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# PIN Protection Monitoring Report

July-September 2025

Eastern and Southern Ukraine

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# Introduction

This report presents the results of the third round of protection monitoring conducted from July to September 2025 in eastern (Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, and Donetsk oblasts), and southern Ukraine (Mykolaiv oblast).

The aim of protection monitoring is to identify trends in the protection situation, determine risks and threats directly affecting the well-being and safety of the civilian population, highlight key issues for the affected population, and identify major barriers to accessing critical services in the oblasts under study.

The data obtained in the third round allows for detecting changes in the protection environment compared to the previous round (April to June), identifying new protection challenges, and refining priorities for humanitarian response within existing and future programs. This contributes to more informed strategic planning and evidence-based decision-making in humanitarian assistance.

The oblasts covered by monitoring remain among the most vulnerable in the context of the humanitarian crisis caused by the full-scale war. Ongoing shelling, damage to civilian infrastructure, forced displacement, and limited access to basic services continue to create significant challenges to ensuring human rights and providing humanitarian protection.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> **United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).** (2025, January). *Ukraine Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025*

## Contextual updates

As of the third quarter of 2025, the security situation in eastern and southern Ukraine remains tense.

In the Mykolaiv region, the Russian Army (RA) intensified long-range strikes on infrastructure facilities, particularly on energy and logistics hubs, and increased UAV attacks along the key M14 highway between Mykolaiv and Kherson. A sharp escalation occurred in September: approximately 150 UAVs and four ballistic missiles were used, four times the volume used in July and August. These combined strikes targeted industrial zones, railway substations, and energy facilities with the aim of overwhelming air defense and disrupting logistics. In total, three civilians were killed and twenty-six injured as a result of hostilities in the Mykolaiv region.<sup>2</sup>

In the Dnipropetrovsk region, the RA made significant advances in the west at the intersection of the regions, taking control of about 78 sq. km of territory. This led to the expansion of the mandatory evacuation zone and adjustments to the curfew in the Synelnykove district. The regional center and the city of Pavlohrad experienced regular strikes on industrial facilities. Tactical changes were also recorded: the use of "Grom-E1" hybrid missiles against Dnipro and guided aerial bombs against Zelenodolsk. In total, 408 civilians were affected in the region, of whom 71 were killed.<sup>3</sup>

In the Zaporizhzhia region, the RA expanded their zone of influence in the far east of the region and advanced towards Plavni, bringing the front line closer to Prymorske, which caused a new wave of displacement in the Stepanohirsk community. Industrial facilities in the city of Zaporizhzhia remained regular targets. Aerial threats changed due to the widespread use of FPV drones, particularly in the southern urban areas of Zaporizhzhia, hitting transport and aid distribution points. As a result of hostilities in the region, 55 civilians were killed and 332 were injured.<sup>4</sup>

In the Donetsk region, the RA significantly intensified ground offensive operations, concentrating pressure in the Pokrovsk, Lyman, and Novopavlivka directions. Territorial advances led to the implementation of mandatory evacuation, particularly in Dobropillia and Druzhkivka. A turning point was the massive 44-hour attack on Dobropillia in early July, using over 100 FPV drones, which led to the closure of the T-0514 highway and the suspension of humanitarian activities. This escalation caused a sharp increase in displacement from the region, with local authorities reporting significant movement from the Dobropillia community. Despite this, the evacuation compliance rate remained low, especially in Druzhkivka. An increase in the number of strikes (166 during the quarter) was also recorded in Kramatorsk and Sloviansk. The region demonstrates the highest risks for the civilian population, with 938 injured and 299 killed, particularly given the mass evacuation and that only the government-controlled part of the region is accounted for.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> **Conflict & Humanitarian Data Centre (CHDC), INSO**

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., p. 4.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., p. 4.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., p. 4.

In the Kharkiv region, the RA significantly increased the intensity of hostilities. The number of offensive operations in the northern sector of the region doubled, and activity in the Kupiansk direction increased by 33%. This increased pressure forced the Armed Forces of Ukraine to redeploy resources from Donbas, which in turn created new pressure points on the front. The key section of the M-03 highway between Izyum and Sloviansk became an active combat zone, which severely restricted humanitarian access and caused a new wave of population displacement. In total, 91 civilians were killed and 503 were injured as a result of hostilities in the Kharkiv region.<sup>6</sup>

Overall, the third quarter of 2025 was marked by a significant increase in the intensity of air attacks (over 16,082 UAVs and 531 missiles) and a shift in RA tactics. Despite the increase in the volume of strikes, the refocusing of attacks from densely populated areas to specific infrastructure targets led to a significant decrease in the number of wounded compared to the previous period. During this time, 747 civilians were killed and 3,793 were wounded across the country.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid., p. 4.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., p. 4.

## Key Findings

- Barriers to **freedom of movement** remain a major challenge across monitored oblasts, significantly limiting access to **essential services, employment, and education**. Barriers are related to **security risks**, presence of checkpoints, lack of **drivers**, and limited **vehicle availability** particularly affecting the freedom of movement of **men of conscription age** and residents of **rural communities**.
- **Financial hardship** and **limited employment opportunities** remain widespread, driven by ongoing **insecurity and displacement**, resulting in **business closures**, and **high staff turnover**. Households increasingly rely on **negative coping strategies**, including reduced food and healthcare spending, which can further intensify economic vulnerability and increases vulnerabilities to be exposed to protection risks.
- Overall **safety and security situation** in monitored oblasts **has deteriorated** since the previous round. Protection violations in the form of indiscriminate attacks remains a critical concern across all **oblasts**, particularly in **Donetsk oblast**, resulting in **evacuations, relocation of administrative services**, and limited access to **safe shelters** and further constraining **freedom of movement** and the ability to meet **basic needs**.
- **Housing** is the most inaccessible essential service (56%), followed by **healthcare** (46%), **WASH** (42%), and **education** (40%). Many households struggle to complete housing repairs because the state compensation provided through the e-Recovery program is insufficient, compounded by documentation gaps and other related constraints.
- **Older persons and persons with disabilities** continue to be disproportionately impacted by **financial insecurity**, limited access to **healthcare, social support gaps**, difficulties accessing **rehabilitation and transportation services**, and challenges in reaching **safe shelters**. Barriers are more pronounced in **rural areas**, where **physical access, communication challenges**, and lack of infrastructure increase vulnerability.
- **Women** continue to face particular challenges because of their gender, including heightened burden of **household and childcare responsibilities**, limited **livelihood opportunities**, and other issues which restrict participation in the **labor market**. **GBV risks** remain a key concern in the context of deteriorating security and limited access to essential services.
- The main challenges for **children** include deteriorating **psychological well-being**, limited **socialization**, and lack of **extracurricular activities**. Remote learning barriers are exacerbated by **unstable connectivity**, and **power outages**.
- **Ex-combatants** face challenges related to **employment, bureaucratic formalities** in accessing **benefits**, insufficient **rehabilitation services**, lack of **social housing**, and **stigma** associated with mental health, all limiting **reintegration**.
- **Access to documentation remains** difficult due to complex administrative procedures, **transport barriers, lack of required supporting documents**, and fear of **mobilization** when interacting with state authorities.

# Research methodology

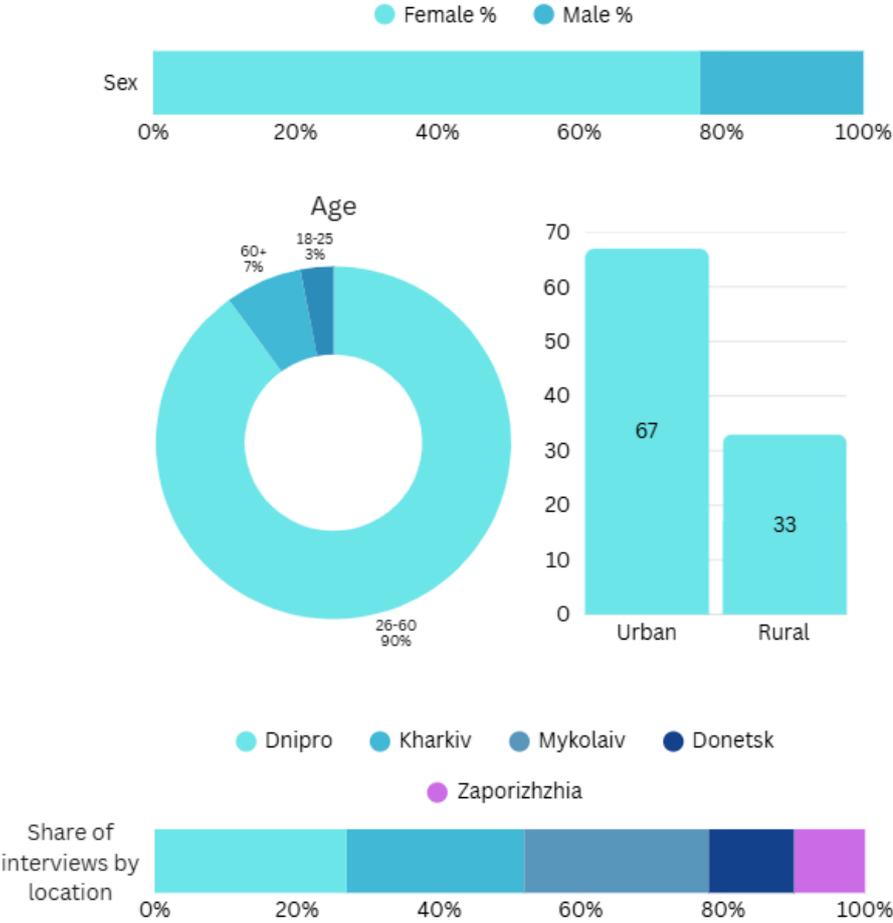
Protection monitoring data was collected using a questionnaire developed internally by PIN. Data collection was conducted through in-person and remote interviews with key informants (KIs), including representatives of local authorities (69%), civil society organizations (22%), health and education specialists (7%), and hromada activists and volunteers (2%). The questionnaire included both closed and open-ended questions, allowing for the collection of quantitative and qualitative data. Data triangulation was performed through analysis of secondary sources. A total of 60 interviews with key informants were conducted from July to September, 2025. The third monitoring round involved both key informants from the previous stage and new respondents. This approach ensured a balance between tracking changes over time and expanding information sources by incorporating new perspectives and experiences. The majority of respondents were non-displaced persons (52 respondents, representing 86%), while 7 respondents (12%) were internally displaced persons, 1 respondent (2%) refused to answer. Interviews took place across five oblasts: 16 in Mykolaiv, 15 in Kharkiv, 16 in Dnipropetrovsk, 7 in Donetsk, and 6 in Zaporizhzhia. Detailed demographic characteristics of key informants are presented in Figure 1.

In this monitoring round, additional focus was placed on the situation of **ex-combatants**. Some key informants represented organizations providing assistance to ex-combatants and advocating for their rights. A new block of questions was introduced to examine **employment opportunities** within communities, aiming to better capture emerging challenges and gaps. Increased attention was also given to the specific needs of **women**, reflecting growing concerns reported by key informants in previous assessments. The questionnaire was further expanded to deepen analysis of **housing, land and property (HLP)** issues, as well as **transportation**, which increasingly affects access to multiple essential services.

## Limitations:

Protection monitoring relies primarily on information provided by key informants and is therefore not statistically representative of the affected population. Findings reflect the perspectives and knowledge of those informants and may not capture the full range of experiences. As a result, identified trends or comparisons should be understood as indicative rather than conclusive, and they cannot be used to quantify the prevalence of specific protection risks. Another limitation is that many key informants represent local authorities or structural departments at various administrative levels, which may influence the way community needs and challenges are perceived and reported, potentially leading to bias toward institutional perspectives rather than those of affected populations.

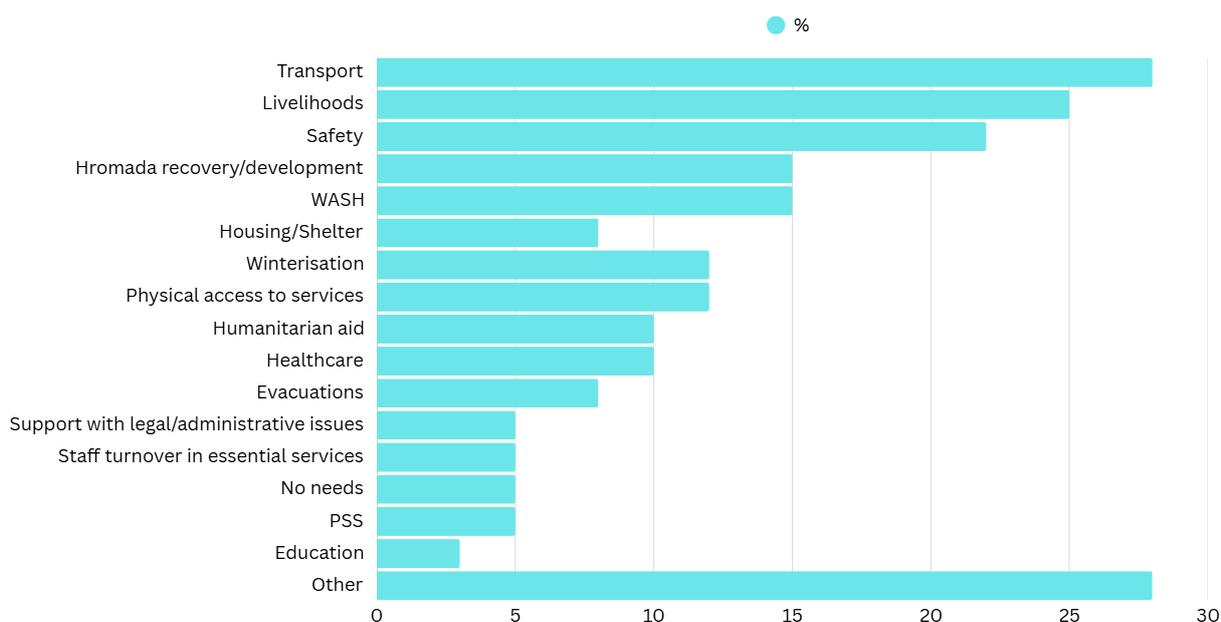
Figure 1. Demographics of key informants



## Priority needs and access to services

In Mykolaiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, and Donetsk oblasts, key informants identified priority needs for communities. Transportation was cited most frequently as a primary need (28% of KIIs), while 25% highlighted needs related to livelihoods, and 22% noted safety as a pressing need in their communities (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Priority needs and access to services



Compared to the previous round of protection monitoring, **transportation** has become the most reported **challenge**, according to key informants. This issue is a **primary concern** across oblasts and significantly impacts the ability of communities to access essential services, including administrative and social services, healthcare, and education. Limited transport options also restrict adults' ability to secure and maintain employment and children's ability to attend education facilities in-person.

In addition to pre-existing transportation challenges from before the full-scale war, the situation has deteriorated since 2022, due to a shortage of drivers due to mobilization<sup>8</sup>, limited availability of public vehicles, security risks associated with road movement and an increased number of checkpoints in multiple oblasts.

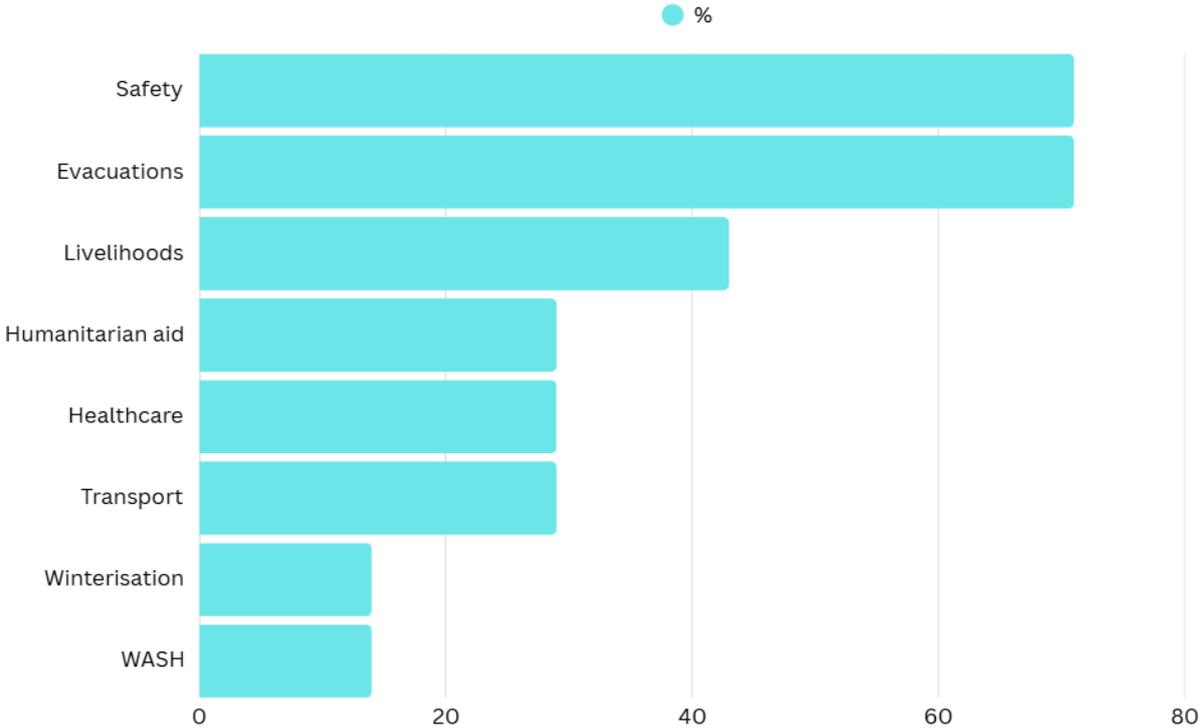
**Financial difficulties and challenges with employment** were also widely reported. Due to persistent insecurity, displacement, mobilization processes, closure or damage of businesses, and other contributing factors, job opportunities are limited, and high staff turnover remains

<sup>8</sup> UKRAINE – Protection Analysis Update. **No Quick End: The Impact of the War on Civilian Protection in Ukraine**. September 2025.

common. These trends negatively affect the economic stability of households and the broader economy.

**Safety concerns** remain critical across all oblasts but are particularly severe in Donetsk oblast, where 71% of key informants identified safety as the most urgent issue reflecting the deteriorating security situation linked to intensified hostilities.<sup>9</sup> The primary driver of vulnerability is the continued exposure of civilian areas to targeted and indiscriminate attacks, which directly restrict movement, disrupt essential services, and force recurring evacuations. Functionality of governmental institutions is **exacerbating the lack of** access to administrative and social support, especially for those that stay behind. For people who remain in frontline hromadas, relocation is often not feasible due to uncertainty about future settlement, lack of familial support/social networks, financial constraints, caregiving responsibilities (including caring for family members or livestock) or health conditions. As a result, living conditions continue to deteriorate, and residents increasingly prioritize meeting basic needs over longer-term recovery. Nearly 30% of key informants in frontline Donetsk oblast reported a strong need for humanitarian assistance, following safety, evacuation, and livelihoods support (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Priority needs and access to services in Donetsk oblast



**Recovery and development challenges** in Mykolaiv oblast remain notable, and consistent with findings from previous monitoring. Key informants and external assessments<sup>10</sup> indicate that residents have begun returning to their hromadas, where they face limited job opportunities, damaged communal infrastructure, and closed educational facilities. In some hromadas,

<sup>9</sup> UNHCR. (2025, October 10). *Ukraine: Protection Update – Civilian Protection in the Armed Conflict (September 2025)*.

<sup>10</sup> Danish Refugee Council (DRC). (2025, July). *Quarterly Protection Monitoring Report: April–June 2025*.

challenges related to water access, sanitation, and hygiene continue to persist. These challenges directly affect the ability of returning IDPs to achieve durable solutions, as limited livelihoods, infrastructure, and basic services hinder sustainable reintegration into their hromadas.

In Dnipropetrovsk oblast, the most pressing needs in this monitoring round, according to key informants, were **livelihoods** (including employment), mentioned by 31% of respondents.

Key informants from Zaporizhzhia oblast highlighted **winterization support and humanitarian assistance** as the primary needs in their hromadas (50% of key informants).

In Kharkiv oblast, responses varied, reflecting diverse community needs. These included security and transportation challenges, limited access to services, difficulties in service provision due to **staff shortages, lack of equipment, and insufficient preparation of resilience centers**<sup>11</sup> as part of winterization and emergency readiness efforts as well as other needs.

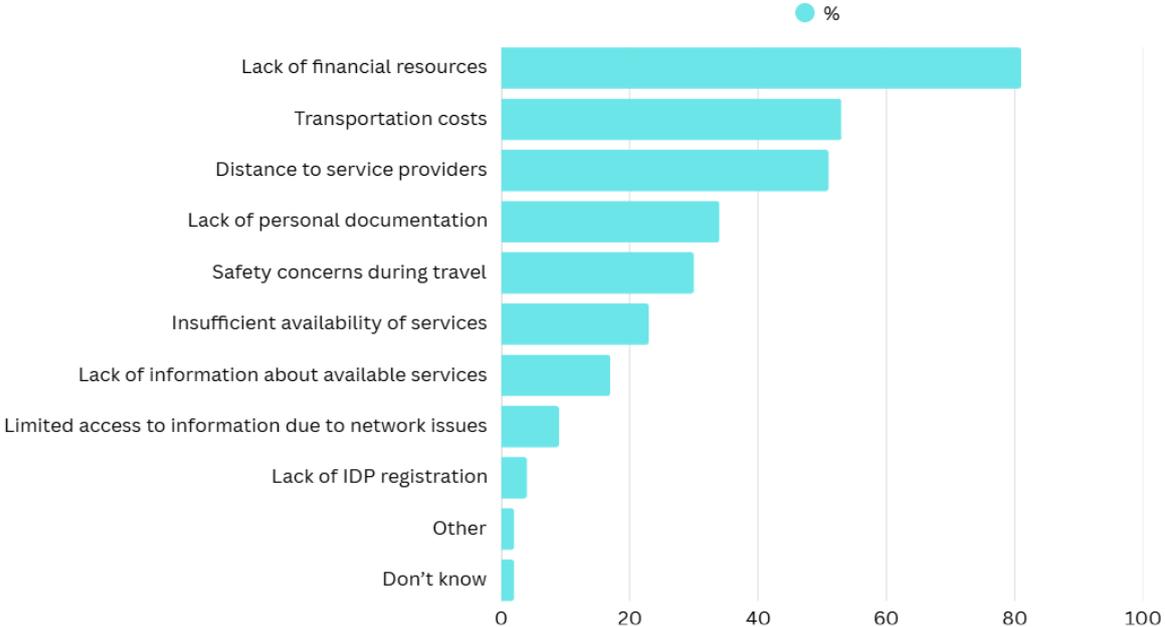
Turning to the most critical **unmet needs** identified across monitored oblasts, **housing** emerged as the top concern, reported by 56% of key informants primarily due to ongoing displacement, limited availability of social housing, and challenges accessing state housing recovery programs. Limited access to healthcare was identified by 46% of respondents, followed by water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) at 42%, and education at 40%.

As in the previous monitoring round, the main **barriers preventing access to essential services** across all five oblasts remain largely unchanged (Figure 4). The most frequently reported barrier is **insufficient financial resources**, highlighted by 81% of key informants. Additionally, 53% pointed to **transportation challenges**, and 51% **cited long distances to service providers**. The absence of personal documentation required to access services was noted by 34% of respondents. Concerns about safety while traveling and the general lack of state services in certain hromadas also remain key challenges.

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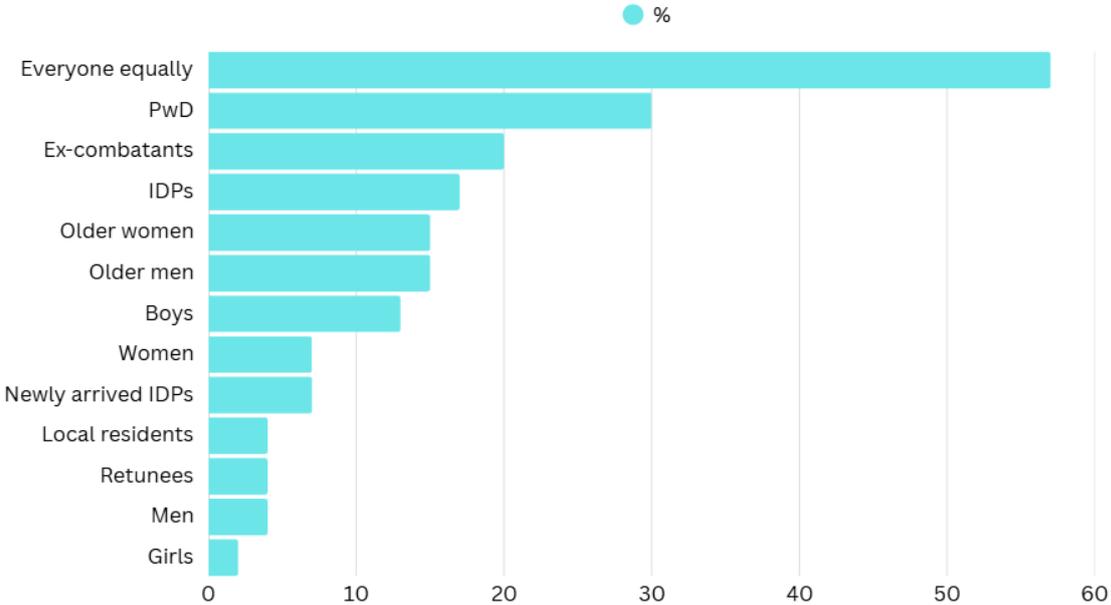
<sup>11</sup> Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine. (2024, January 25). Resilience Centres may appear in every community.

Figure 4. Main barriers to accessing essential services



Fifty-seven percent (57%) of key informants noted that the above-mentioned barriers generally affect all people equally, whilst others highlighted that persons with disabilities, ex-combatants, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and older women and men were most affected by barriers to accessing essential services (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Social groups most affected by barriers



Ex-combatants often face prolonged bureaucratic procedures while waiting for assistance. For IDPs, finding suitable housing and adapting to new hromadas represents a major challenge. Persons with disabilities frequently experience barriers to physically accessing services and are also at elevated risk during evacuations. All the abovementioned groups are especially vulnerable due to low-income levels, which significantly limits their ability to meet their basic needs.

## The situation of older persons and persons with disabilities

According to findings from the third round of monitoring, older persons continue to face critical challenges to meet their needs. The main barriers include **limited access to financial resources** (57% of key informants), **difficulty accessing healthcare services** (45%), and **insufficient family support and care services** (34%).

The least accessible services for older persons are **medical rehabilitation** and **transportation** (reported by 54% of informants), supported living services (48%), palliative and residential care (42%), as well as in-kind assistance such as: food, clothing, footwear, hygiene items, and medicines (40%).

Key informants also highlighted systematic problems within the healthcare sector, including shortages of medicines and increased workload of health facilities. In hromadas in Donetsk oblast, access to services is further limited due to the relocation of institutions, lack of specialists, absence of ATMs, unavailability of basic medical services (such as emergency care), and the lack of social transportation to medical facilities.

Financial constraints also remain one of the most critical barriers. As noted by key informant in Dnipro oblast:

*“Pensioners (mainly older persons) currently have no real financial independence.”*

Low-income levels particularly affect older persons during winter months when utility costs rise, as well as the cost of fuel for those without gas heating/and in areas where heating systems are no longer functional or are at risk of shutdown. For this age group, difficulties in affording adequate heating pose serious health and safety risks, and given the limited financial resources, including low pensions, and frequent reliance on external support, these challenges become especially critical.

Digital barriers are also reported, including lack of internet connectivity to submit applications for assistance online, limited access to digital devices, as well as long queues for obtaining electronic referrals.

Persons living with disabilities also continue to face critical challenges. The most significant barrier is lack of access to financial resources, indicated by 73% of key informants. This issue is particularly critical in rural areas, where 82% of key informants highlighted financial insecurity, underscoring the heightened vulnerability of people with disabilities living outside urban centers.

Additionally, 39% of key informants reported that persons with disabilities struggle to access healthcare services, while 37% noted insufficient family support. The types of assistance that remain inaccessible or difficult to obtain for persons with disabilities closely mirror those faced by older persons, namely, medical rehabilitation, transportation services, in-kind support, short-term accommodation, various types of care, and other social services. These gaps expose persons with disabilities to significant risks, including neglect, reduced mobility, and

the inability to meet basic needs independently, undermining their safety, well-being, dignity, and ability to participate fully in community life.

In the third monitoring round, the most challenging situation for persons with disabilities was reported in Donetsk oblast, with signs of deterioration as mandatory evacuations have intensified. Those who remain must navigate the situation independently, facing heightened risks to their safety and well-being. As one KI mentioned:

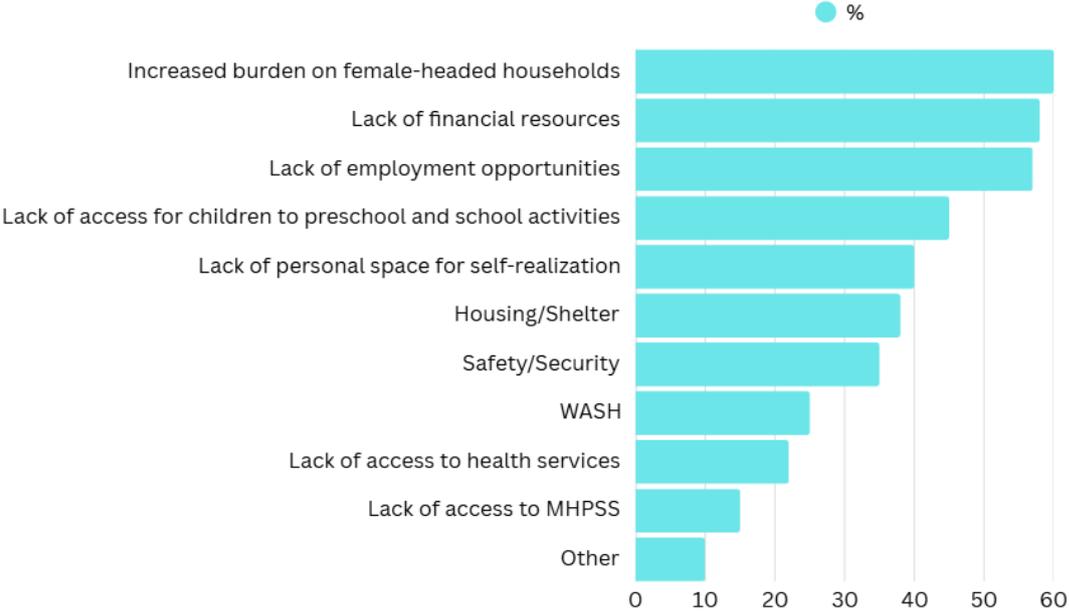
*“At the moment, nothing is functioning to receive services.”*

Key informants noted that evacuation support for persons with disabilities remains a critical need. Limited internet connectivity and unstable communication networks also hinder access to information about available services, registration procedures, or evacuation options. As a result, many persons with disabilities risk being left behind, not receiving life-saving evacuation support, and being excluded from humanitarian assistance. In some hromadas of the oblast, social institutions and service providers have been fully relocated due to ongoing shelling and the deteriorating security situation. Key informants also highlighted a lack of qualified specialists and the need to develop physically accessible infrastructure for social service delivery. Nevertheless, some key informants mentioned that certain hromadas are undertaking measures to improve physical access to institutions for vulnerable population groups.

## The situation of women

According to third-round monitoring data, the most frequently mentioned challenges include an **increasing burden on female-headed households** (60% of KIs selected this option), **lack of financial resources** (58%), and **limited employment opportunities** (57%). Other commonly reported problems include limited access to pre-school/school education (45%) for children in households and lack of personal space or opportunities for self-realization (40%) (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Key challenges faced by women in the location



A persistent structural barrier is the need for women to balance paid work with childcare and household responsibilities, reflecting the influence of traditional gender roles. These roles reinforce the impact of limited educational and childcare options, constraining women’s opportunities for employment and self-realization. In many hromadas and especially in **frontline areas**, KIs noted that the situation remains particularly challenging due to constant shelling, limited availability of safe shelters, damaged schools/kindergartens or schools/kindergartens operating in remote-only formats, high prices for essential goods, periodic challenges with water access, housing issues (particularly for displaced persons), challenges accessing healthcare services and reduced employment opportunities.

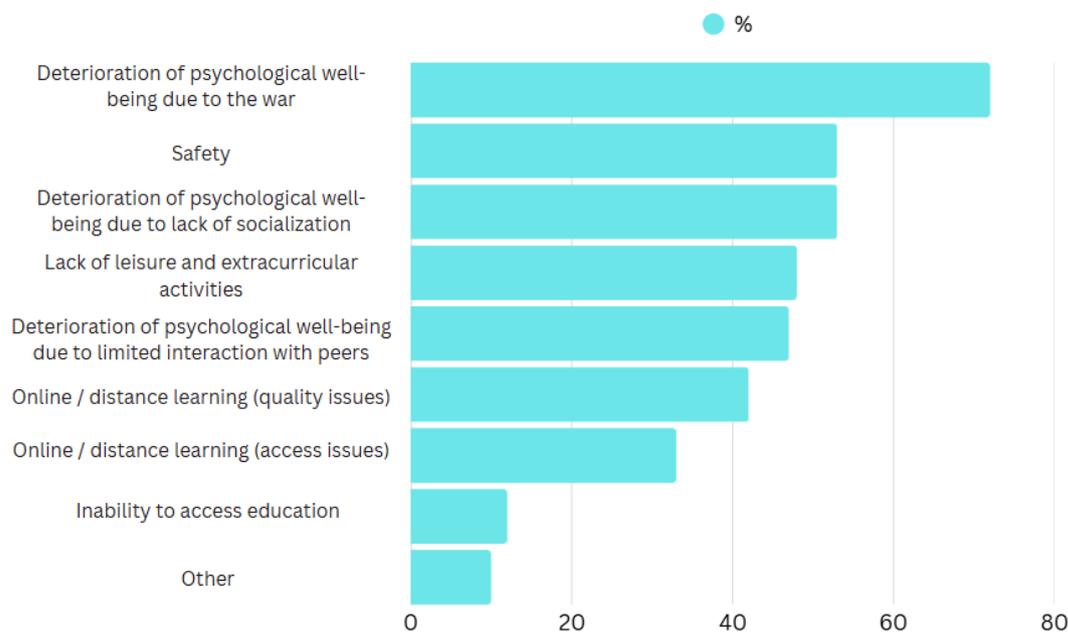
In this monitoring round, KIs did not directly report an increase in gender-based violence (GBV) cases, including in Mykolaiv oblast. However, GBV-related risks remain relevant, particularly given the rapidly worsening security situation and limited access to basic services. Recent assessments conducted by DRC (April–June 2025)<sup>12</sup> reported that intimate-partner violence remains the most frequently mentioned form of GBV across several oblasts, disproportionately affecting women and children.

<sup>12</sup> Danish Refugee Council (DRC). (2025, July). *Quarterly Protection Monitoring Report: April–June 2025*.

## The situation of children

Regarding children, the most pressing concerns highlighted in this monitoring round include the **deterioration of psychological well-being due to the war** (reported by 72% of KIs) and a **decline in emotional state linked to limited socialization**, alongside the **unstable security situation** (both noted by 53% of KIs). Additionally, 48% of KIs reported a **lack of leisure and extracurricular activities**. These challenges are broadly consistent with trends identified in previous protection monitoring rounds; however, they appear to be further aggravated by the deteriorating security environment in many regions. (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Key challenges faced by children in the location



In parts of **Mykolaiv and Donetsk oblast**, where transportation and safety remain a significant challenge, KIs reported limited road access from smaller villages to educational facilities.

*“There is no school bus for children to travel from neighboring villages to school.” - KI from Mykolaiv oblast*

*“Educational institutions are closed; children travel 30 km to the nearest school.” - KI from Donetsk oblast*

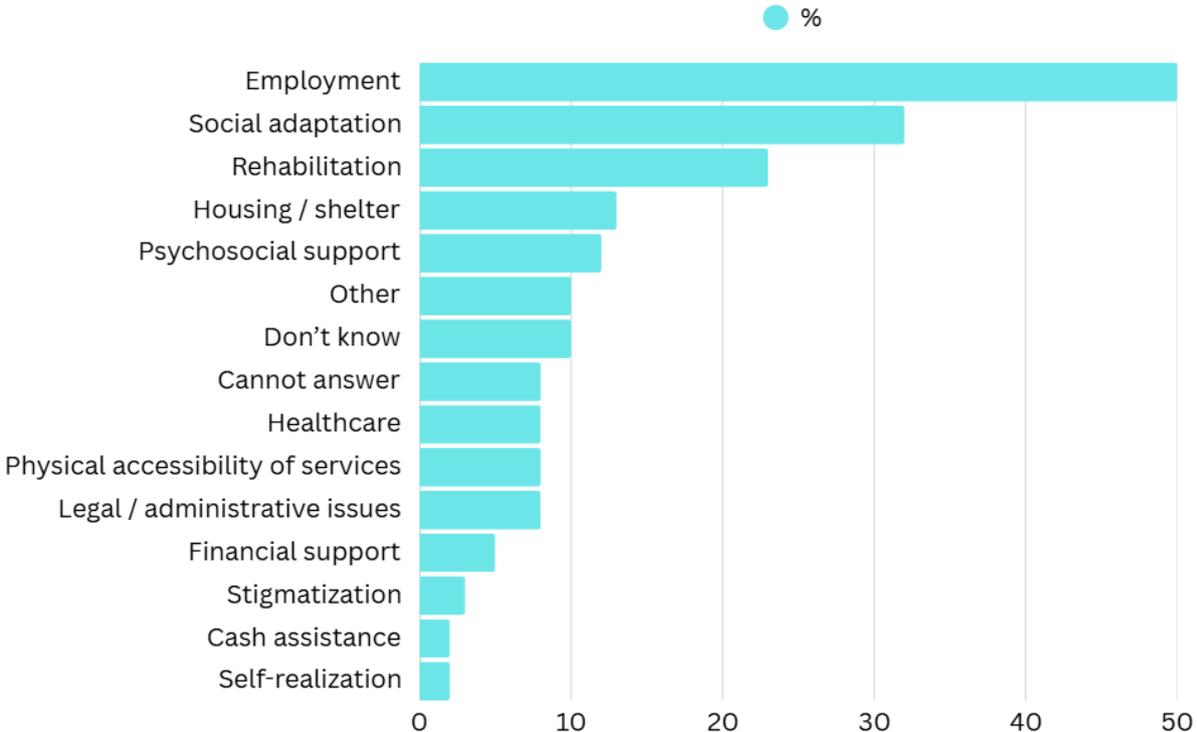
There are also instances in which children are forced to stay home alone due to parents’ employment and the lack of access to in-person schooling, raising additional **safety concerns**.

The shift to **remote learning** brings further challenges, including limited online access, and periodic power outages. Restricted direct contact with teachers and peers may also negatively affect children’s emotional well-being.

## The situation of ex-combatants

In the third monitoring round the situation of **ex-combatants** and the main challenges they face was assessed for the first time. Overall, 68% of key informants (KIs) considered the situation of ex-combatants in their communities as satisfactory; 8% said it was good, 22% rated it poor, and 2% viewed it as very poor. The most pressing issues for ex-combatants include **employment** (50% of KIs selected this), **social adaptation** (32%), **physical rehabilitation** (23%), **housing/shelter** (13%), and **psychosocial support** (12%) (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Key challenges faced by ex-combatants in the location



Recent studies also show that employment is a major challenge and is seen as a key part of helping ex-combatants reintegrate into community life.<sup>13</sup> KIs noted that the limited number of job opportunities is a major barrier to employment. Another important challenge faced by ex-combatants is the **bureaucratization** of many processes, including those related to accessing payments, social benefits, healthcare, and other basic services.

KIs pointed out that many communities lack rehabilitation programs, especially those with a medical component. Limited access to **social housing**, together with the need for **psychosocial support** as a key factor for improving mental health, were also reported as significant challenges. In some cases, ex-combatants face **stigma related to accessing psychosocial support**. According to KIs, negative experiences when trying to access psychosocial support through social services may discourage ex-combatants from seeking help again. Overall, these factors complicate reintegration and further limit access to essential support for ex-combatants.

<sup>13</sup> IOM. (2025, March). *Veteran Profiles and Reintegration Challenges in Ukraine: Thematic Brief*

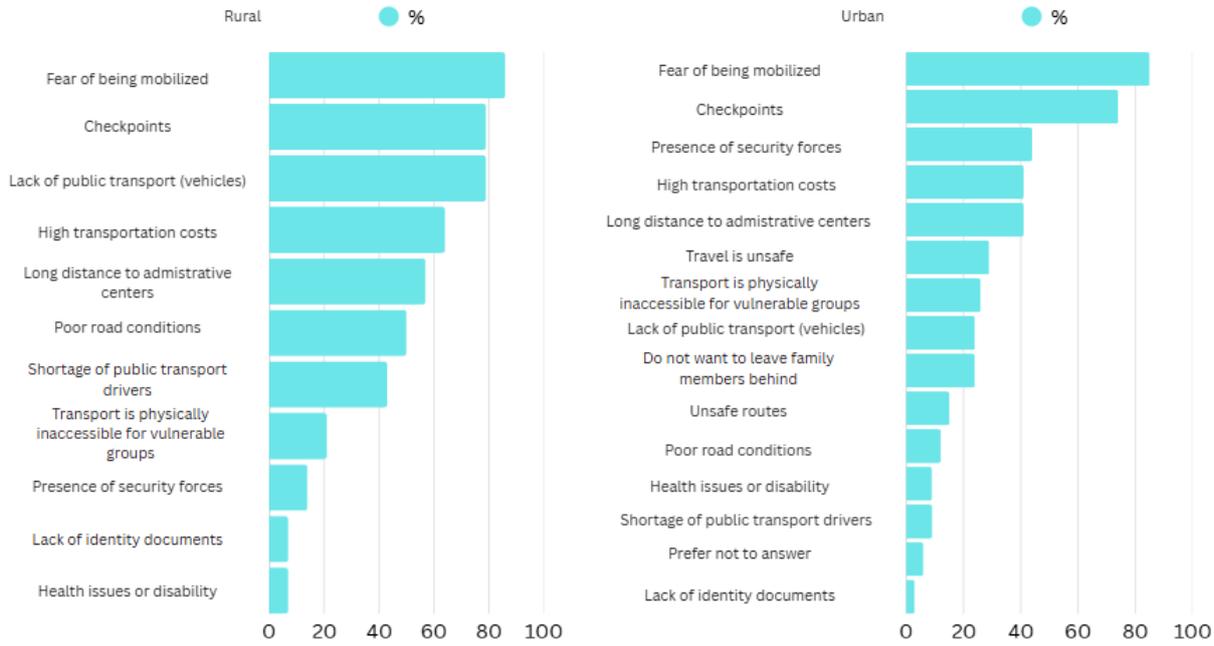
# Freedom of movement and restrictions on mobility

According to third-round monitoring data, the main restrictions on mobility and obstacles to freedom of movement remain economic, physical, and security-related. The most common barriers across both rural and urban areas include **fear of mobilization** and **the presence of checkpoints**, particularly affecting men of conscription age. As a result, many men self-restrict movement due to concerns about being mobilized.<sup>14</sup>

**Transportation challenges** are widespread, especially in **rural areas**, with 79% of KIs in rural settings reporting a lack of public transport, compared to just 24% in urban areas (Figure 9: urban-rural comparison). Additionally, 64% of rural KIs selected high transportation costs (vs. 41% in urban areas), which may be linked to the higher need for individual transportation services in rural areas due to the absence of regular public transport.

Other barriers in both rural and urban communities include long distances to administrative centers, poor road conditions, and a shortage of drivers. The situation is especially serious in Mykolaiv oblast, where many communities lack municipal or organized transport services, forcing residents to rely on their own means to reach administrative centers.

Figure 9. Obstacles that restrict free movement and mobility (rural vs urban)



In Donetsk oblast, mobility is further affected by deteriorating security conditions, which restrict movement even within communities due to air attacks. As one KI noted:

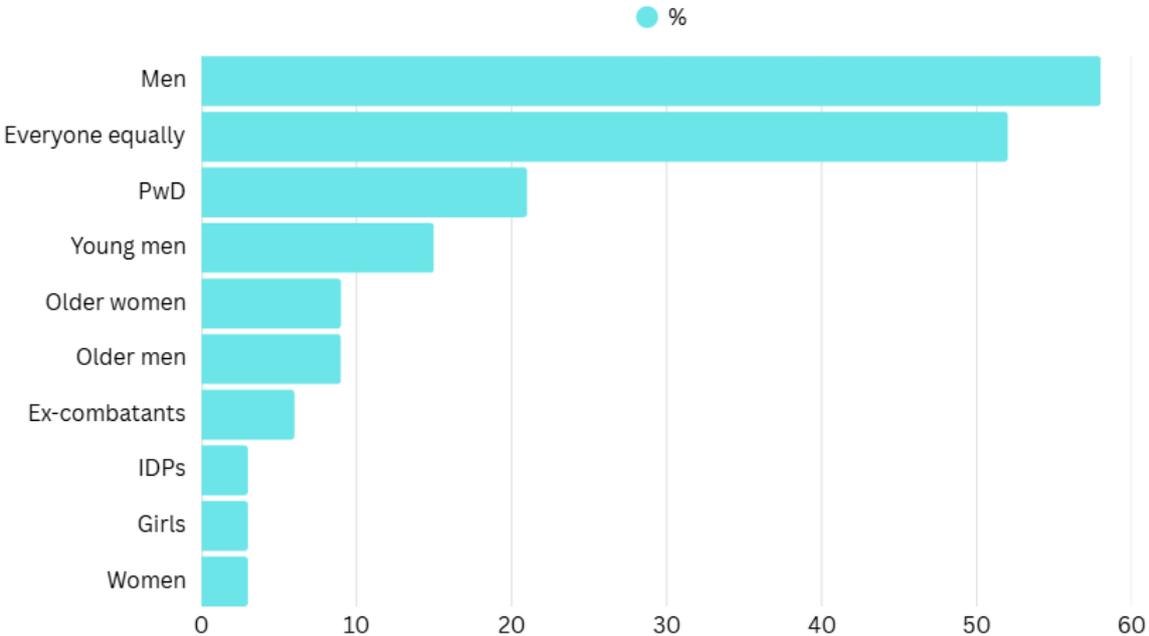
<sup>14</sup> UNHCR. (2025, September). *Ukraine Protection Analysis Update: No Quick End. The Impact of the War on Civilian Protection in Ukraine*

*“Roads are controlled by FPVs [first-person view drones]; moving around the city is dangerous.”*

KIs also reported ongoing shelling and emphasized the need for social transportation for vulnerable groups, particularly in connection to ongoing evacuations.

As in the previous round, men continue to be reported as the most affected by mobility restrictions (58%) whilst more than half of respondents noted that ‘everyone’ is affected by restrictions of movement (Figure 10). Persons with disabilities and older people were also frequently mentioned due to their reliance on accessible transportation and support services.

*Figure 10. Social groups most affected by restrictions of movement*



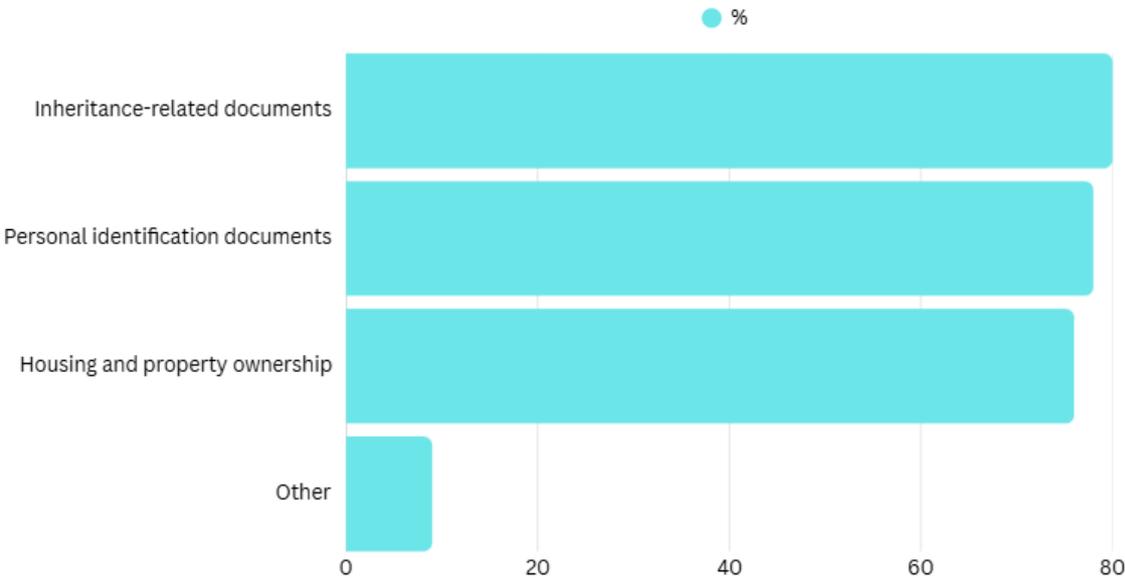
Overall, the lack of transportation in rural settlements, mobilization-related self-restrictions, and security-driven limitations remain the main factors restricting freedom of movement across monitored oblasts. These overlapping barriers complicate access to essential services and livelihoods, reinforcing existing **vulnerabilities** and increasing the **need for organized transport**, particularly in **frontline areas**.

# Civil status and documents

The process of issuing and renewing personal documents in the monitored oblasts continues to be challenging. Key informants report that difficulties are common in individual cases, with 66% mentioning issues. Only 18% indicated there were no problems, a decrease from 23% in the previous round. Similar to earlier reports, the main challenges include renewing or issuing civil documentation. These issues are often related to lost documents or the inability to access administrative institutions, particularly in frontline or remote hromadas.

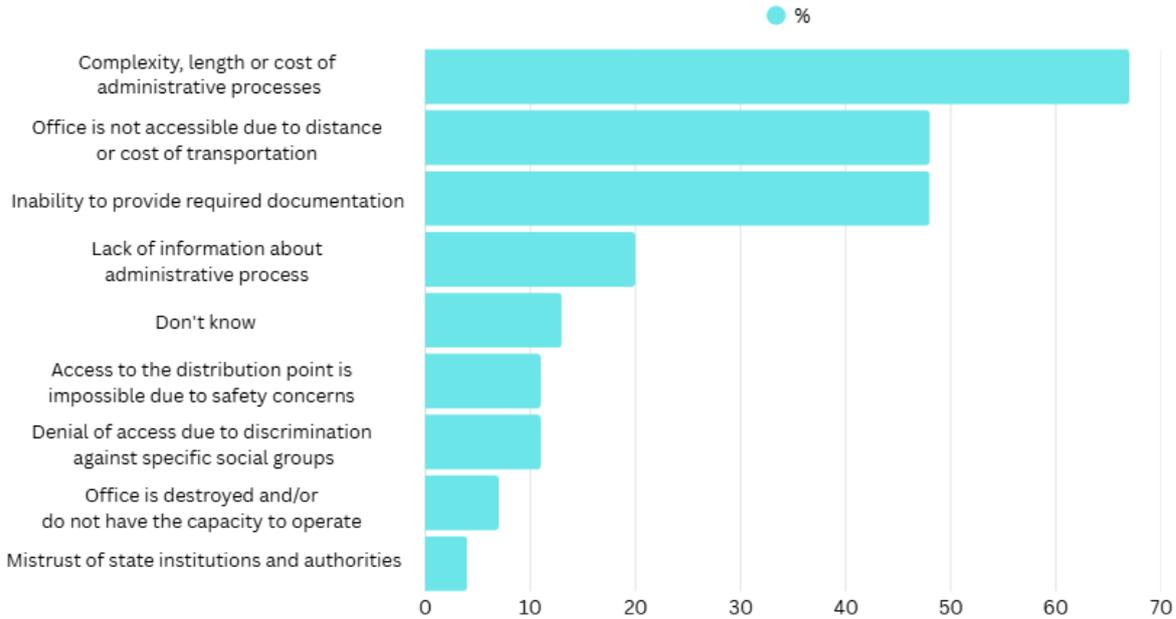
As in the previous round, challenges most commonly relate to **inheritance-related documents (80% of KIs selected this)**, followed by **personal identification documents (78%)**, and documents confirming **housing and property ownership (76%)** (Figure 11).

Figure 11. Types of documents most frequently reported as lacking or difficult to access



The main barriers related to obtaining and/or renewing personal documents remain **complex administrative procedures (67%)**, **distance and transportation costs (48%)**, the **lack of prerequisite documentation** required to complete procedures (e.g., proof of ownership in cases involving property sales) **(48%)**, and **limited information about administrative procedures (20%)** (Figure 12).

Figure 12. Main barriers to obtaining personal documents



The situation remains most critical in Mykolaiv oblast, where **100% of KIs** reported existing barriers, such as being unable to reach administrative service centers due to a lack of public transportation and complex procedures.

As in the previous round, key informants pointed out that to overcome these barriers, people usually seek help from state institutions and local authorities, along with legal aid from NGOs, charitable foundations, and volunteers. When services are not available at the community level, individuals often have to travel to administrative centers, especially in hromadas where many administrative service centers have relocated. A key informant highlighted:

*“Many people live without documents; some are marginalised, and many face risks of violence, trafficking, and similar harms.”*

Several key informants also mentioned ongoing issues related to restoring housing documentation and completing e-Recovery procedures for people displaced from evacuated areas. To obtain the assistance they need, they often have to go to oblast-level administrative centers or depend on non-governmental organizations.

Another barrier to restoring documents is the fear of mobilization. This fear discourages men and young people from seeking administrative services. This situation restricts access to social protection and also limits opportunities for formal employment, pushing people toward informal work that, in turn, leads to long-term consequences, such as loss of access to social

benefits, pension contributions etc., increasing economic vulnerability. One key informant explained:

*"The threat of mobilization continues. People avoid state services and work informally."*

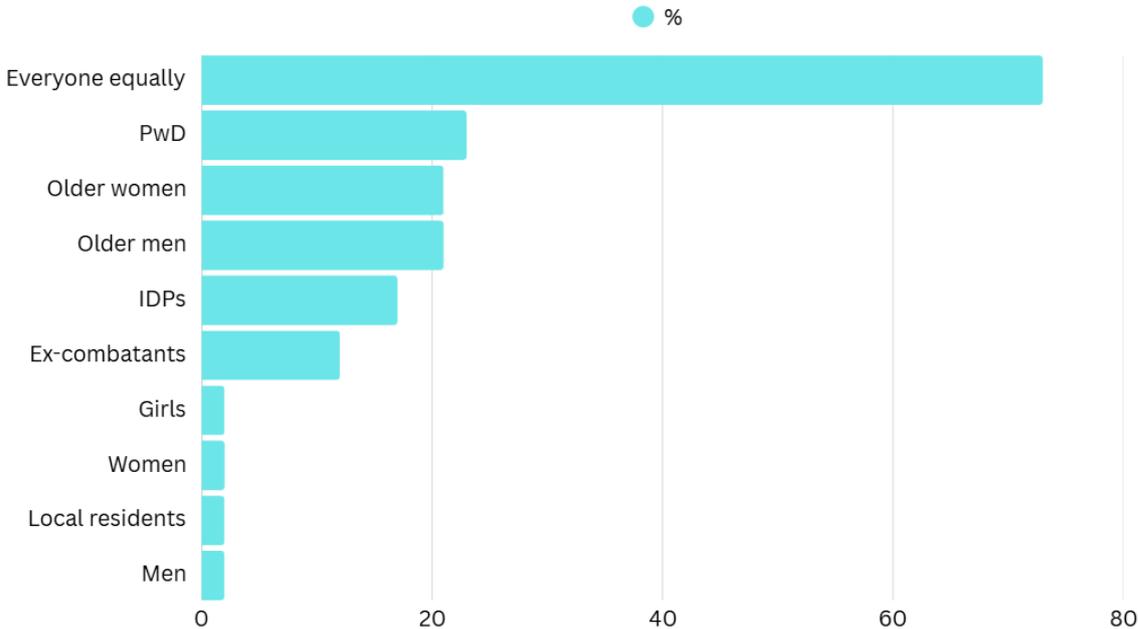
# Standard of living and Employment

According to 70% of key informants, **basic needs** in their communities are being met only at a **moderate level**, suggesting that the ability to satisfy essential needs remains limited. Vulnerable groups, including PwD, older persons, ex-combatants and IDPs, are reported to be affected more than others.

While most respondents indicated that limited ability to meet basic needs affects the population broadly, some groups experience more severe consequences. Key informants identified **persons with disabilities** as the **most affected**, making up 23%, followed by older people at 21% and internally displaced persons at 17% (Figure 13).

For these population groups, difficulties in accessing social benefits and medical services are especially serious, compounded by physical and social limitations that affect their ability to secure stable income or seek assistance. State and family support for older persons is often insufficient, forcing them to significantly reduce spending even on essential needs such as food and healthcare.

Figure 13. Social groups most affected by difficulties due to a lack of essential resources



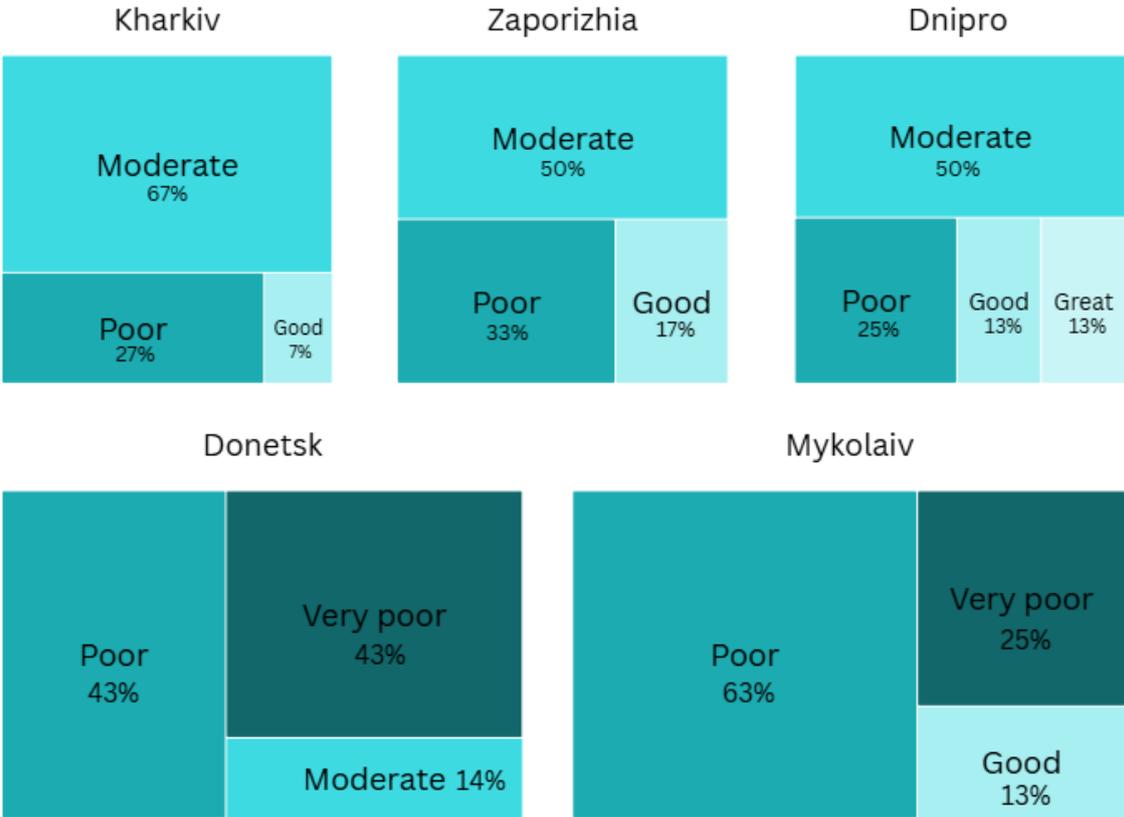
In the third monitoring round, the general **employment situation** in monitored communities was assessed in greater detail. According to key informants, overall employment conditions were most commonly rated as **“poor” (38%)** or **“moderate” (37%)**, indicating **persistent challenges** in accessing livelihoods.

The most critical situation remains in Donetsk oblast, where 43% of key informants described employment conditions in their communities as **“very poor”**, 43% as **“poor”** and only 14% as

“moderate” (Figure 14). This is likely linked to security constraints, population displacement, and the relocation of businesses.

Mykolaiv oblast appears to be the second most affected, with 63% of respondents reporting that employment conditions are poor. This issue is particularly pressing given that some residents are returning from other regions and require stable income to sustain their livelihoods.

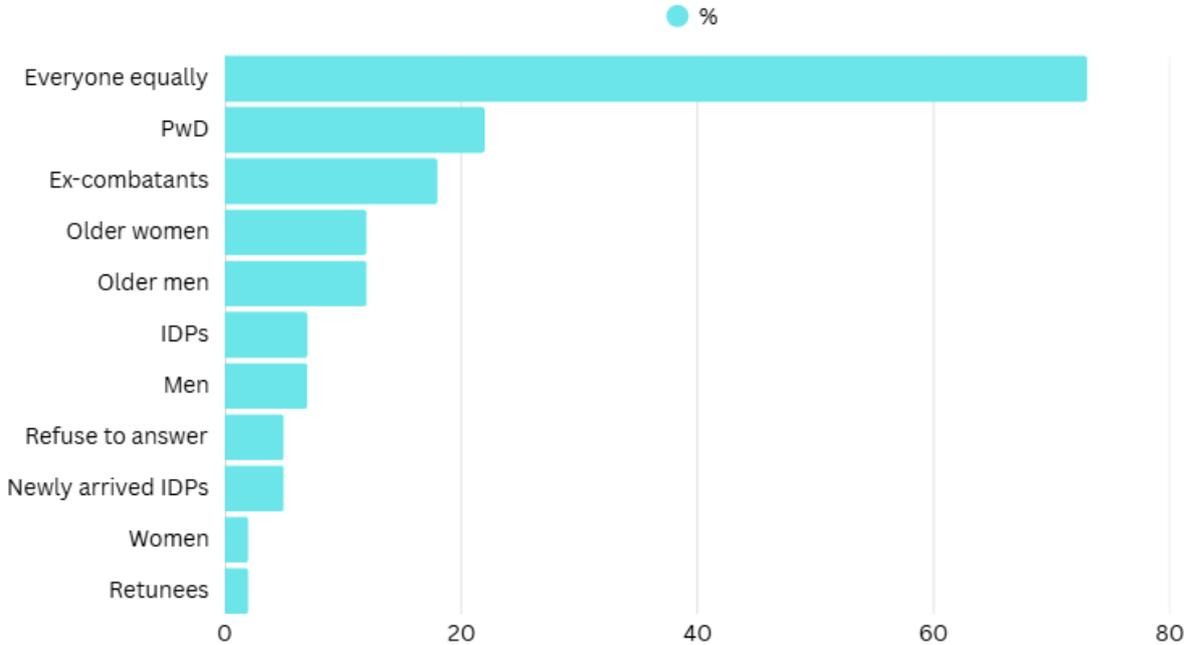
Figure 14. Employment opportunities in the location



The most common coping strategies include reducing food expenditures (70% of respondents selected this as at least one response), engaging in informal work (63%), and reducing spending on healthcare (63%). This indicates growing financial strain on households, forcing them to prioritize immediate survival needs over long-term well-being and increasing the risk of negative health and protection outcomes.

According to key informants, limited employment opportunities affect **all people equally** (reported in 73% of responses), followed by persons with disabilities (22%) and ex-combatants (18%) (Figure 15).

Figure 15. Groups most affected by limited employment opportunities



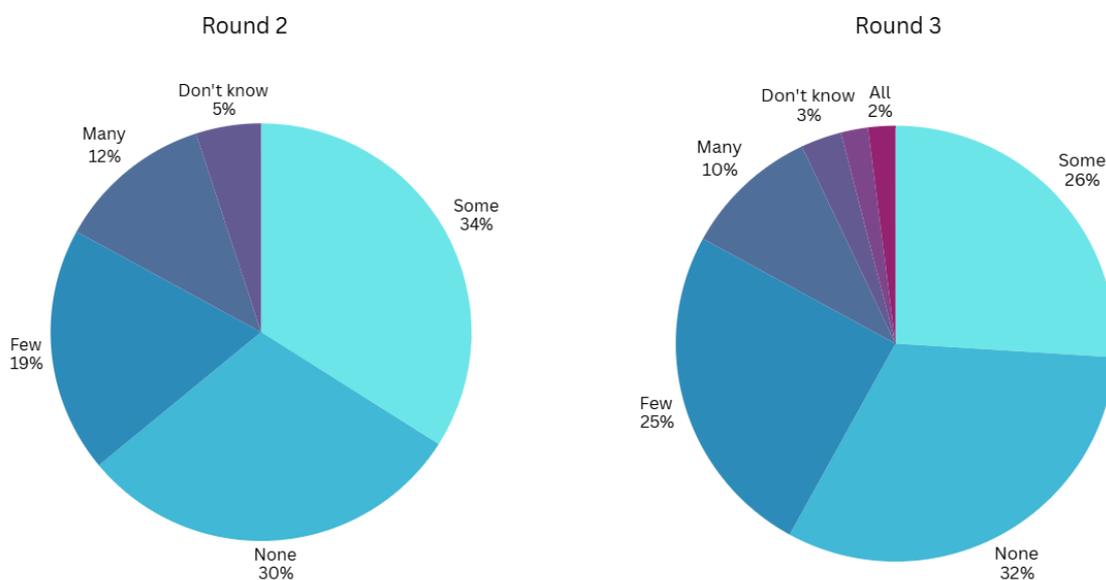
Regarding programmes aimed at improving access to employment, the most frequently mentioned were **vocational training programmes (42%)**, **employment centres or job-matching services (38%)**, and **support for small businesses/start-ups (35%)**.

## Housing, land and property

The results of this monitoring round show that **more than half** of key informants reported that part of the population in their communities continued to reside in **damaged, unfinished, or otherwise uninhabitable buildings**, which remained a major concern (Figure 16).

At the same time, the share of responses categorized as **“some”** has decreased, likely shifting into the **“few”** category. Similarly, the **“many”** category decreased marginally, aligning with an overall trend toward very gradual improvement compared to previous monitoring rounds.

Figure 16. People living in destroyed or uninhabitable buildings



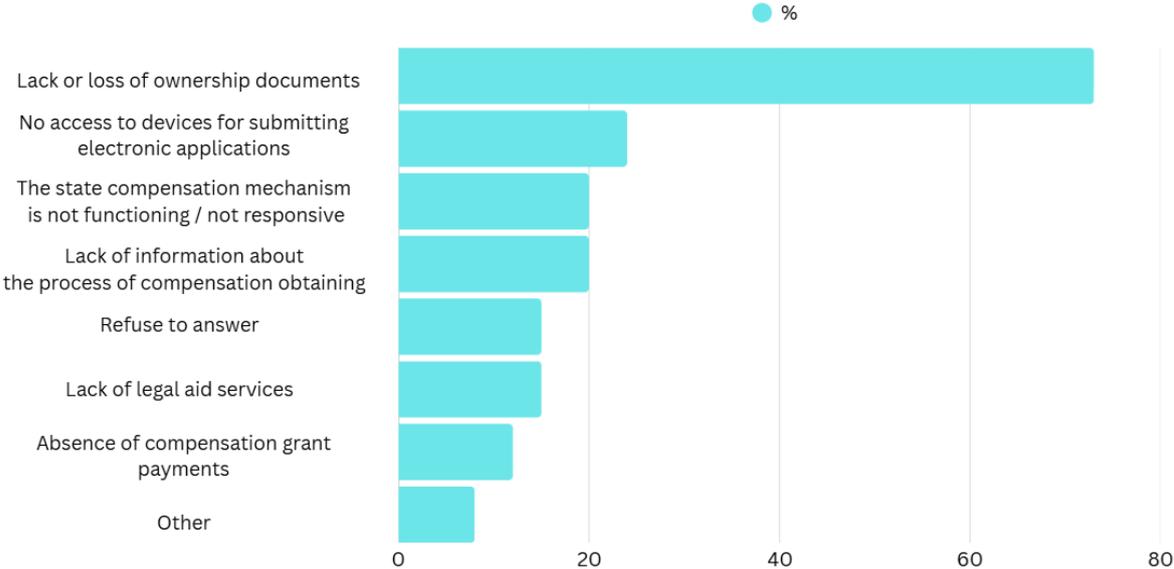
Compared to the previous monitoring round, the share of key informants reporting that people in their hromadas can easily obtain financial compensation for damaged housing has decreased from 90% to 79%, indicating a notable deterioration.

At the same time, the main barrier to obtaining such compensation remains the **absence or loss of property ownership documents** (73% of key informants) (Figure 17). This barrier is common across all oblasts; however, in **Mykolaivska oblast**, **100%** of key informants reported it as a **critical obstacle**. Returning residents frequently encounter complex legal and administrative hurdles when trying to access state housing recovery programs. These challenges include verifying house and land ownership, navigating documentation requirements, and covering related expensive procedural costs. Combined with ongoing limited income, and insufficient support, these barriers significantly hinder the ability of households to access state compensation and rebuild their homes, leaving many in insecure living conditions, and in need of humanitarian assistance.

Additionally, 24% of key informants noted **digital challenges**, particularly the lack of devices needed to submit electronic applications. Another 20% highlighted that **state compensation**

**mechanisms do not function in practice**, or that people lack sufficient information about how to access them.

*Figure 17. Main barriers to receiving financial compensation for damaged housing*



In line with findings from the **2025 PIN – Right to Protection study**<sup>15</sup> on housing compensation gaps, this protection monitoring round also asked about barriers to the **use** of received compensation. According to key informants, 53% noted that the **amount of compensation is insufficient** to complete repairs; 43% reported that people must use **personal savings or external support** to finalize reconstruction; and 18% cited difficulties finding contractors due to **limited availability and inflated prices**.

<sup>15</sup> Right to Protection (R2P) & People in Need (PIN). (2025, August 5). *Compensation for Destroyed Housing as a Tool for Protecting Rights Violated by War*.

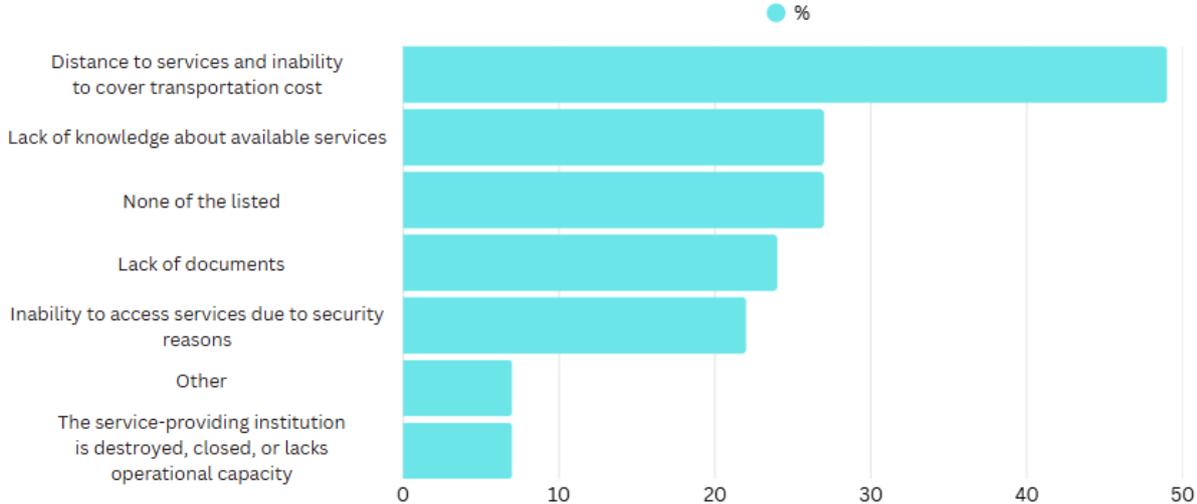
# Social services

95% of key informants (compared to 97% in the previous round) across all five monitored oblasts reported that while core state-provided social services are technically available in their hromadas, **barriers to access persist**.

Almost half (49%) of key informants noted that **distance to service locations and the inability to cover transportation costs** remain key barriers (Figure 18). Additionally, 27% highlighted a **lack of awareness** about available services; 24% pointed to the **absence of the required documentation**; and 22% noted that **security-related constraints** reduce access. At the same time, 27% of key informants reported no barriers to accessing social services.

Limited or inconsistent access to social services leads to worsening living conditions, increased social isolation, and heightened economic vulnerability. Individuals are left to cope with their needs independently, which may contribute to deeper poverty, accumulation of debt, informal employment, or displacement in search of assistance. Some key informants also noted that insufficient support can increase psychological stress and distrust toward state institutions and, in some cases, contribute to marginalization, heightened risks of exploitation, and overall deterioration of people’s physical and psychosocial well-being.

Figure 18. Main barriers to accessing social services



## Safety and security

Overall, **slightly more than half** of key informants reported feeling **relatively safe** in their hromadas (53%), which is 11 percentage points lower compared to the previous round, and, 47% of informants indicated a **low or critical level of safety**, describing the situation as *poor* or *critical*.

This trend is largely driven by the deterioration of the security situation in all oblasts especially Donetsk oblast, where 80% of key informants assessed conditions as poor or critical. Similarly, in Kharkiv oblast, 60% of informants described the situation in their hromadas as poor.

Regarding access to air-raid shelters, 67% of key informants reported that shelters are available in their hromadas. The **worst situation** is observed in Mykolaiv oblast, where 61% of informants stated they do not have access to shelters. Although this issue generally affects people equally (66%), key informants emphasized that **persons with disabilities** (31%) and **older people** (21%) are the most affected groups, reflecting persistent physical and mobility-related barriers and the heightened threat to life for these groups during arial attacks.<sup>16</sup>

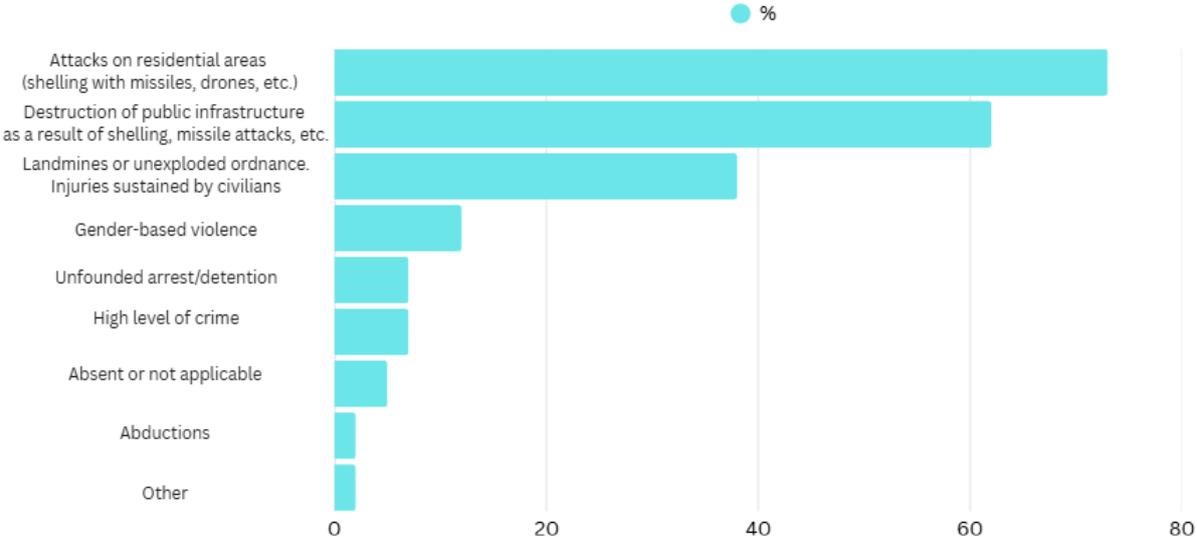
In terms of broader security conditions, key informants most frequently reported **attacks on residential areas** including missile strikes and UAV attacks as the primary protection concern (73%) (Figure 19).

This is followed by **damage to public infrastructure** (62%), which continues to disrupt access to services and basic needs. The **presence of landmines and UXO** was highlighted by 38% of respondents, particularly in frontline and recently affected territories, where movement remains highly restricted. Additionally, 12% of key informants noted **GBV-related risks**, though such incidents are likely underreported due to sensitivity and limited disclosure.

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<sup>16</sup> ACAPS. *Ukraine: Humanitarian Access for People with Disabilities*. ACAPS Analysis Hub Thematic Report, 5 June 2025.

Figure 19. Main security issues in the hromada



## Recommendations

- **Enhance transportation and mobility support**, as well as **broader targeted assistance for older persons, persons with disabilities, and rural communities**, ensuring that **humanitarian programs** more fully include these groups. Expand **community-based support systems** to help them access **air-raid shelters** and other **life-saving assistance**, including during **evacuations** and other emergencies.
- **Provide targeted financial and livelihood support**, including **cash assistance, vocational training, and income-generation programs including small and medium grants**, especially for **households affected by displacement, insecurity, or high economic vulnerability**.
- **Continue supporting access to housing compensation and documentation**, offering targeted **legal and protection aid** and guidance for **households struggling to obtain or renew essential documents**, particularly for **IDPs, returnees, older persons, and persons with disabilities**. **Collaboration with local authorities** can help simplify procedures and reach **hard-to-access communities**. Humanitarian organisations should continue to provide assistance (housing repairs/cash for repairs) in cases where households don't qualify for state compensation, especially to ensure readiness for winter.
- **Strengthen access to essential services**, including **healthcare, WASH, education, and rehabilitation programs especially in front line areas**. Adapt **service delivery** to overcome **physical, transport, and digital barriers**, ensuring **vulnerable populations** can access support.
- **Provide psychosocial and educational support for children**, including **recreational and extracurricular activities**, tailored programs to address the impacts of **remote learning**, and **mental health interventions** to mitigate **stress** from **disrupted socialization** and **transport constraints**.
- **Support women's economic participation**, through **flexible work opportunities, access to vocational training, assistance to balance caregiving and livelihood responsibilities, and enhanced information dissemination** on available **social, financial, and protection services**.
- **Facilitate reintegration and support for ex-combatants in collaboration with relevant authorities**, focusing on **employment assistance, rehabilitation programs, psychosocial support**, and navigation of **bureaucratic processes** to access **benefits and services**.
- **Improve information dissemination and awareness**, using **digital, mobile, and community-based channels**, to ensure populations know about available **services, documentation procedures, and assistance mechanisms**.

# Annexes

## List of acronyms

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Full name</b>
<b>GBV</b>	Gender based violence
<b>BHA</b>	Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>DRC</b>	Danish Refugee Council
<b>CSs</b>	Collective Sites
<b>ASC</b>	Administrative Service Centre
<b>PTSD</b>	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
<b>IDP</b>	Internally Displaced Person
<b>FPV</b>	First Person View
<b>KI</b>	Key Informant
<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
<b>UXO</b>	Unexploded Ordnance

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