

Food Security Key Takeaways About a quarter of HHs were found to have Food Security Living Standard Gaps (are food insecure). This share is notably higher in the East and South macro regions.

- In accessible areas, the data suggests that the main driver of food security is economic access. Analysis of
 consumption expenditures illustrated that a majority of HHs lack economic capacity to meet essential needs and many
 HHs deploy expenditure-related strategies such as using their savings, cutting essential expenditures or taking on
 extra work to cope with a lack of resources.
- In inaccessible areas, indicative findings show that security and access to essential services is of high concern. Also here, lack of money and high prices affect access to food, while access to markets is more severely disrupted.
- HHs with certain demographic characteristics were found to be more vulnerable to food insecurity, particularly displaced HHs, HH with a member with a disability, female single parent HHs and HHs with people with chronic illnesses. Unemployment also appears to contribute to the risk of vulnerability to food insecurity.
- Assistance had been received already by more than one third of respondents, which should be kept in mind when
 interpreting the data. Food is the top of perceived needs of HHs in both accessible and inaccessible areas.

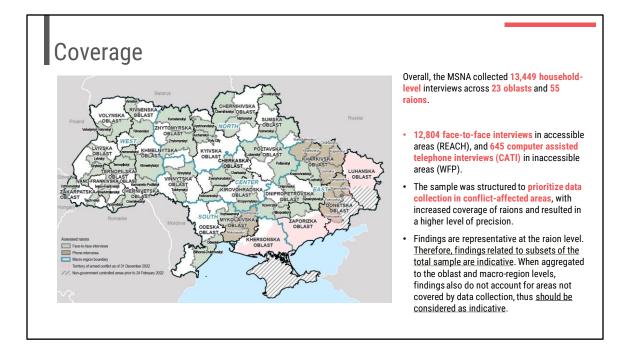












Overall, the MSNA collected 13,449 household-level interviews in 23 oblasts and 55 raions across the whole of Ukraine.

These interviews were collected using a mixed method face-to-face (f2f) and telephone (CATI) interview data collection. REACH collected 12,804 household (HH)-level interviews with the support of its own enumerators (data collection period 10 October - 4 November 2022). In inaccessible conflict-affected areas, the World Food Programme (WFP) conducted 645 HH-level CATI interviews (data collection period 14 November - 21 December 2022).

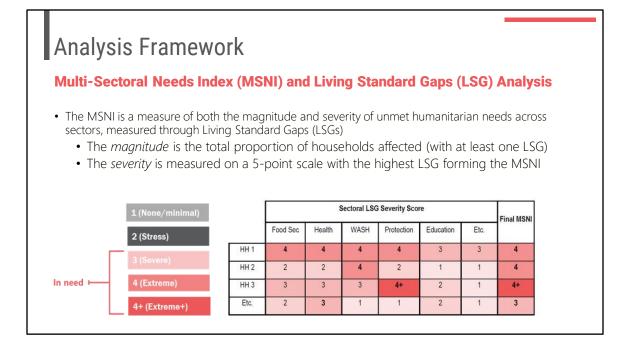
For reference, the CATI 'grouped' raions were in Donetska oblast (Bakhmutskyi, Kramatorskyi, Pokrovskyi, Volnovaskyi), Kharkivska oblast (Bohodukhivskyi, Chuhuivksyi, Iziumskyi, Kharkivskyi, Kupianksyi), and Mykolaviska oblast Bahstanksyi and Mykolaivkyi

Findings aggregated to the oblast, macro-region and national level do not take into consideration areas not covered by data collection and should therefore be considered as indicative rather than representative. It is also important to flag that data collection for Khersonska oblast was only conducted using the area of

knowledge (AoK) approach, the findings of which are shared below, and this oblast is therefore not captured in the f2f or CATI findings.

Demographically, the sample consisted of 8,712 (65%) female and 4,737 (35%) male respondents. These respondents were varied in age; 675 (5%) aged 18 to 25 years old, 4,725 (35%) aged 26 to 50 years old, 3,510 (26%) aged 51 to 65 years old and 4,590 (34%) aged 65+ years old. In terms of displacement, 1,080 were displaced, 1,350 were returnees and 11,069 were non-displaced, non-returnees (host community) respondents.

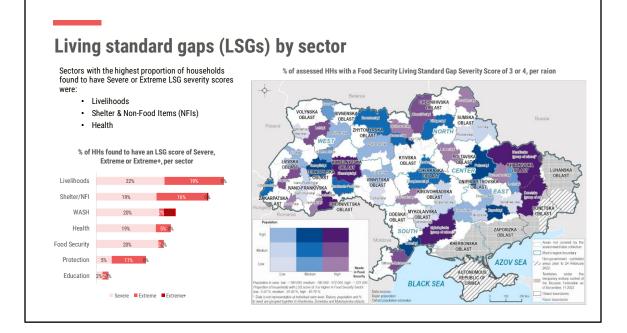
For more information on the MSNA methodology, sampling approach, research aims and questions, and limitations please go to: <u>https://www.impact-repository.org/document/reach/a55a0d01/REACH_UKR_Methodology-Overview_MSNA-Bulletin_February-2023.pdf</u>



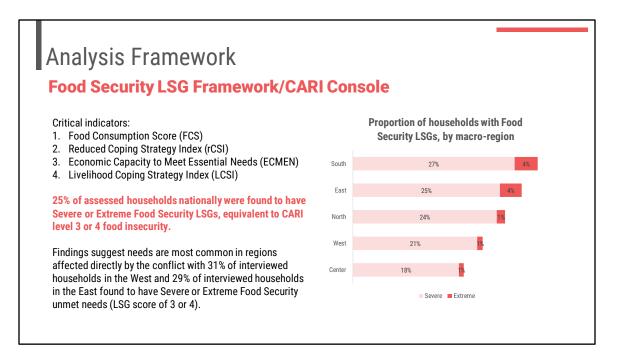
The MSNI is a measure of the household's overall severity of humanitarian needs scale of 1 (None/Minimal) to 4 or 4+ (Extreme/Extreme+), as seen in the figure to the left, based on the highest severity of sectoral LSG severity scores identified in each household. This methodology is roughly in line with the JIAF, however, we cannot go to a scale of 5 ('Catastrophic' in the JIAF) since this classification cannot be based on household reporting alone, requiring an area-level approach and data triangulation.

The MSNI is determined through the following steps: First, the severity of each sectoral LSGs is calculated per household, with HHs considered to meet a severity level criteria if one HH member meets the criteria. Next, a final severity score (MSNI) is determined for each household based on the highest severity of sectoral LSGs identified in each household.

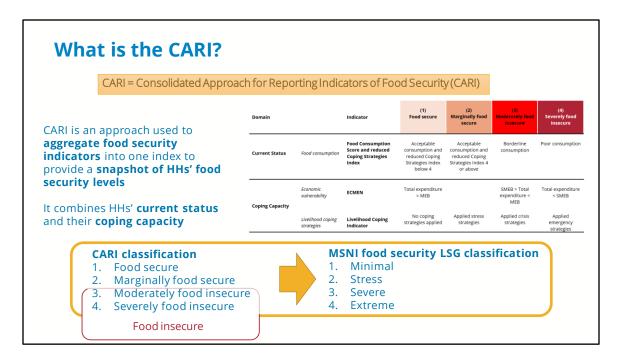
As shown in the example in the figure to the right, the highest severity score across the three households (HH) is taken to determine the MSNI.







The Food Security Living Standard Gap (LSG) framework consists of 4 composite critical indicators which build on the Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI) console to classify HHs into four levels of food insecurity, or, in the LSG framework, severity ratings. The CARI console is used to report on population overall food security status and to classify HHs according to their level of food security. This console was therefore used to form the Food Security LSG framework and is explained in further detail in the presentation below.



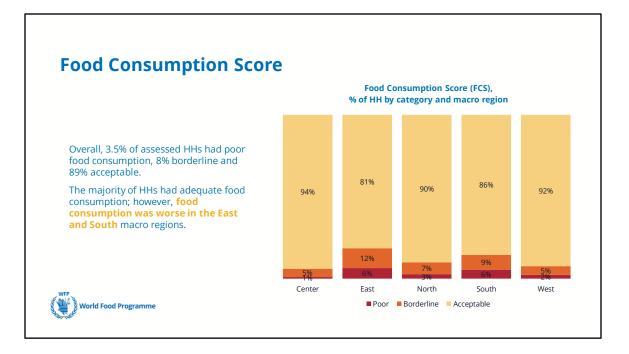
What is food security? Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food, that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (FAO, 1996).

The food security living standards gap framework in the MSNI builds on the **CARI console** to classify HHs into four levels of food insecurity, or, in the Living Standard Gap (LSG) language, severity ratings. CARI stands for "Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security" and is used to report on population overall food security status and to classify HHs according to their level of food security. The CARI aggregates several food security indicators to get an outlook at food security status of HHs. CARI has **two domains**: **Current Status** and **Coping Capacity**. Each dimension is measured by two indicators.

- 1. The Current Status captures the HH's current level of food consumption. This dimension is measured by the Food Consumption Score (FCS) and the reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) indicators.
- The Coping Capacity dimension captures the HH's resilience to shocks. This dimension is measured by the Economic Capacity to Meet Essential Needs (ECMEN) and Livelihood Coping Strategies (LCS) indicators. The food expenditure share is sometimes used instead of ECMEN, if this indicator is not available

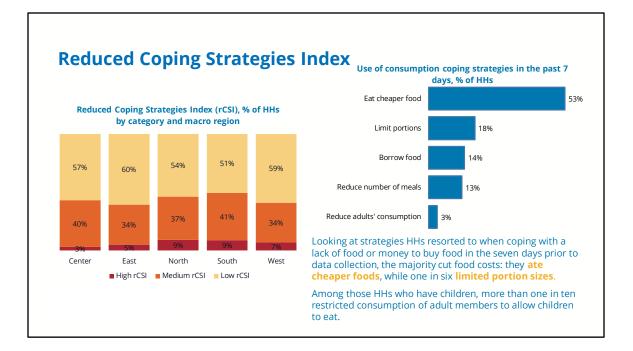
The CARI has **four levels of food security**, ranging from food secure to severely food insecure. Levels 3 and 4 (moderately and severely food insecure) are those considered acutely food insecure. This categorization is used in the MSNI Living Standard Gap for food security (LSG), where CARI level 1 is mapped to the MSNI food security LSG minimal severity, CARI level 2 to MSNI stress severity, CARI level 3 to MSNI severe severity, and CARI level 4 to MSNI extreme severity. There is no CARI level equivalent of the MSNI LSG extreme plus.

A detailed methodology of the CARI Console is available here: https://resources.vam.wfp.org/data-analysis/quantitative/food-security/technicalguidance-for-the-consolidated-approach-for-reporting-indicators-of-food-security-cari



The Food Consumption Score (FCS) is a consumption indicator, and it is used to measure the Current Status domain of the CARI. People are asked to report how often they consumed different food groups in the last week, which is then used to compute a composite score of HH's dietary diversity, food consumption frequency and relative nutritional importance of certain food groups. This score is used to classify households into poor, borderline and acceptable food consumption. The detailed methodology and questionnaire modules for Food Consumption Score can be obtained from here: https://resources.vam.wfp.org/data-analysis/quantitative/food-security/food-consumption-score

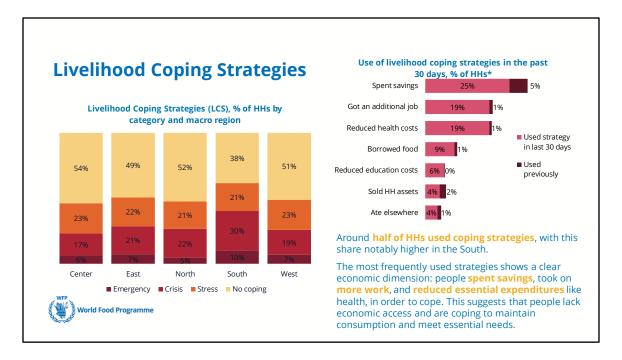
In the survey results, the Food Consumption Score (FCS) is overall displaying relatively positive results – it does not point to significant problem of immediate food consumption. However, there is a trend of Eastern and Southern regions having a larger share of HHs with poor and borderline food consumption. The FCS tends to be better in non-displaced HHs (compared to displaced ones), in HHs with children and in HHs without members belonging to socio-demographic groups such as single-headed families, people living with disabilities, or elderly.



Another indicator, which is used in measuring the CARI Current Status domain is the reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI). The rCSI is an index, representing how people have coped with food shortages in the last seven days (the strategies are on the right-hand side graph). It measures the frequency and severity of food consumption behaviours, adopted by HHs in situations of limited food resources. The higher the index, the more frequently people use these strategies to cope with the food shortages. The rCSI is sometimes referred to as 'consumption-based coping'. More methodology on this indicator can be found here:

https://resources.vam.wfp.org/data-analysis/quantitative/food-security/reduced-coping-strategies-index

Looking at consumption-based coping, the data reveals many HHs in the "medium" group, showing some level of coping. The most used strategy relates to people cutting down on food expenses —eating cheaper foods in order to cope with a shortage of food or the means to buy food. It could be expected, considering the relatively high food price inflation food prices, and the increased lack of livelihood opportunities and unemployment (see LSG for livelihoods, and the 2022 Food Security Trend Analysis – WFP: https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/ukraine-food-security-trend-analysis-february-2023). Furthermore, one in six HHs needed to limit their portions because of food insufficiency, and approximately one in seven HHs needed to borrow food.

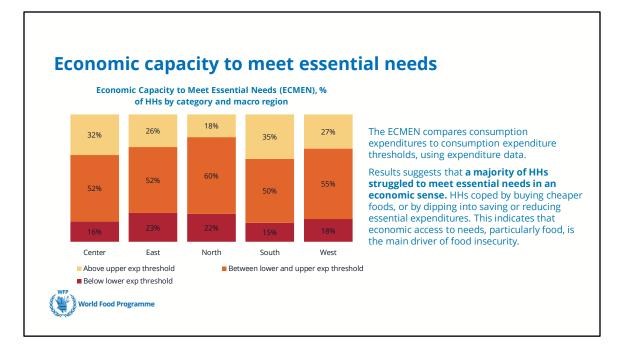


The Livelihood Coping Strategies (LCS) is used in the CARI console to measure the Coping Capacity domain. The LCS measures how people coped with a lack of money to buy food or other essentials in the last 30 days. The strategies people employ are classified as "stress," "crisis," or "emergency" strategies – the more severe strategies applied, the more HHs' ability to meet their essential needs in future are compromised. Coping is defined as either use of these strategies within the last month, or inability to use them because they were already used before. HHs are classified according to their most severe coping applied. Detailed methodology on this indicator can be obtained from here: https://resources.vam.wfp.org/data-analysis/quantitative/essential-needs/livelihood-coping-strategies-essential-needs - Note this is the essential needs version of the LCS, which is considered more appropriate for the Ukraine context (as compared to the alternative food security version of the LCS).

Around half of the surveyed HHs were using some level of coping. The share of HHs using livelihood coping strategies is notably higher in the Southern macro region. As was also evident with the rCSI, from the most frequently used specific coping strategies, the economic dimension shows clearly: people spend their savings, they take on more work, and they reduce expenditures on essential things like health, in

order to cope. This suggests that people lack economic access to food and other essential needs and are using high levels of coping to maintain their consumption and meet needs.

* Additional strategies included survey but not shown in the graph as they were applicable to less than 3% of HHs include: "moving elsewhere to work", "using degrading income source", "selling productive assets", "moving to a worse dwelling".



The Economic Capacity to Meet Essential Needs (ECMEN) indicator is the last indicator in the CARI framework, used to measure the Coping Capacity domain. The ECMEN illustrate people's ability to purchase and consume their needs – it relates consumption expenditures to upper consumption expenditure threshold using the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) and a lower consumption expenditure threshold using the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB). The detailed methodology for this indicator is available here: https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000145644/download/

The thresholds for MEB and SMEB were established based on government thresholds. The SMEB equals the official governmental Minimum Subsistence Level (MSL) from November 2022 (https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2710-IX#Text) and the MEB is calculated based on the most recently available Factual Minimum Subsistence Level (FMSL) presented by Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine in January 2022 (https://www.msp.gov.ua/files/monitoring/01.2022.pdf), re-calculated in accordance with the consumer price index of the month of data collection.* When collecting HHs' consumption expenditure, expenditures are recalled on a 30-day and 6 month time frame, and captures both food and non-food expenditures. The value of consumed own production of food is estimated and accounted for. When

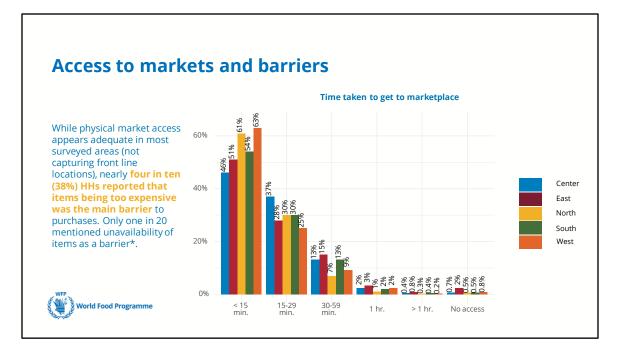
computing total HHs expenditures for the purposes of the ECMEN indicator, productive investments, savings/debt repayment, transfers to other HHs are not accounted for as they do not constitute consumption expenditures. Rent is also not included, as rent is not are not captured in the MEB/SMEB thresholds.

The purpose of the ECMEN indicator is to compare consumption expenditure to consumption thresholds, in order to understand variation within the population of the ability consume and purchase needs, and the relative importance of economic drivers of inability to meet needs. This kind of comparison is naturally sensitive to choice of thresholds, and the kind of consumption expenditures considered in these, and in the survey data. The ECMEN hence gives an indication of relative magnitude of economic needs and variation, but care needs to be taken in interpreting exact figures.

Overall, about one on five HHs (19%) have consumption expenditures below the SMEB, **a bit more than half (54%)** between SMEB and MEB and a quarter (**26%)** above MEB.

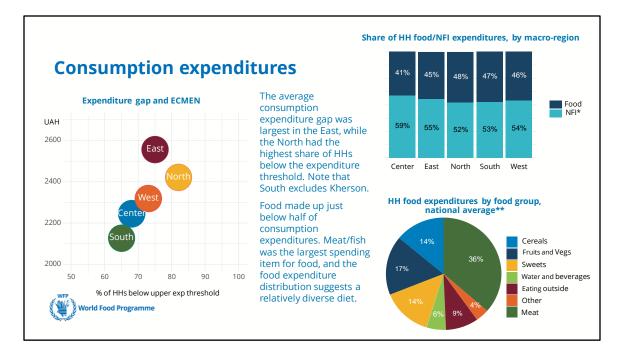
The ECMEN suggets that a majority of people struggle to meet essential needs in an economic sense. Consequently, it relates to the point on previous slides that HHs cope in the short term by buying cheaper foods, or by applying livelihood coping such as dipping into saving or reducing essential expenditures. This suggests that economic access to needs, particularly food, is the main driver of food insecurity. The loss of jobs and the high levels of inflation could help explain the economic capacity, in addition to the context of active armed conflict.

*SMEB – 2,589 UAH per capita *MEB – 5,865 UAH per capita



This slide shows some additional points on market access. Whereas physical access to markets was adequate in most places, it suggests (besides frontline areas) that respondents considered high prices as a main barrier to purchasing items. The majority of respondents in all regions reported having a marketplace close (mainly within walking distance) to their place. Also, 80% of respondents stated that they do not have issues with physical access to markets. Talking about barriers to purchasing the items*, only 5% of respondents reported unavailability/scarce availability of things, however, more than one third of the respondents reported high prices as a barrier to purchasing items for their HH.

* - This question was asked only in areas of F2F data collection (accessible areas)



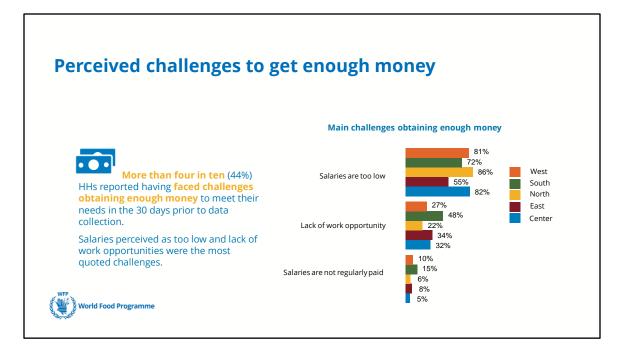
The left-side graph provides a first look at the economic gap people faced. The graph represents the size of the gap (difference between consumption expenditures and Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) value) against the share of HHs that had their expenditures below MEB. The average expenditure gap (for those whose expenditures were below MEB) is 2,370 UAH, It can furthermore be seen that the gap was the highest in the East (reaching 2,556 UAH). Together with that, the biggest share of HHs with low economic capacity (consumption expenditures per capita are below MEB) can be found in the Northern region (82% of HHs). It should be noted that the South does not include data for Kherson, which may drive the relatively low gap found in the South.

Food constitutes almost a half of consumption expenditures. On average, HHs spend 4,918 UAH on food and non-food items (per month), with around 45% being spent on food.

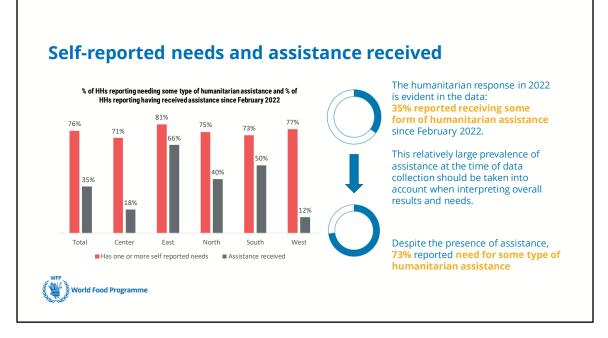
Expenditures on meat, meat products and fish are the highest among weekly expenditures on basic food groups. They are followed by expenditures on fruit and vegetables, cereals, and sweets.

* Rent is not included

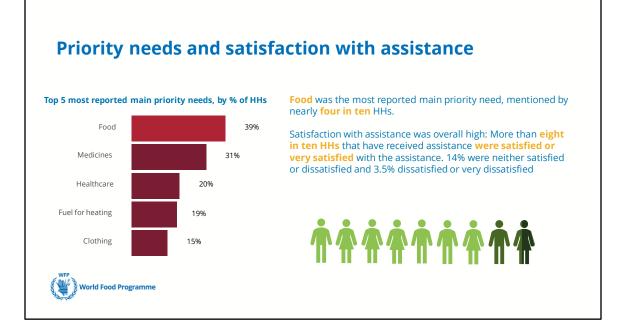
** measured by different module of food expenditure questions that the left-side graph, with a recall period of 7 days



Slightly less than a half of the respondents reported facing challenges obtaining money to meet their needs (asked for the last 30 days). Among the top-3 reasons of challenges faced, there were low salaries, lack of work opportunities and irregular payment of salaries. The highest share of respondents, who mentioned the lack of work opportunities and irregular payment of wages is higher in the Southern region.



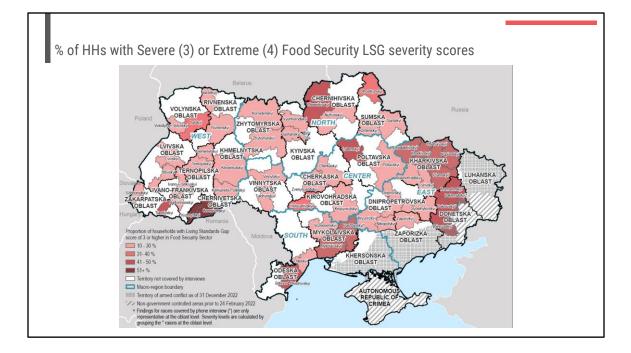
It is important to keep in mind that humanitarian response is ongoing (which could serve as one of key drivers for the absence of more extreme levels of food insecurity). 35% of surveyed HHs have received any type of assistance since February 2022 – which varies quite notably across macro regions, with the highest reports of assistance received in the East, followed by South. 73% of the HHs reported a need in humanitarian assistance of any kind.



81.9% of the HHs reported being 'satisfied or very satisfied' with the received assistance, 14.3% 'neither satisfied nor dissatisfied' and 3.5% dissatisfied or very dissatisfied'



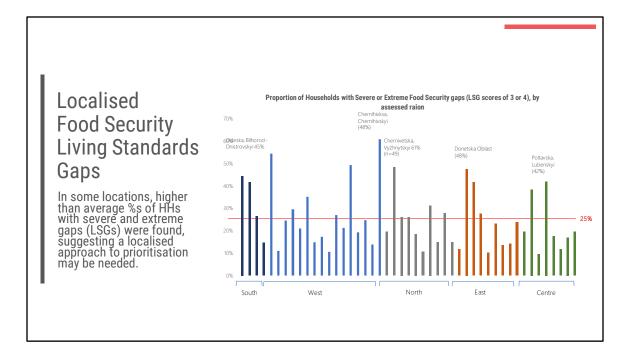
This part of the presentation presents food insecurity (or: food security living standards gap) by different geographies and demographies.



Here you have a map of the proportion of HHs falling into Severe or Extreme severity levels of Food Security LSGs when implementing the Food Security LSG framework. – equivalent of CARI levels 3 and 4.

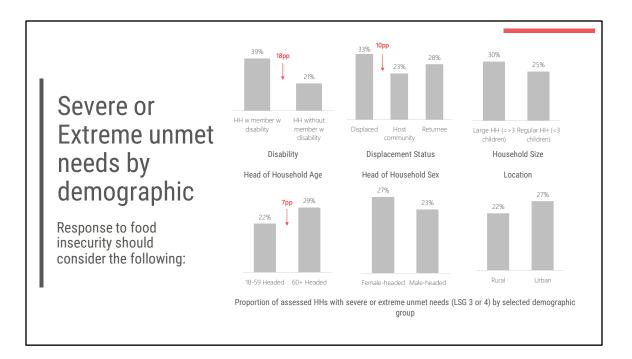
Overall, the Food Security LSG was not one of the main drivers of the MSNI, however, there were two raions (both f2f sampled) with considerably higher Food Security LSGs than all other areas; Vyzhnytskyi (61%) and Cnernivetskyi (55%), however, the sample across both of these raions following food security data cleaning steps was very low with only 49 HHs each.

It is noteworthy that the raion with the highest level of HHs at Extreme gaps was Mykolaivska (8%), although this was only the eighth raion in terms of overall Food Security LSGs.



Here is a graph of the localised Food Security living standard gaps, in which the proportion of HHs with Severe and Extreme needs can be observed.

Overall, the average proportion of HHs across the raions sampled was 25%, with the South region (to the left of the graph) having the highest regional average and the Center region (to the right of the graph) having the lowest regional average.



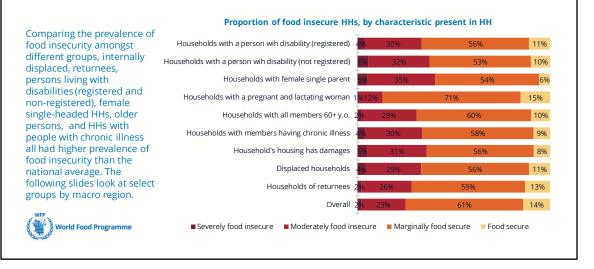
Overall, a quarter (25%) of HHs across Ukraine have food security LSGs, with the highest levels observed in the South (31%) followed by the East (29%) and the lowest levels observed in the Center (19%).

Disability – Overall, HH with a member with a disability were much more likely to report severe or extreme food needs. Regionally, differences were highest in the South and West, where HH with a member with a disability were twice as likely (48% and 39% respectively) to have a severe or extreme food security LSG.

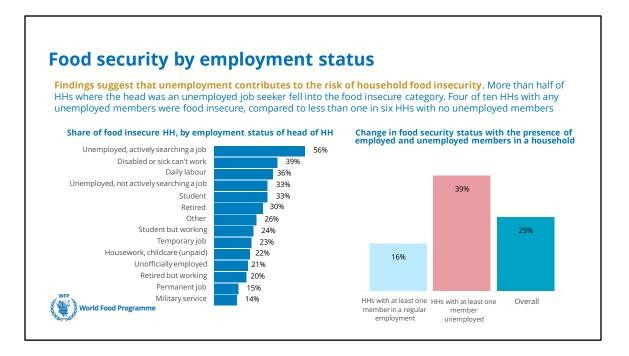
Displacement Status – Overall, a third of displaced HHs (33%) demonstrated food security LSGs, while more than a quarter of returnee HHs (28%) and just less than a quarter (23%) of host community HHs did. In the West, displaced (25%) and host community HHs (23%) were more than twice as likely to have a severe or extreme LSG than returnee HHs (10%). In the Center, displaced HHs were almost twice as likely (37%) to have a severe or extreme food security LSG than host community HHs (16%).

HoHH Sex – Overall, female-headed HHs demonstrated higher levels of food security LSGs (27%) than male-headed HHs (23%). This pattern was illustrated across all regions, with the exception of the North, where male-headed HHs had higher LSGs (28%) than female-headed HHs (24%). In the East, female-headed HHs were more than 50% more likely (34%) to have a severe or extreme food security LSG than male-headed HHs (22%).



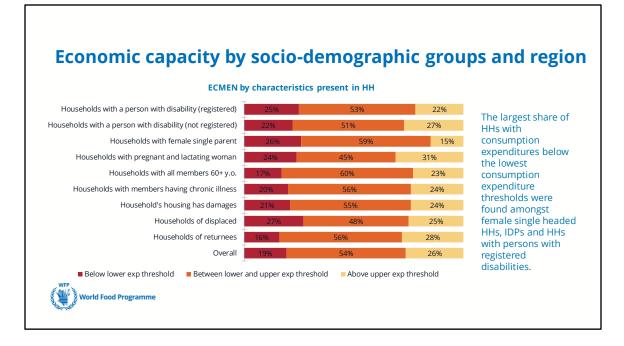


Comparing the prevalence of food insecurity (CARI levels 3 and 4, or moderately and severely food insecure) amongst different groups, internally displaced HH, returnees HH, households with people living with disabilities (registered and non-registered), female single-headed HHs, elderly and HHs with people with chronic illness all have higher prevalence of food insecurity than the national average.



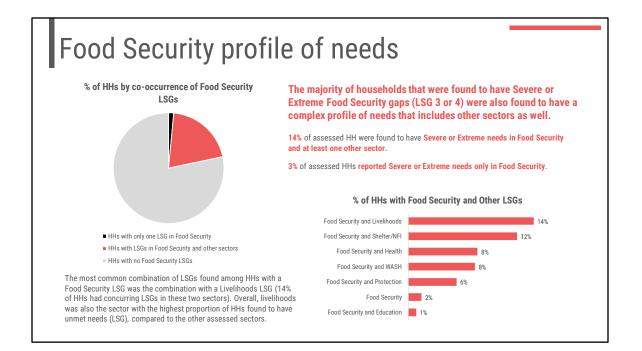
Unemployment contributes notably to the risk of food insecurity. The presence of at least one unemployed adult almost doubles the chances of a HH being food insecure. In contrast to this, HHs with at least one person engaged in a permanent salaried job, were almost two times less prone to belong to the food insecure category.

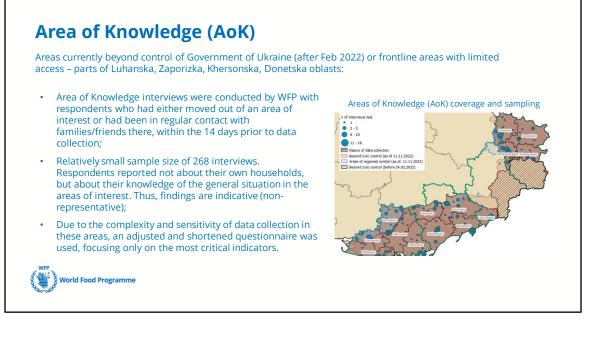
The share of food insecure differs with HoHH's employment status. More than half of HHs where the head was unemployed (but looking for a job) were food insecure. In contrast to this, HHs whose heads were engaged in stable-paid occupations (permanent job, military) were in less risk of being food insecure.



Refer to ECMEN indicator slide for methodology.

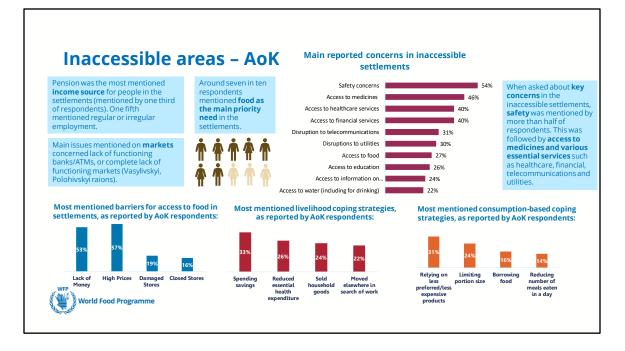
HHs from East and North regions were found to have the most severe expenditures gaps (measured by the average depth of the gap between the actual expenditures and MEB and its prevalence among HHs with expenditures below MEB).





Because of inaccessibility of some areas after February 2022 (temporarily beyond control of Ukrainian Government or closeness to the contact line), WFP conducted an assessment there using "Area of Knowledge" approach (interview with key informants, having the recent knowledge about the area). Respondents were asked to describe the conditions and needs of people the know in the area/settlement, or to assess the situation in the whole settlement. The sample was drawn from people internally displaced from the areas of interest. Data was collected via telephone interviews between early November 2022 and mid January 2023. Because of the sensitivity and the methodology, used for this survey, the questionnaire was adjusted. The cutoff dates used in the map were set to correspond with the commencement of data collection. Source for territory control: Institute of War Studies.

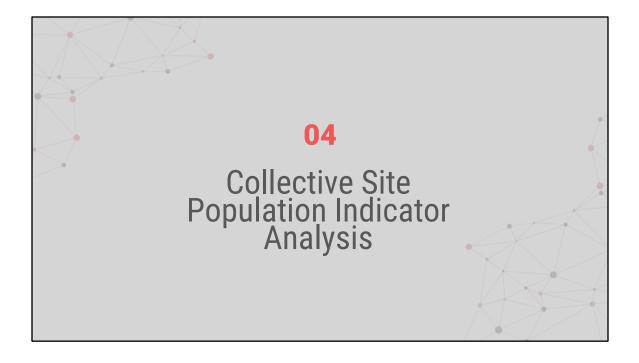
Considering the small sample size, sampling methodology (convenience sampling) and key informant-type approach, these findings should be considered as indicative only. Findings cannot be interpreted directly as prevalence for the people living in the settlements, but rather shares of respondents asked about living conditions in the settlements/areas of interest.

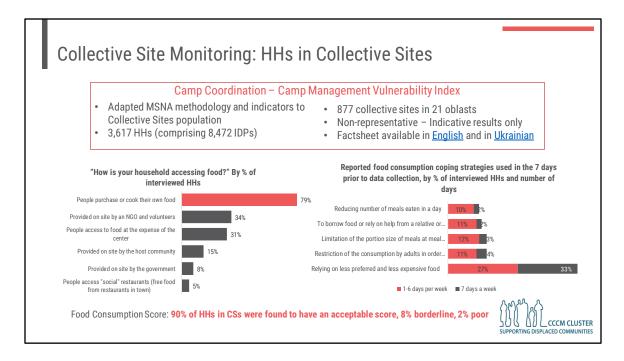


Food is a main priority among perceived needs in inaccessible areas (it was mentioned by more than two thirds of respondents). It is substantially higher than in accessible areas. The main reasons of problems with food access are economic capacity barriers.

People, living in inaccessible areas, use similar coping strategies to those found in the data for accessible areas. However, given the fact that selling HH assets and moving elsewhere to work are among the top ways to cope with livelihoods shocks, the situation tends to be more severe than in accessible areas.

In addition to this, respondents reported lack of functional banks, financial institutions and ATMs in their settlements, meaning, that physical impossibility/difficulty to withdraw money contributes to the livelihood issues.





The Camp Coordination Camp Management (CCCM) Vulnerability Index is a round of data collection undertaken by the Collective Site Monitoring unit in coordination with the CCCM Cluster and with funding from the UNHCR.

The CCCM Vulnerability Index adapted the MSNA methodology and indicators to the population of IDPs living in collective sites. Note that some **indicators are specific to the CCCM Vulnerability Index**. A dedicated Factsheet with sectoral Vulnerability Scores and the overall CCCM Vulnerability Index, alongside a dataset with the results for every indicator (at the overall, rural-urban disaggregation, and oblast levels), is available following this <u>link</u>.

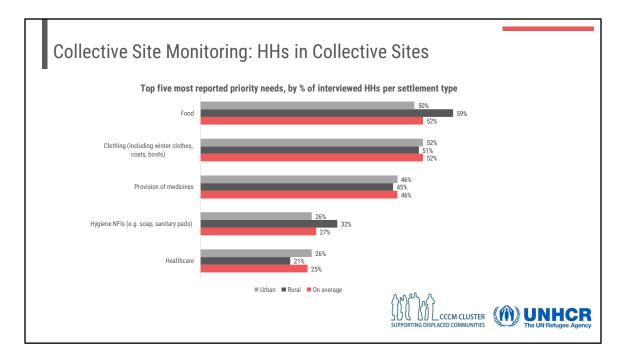
The results from the CCCM Vulnerability Index are only indicative.

In terms of coverage, 3,617 HHs were interviewed in face-to-face interviews, for a total of 8,472 IDPs. 877 collective sites were assessed in 21 government-controlled oblasts (all oblasts except Khersonska, Luhanska, Donetska, parts of Zaporizka). Sixty per cent (60%) of IDPs were women, and 40% men, with the age disaggregation as follows: 6% 0-5; 21% 6-17 years old; 48% 18-59; 25% above 60 years old.

Food Security and Livelihoods

90% of HHs in collective sites had an acceptable Food Consumption Score, 8% borderline FCS, 2% poor. 79% of HHs in collective site reported purchasing or cooking their own food. Considering the challenges in obtaining money that these HHs face (highlighted in the precedent slide) it is important to consider how HHs in collective sites use coping strategies to access food. The rCSI is an index of how people cope with shortage of food in the last 7 days, with the most used strategies highlighted on the right hand graph. Around half of the HHs had a low rSCI (<4), and 43% a medium level (=> 4). 7% had a high level of rSCI, especially in Kyivska (24%), Odeska (19%), and Lvivska (14%) oblasts. In addition, 10% of HHs in collective sites reported having debts, the main reason being to access food.

10% of HHs in collective sites reported having debts. Debt level of HHs in collective sites: 12,231 UAH on average Main reason for taking on debt: accessing food



Overall, a higher proportion of HHs in collective sites reported needs compared to HHs from the general population.

