, the cost of transport was reported as a challenge.

Public transport is limited and private bus

services, which tend to be more expensive, are much more frequently used.

Checkpoints and delivery restrictions

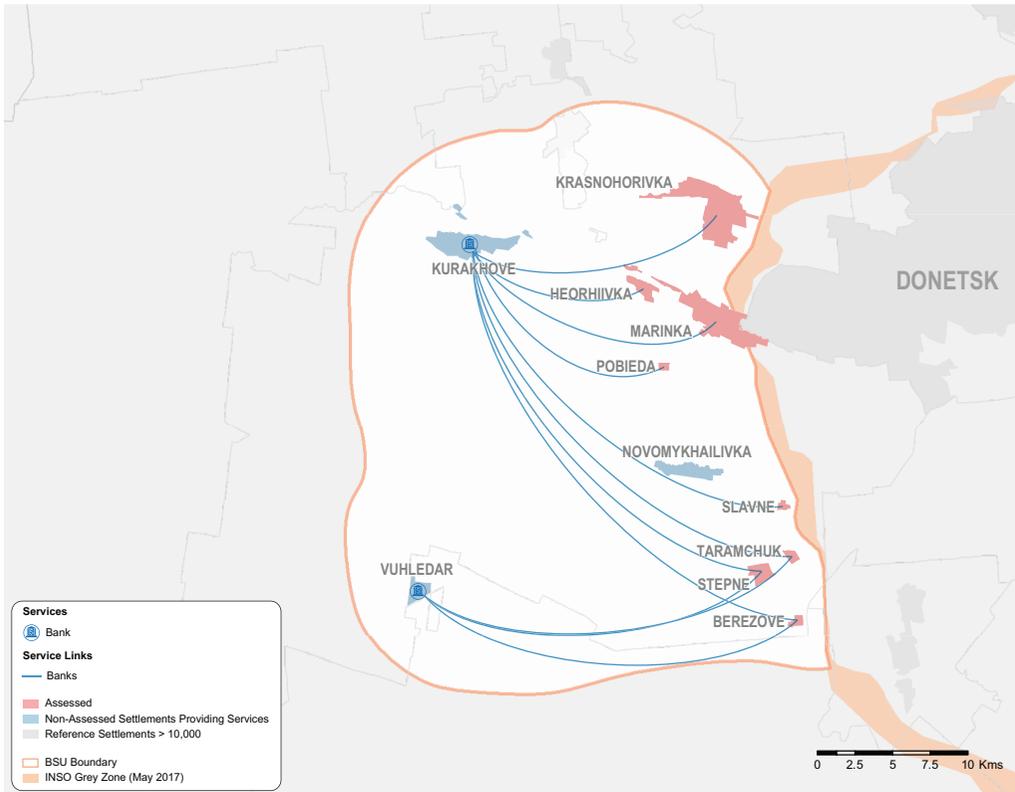
While checkpoints control access to six communities, KIs reported no delivery restrictions in place due to checkpoints.

Challenges accessing FSPs

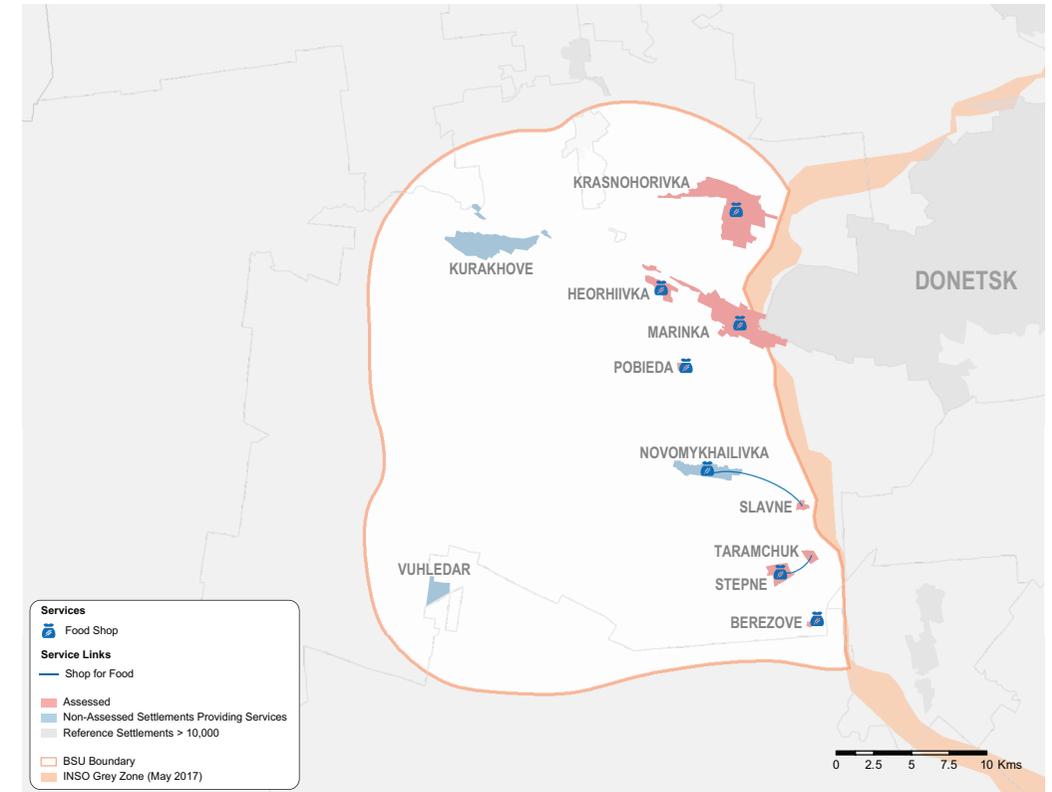
FSPs are not available in the BSU, so residents

use FSPs in Vuhledar and Kurakhove. This leads to the most commonly reported challenges in accessing FSPs: the distance to FSPs and the cost of travelling to FSPs. Queues were also a common problem, indicating that the number of FSPs in Vuhledar and Kurakhove is not sufficient to cope with the number of users.

Map 5: Banks and ATMs in the BSU



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



Availability

Food availability is best in Krasnohorivka where 27 of 28 assessed products are available. Availability was consistent across the remaining five communities with shops, with about 50% of products available in three communities and 70% of products available in two communities. Dry goods were available in the majority of shops.

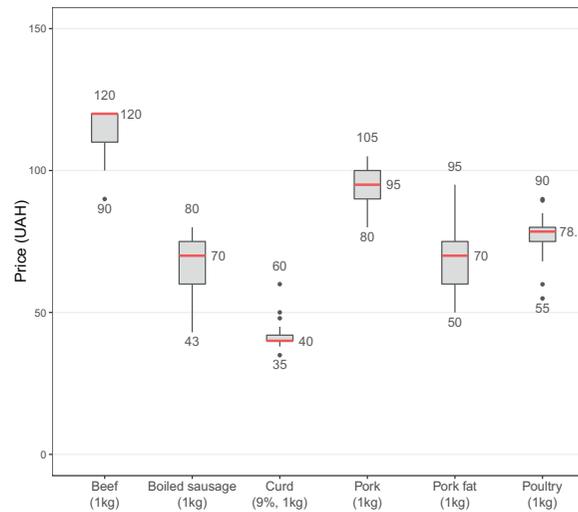
Availability of meat products was poor across the BSU, particularly beef and pork. Fresh vegetables were rarely available: in five of the six communities with shops, beetroot, onions and carrots were not available.

Prices

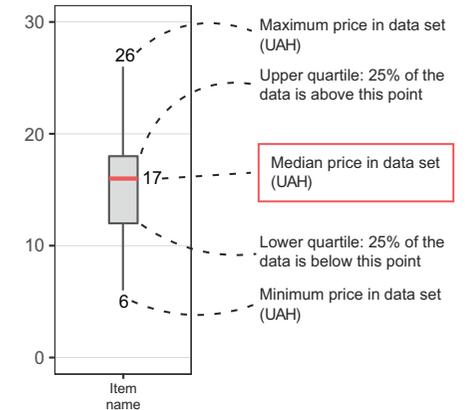
Prices were consistent across the BSU for dry products such as bread, salt and sugar. Prices varied more for fresh vegetables than for dry goods. The prices of milk and butter showed the greatest variance.

Variation in dairy and fresh produce prices is due to self-production of vegetables and 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 a lack of demand, and dairy products are cheaper in rural areas.

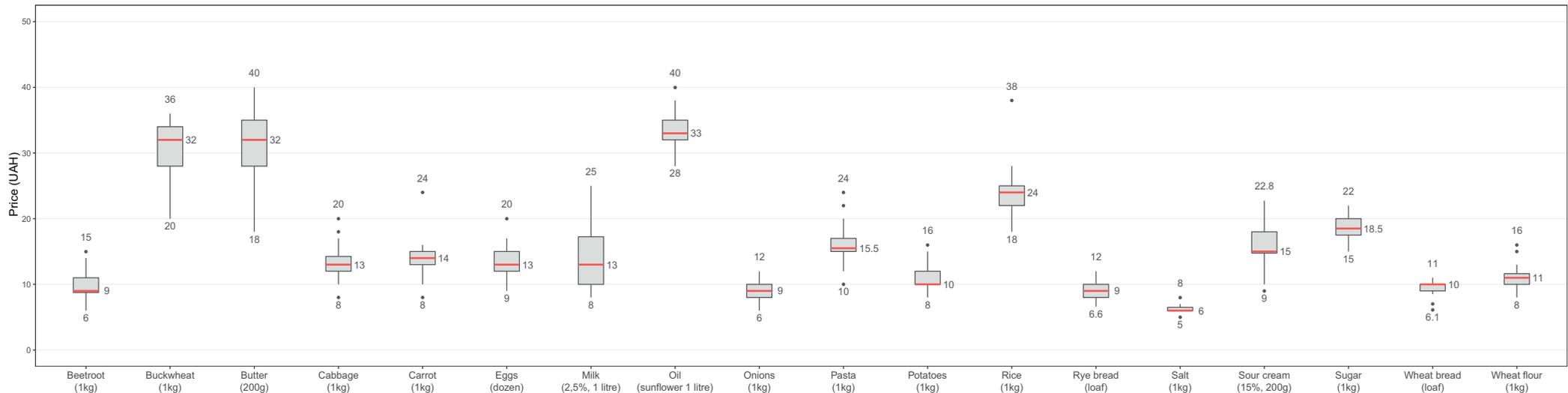
Boxplot 1: Prices of meat and curd



How to read a boxplot



Boxplot 2: Prices of other food items



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Access to drinking water

Access to drinking water is poor in the BSU. Heorhiivka, Pobieda, Taramchuk and Slavne are not connected to the water network, while frequent shortages occur in the four communities which are connected to the network. Communities without running water rely on water delivery trucks and wells for drinking water.

WASH challenges for communities

The key WASH challenge reported is water shortages, reported in all communities with running water and occurring daily in all four of these communities.

Damage to infrastructure is a major concern in Krasnohorivka, Marinka and Taramchuk, where the density of shelling damage is high.

For communities without running water, the lack of supply is the main challenge reported. These communities are also not connected to the sewage network, and are experiencing difficulties emptying septic tanks.

Emptying septic tanks is reportedly most difficult in Berezove, where all KIs reported this as a key challenge.

Waste management

Within the BSU, waste collection services are available in four communities, one of which also has a designated dump site.

However, not all residents are using these services: KIs in all communities reported that some waste is buried or burnt. In four communities waste is also dumped in illegal sites around the community.

Figure 9: WASH situation in assessed communities

Communities following bad waste disposal practices	8 / 8
Communities without running water	4 / 8

Figure 10: Key WASH challenges reported⁷

1. Water shortages	43%	
2. Damage to infrastructure	30%	
3. No water supply	23%	
4. Cannot empty septic tank	20%	

Shelter

Accommodation types

The local population are more likely than IDPs to live in self-owned accommodation, with most IDPs living in rented accommodation. However, in Taramchuk administrators reported that the majority of IDPs live in self-owned accommodation.

Housing damage

Shelling has damaged housing in four communities within the BSU, according to data provided by administrators. The highest density of damage was reported in Taramchuk, followed by Marinka and Krasnohorivka.

Enumerators observed some shelter damage in Heorhiivka and Slavne, but administrators were unable to provide damage data for these communities.

Figure 11: Density of housing damage in assessed communities

Community	Number of damaged housing units	Damaged units per 100 residents
Taramchuk	29	48
Marinka	1,500	21
Krasnohorivka	1,132	14
Stepne	5	0.4

Access to construction materials

A limited range of construction materials is available in all communities. KIs reported very limited materials are available in Berezove and Taramchuk.

Utility shortages

All communities in the BSU are connected to the electricity network but experience shortages, which are most frequent in Stepne and Taramchuk. Daily gas shortages were reported in Krasnohorivka and Marinka.

Communities experience difficulties heating their homes during winters. The key challenge reported is the cost of fuel, cited by all KIs except one, followed by delivery problems and poor availability of fuel.

About REACH

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7. KIs could report more than one challenge.