Danish Refugee Council

Lvivska Oblast Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment
Chervonohradskyi, Stryiskyi, and Drohobytskyi Raions

February 2024

Contents

Overview

In response to the evolving crisis in Ukraine, Danish Refugee Council (DRC) has been providing emergency assistance and advocating for the rights of conflict affected persons, including internally displaced people (IDPs). As the situation continues to unfold, the focus is now shifting towards long-term strategies to support the recovery and resilience of communities, particularly in the Lvivska Oblast, encompassing the raions of Chervonohradskyi, Stryiskyi, and Drohobytskyi.

DRC's commitment to developing comprehensive programming in Lvivska Oblast from 2024 onwards has necessitated an in-depth understanding of the specific needs and priorities within these communities. To achieve this, the initiative of a Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) was adopted, focusing on key sectors that are instrumental in shaping the future of these areas. The sectors under scrutiny include protection (including social protection), shelter/housing and infrastructure, and economic recovery. Each of these sectors represents a cornerstone for rebuilding and stabilising the lives of the people in these areas.

In conducting this MSNA, DRC engaged with a diverse range of community representatives and members. These interviews were designed to determine the key needs of residents in the coverage areas across the surveyed sectors. The process involved:

- Detailed interviews with representatives who possess first-hand insights into the needs and challenges within their respective sectors. These interviews, conducted by trained enumerators, aimed to explore key issues such as access to social protection for vulnerable groups, the state and availability of shelter/housing and infrastructure, and the barriers to economic recovery.

- In-depth discussions with community members via focus group discussions (FGDs), particularly focusing on their experiences, needs, and suggestions for improvement in their current living situation. These discussions are crucial in painting a comprehensive picture of the ground realities and the impact of ongoing challenges on everyday life, as well as remaining accountable to affected populations.

The findings from these engagements are instrumental in guiding DRC's future interventions in these three raions, with an aim of developing programming which can remove the prevailing impacts of forced displaced, and support in the provision of sustainable durable solutions. They offer detailed understanding of key needs, informing the development of targeted, effective, and sustainable solutions interventions.

Key Findings Summary

Findings in Chervonohradskyi, Drohobytskyi, and Stryiskyi raions highlight a complex interplay of economic, social, and infrastructural challenges that significantly impact the quality of life and social cohesion within these communities. The data underscores the critical need for comprehensive strategies that address housing affordability and availability, infrastructure development, employment opportunities, social protection, and the integration of displaced vulnerable populations. Moving forward, it is imperative for policy interventions and community initiatives to be informed by these insights, ensuring that efforts to improve living conditions, economic stability, and social harmony are both effective and inclusive.

Housing

I)   **Vulnerable groups are facing challenges in accessing safe, secure, and affordable housing:** Elderly people, those with disabilities, unemployed individuals, low-income families, and single caregivers face major challenges in finding safe and affordable housing. This is due to a lack of specialised facilities, accessibility issues, not enough social housing to meet demand, and financial difficulties from limited incomes or the costs of caregiving**.**

II) **Housing affordability and availability:** The key findings from the data on social housing in Chervonohradskyi, Drohobytskyi, and Stryiskyi raions show there is high need for social housing (in its various forms), as alternative housing options are not feasible because of the prohibitive costs of rent. This scenario is recognised across all three raions, highlighting a demand for affordable housing solutions. The shortage of social housing units emerges as a critical theme, with the impending closure of collective sites under Resolution 930[1] spotlighted as a factor that will likely intensify the demand for already scarce resources.

III) **Infrastructure repair and restoration needs:** The necessity to repair and restore housing infrastructure to improve living conditions and access to services has been identified in all three raions. This includes adjusting to better accommodate individuals with disabilities and addressing common issues like inadequate heating, window damage, and faulty water systems. The emphasis on infrastructure repair highlights a broader concern for enhancing the overall quality of life through improved access to essential services.

IV) **Evictions Concerns:** Variations in awareness eviction across raions. Behavioural issues and the violation of terms are frequently cited causes, alongside an emerging trend of increased eviction concerns following the adoption of Resolution 930.

V)   **Unique regional insights[2]: Chervonohradskyi** raion shows an interest for modular housing and also suggests unused dormitories as potential temporary housing solutions. **Drohobytskyi** raion underscores the necessity of utilising unused state properties and identifies behavioural issues as a major factor in

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[1] On September 1, 2023, the Ukrainian Government enacted Resolution #930, which establishes guidelines for the operation of collective sites (CSs) for internally displaced persons (IDPs). This Resolution clarifies the legal framework for CSs, which have been operating since 2014 without proper legal oversight. It provides a clear definition of Collective Sites, sets out the minimum standards for living conditions within these sites, and outlines procedures related to the registration of CSs, ensuring tenure security, as well as monitoring and accommodation processes.

[2] Interpretation of regional insights in the summary requires careful consideration, reflecting the limited scope of focus group discussions and interviews per region and the targeted participant selection.

housing instability. **Stryiskyi** raion reveals an interest preference for modular housing and highlights the dire absence of social or temporary housing options in certain areas, emphasising the critical nature of these findings for policy and intervention strategies.

Area Infrastructure

I)   **Transportation Challenges:** In Chervonohradskyi, Drohobytskyi, and Stryiskyi raions, transportation is a major barrier, characterised by difficulties stemming from remoteness, a shortage of affordable options, and unreliable services**.** This challenge directly impacts residents' ability to access employment and essential services, with key informants across both raion and oblast levels emphasising the need for improved transportation infrastructure. Specifically, in Drohobytskyi raion, the challenge is exacerbated by geographic disparities, where the region's mountainous terrain increases the costs and time required to access services.

II) **Inadequate internet or communication infrastructure**: Pervasive issues with inadequate internet and mobile communication networks across all raions has been identified a barrier across all three raions. This issue is particularly acute in Chervonohradskyi raion, where every key informant mentioned connectivity in rural areas and a significant majority in urban areas flagged inadequate internet as a barrier to accessing social services. The lack of connectivity restricts access to information, including available services and job vacancies, further complicated by transportation challenges that limit physical access to work and services.

III) **Need for recreational child-friendly spaces:** The need for child-friendly recreational spaces is mentioned across the three raions, underscoring the presence of a significant number of children in vulnerable households. Highlighted by both key informants and focus group participants, the creation of such spaces is seen as a key factor in enhancing community welfare. These areas are crucial as they provide a safe, engaging environment for children to play, learn, and socialise, contributing significantly to their physical activity, mental stimulation, psychological well-being, and social development. By offering a sense of normalcy and community, child-friendly spaces can effectively support the resilience of affected communities, addressing the specific needs of children and aiding in their overall development.

IV) **Unique regional insights:** Regional disparities were identified by survey findings, and highlight specific infrastructure challenges. **Chervonohradskyi** raion has higher than average struggles with inadequate internet, impacting access to social services; **Drohobytskyi** raion faces pressing transportation needs, housing infrastructure quality issues, and a necessity for general community infrastructure improvements; **Stryiskyi** raion concerns are focused on road and electricity supply deficiencies, a lack of local service accessibility, with social taxis mentioned as a potential solution to transportation challenges, underscoring a distinct regional focus on improving physical infrastructure and service delivery.

Livelihoods

I)   **Willingness to work:** The data across Chervonohradskyi, Drohobytskyi, and Stryiskyi raions indicates a nuanced perspective on employment, with a substantial number of respondents open to working despite not actively seeking employment. This openness is often contingent on specific salary levels and job conditions, highlighting a considerable interest in upskilling and reskilling programs among the majority of those interviewed.

II) **Economic development resources needed**: A common thread across all three raions is the need for resources to bolster economic development, notably digital connectivity and transportation, to facilitate online businesses and remote work. The demand extends to materials, equipment, land, work premises, and financial support for starting businesses, alongside a significant call for vocational, language and computer skill trainings, as well as career counselling.

III) **Barriers due to caregiver responsibilities:** Caregiver responsibilities emerge as a significant barrier to employment, affecting the ability to seek, accept, or engage in work. This is particularly impactful in households considered as having a single caregiver, extending to care for children, the elderly or persons with disabilities; further complicating access to social services and employment.

IV) **Discrimination and employer reluctance to hire IDPs**: Discrimination based on language, IDP status, and geographic origin, alongside employer reluctance due to the perceived transient status of IDPs, poses significant hindrances to employment opportunities. This reluctance is not solely based on territorial[3] prejudice but also on concerns over the long-term reliability of IDP employees.

V) **Common employment barriers:** Various forms of discrimination, low salaries, poor working conditions, lack of specialised jobs, feelings of being unqualified, and a scarcity of available jobs are cited as barriers across the raions. Additionally, challenges accessing training and employment centres due to lack of facilities, transportation, financial constraints, and limited connectivity are noted.

VI) **Unique regional insights:** Across Chervonohradskyi, Drohobytskyi, and Stryiskyi raions, unique needs emerge: **Chervonohradskyi** raion faces the highest amount of territorial discrimination barriers, and s FGD participants expressed interest in trainings in English, technology, and vocational skills, such as culinary trainings; **Drohobytskyi** raion focuses on artisanal and vocational development, highlighting the need for crafting materials, career counselling, and practical job-oriented training; **Stryiskyi** raion values on-the-job and computer training, with a keen interest in internships that offer entrepreneurial insights, demonstrating diverse regional priorities in training and development challenges.

Protection

I) **Vulnerable groups facing barriers accessing social services:** Vulnerable populations, including elderly individuals, persons with disabilities, those with serious medical conditions, single-caregiver households, individuals with substance use disorders, and families of active or fallen soldiers. This response may integrate support to access specialised healthcare services, financial assistance to avoid the use of negative coping mechanisms, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), community awareness and initiatives to reduce stigma, and comprehensive legal support for affected families, acknowledging the complex interplay of needs across these groups.

II) **Access to basic services:** Access to services poses significant challenges for vulnerable groups including the elderly, individuals with disabilities, those suffering from serious medical conditions, low-income families, single caregivers, and people with substance use disorders, with the elderly and disabled. This includes

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[3] Territorial discrimination refers to prejudice or differential treatment based on an individual's geographical origin or the location they are associated with. This form of discrimination can manifest in various social, economic, and political contexts, where people from certain regions, cities, or countries face biases, reduced opportunities, or unequal treatment solely because of their territorial background. Territorial discrimination can impact access to employment, education, housing, and social services, reinforcing regional disparities and contributing to social exclusion.

access to affordable housing, psychosocial support as well as mental and physical health. The nuanced view of healthcare access, acknowledging partial access and the deficiency in specialised medical services, highlights the complexity of healthcare needs and the barriers to fulfilling them, such as the unavailability of specialized local health facilities and financial constraints due to costs of services or transportation. Across all surveyed regions, households prioritise access to healthcare foremost, followed by non-food items (NFIs) and food.

III) **Access to information:** The critical need for information access, especially for the elderly and low-income families, highlights how the digital divide affects fair access to social services and humanitarian aid.

IV) **Unique regional insights:** Each raion presents unique challenges that reflect their specific contexts and needs, from **Chervonohradskyi** raion's focus on basic needs and social protection system inadequacies to **Drohobytskyi** raion's emphasis on information accessibility and healthcare needs, and **Stryiskyi** raion's identification of similar concerns. The proposals for local governance improvements, social transportation services, and enhancing information availability suggest community-driven solutions to address these challenges.

Social Cohesion

I) **IDP Integration Intentions Across Chervonohradskyi, Drohobytskyi, Stryiskyi raions:** Respondents across the three raions exhibit a strong intention to integrate into local communities, with Chervonohradskyi raion showing the highest inclination. This reveals a strong desire among IDPs to settle and integrate, underlining the importance of social cohesion for community stability. The integration of IDPs is impeded by challenges such as language discrimination and employer biases, particularly pronounced in Chervonohradskyi raion. Additionally, social tensions, rooted in perceptions of inequality, language, and cultural differences, pose specific challenges in integrating IDPs, including employment discrimination and harassment in educational settings. Acknowledging the need for improved community engagement is key to enhancing social cohesion, suggesting that fostering deeper connections and understanding within communities is vital for overcoming existing tensions and facilitating a smoother integration process.

II) **Strategies for improvement:** Addressing the specific needs for integration, such as securing economic opportunities and ensuring access to essential services is vital. Tailored initiatives to reduce language-based discrimination and increase participation in cohesion initiatives could significantly impact. Enhancing information dissemination and engaging both IDP and local populations in meaningful community activities are critical steps towards building a cohesive social fabric.

III) **Unique regional insights:** Unique regional insights reveal significant challenges in social cohesion, with issues ranging from language stigma and regional stereotypes to tensions arising from perceptions that IDPs receive undue benefits. These challenges underscore the need for targeted awareness and inclusion programs designed to foster understanding and acceptance across the community. There's a call for balanced support initiatives that benefit both IDPs and local residents, aiming to mitigate tensions and promote a sense of fairness and equity within the community. While some areas report lower rates of social tensions, incidents of discrimination, particularly related to employer reluctance to hire IDPs, suggest that while integration may be smoother in some regions, there remains a need for focused efforts to improve employment equity and inclusivity.

Methodology

The assessment adopted a comprehensive mixed-method approach, leveraging both quantitative and qualitative research techniques to thoroughly investigate the key areas of Livelihoods, Social Housing and Infrastructure, and Protection within Chervonohradskyi, Drohobytskyi, and Stryiskyi raions. This methodological design was structured to ensure an understanding of the varied and intersecting challenges faced by communities in these regions.

Assessment Framework

The methodology was segmented into three focused assessments:

1. **Livelihoods Assessment** aimed at uncovering the economic dynamics, employment opportunities, and barriers to economic participation within the communities.
2. **Social Housing and Infrastructure Assessment** sought to explore the availability, accessibility, and adequacy of housing and essential infrastructure, highlighting the gaps and needs in these critical areas.
3. **Protection Assessment** focused on identifying the vulnerabilities, social protection needs, and access to services among the most at-risk populations, including IDPs and other vulnerable groups.

Data Collection Timeline: Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) conducted between 11 and 22 December 2023, and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) held from 15 to 19 January 2024.

The methodology of the assessment was designed to integrate both KIIs and FGDs, facilitating a comprehensive and multi-dimensional exploration of the social housing, livelihoods, and protection sectors within the targeted raions. KIIs were conducted with a strategic selection of stakeholders, including government officials, coordinators of housing projects, local authority figures, business leaders, and representatives from social service agencies. This approach was instrumental in eliciting insights into the strategic planning, challenges encountered, and prospective developments across the social housing initiatives, economic environment, and protection service frameworks.

FGDs were employed to collect qualitative insights from the perspectives of affected community members and key informants, engaging unemployed residents, individuals residing in social housing, and vulnerable groups, including IDPs and non-IDPs. These discussions were designed to probe into the personal experiences, perceptions, and aspirations of the participants, concerning the local job market, living conditions within social housing, and the accessibility and efficacy of social protection services. Employing participatory techniques, the FGDs aimed to foster a conducive environment for candid dialogue, thereby ensuring the collection of nuanced, qualitative data that reflects the direct experiences and needs of the communities. This methodological synthesis of KIIs and FGDs reinforces the assessment's objective to offer a rounded understanding of the critical challenges and needs within the social housing, livelihoods, and protection domains, informed by both the strategic insights of key informants and the lived experiences of the community members.

Table 1: Sampling Framework

Sampling Frame/ Units	Data Collection Technique	Sampling Size
Livelihoods		
Business Specialists - large enterprise owners who possess economic expertise in the local area.	KIIs	2
Community Members Currently without Employment	FGDs	6 (involving 41 participants)
Social Housing		
Government Officials	KIIs	5
Coordination Centre Officials	KIIs	4
Collective Centre Officials	KIIs	4
Residents Living in Collective Sites	FGDs	6 (involving 60 participants)
Protection		
Government Officials	KIIs	4
Social Service Officials	KIIs	11
IDP Council Focal Points	KIIs	6
Vulnerable IDP and Non-IDPs	FGDs	8 (involving 83 participants)
Total number of people reached		**218**

List of KIIs and FGDs is provided in **Appendix 1**.

Analysis Methodology is provided in **Appendix 2.**

Limitations of the Research

The execution of the multisectoral needs assessment encountered several challenges and limitations that impacted the data collection process and the overall findings. These challenges primarily revolved around the identification and engagement of Key Informants (KIs), logistical issues, and participant dynamics during (FGDs).

1. **Availability of Key Informants:**
   a. Rescheduling and cancellations of interviews were frequent, further complicating the data collection process. This not only delayed the assessment but posed logistical difficulties for planning the visits in faraway locations.

2. **Technical Difficulties and Communication Barriers:**
   a. A major setback was the four-day outage of the Kyivstar mobile network, caused by cyber-attacks. This incident significantly disrupted communication, making scheduled phone interviews impossible.
   b. The network outage also affected the confirmation process for interviews. Key informants who had requested reconfirmation of interviews a day or two priors could not be reached, leading to missed opportunities for data collection.

3. **Challenges in Conducting Focus Group Discussions:**
   a. Conducting FGDs at collective sites presented a demographic challenge, particularly the low number of male participants. This gender imbalance in participation could lead to a skewed understanding of the needs and challenges, as the male perspective was underrepresented.
   b. There was a noticeable reluctance among some FGD participants to openly discuss their needs and challenges. This hesitation was attributed to concerns about potential repercussions from site administrators if their feedback was perceived as critical. Such apprehensions likely led to a filtering of responses, thereby impacting the authenticity and depth of the information gathered.

4. **Representation and Data Collection Bias:**
   a. A key limitation of the study is its heavy reliance on collective site residents for data, resulting in a lack of full representation of the area's demographic, including displaced people in private accommodations or currently employed as well as local residents.
   b. This limitation was partially addressed by incorporating data from the DRC's protection monitoring, which includes a broader range of respondents, such as IDP households in private accommodations and a greater number of male participants.

Key Findings

Housing

The key findings reveal a dependency on collective sites amongst some IDPs due to unaffordable rent, marking housing affordability as an important concern for numerous IDP households, many of which have low income levels. Specific groups, including the elderly, persons with disabilities (PwDs), the unemployed, low-income families, and single caregivers, face substantial barriers in securing affordable housing. This issue is exacerbated by a critical lack of specialised social housing, particularly for PwDs and the elderly. Eviction concerns have heightened, especially with legislative changes like Resolution 930 in September 2023, with behavioural issues and agreement violations, such as substance abuse, frequently cited as causes. Regional disparities in housing solutions suggest a need for tailored approaches, from the exploration of modular housing and the repurposing of dormant properties in Chervonohradskyi and Drohobytskyi raions to addressing the acute shortage of social housing options in all raions. These challenges highlight the pressing need for rental assistance programs and strategies aimed at bolstering social cohesion and community integration.

The shortage of social housing in Ukraine, as explained by Svitlana Startseva from the Ministry of Communities, Territories, and Infrastructure Development, stems from the mass privatisation post-Soviet Union collapse, leaving the nation unprepared for the increased demand during the war. Analysts from Cedos, a Ukrainian think tank, point to the spike in rental prices in western regions as evidence of deeper systemic issues in housing affordability and tenant rights. Ukraine lacks a formal social housing system, relying instead on a small inventory of local authority-owned apartments for social use, insufficient to meet the needs exacerbated by the conflict. This situation highlights the urgent need for policy reform and innovative housing solutions in Ukraine.[4]
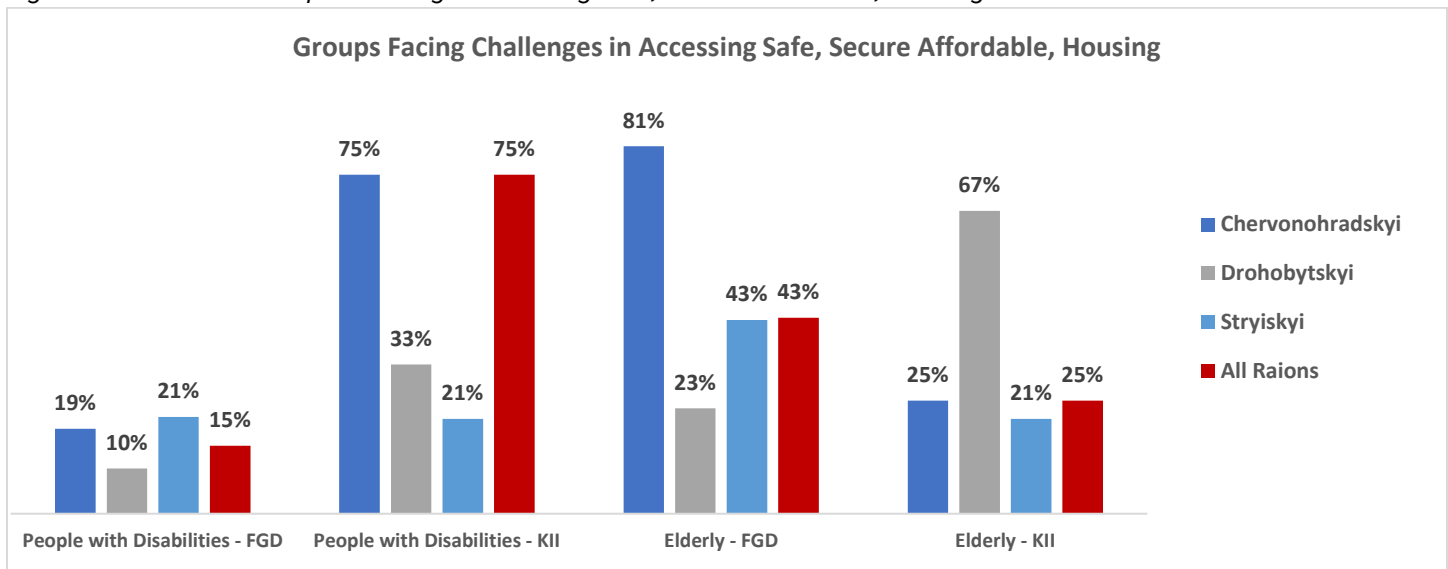
Vulnerable Groups Facing Challenges in Accessing Safe, Secure Affordable, Housing[5]
In Chervonohradskyi, Drohobytskyi, and Stryiskyi raions, key informants have identified significant barriers to accessing safe, secure, and affordable housing for specific population groups. See **Figure 1**. Elderly individuals face difficulties in securing housing that caters to their need for specialised facilities, compounded by their fixed or limited income. PwDs encounter accessibility challenges and a limited availability of specialised housing, alongside potential additional costs for necessary modifications. Unemployed individuals struggle with affording housing, exacerbated by a high demand for social housing that outstrips supply, particularly in Stryiskyi raion. Low-income families also grapple with financial constraints and a similar shortage of social housing. Single caregivers experience financial burdens due to their caregiving responsibilities, which include childcare and the difficulty of balancing employment with caregiving duties, along with a limited availability of suitable housing options.

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[4] "Problems and prospects of housing policy: Round table". November 2023. https://mistosite.org.ua/en/articles/problems-and-prospects-of-housing-policy-round-table
[5] KI discussions encompassed social housing at a general level, however, FGDs exclusively involved participants from Collective Sites, indicating that the insights captured pertain to a specific demographic profile.

Figure 1: Vulnerable Groups Challenges Accessing Safe, Secure Affordable, Housing[6]

Groups Facing Challenges in Accessing Safe, Secure Affordable, Housing

Legend: ■ Chervonohradskyi ■ Drohobytskyi ■ Stryiskyi ■ All Raions

- People with Disabilities - FGD: Chervonohradskyi 19%, Drohobytskyi 10%, Stryiskyi 21%, All Raions 15%
- People with Disabilities - KII: Chervonohradskyi 75%, Drohobytskyi 33%, Stryiskyi 21%, All Raions 75%
- Elderly - FGD: Chervonohradskyi 81%, Drohobytskyi 23%, Stryiskyi 43%, All Raions 43%
- Elderly - KII: Chervonohradskyi 25%, Drohobytskyi 67%, Stryiskyi 21%, All Raions 25%

Housing Affordability and Availability

Housing affordability and availability stand out as critical concerns, with all participants in FGDs and KIIs indicating a high need for social housing, driven by their inability to pay rent. This issue is further highlighted as FGD participants exclusively reside in collective sites due to financial limitations, suggesting that the findings predominantly capture the perspectives of a specific demographic facing economic hardships, rather than a wide-ranging community representation. Key Informants across all raions consider access to affordable housing as a primary need, with significant percentages highlighting its critical nature: 67% in Chervonohradskyi and Stryiskyi raions, 83% in Drohobytskyi raion, and 72% at the oblast level. Economic vulnerabilities add to the housing crisis, with a considerable proportion of households, 60.8%, having an income below 9,000 UAH monthly, showcasing the widespread financial struggles impacting housing stability.

The implementation of Resolution 930 will potentially result in local shelters losing a substantial portion of their bed capacity, as the stipulation for the number of beds per square meter and installation of key facilities (including laundry/white goods, kitchens, disabled access and segregated bathrooms) has restricted administrations from accommodating additional occupants, despite the presence of many vacant spots. This regulation will directly impact the ability of shelters to utilise available space efficiently, creating a paradox where, despite having the physical capacity to house more individuals, regulatory constraints will prevent the use of these spaces to their full potential, as indicated in the KIIs.[7] This situation will exacerbate the housing crisis by artificially limiting the number of available accommodations, even in the face of significant demand and available unoccupied space within shelters.[8]

The implementation of Resolution 930 is expected to lead to the closure of approximately 50% of collective sites, which would further strain the already limited social housing resources, especially for PwDs who require specialised accommodations. Following the closure, only 28 collective sites are projected to remain, with only eight offering

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[6] Qualitative data acquired from FGDs exhibited variability primarily attributable to the demographic composition of the participants. For instance, in Chervonohradskyi, the near unanimous reporting by FGD participants that the elderly population encounters the most significant challenges is correlated with the fact that the entirety of the group consisted of elderly individuals.

[7] Key Informant Interview with Government Official from Chervonohradskyi for Shelter and Infrastructure

[8] Source of Data: KI Shelter and Infrastructure Interviews.

specialised beds for PwDs.[9] This leaves a total of 68 unused specialised beds available across these sites. Data from November 2023, provided by the Lviv Regional Military Administration, illustrates the challenges faced by collective sites meeting the requirements of Resolution 930, highlighting an urgent need for expanded social housing options to cater to the diverse needs of the population amidst an ongoing affordability and availability crisis.

Table 2: Number of Collective Sites Projected to Remain Open[10]

Collective Sites	Total	With Specialised Beds
Chervonohradskyi raion	10	2
Drohobytskyi raion	8	4
Stryiskyi raion	10	2

Table 3: Number of Available Beds Available in Collective Sites Projected to Remain Open[11]

| Beds	Available (Total)	Free (Total)	Available (Specialised Beds)	Free (Specialised Beds)
Chervonohradskyi raion	784	415	18	11
Drohobytsky raion	1656	353	271	41
Stryiskyi raion	1088	328	21	16

Infrastructure Repair and Restoration Needs

As **Figure 2** shows, there is a shared emphasis on the need for infrastructure repair and restoration to improve living conditions and access to services. Key informants and FGD participants focused on enhancing access for individuals with disabilities and upgrading existing residential structures, mostly citing the needs of collective sites. Frequent citations by FGD participants about issues with heating, window damage, inadequate water systems, and defective appliances, such as refrigerators and washing machines, highlight the urgent need for repair and rehabilitation of the public infrastructure and replacement of facilities within shared accommodations.

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[9] Addendum to the order of the head of the regional state administration No. 1096/0/5-23BA. November 2023. https://loda.gov.ua/documents/84952
[10] Addendum to the order of the head of the regional state administration No. 1096/0/5-23BA. November 2023. https://loda.gov.ua/documents/84952
[11] Ibid.

Figure 2: Infrastructure Repair and Restoration Needs[12]
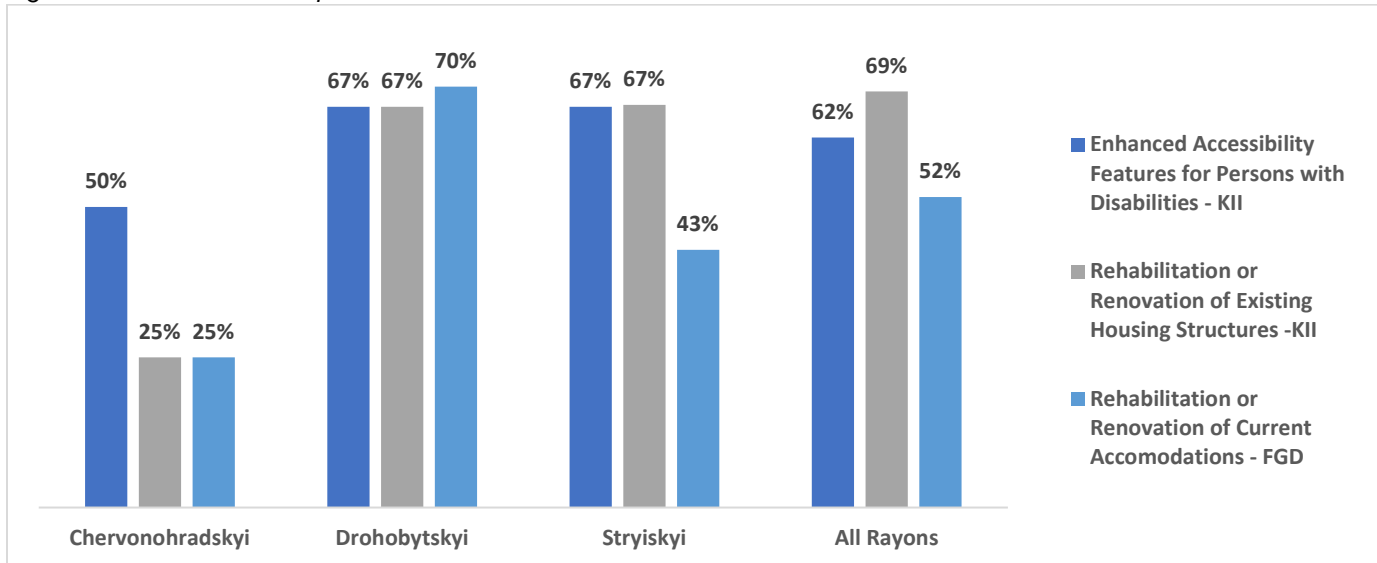
Evictions

Participants were asked if they had heard of evictions from collective sites. These questions were asked because protection monitoring indicated increasing concern amongst collective site residents regarding the possibility of being evicted. Awareness of evictions among participants in FGDs varies significantly across regions, with 63% in Stryiskyi raion and 43% in Drohobytskyi raion being aware, in stark contrast to only 1% in Chervonohradskyi raion. The predominant reasons cited for evictions, both in FGDs and KIIs, are related to behaviour and violations of terms. Terms are not always fairly applied, as one FGD group brought up an instance of eviction tied to complaints about the collective site administration being overheard.

In an incident during a scheduled FGD, the enumerators found the intended collective site closed, and the residents had been moved to a hotel, which introduced new financial burdens due to room charges. The DRC protection team investigated the situation after the residents reported their relocation, which was attributed to the closure of their previous privately-owned accommodation due to Resolution 930. Despite being offered a discount, the relocated residents expressed grave concerns about their financial capabilities to continue paying for their accommodation, highlighting a complete absence of social or temporary housing options in the vicinity. Notably, the majority of these displaced residents were seniors, aged between 60 to 70 years. One of the evictees said the following:

"There is not even temporary housing, people are settled in commercial housing, we have to pay for accommodation now, after a month there is no more money."

According to an oblast level key respondent:

" Some shelter owners chose to not comply with Resolution 930, up to 90 percent of former shelter owners refuse to cooperate with the local administration, provide reports on the situation in their shelter and are even ready to evict people."

As seen in **Figure 3**, data from DRC Protection Monitoring in the three raions reveal a high anxiety over eviction among Households that have expressed concern about their current housing situation. Notably, those households not residing

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[12] Source of Data: KI Shelter and Infrastructure Interviews, Shelter and Infrastructure FGDs.

in collective centres exhibit a higher prevalence of eviction concerns compared to those not dependent on such sites. **Figure 4** shows an upward trend in these eviction worries began in September, corresponding with the adoption of Resolution 930.

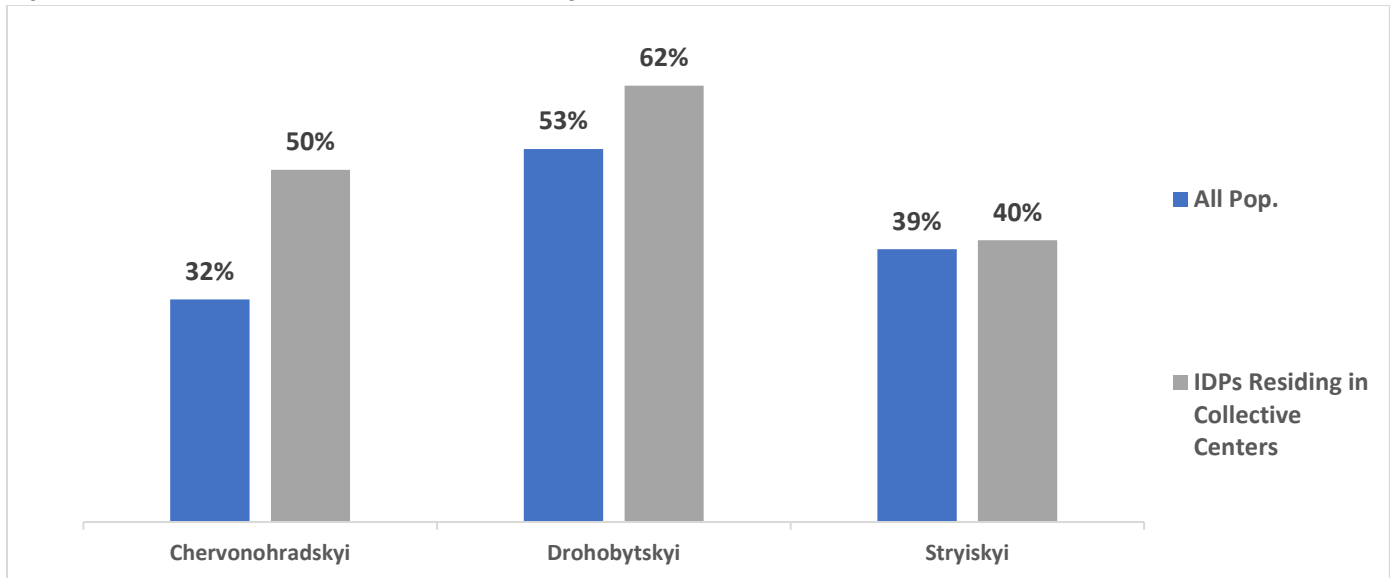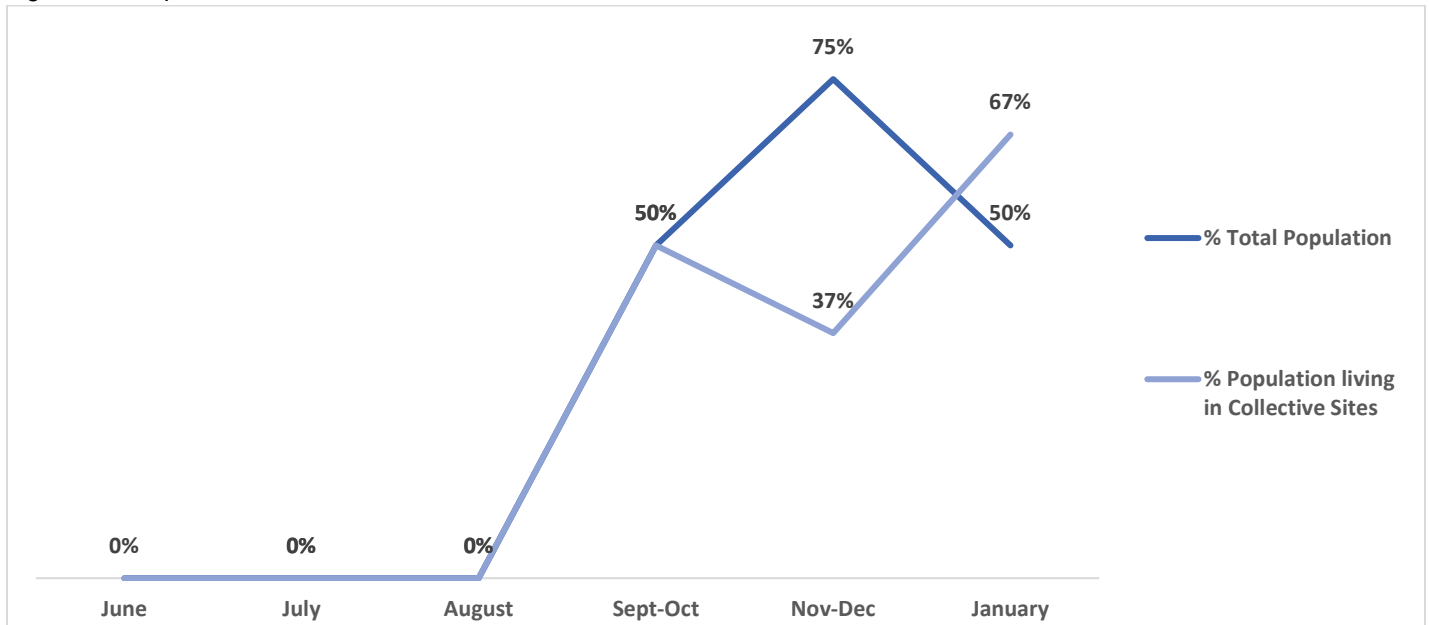*Figure 3: Prevalence of Eviction Concerns Among Respondents with Accommodation Issues[13]*

Figure 4: Temporal View of Prevalence of Eviction Concerns[14]

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[13] Data Source: DRC Protection Monitoring Data - The percentages represent the respondents who had concerns about their accommodation. It does not refer to the entire surveyed population but rather to a specific group that expressed accommodation-related concerns and reported eviction as one of their concerns.

[14] Data Source: DRC Protection Monitoring Data - The subsequent reduction in the percentage of the total population reporting eviction concerns in November and December can be partly attributed to a reduced number of visits to collective sites within Drohobytskyi, which typically report a higher percentage of Households with eviction apprehensions. The observed decrease in eviction concerns in January for those residing in collective sites may be influenced by the dataset representing a single month, as opposed to the bi-monthly data aggregation used for other statistics.

The data drawn from the total population includes people living in a variety of accommodation types. The majority of respondents are IDPs 88% and 12% non-displaced Households. It should be noted that apprehensions regarding eviction are not exclusive to IDPs or residents in collective centres but are concerns shared across the various accommodation types represented. See **Table 4**.

Table 4: Distribution of Households Accommodation Type[15]

Total Population	Collective shelter (public building)	House/Apartment	Privately-owned collective shelter	Room in private house
Chervonohradskyi raion	43%	53%	0%	4%
Drohobytskyi raion	41%	34%	18%	6%
Stryiskyi raion	40%	53%	2%	3%
IDPs	Collective shelter (public building)	House/Apartment	Privately-owned collective shelter	Room in private house
Chervonohradskyi raion	46%	49%	0%	5%
Drohobytskyi raion	49%	24%	21%	7%
Stryiskyi raion	45%	47%	2%	4%

Regional Insights

In Chervonohradskyi raion, key findings indicate an interest among focus group participants in modular housing[16]. This interest was consistently mentioned across social housing focus group discussions. Additionally, there is potential in utilising unused dormitories; a key informant highlighted a sizable but currently unoccupied dormitory with documentation and custodianship disputes. Despite the need for repairs, this facility could offer substantial aid to the community, which includes over 6,000 registered IDPs, with focus group participants advocating for the rehabilitation of such dormitories for IDP use.

In Drohobytskyi raion, strategic emphasis on identifying and restoring unused state properties was discussed as an untapped resource to alleviate housing shortages. Evictions linked to behavioural issues, particularly substance abuse and non-compliance with housing agreements, were noted, emphasising the necessity for targeted interventions. The 2023 Social Cohesion and Reconciliation (SCORE) Index, which produces findings at an Oblast level, illustrates minimal social tolerance towards individuals with substance abuse disorders, marking significant challenges for those seeking housing post-eviction. The need for rental assistance programs was also highlighted during protection focus group discussions, identifying it as an urgent need.

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[15] Source of Data: DRC Protection Monitoring

[16] Limitations although modular housing is an option being considered by a number of agencies, there are serious concerns at Shelter Cluster Level as historically, such interventions have very limited success. Issues listed are that often the units are in unsuitable areas such as flood plains or close to industrial areas such as garbage dumps, with limited access to key services, public transport links, reliable water supply, mains drainage, electrical supply, educational establishments, internet access, garbage disposal and suchlike. As such, once occupied, residents frequently report poor living conditions; damp and unsanitary conditions, ghettoization etc. In addition, it is likely that residents face additional limitations on their opportunity to integrate with the host population due to being labelled as outsiders by nature of their accommodation. These aspects should be considered for future planning. An option for this type of intervention is if prefabricated/modular units are in very small numbers dispersed within the existing residential setting, not grouped together. Likewise, if agencies wish to bring unused or abandoned properties into use as dormitories, they will have to meet Resolution 930 standards before they can be occupied.

For Stryiskyi raion, the preference for modular housing was reiterated, with participants and key informants suggesting its utility for quick and efficient settlements for IDPs. A gap in social housing was observed when enumerators found a designated collective site closed, forcing residents to move to a hotel and bear room charges. Even with discounted rates, the residents, predominantly aged between 60 to 70 years, expressed serious concerns about their financial ability to continue payments, pointing to a complete lack of social or temporary housing options in the area.

Summary of Key Findings for Housing

- **Housing Affordability and Availability**:
  - Dependence on collective sites due to unaffordable rent is widespread.
  - Housing affordability is identified as a critical issue, with many households earning below sustainable income levels.
- **Populations Facing Housing Barriers**:
  - The elderly, persons with disabilities, unemployed, low-income families, and single caregivers encounter significant obstacles in finding affordable housing.
  - There's a notable shortage of specialised social housing, especially for PwDs and elderly people.
- **Infrastructure Repair and Restoration Needs**:
  - Emphasis on repairing and restoring housing infrastructure to improve living conditions and service access, including for individuals with disabilities.
  - Common issues include heating, window damage, inadequate water systems, and defective appliances.
- **Evictions**:
  - Eviction concerns, mainly for those living in collective sites, have increased, especially following the announcement of Resolution 930 in September 2023.
  - Behavioural issues and agreement violations, including substance abuse, frequently lead to evictions.
- **Support and Solutions**:
  - There's a pronounced need for rental assistance to help with housing costs.
  - Addressing the root causes of evictions and improving social cohesion are crucial for community integration.
- **Regional Insights**:
  - **Chervonohradskyi** raion: Interest in modular housing and unused dormitories for housing solutions is evident.
  - **Drohobytskyi** raion: There's an emphasis on utilising unused state properties and addressing behavioural eviction causes.
  - **Stryiskyi** raion: Preferences for modular housing are marked, with a significant lack of social housing options noted.
- **Limitations:**
  - The Shelter Cluster does not recommend the installation of modular housing due to experiences of exceptionally poor living conditions in other locations.
  - Potential dormitories would also require upgrading to the same standards as Resolution 930 thereby simply moving the issue to a different location.

Area Infrastructure

Chervonohradskyi, Drohobytskyi, and Stryiskyi raions face several infrastructure challenges that significantly affect access to basic services and the quality of life of its inhabitants. Key among these are transportation issues, where difficulties due to geographic remoteness, affordability, and the lack of reliable services severely limit access to employment and crucial social services. This problem is particularly acute in Drohobytskyi raion, where the region's mountainous terrain exacerbates the difficulty of accessing necessary services. Compounding these transportation challenges is the widespread inadequacy of internet and communication infrastructure, with Chervonohradskyi raion experiencing the most pronounced connectivity issues. This digital divide impedes not only educational and employment opportunities but also the community's ability to access vital information about services and job vacancies.

Furthermore, there is a clear recognition of the need for child-friendly spaces, like playgrounds, across the surveyed regions, emphasising the importance of such infrastructure for the welfare of communities with a significant number of children in vulnerable situations. Repair and restoration of existing infrastructure, particularly housing, are also highlighted as essential to improve living conditions and accessibility for all residents, including those with disabilities. Issues such as inadequate heating, window damage, and faulty water systems are common, indicating a broad spectrum of infrastructural deficiencies that require attention. Regional insights reveal that besides the overarching challenges, specific needs vary by area, from enhanced community infrastructure in Drohobytskyi raion to addressing electricity and road supply issues in Stryiskyi raion.

Transportation Challenges

Transportation challenges are a significant barrier due to the remoteness of certain areas, the shortage or unaffordability of transportation options, and the lack of reliable services. These issues hinder access to employment and essential services, as highlighted by discussions across various focus groups and key informant interviews. Notably, 67% of key informants, at both the raion and oblast levels, have pointed to transportation infrastructure as a critical factor for improving access to social services. Additionally, 44% of these informants identified transportation challenges as a primary reason why eligible community members fail to access services, with the highest percentage of concerns reported in Drohobytskyi raion. All respondents who reported financial barriers when accessing social services cited transportation costs as one of the key obstacles. See **Figure 6.**

Figure 7 shows a large number of focus group discussion participants have also acknowledged transportation challenges when trying to access employment and basic services. Geographic disparities in accessing social services have been recognised, with both rural and urban areas suffering from limited transportation to service centres, increased travel costs, and extended transportation times. In Drohobytskyi raion, the impact of these transportation barriers is more pronounced, possibly due to the region's mountainous terrain, which intensifies the challenges across all categories of transportation issues.[17]

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[17] It is important to note that in south of Stryiskyi raion there is mountainous terrain which may also cause barriers that are not reflected in the data, as no FGDs or KIIs were conducted in this oblast.

Figure 6: Geographic Disparities in Accessing Social Services - Transportation[18]
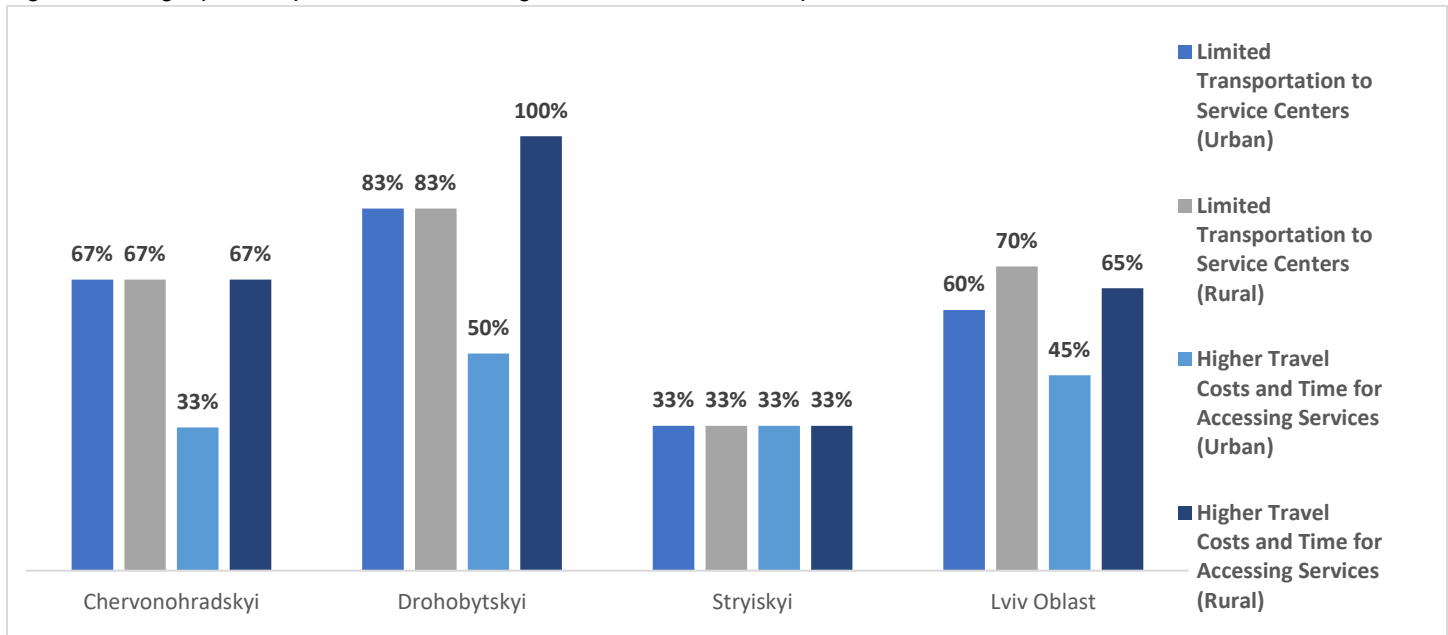
The observed parity in transportation disparities between rural and urban settings may be attributed to the limited scope of KIIs conducted per region.

In Drohobytskyi, there is a marked difference with KIs reporting increased costs and time required to access services as significant barriers. This could be attributed to the region's mountainous terrain, which may contribute to the elevated percentages observed across all categories of transportation challenges.

Figure 7: Transportation as a Barrier for Employment Opportunity and Social Service Access[19] [20]

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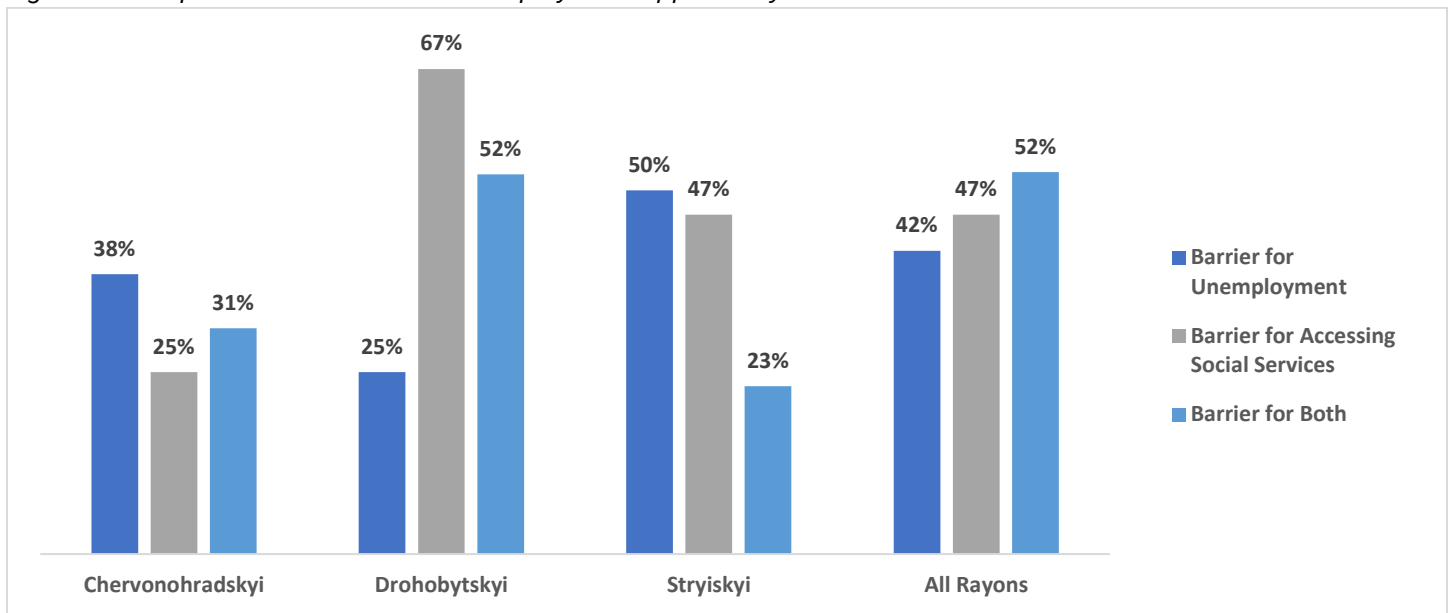
[18] Source of Data: KI Shelter and Infrastructure Interviews.

[19] Source of Data: Shelter and Infrastructure FGDs, Livelihood FGDs.

[20] Statistics for barriers to employment came from the FGDs conducted with unemployed individuals, while statistics for barriers to accessing social services came from the social housing and infrastructure FGDs. Barriers for both was calculated using the combined responses of the FGDs.

Inadequate Internet and Communication Infrastructure[21]

Inadequate internet or communication infrastructure is widespread, affecting essential aspects of daily life such as education, service access, and employment opportunities. All raions report connectivity issues as significant barriers, with Chervonohradskyi recording the highest percentages of key informants who view these inadequacies as problematic, particularly in rural areas. See **Figure 8**.

FGD participants express that their access to information, including the availability of services or job vacancies, is restricted, limiting their ability to pursue online work. This constraint is further compounded by transportation challenges, which prevent community members from commuting to work, making reliable internet access not just a convenience but a necessity. See **Figure 9.**

Figure 8: Geographic Disparities in Accessing Social Services - Connectivity[22]

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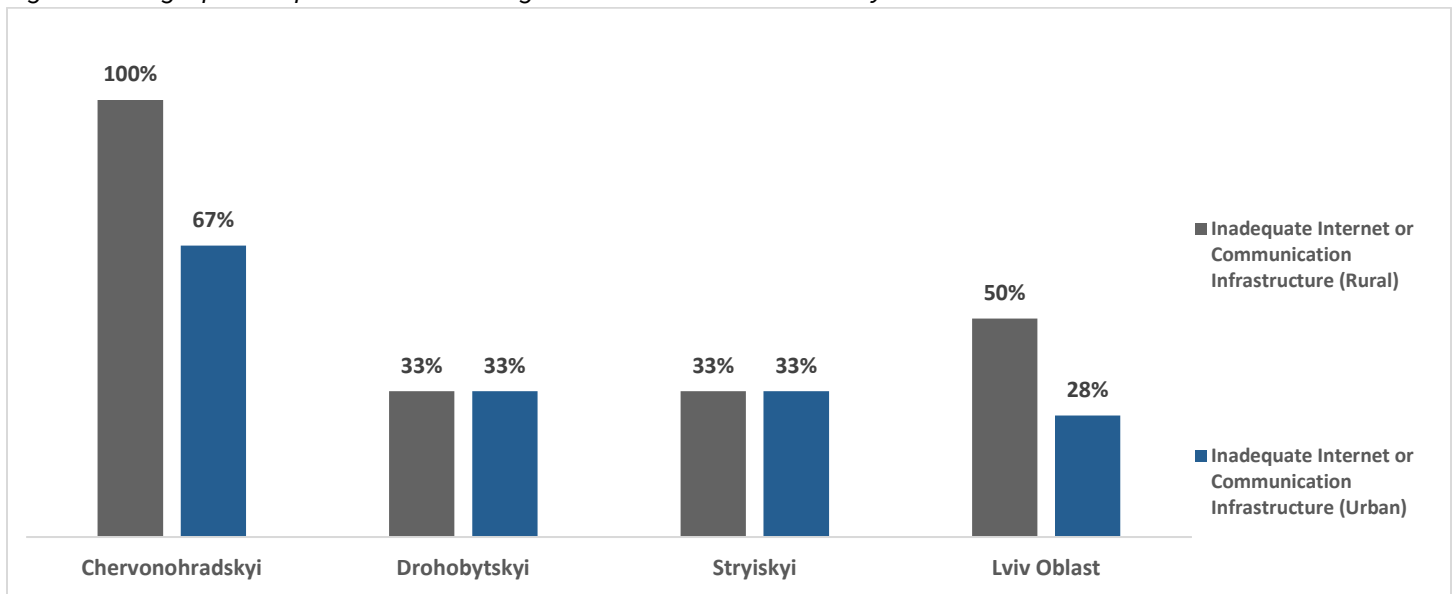
[21] Further investigation is required into internet infrastructure challenges, specifically the extent of data connectivity issues across regions, including the actual prevalence of settlements with minimal or no connectivity, and the impact of financial constraints on the ability to afford data services versus the mere absence of connectivity.
[22] Source of Data: KI Shelter and Infrastructure Interviews.

Figure 9: Geographic Disparities in Accessing Social Services - Connectivity[23][24]
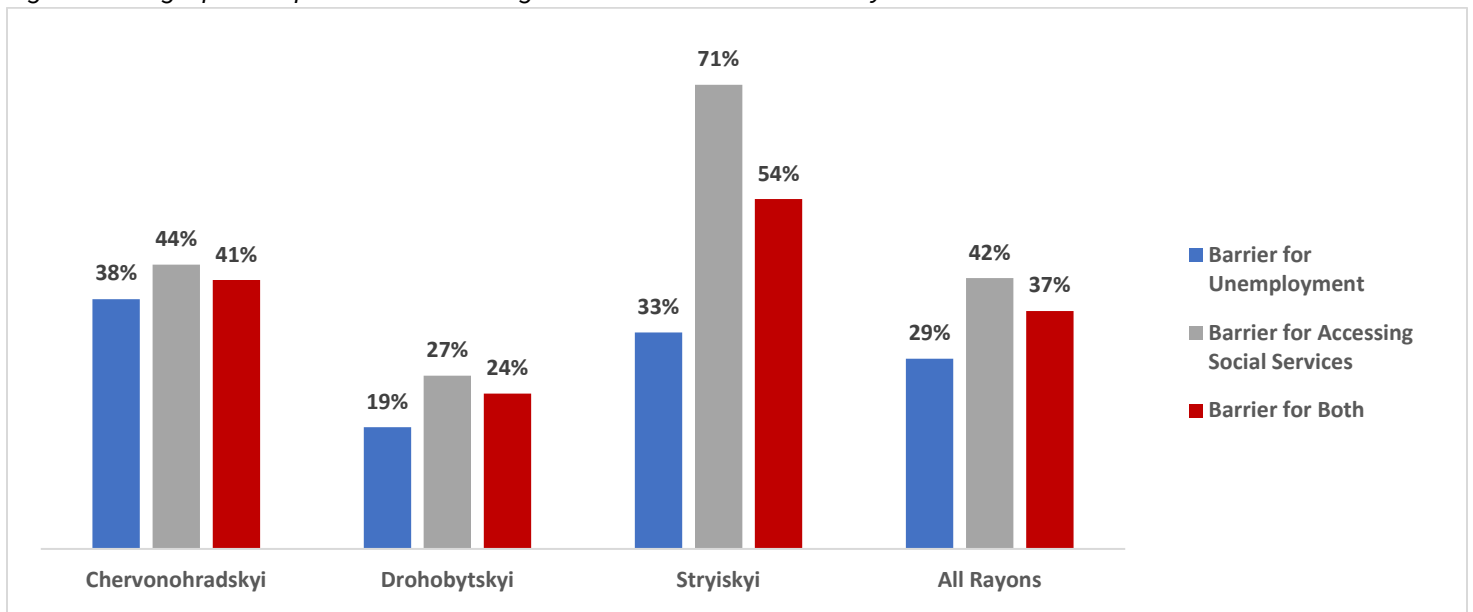

Need for Recreational Child-friendly Spaces

There is a recognised need across all three raions for child-friendly spaces such as playgrounds and recreational areas. This is repeatedly mentioned by key informants and FGD participants, reflecting the significant number of children in vulnerable households, including those in households living in collective sites, which can be located distant from existing playgrounds and recreational areas. Despite a key informant's assertion that such spaces are not a priority, the data reveals a substantial presence of children in the population, suggesting that the establishment of child-friendly spaces would likely enhance community welfare. See **Figure 10**.

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[23] Source of Data: Shelter and Infrastructure FGDs, Livelihood FGDs

[24] Statistics for barriers to employment came from the FGDs conducted with unemployed individuals, while statistics for barriers to accessing social services came from the social housing and infrastructure FGDs. Barriers for both was calculated using the combined responses of the FGDs

Figure 10: Household Population Demographics[25]
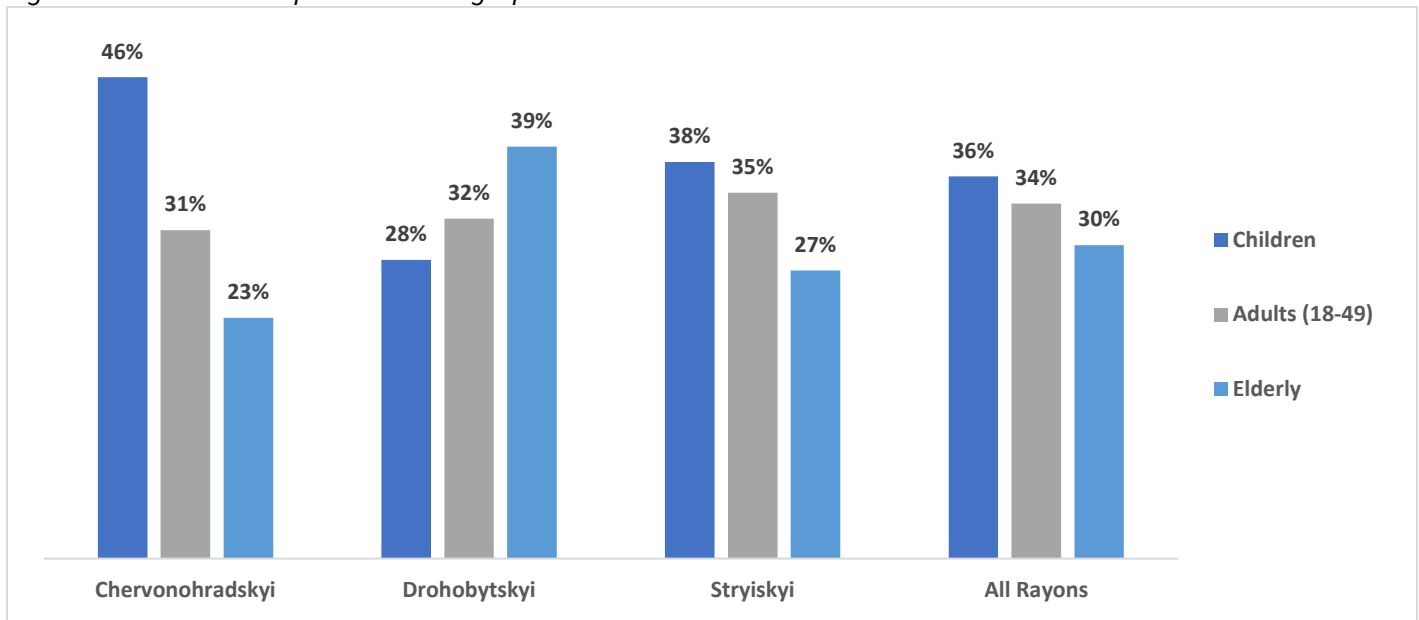
The collected data reveals a substantial presence of children within the demographic composition of the populations across the three raions. Despite an assertion from a key informant that child-friendly spaces are not deemed a priority, the establishment of such spaces would likely contribute positively to community welfare.

Regional Insights

Unique challenges in **Chervonohradskyi** raion include widespread inadequate internet or communication infrastructure, with all key informants in rural areas and two-thirds in urban areas highlighting it as a barrier to accessing social services.

Drohobytskyi raion faces significant transportation needs, identified as a top priority by respondents. All key informants acknowledge the need for transportation improvements and recognise it as a barrier to basic service access and employment. Quality issues with housing infrastructure, such as water supply, heating, and maintenance, are also affecting the living conditions, underscoring the necessity for comprehensive infrastructure improvements. Additionally, a broader call for enhancing general community infrastructure has been made to address service delivery challenges.

In **Stryiskyi** raion, focus group discussion participants frequently report concerns about road conditions and electricity supply, with these issues being uniquely prominent in the region. Key informants from Stryiskyi raion exclusively noted the necessity for road and infrastructure upgrades connecting housing sites, and a need for electrical system upgrades was also highlighted. The region also struggles with the lack of local services in rural areas, compelling residents to travel long distances for basic needs, which underscores the importance of strengthening local service infrastructure. Moreover, the concept of social taxis to alleviate transportation issues was mentioned, suggesting it could be a valuable option to explore further.

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[25] Source of Data: DRC Protection Monitoring

Summary of Key Findings for Area Infrastructure

- **Transportation Challenges**:
  - Difficulties with transportation due to remoteness, affordability, and lack of reliable services limit access to jobs and essential services.
  - A significant portion of respondents highlighted transportation as a barrier to accessing social services, with Drohobytskyi raion notably affected due to its mountainous terrain.
- **Inadequate Internet or Communication Infrastructure**:
  - Widespread issues with internet and mobile networks impact education, service access, and employment opportunities. Chervonohradskyi raion experiences the highest rate of reported connectivity issues.
  - Limited information access hinders the community's ability to know about services and job vacancies, compounded by transportation challenges.
- **Need for Recreational Child-friendly Spaces**:
  - Recognised need across all three raions for spaces like playgrounds, reflecting the large number of children in vulnerable households.
  - Despite some views that child-friendly spaces aren't a priority, their development is seen as beneficial to community welfare.
- **Regional Insights**:
  - **Chervonohradskyi raion**: Notably affected by inadequate internet, posing a barrier to accessing social services.
  - **Drohobytskyi raion**: Transportation barriers have been identified as a top priority, primarily due to poor road conditions, long travel times, and the high cost of transportation, which are largely attributed to the mountainous terrain.
  - **Stryiskyi raion**: Concerns about road and electricity supply; the region also faces a lack of local services, emphasising the need for stronger local infrastructure and the potential of social taxis to address transportation issues.

Livelihoods

In Lvivska oblast as of June 2023, data shows that a minority, 49%, of IDP households rely on a regular salary as their main income, with 46% of IDPs aged 18-64 employed.[26] According to the "Ukraine Gender Snapshot: Findings from the reSCORE 2023[27]," published in September 2023, economic security scores are low at the national level, based on a scale of 0 to 10, across Ukraine identify men at 5.2 and women at 5.0, signalling widespread economic insecurity. Further breakdown show lower scores for women with disabilities at 4.9, rural women at 4.8, and women in low-income households at a significantly lower score of 3.3.[28] Employment opportunity scores from the same report present additional insights about the availability of jobs: men at 4.4 and women at 3.9, with specific groups of women IDPs, women with disabilities, and rural women experiencing heightened challenges, indicated by scores between 3.3 and 3.5.[29]

Respondents[30] across the three raions have expressed a willingness to work, also noting a strong interest in programs for reskilling upskilling and the necessity for competitive salaries and favourable working conditions. The findings align with the "Ukraine internal displacement report – R13 June 2023," which reported gender-specific employment support needs at the national level, and noted that skills training were deemed necessary by 100% of female and 80% of male respondents. Online employment support preferences differ, with 67% of females and 40% of males in favour. Apprenticeship or internship opportunities are more sought after by females (83%) compared to males (40%). Career development consultation is preferred by 80% of males, while only 50% of females consider it important. Additionally, support for self-employment is valued, with 80% of males and 67% of females expressing a need.[31]

Key employment barriers identified include caregiver responsibilities, discrimination, and employer reluctance to hire IDPs. The findings are similar to those in the "Ukraine internal displacement report – R13 June 2023," which reported[32] that age discrimination is more commonly reported by IDPs (38% of males and 40% of females) than non-IDPs (28% of males and 34% of females). A significant portion of IDPs, 45% of males and 47% of females, note employer reluctance to recruit IDPs. Low salary offers affect non-IDPs more (72% of males and 76% of females) compared to IDPs (56% of male IDPs and 53% of female IDPs). A mismatch between available jobs and skills or interests is experienced by 82% of male IDPs, 81% of female IDPs, and 76% of both male and female non-IDPs.[33]

Regional disparities also play a significant role, with challenges such as language proficiency barriers in Chervonohradskyi raion, crafting supply needs and commuting obstacles in Drohobytskyi raion, and a demand for practical vocational training and entrepreneurial skills in Stryiskyi raion, each highlighting distinct local needs and interests in employment support and skill development.

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[26] IOM. "Ukraine internal displacement report – R13 June 2023". June 2023.
https://dtm.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl1461/files/reports/IOM_Ukraine_Internal%20Displacement%20Report_Round%2013%20
%28June%202023%29.pdf?iframe=true
[27] SeeD, UNDP, USAID. "Ukraine Gender Snapshot: Findings from the reSCORE 2023." September
2023.https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/ukraine-gender-snapshot-findings-rescore-2023-september-2023
[28] A score of 0 indicates complete insecurity, and a score of 10 indicates complete security.
[29] A score of 0 indicates that all respondents report that it would be difficult for them to find a job that satisfies them in their locality. A score of 10 indicates that all respondents report that it would be easy to find a job that satisfies them in their locality.
[30] Respondents primarily resided in Collective Sites, likely sharing specific profiles/characteristics not representative of the broader IDP/community views
[31] IOM. "Ukraine internal displacement report – R13 June 2023". June 2023.
https://dtm.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl1461/files/reports/IOM_Ukraine_Internal%20Displacement%20Report_Round%2013%20
%28June%202023%29.pdf?iframe=true
[32] Reported at national level.
[33] IOM. "Ukraine internal displacement report – R13 June 2023". June 2023.
https://dtm.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl1461/files/reports/IOM_Ukraine_Internal%20Displacement%20Report_Round%2013%20
%28June%202023%29.pdf?iframe=true

Willingness to Work

Figure 11 shows a substantial proportion of respondents are not actively seeking employment, yet more than half display a willingness to work, although this openness is not uniform. Certain conditions, such as acceptable salary levels and job conditions, are necessary for this willingness to translate into active job seeking. Additionally, there is a considerable interest in reskilling and upskilling programs[34], with a majority of respondents indicating a desire to participate in such opportunities to enhance their employability. This suggests a potential avenue for workforce development initiatives that could align with the community's aspirations and job market demands.

Figure 11: Employment Overview of FGD Participants[35]
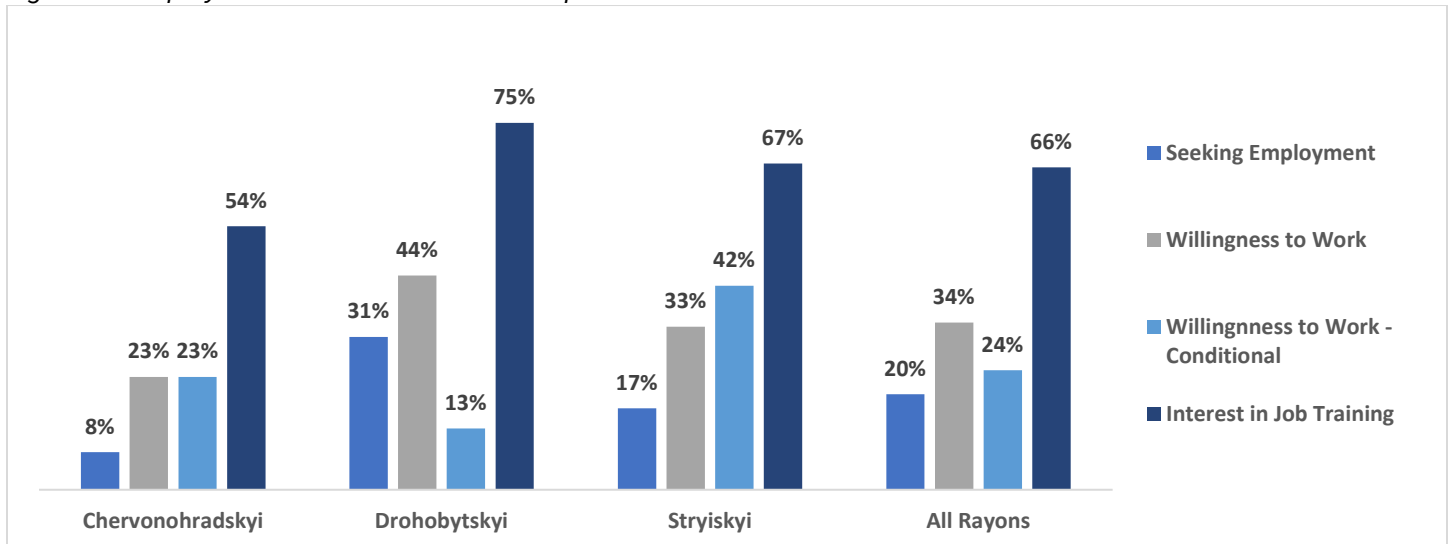

Economic Development Resources Needs

The shared need across the regions for enhancing digital connectivity and transportation is pivotal for supporting economic activities, such as online businesses and remote work. In addition to improvements in transportation and connectivity, there is a reported need for materials and equipment for participants who were interested in starting new businesses, as well as land, work premises, and access to finance. The need for training and career counselling has also been identified as a significant requirement by half or more of the respondents across all three raions.

As illustrated in **Figure 12**, participants have indicated a necessity for raw materials for crafting and selling goods, and inventory for stocking new shops. The need for land acquisition, especially for agricultural use, was frequently mentioned, highlighting its importance in Drohobytskyi and Chervonohradskyi raions. The term 'premises' refers to the requirement for physical spaces that are conducive to launching businesses, such as beauty salons and retail outlets. When 'funds' were mentioned, it was in the context of needing financial support to purchase inventory or as seed capital for business start-ups. These findings underscore the multifaceted nature of resources needed for economic development in these regions.

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[34] Specific types on trainings are mentioned below.
[35] Source of Data: Livelihood FGDs

Figure 12: Resources Needed for Economic Development[36]
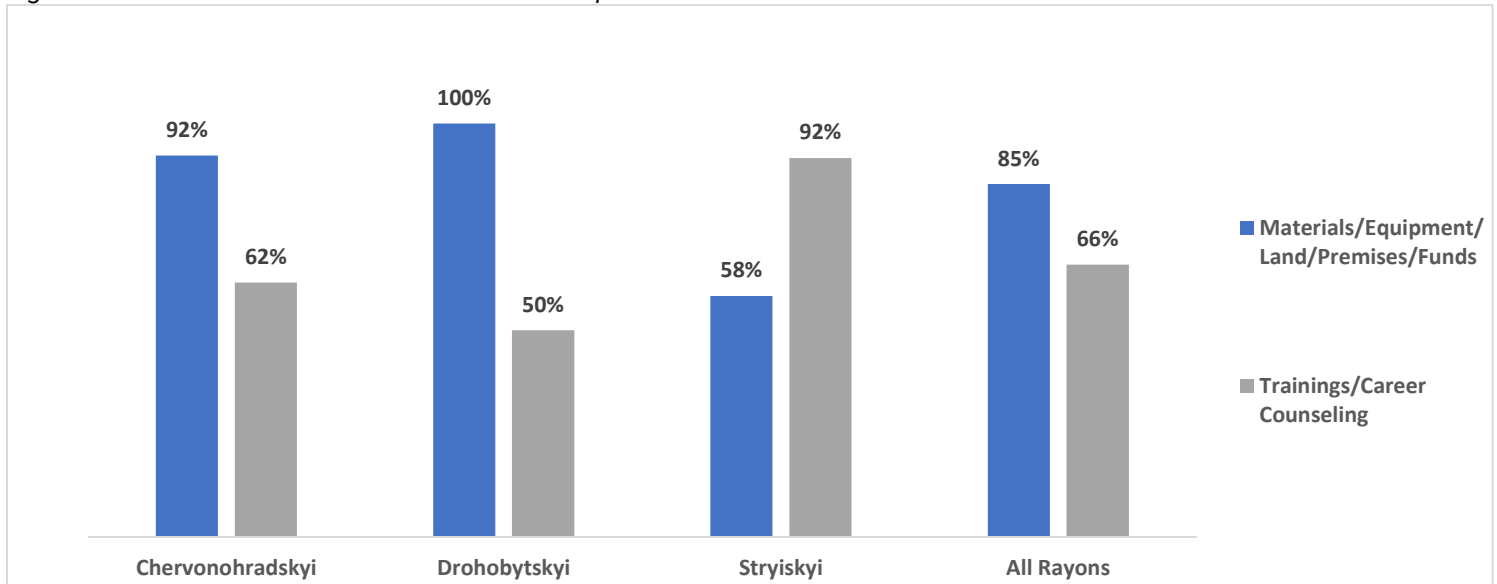
Barriers Due to Caregiver Responsibilities

Across all regions, the burden of caregiver responsibilities for children, disabled individuals, and the elderly presents a significant barrier to employment. These responsibilities impede the ability to search for jobs, accept certain work schedules, or engage in work at all. As many households[37] across the three raions identified as single caregiver households, this issue is notably prevalent.

The findings from focus group discussions further indicate that caregiving extends to those looking after the elderly or persons with disabilities, adding another layer of difficulty. These additional caregiving roles are recognised as contributing factors to the challenges faced in accessing social services and employment opportunities, illuminating the compounded difficulties caregivers face in maintaining or seeking employment.

While the term 'single caregiver' is often associated almost exclusively with single parents of children, findings from the FGDs indicate that caregiver responsibilities extend to those providing care for the elderly or persons with disabilities. These additional caregiving roles have been identified by participants as factors contributing to difficulties in accessing social services and employment opportunities. See **Figure 13** and **Figure 14.**

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[36] Source of Data: Livelihood FGDs
[37] Source of Data: DRC Protection Monitoring Data

Figure 13: Percentage of Single Caregiver Households[38]
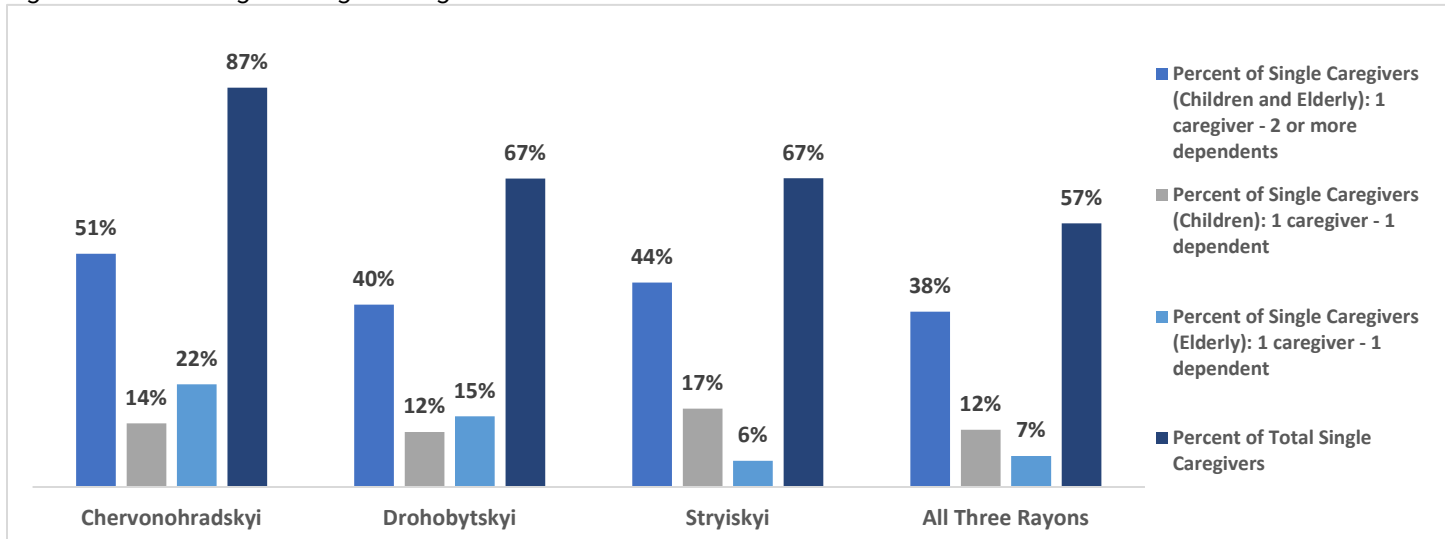
The determination of single caregiver Households within the statistics from DRC's Protection monitoring data was inferred using a set of criteria, due to the absence of direct data collection on this demographic. [39]

Figure 14: Barrier for Employment - Caregiver Responsibilities[40] [41]
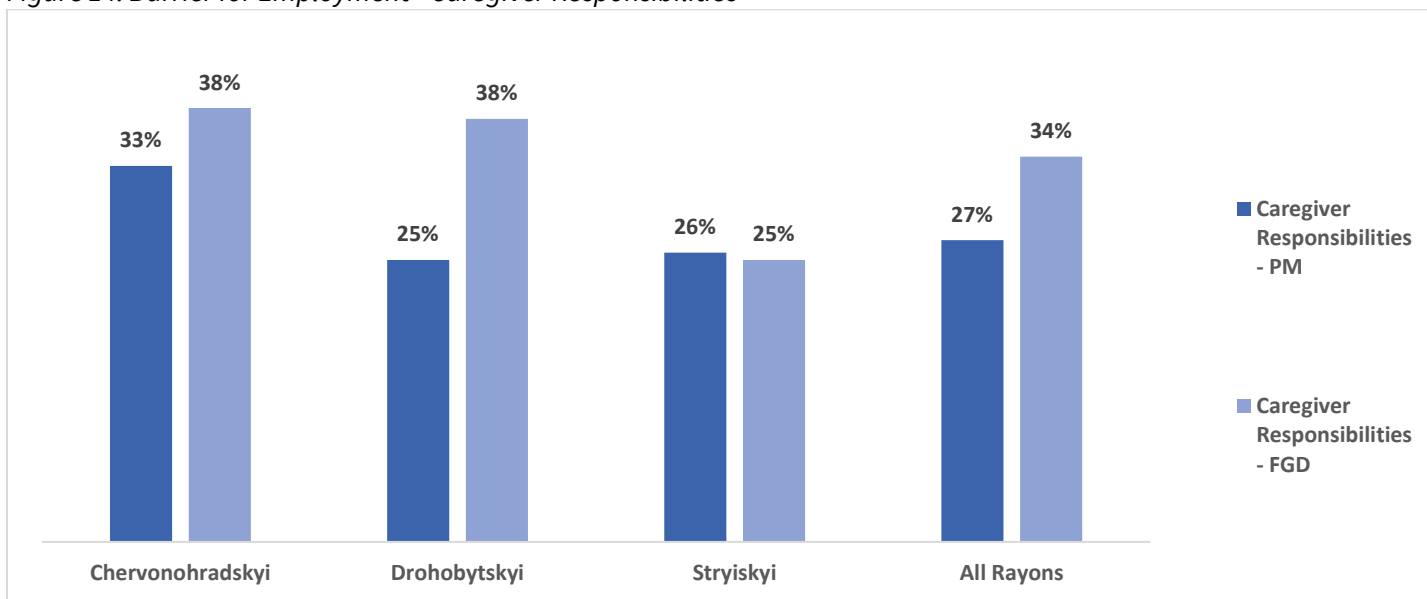
Discrimination and Employer Reluctance to Hire IDPs

As **Figure 15** shows, discrimination and employer reluctance to hire IDPs present notable hurdles to employment opportunities. Employers often hesitate to hire IDPs, not necessarily due to territorial prejudice, but rather due to their transient status. IDPs are not seen as reliable long-term employees, as employers believe that may leave at any moment

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[38] Source of Data: DRC Protection Monitoring Data
[39] Criteria for calculation single caregivers is provided in Appendix 2.
[40] Source of Data: DRC Protection Monitoring Data, Livelihood FGDs
[41] The protection monitoring data suggests that the barrier to employment due to caregiver responsibilities is less evident, likely because of how questions are framed in household surveys, specifically offering "Housework / caring for children" as a reason for unemployment. In contrast, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) provide more nuanced insights due to their open-ended questioning about employment access challenges, revealing a broader and more detailed range of obstacles to finding work, including but not limited to caregiving responsibilities.

due to their IDP status, as per the reports from FGD participants. This is further compounded by discrimination based on language and regional bias, particularly against those from Eastern Ukraine. Such territorial discrimination—discrimination based on geographical origin—is cited as a common issue that IDPs face when seeking employment. This is what three respondents reported in each of the raions when asked what barriers they faced when seeking employment:

"'They do not want to hire temporary IDPs." – Drohobytskyi raion.
"They do not want to take IDPs because they believe that they can leave at any time." – Chervonohradskyi raion.
"There is a territorial bias, they do not want to hire IDPs, they prioritise local residents." – Stryiskyi raion.

Figure 15: Barriers for Employment - IDP Discrimination[42]
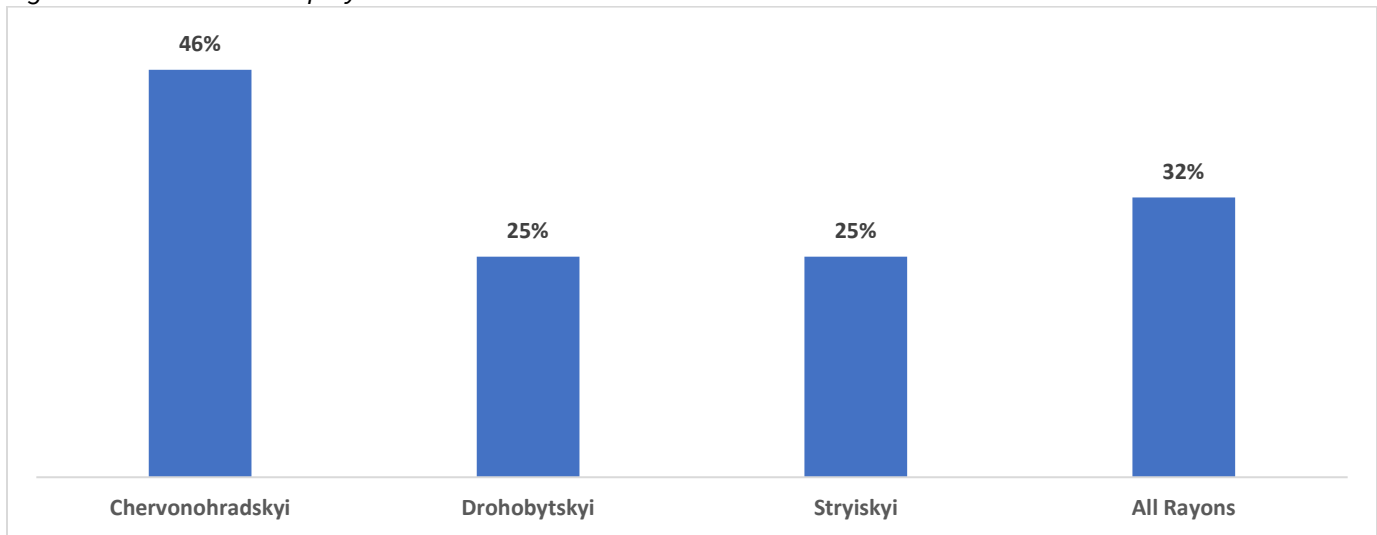
Other Common Livelihood Accessibility Barriers

Across the three raions, common barriers to livelihood accessibility include various forms of discrimination, low salaries, poor working conditions, a lack of specialised jobs, feelings of being unqualified, and a scarcity of available jobs. These barriers are not only about accessing employment but also pertain to accessing training opportunities and employment centres. The lack of such facilities, difficulties with transportation, financial constraints, perceived discrimination, and the lack of information due to limited connectivity are all factors that hinder access to employment centres. These challenges contribute to a complex environment where individuals seeking employment or skill improvement face multiple hurdles. See **Figure 16**.

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[42] Source of Data: Livelihoods FGDs

Figure 16: Employment Barriers[43] [44]
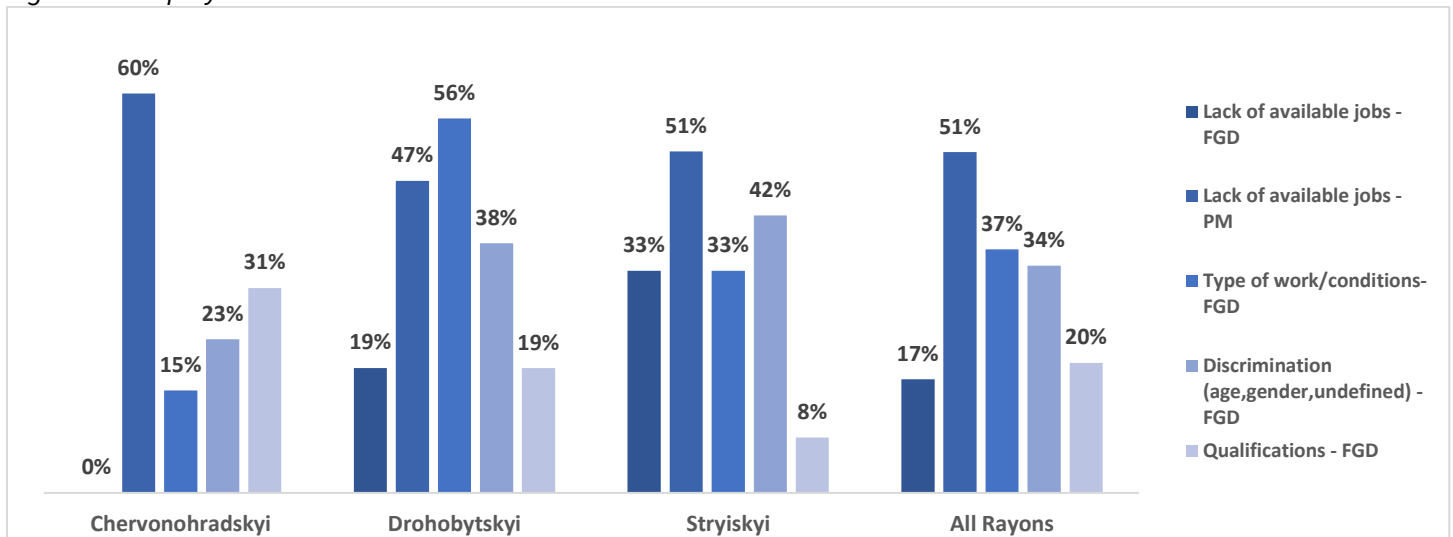
Regional Insights

In **Chervonohradsky**i raion, language proficiency, specifically insufficient English language skills, is noted as an obstacle to securing employment. This region also has the highest rate of IDPs reporting discrimination based on their IDP status and language. There's an expressed interest in language and technology training, with demand for English language proficiency and computer literacy courses, as well as culinary training. Additionally, there's a notable interest in on-the-job training that prepares individuals for immediate employment opportunities.

Drohobytskyi raion is unique in its need for crafting supplies and career counselling, highlighting a focus on artisanal and vocational development. This is relevant as several settlements within Drohobytskyi raion are oriented towards tourism and the service industry, aligning closely with the natural resources and landscape of the area. Commuting issues, particularly the high cost and challenges of commuting, are highlighted, underlining the need for more affordable and accessible transportation options. Types of training desired in Drohobytskyi raion include practical vocational training leading to jobs, further education to enhance current skills or learn new trades like floristry, and aspirations to achieve higher degrees for careers in teaching.

In **Stryiskyi** raion, there is a desire for on-the-job training at local industrial facilities, such as the paper and pulp mill, and access to computer training online. Internships and hands-on learning experiences that offer insights into entrepreneurship, including understanding paperwork and tax processes, are highly valued.

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[43] Source of Data: KI Shelter and Infrastructure Interviews, Shelter and Infrastructure FGDs, Livelihoods FGDs

[44] The variation in the data regarding the availability of jobs as reported by FGD participants compared to the protection monitoring data may be due to the data collection method. In the FGDs, responses could fall into multiple categories, including specific types of work. For instance, a statement about the absence of jobs in one's field would not be classified as a general lack of employment opportunities. Conversely, in a structured survey with predefined options lacking nuanced differentiation, such a response would be recorded as a lack of jobs, implying a broad shortage. The FGDs reveal that many unemployed individuals do not seek jobs, not due to an absolute absence but because available positions do not align with their professional standards or expectations.

Summary of Key Findings for Livelihoods

- **Willingness to Work**:
  - Many respondents are open to working despite not currently seeking employment, highlighting interest in upskilling and reskilling programs and the importance of salary levels and working conditions.
- **Economic Development Resources Needed**:
  - A common need exists for digital connectivity, transportation, materials, equipment, land, work premises, and financial support to bolster economic activities, with a demand for agricultural land, business spaces, and financial assistance for inventory purchases and start-ups.
- **Barriers Due to Caregiver Responsibilities**:
  - Caring for children, disabled individuals, and the elderly poses a significant employment barrier, limiting job search capabilities and work schedule flexibility.
- **Discrimination and Employer Reluctance to Hire IDPs**:
  - Discrimination and employer reluctance based on IDP status and language, with IDPs often not seen as reliable long-term employees due to their transient status also poses a barrier to employment.
- **Other Common Livelihood Accessibility Barriers**:
  - Challenges include discrimination, low salaries, poor working conditions, a lack of specialised jobs, feeling unqualified, and job scarcity.
  - Access to training and employment centres is hindered by lack of facilities, transportation difficulties, financial constraints, and limited connectivity.
- **Regional Insights**:
  - **Chervonohradskyi raion**: Challenges with English language proficiency and high rate of reluctance to hire IDPs; interest in language, technology, and culinary training.
  - **Drohobytskyi raion**: Need for crafting supplies and career counselling, commuting challenges, and interest in practical vocational trainings and higher education for professional careers.
  - **Stryiskyi raion**: Desire for on-the-job training in local industries, computer training, internships, and entrepreneurial insights, highlighting a focus on practical and business-oriented skills.

Protection

The analysis identifies critical access challenges to social services among vulnerable groups, including the elderly, persons with disabilities, those with serious medical conditions, low-income households, single caregivers, and individuals with substance use disorders, families of missing or fallen soldiers and families of active soldiers. Specific needs vary: the elderly and persons with disabilities require healthcare, financial, and mental health support; those with serious medical conditions need specialised care and financial aid; single caregivers and families of missing or fallen soldiers highlight the need for financial support and psychosocial counselling; and individuals with substance use disorders emphasise the importance of stigma reduction and specialised treatment.

Healthcare emerges as a universal priority need across households, with non-food items (NFIs) and food also identified as critical, though their priority level varies by region. The report further outlines significant social protection service needs, including affordable housing, mental health services, and healthcare access, with barriers highlighted such as the cost of transportation and specialised medical services. Information access about humanitarian assistance is particularly constrained for the elderly and low-income families.

Regional insights from Chervonohradskyi, Drohobytskyi, and Stryiskyi raions underscore the urgency of addressing basic needs and support gaps, with suggestions for improving local governance, transportation, and the strength of the social service system. These findings delineate the technical aspects of service access challenges and support needs among vulnerable populations, indicating key areas for targeted social protection interventions.

Vulnerable Groups Facing Barriers Accessing Social Services

Figure 17 below illustrates the groups that were identified by KIs as facing the most barriers in accessing social services. Support for vulnerable groups is crucial, focusing on the elderly, individuals with disabilities, those with serious medical conditions, low-income families, unemployed persons, single-caregiver households, and families of missing/fallen/active soldiers, and individuals with substance use disorders. **Table 5** indicates the specific needs and barriers per group.

Table 5: Vulnerable Groups, Needs and Barriers

Group	Needs	Barriers
Elderly individuals	- healthcare access - transportation to medical facilities - financial aid - social support	- struggle with bureaucratic systems - accessing specialised healthcare due to various reasons, such as transportation and financial challenges and lack of specialised facilities or professionals - lack of awareness about support programs
Persons with disabilities	- accessible facilities - specialised healthcare and personnel - financial and social care - employment opportunities	- accessibility issues in physical infrastructure - accessing specialised healthcare due to various reasons, such as transportation and financial

|		challenges and lack of specialised facilities or professionals • communication barriers
Individuals with serious medical conditions	• specialised healthcare facilities and personnel • financial support • daily living assistance	• accessing specialised healthcare due to various reasons, such as transportation and financial challenges and lack of specialised facilities or professionals • financial constraints for continuous care • complexity in accessing multiple services simultaneously
Low-income families	• financial assistance, • affordable housing options • access to education and healthcare.	• limited financial resources • restrictive eligibility criteria • complicated application process to access assistance
Unemployed Individuals	• job training and skill development • employment opportunities • financial support	• stigma or shame in seeking assistance • lack of information and awareness about unemployment benefits • difficulty meeting eligibility criteria for certain assistance programs
Single caregivers	• financial assistance • care support to manage work and family life	• time constraints due to childcare and elderly care • increased economic and emotional pressures • difficulty in accessing support services due to various reasons, such as transportation and financial challenges • lack of specialised facilities for their dependents
Families of missing or fallen soldiers	• comprehensive support, including counselling, financial aid, and legal assistance	• emotional and financial strains impacting service access • challenges in applying for and receiving documentation.
Families of active soldiers	• comprehensive support, including counselling, financial aid, and legal assistance,	• emotional and financial strains impacting service access

	psychosocial aid and educational support	
Individuals with substance use disorders	• rehabilitation programs • mental health and psychosocial support • support for reintegration into the community	• accessing specialised care due to lack of rehabilitation facilities • strong social stigma towards people with substance use disorders

An oblast level KI made a remark regarding individuals with substance use disorders:

"Very few people have an idea of the scale of drug addiction, in particular among the military, who are forced to use powerful painkillers after being injured. Alcoholism is very widespread. Serious actions are needed to address the problem of addiction, including rehabilitation centres, trained personnel, special locations, social support and assistance, because the scale is very serious. In particular, the situation with the return of an addicted military member to a family that has already been living under constant stress for a long time. The military member's addiction also stimulates the supply of psychoactive substances, which leads to the overall decline of the region, creating social problems and tension."

In both KIIs and FGDs, elderly individuals and people with disabilities were identified as the groups encountering the most significant obstacles in accessing social services. However, while KIs highlighted people with disabilities as facing the highest level of barriers, the majority of FGD participants indicated that it is the elderly who experience the greatest challenges in accessing these services.[45]

Figure 17: Vulnerable Groups Facing Challenges in Accessing Social Services[46]
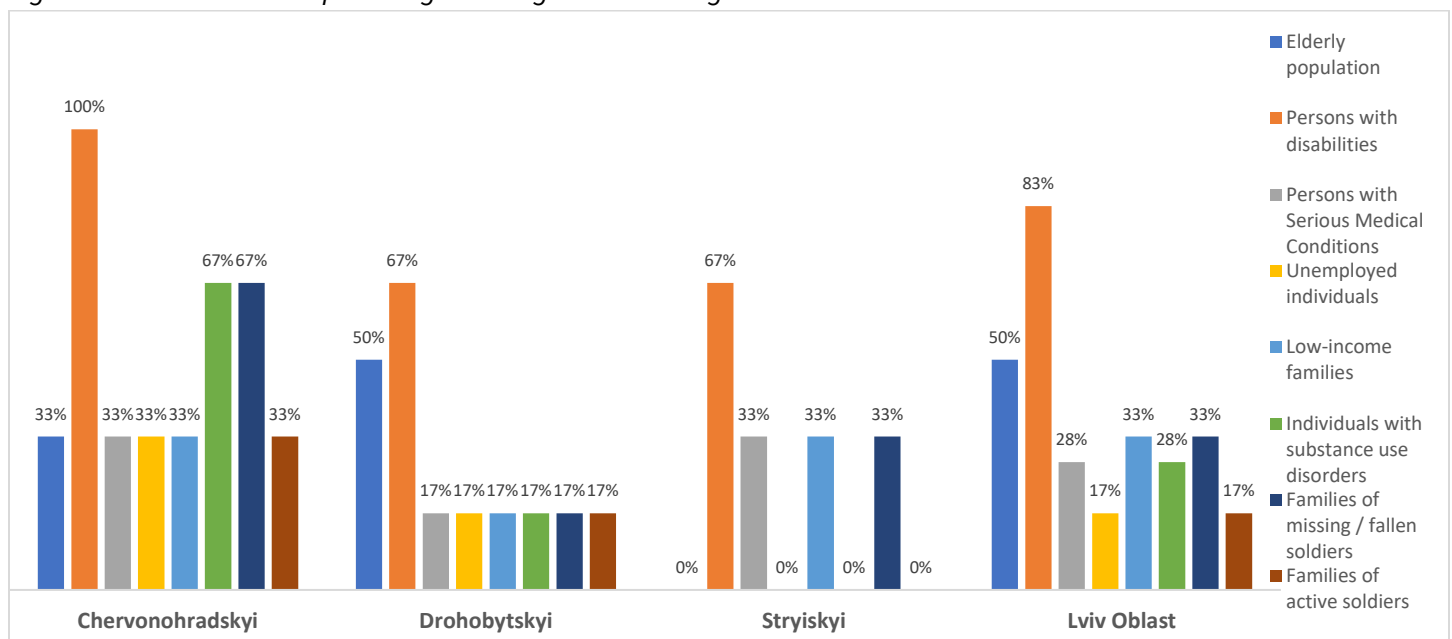
Access to Basic Protection Needs

Healthcare is identified as the top need across all three raions. In Chervonohradskyi raion, both NFIs and food rank as the second most significant needs, with food also noted as the third. Drohobytskyi raion lists NFIs as the second and

[45] This discrepancy in identifying which group faces more barriers to accessing social services between KIIs and FGDs may be attributed to the demographic composition of the FGD participants, with the average age being 51.
[46] Source of Data: KI Protection Interviews

third most significant needs. In Stryiskyi raion, food is the second most significant need, followed by NFIs as the third. See **Figure 18**.

Data extracted from the protection monitoring tool consistently identifies healthcare as a priority in all surveyed regions. This is substantiated by inputs from various FGDs and KIIs. Notably, during the protection and shelter-focused group discussions, there was a prevalent emphasis on healthcare needs.

Figure 18: Top Three Needs in Order of Importance[47][48]
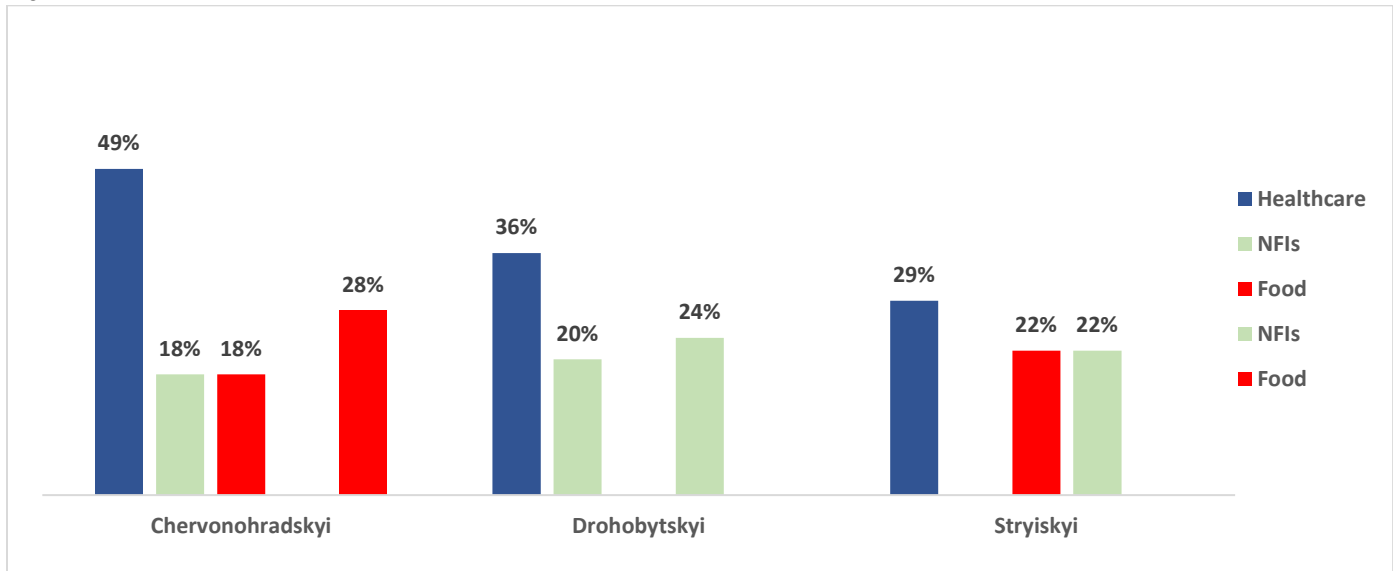
Figure 19 shows what key informants have identified as the three most significant social protection service needs for their communities: access to affordable housing, access to mental and psychosocial services, and access to healthcare. These needs highlight the comprehensive approach required to address the multifaceted challenges faced by communities, emphasising the importance of a stable living environment, mental health support, and medical care in fostering well-being and resilience.

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[47] Source of Data: DRC Protection Monitoring
[48] The persistence of needs related to specialised health services and the availability of food or NFIs in Lvivska Oblast, despite no general shortage, indicates that FGD participants may be encountering access challenges due to factors linked to poverty, status, or discrimination, or they may have particularly acute needs. Further research is required.

Figure 19: Top Three Social Protection Needs in the Community[49]
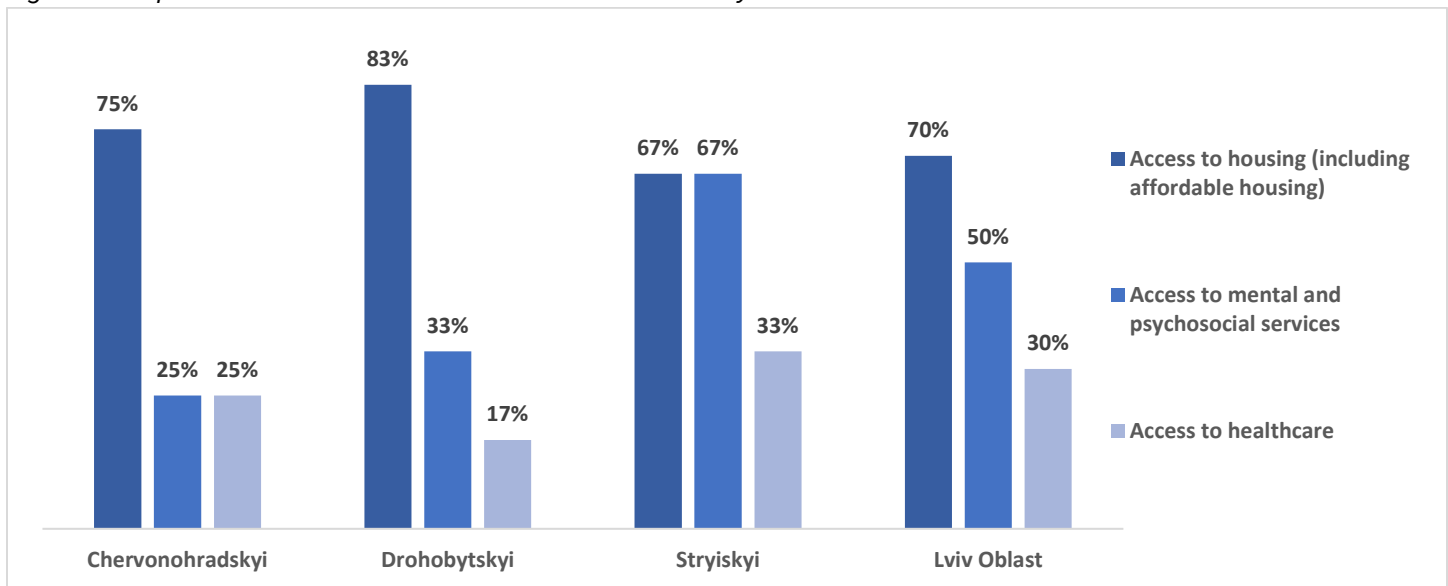
Healthcare access stands out as the primary need, highlighting the critical importance of making this essential service available to at-risk populations in Chervonohradskyi, Drohobytskyi, and Stryiskyi raions. Despite nearly all the population having some level of healthcare access, a significant portion only has partial access, particularly in Chervonohradskyi and Drohobytskyi raions. See **Figure 20**.
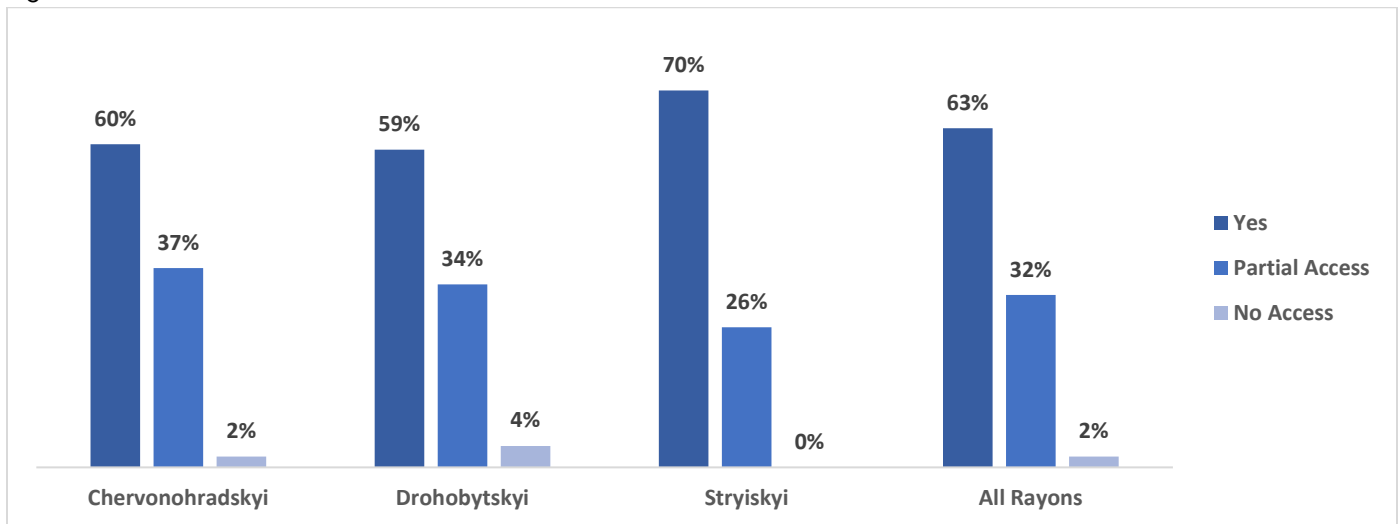
Figure 20: Households Level of Health Care Access[50]

There is a clear deficiency in medical and rehabilitation services across all regions, pointing to the need for enhanced healthcare infrastructure. Residents face considerable obstacles in accessing healthcare, including the lack of local health facilities, absence of specialised services, high costs of transportation coupled with the necessity to cover long distances, and the high cost of medical services and medications. These barriers are consistently reported in focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and data from the FGDs and DRC protection monitoring. **Figure 21** indicates that the challenges of accessing specialised healthcare services are exacerbated by transportation costs and the need for long-distance travel, with Drohobytskyi raion notably reporting the highest number of transportation-related obstacles.

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[49] Source of Data: KI Protection Interviews
[50] Source of Data: DRC Protection Monitoring

Figure 21: Access to Healthcare Barriers[51]
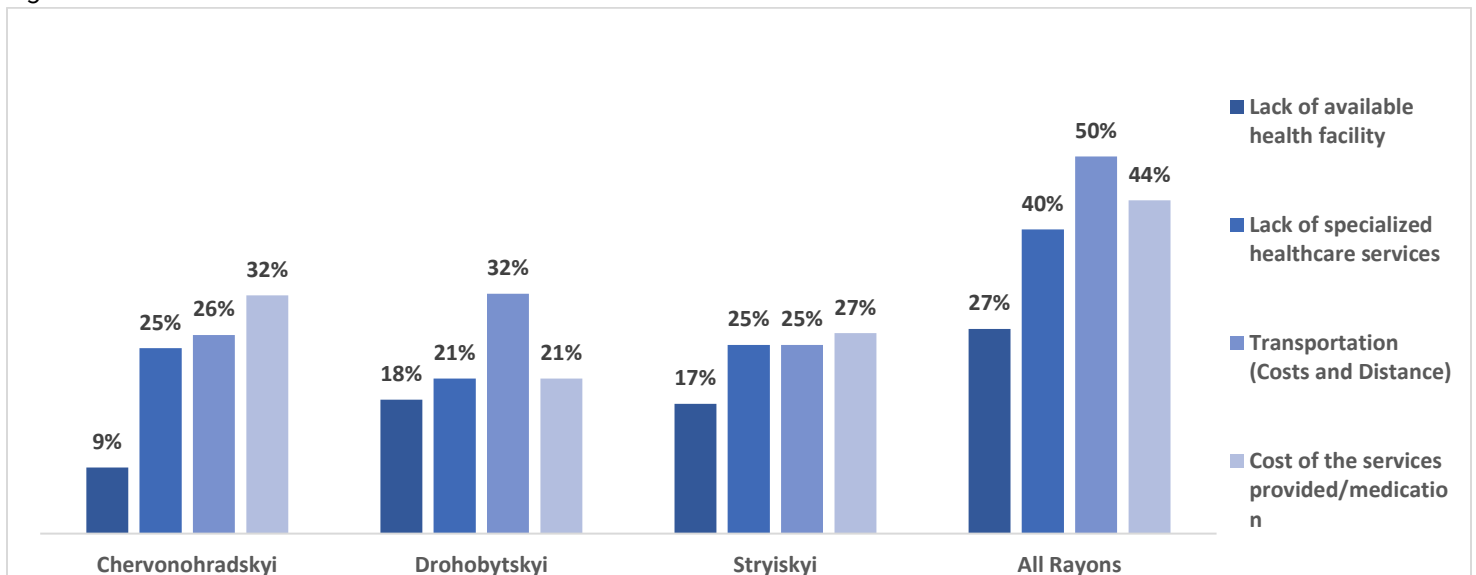
Healthcare access emerges as the foremost necessity, underscoring the imperative of providing this fundamental service to the at-risk populations in Chervonohradskyi, Drohobytskyi, and Stryiskyi raions.

Access to Information

The need for access to information about humanitarian assistance and social protection services is identified as crucial, especially for the elderly and low-income families who often cannot afford internet connections or smartphones. This limitation restricts their ability to access essential information. There is a highlighted need for improved availability of information regarding social protection services and organisations that could meet their needs. Access to information has been emphasised as the most urgent concern by FGD participants across all communities, underscoring the vital role that information plays in enabling individuals to seek and receive support. An oblast key informant said:

"Increase accessibility to information among the population, as the majority of the population, especially pensioners, do not use the Internet and do not have access to it, have old phones and cannot get information or register. <What is needed is> Information campaigns and a mechanism for finding and engaging people who need help. It can be very difficult to find them when they arrive in the region and do not know who to contact or how to register. <There are needs to > increase the number of programs aimed at Internet use and material support for Internet access and communication."

Regional Insights

In **Chervonohradskyi** raion, FGD participants highlighted "basic needs" as their most urgent priority, pointing out a significant lack of local organisational support and revealing gaps in the support system. Concerns were raised about the inadequacy of the social protection system and the absence of effective community support mechanisms. Suggestions for improvements included the development of social transportation services and advocating for local governance enhancements to improve access to medical facilities and address administrative needs.

In **Drohobytskyi**, the need for better information about social protection services and organisations was identified as urgent, along with the importance of access to medical rehabilitation services and psychological support. A lack of essential services, such as education, nutritional assistance, legal aid, and emergency relief, indicates significant gaps in social service provision. Issues in accessing humanitarian aid were compounded by transportation costs and its

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[51] Source of Data: KI Protection Interviews

unavailability, with inconsistent aid distribution and concerns over the upcoming suspension of the IDP allowance. The observations of decreased assistance from various organisations over time and the need for strengthened service delivery systems due to staffing shortages underscore the recommendation for fostering inclusive governance and improving communication transparency and diversity for better service dissemination. An oblast level key informant reported:

"The worst situation with humanitarian aid and the situation of IDPs is in Zolochiv and Drohobytskyi raions due to the rural nature and lack of urbanisation. In Drohobytskyi raion, the mountainous terrain and fragmentation hinder access. In these districts, the property for IDPs is in a very poor condition, where it is physically difficult to live, and the lack of developed infrastructure and leisure facilities negatively affects the psychological state of residents."

In **Stryiskyi** raion, similar to Chervonohradskyi raion, "basic needs" were identified as the most urgent priority. Participants reported substantial difficulties in accessing official information and a noticeable lack of local organisational support, highlighting communication and support gaps. The inadequacy of existing social protection systems and the absence of effective community support mechanisms were major concerns. Proposals included the development of social transportation services and local governance improvements to better access to medical facilities and meet administrative needs.

Summary of Key Findings for Protection

- **Assistance for Specific Vulnerable Groups**:
  - Challenges in accessing social services for the elderly, persons with disabilities and serious medical conditions, low-income households, single caregivers, and individuals with substance use disorders.
  - Elderly people and persons with disabilities are especially highlighted as needing support.
- **Needs and Challenges of Vulnerable Groups**:
  - Refer to **Figure 5.**
- **Top Priority Needs Reported by Households**:
  - Healthcare as the top priority, with non-food items (NFIs) and food requirements varying in priority across regions.
- **Social Protection Service Needs**:
  - Access to affordable housing, mental and psychological services, and healthcare identified as significant social protection needs.
  - Lack of specialised medical services and multiple barriers to accessing healthcare, including high transportation costs and service expenses.
  - Crucial need for access to information about humanitarian assistance, with limitations for the elderly and low-income families due to connectivity issues.
- **Regional Insights**:
  - **Chervonohradskyi raion**: Basic needs as urgent priority, support gaps, concerns about social protection system inadequacy, and proposals for local governance and transportation improvements.
  - **Drohobytskyi raion**: Urgent need for information accessibility, healthcare and MHPSS needs, social service provision gaps, issues with humanitarian aid access, and the need for service system strengthening.
  - **Stryiskyi raion**: Identified basic needs as urgent, challenges in information access and support, social protection system concerns, and suggestions for governance and transportation enhancements.

Social Cohesion

Across the three raions, there is a marked intention among IDP residents to integrate into local communities for the long term, with Chervonohradskyi raion showing the most significant inclination towards integration. This trend highlights a collective aspiration to foster cohesive communities, particularly in Chervonohradskyi and Stryiskyi raions, where IDPs express a strong desire to settle and integrate into the local community. The willingness of local communities to embrace IDPs is crucial for promoting social harmony and integration.

However, social cohesion faces obstacles stemming from conflicts between IDPs and local populations, driven by perceived inequalities, stereotypes, and language and cultural differences. Employment discrimination against IDPs and harassment in schools further complicate integration, signalling a need for greater community engagement to overcome these systemic barriers. Economic disparities, cultural and ethnic differences, and communication gaps are identified as primary factors fuelling community tensions, with a significant portion of key informants emphasising these issues.

To enhance social cohesion, region-specific suggestions have been made: Chervonohradskyi raion focuses on community cohesion and equitable social protection for IDPs, Drohobytskyi raion recommends legal and economic integration support for IDPs, and Stryiskyi raion advocates for improved understanding and collaboration among community members. Despite efforts like workshops and cultural events in Chervonohradskyi raion, low participation rates indicate a demand for more appealing community activities. In Drohobytskyi raion, tensions arise from perceptions that IDPs receive preferential treatment, underscoring the need for balanced support initiatives. Stryiskyi raion, while experiencing lower social tensions, still faces discrimination challenges, particularly in employment, pointing to the necessity for targeted interventions to foster a more inclusive community environment.

Residency and Integration Intentions

IDP respondents from Chervonohradskyi, Drohobytskyi, and Stryiskyi raions have shown a strong desire to integrate into their local communities long-term, with the most pronounced interest in Chervonohradskyi raion. **Figure 22** shows a significant number of internally displaced persons (IDPs), particularly in Chervonohradskyi and Stryiskyi raions, are keen to remain and integrate within their current settings. The desire of IDPs to integrate, alongside the local community's openness, plays a vital role in fostering social harmony.

Figure 22: Interest in Integrating into Local Community of Current Place of Residence[52]
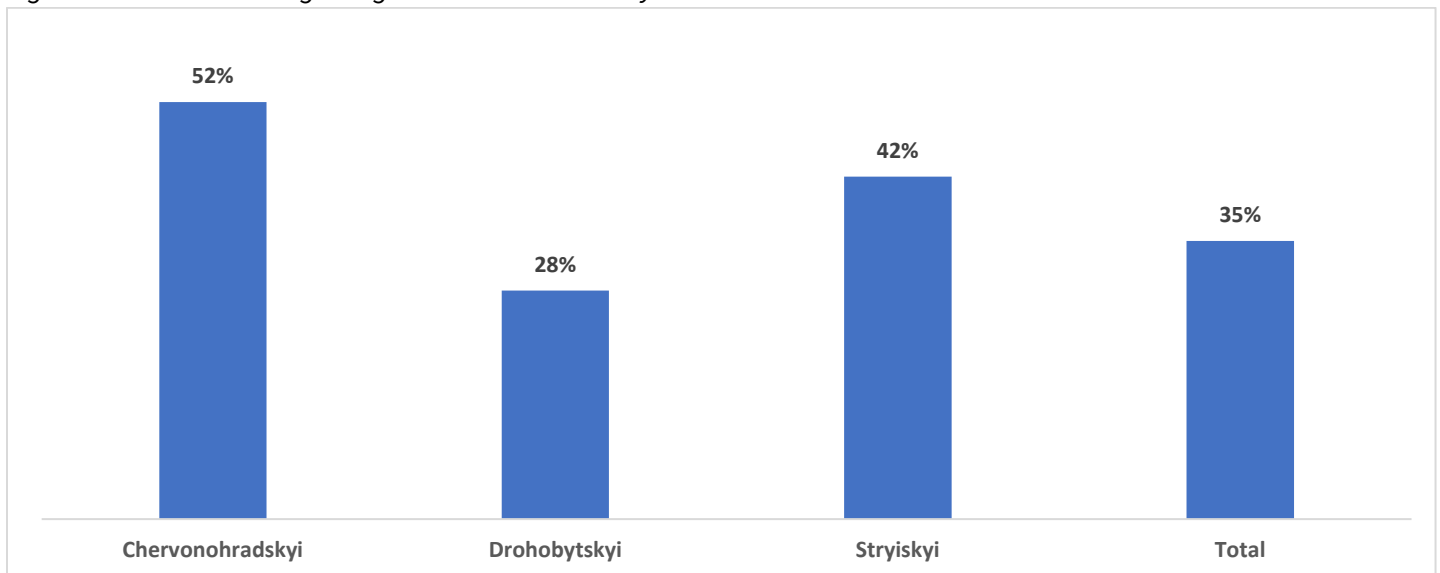
In Chervonohradskyi raion, despite the high aspiration among a proportion of IDPs to integrate, challenges to social cohesion are frequently cited, including issues like language-based discrimination, biases in hiring practices, and territorial discrimination. For successful integration, securing livelihoods and economic opportunities, access to safe and dignified shelter, access to essential services, and positive community relationships were identified as key. Economic opportunities, in particular, are deemed crucial in all regions. The emphasis on access to livelihood opportunities, especially given the noted reluctance of employers to hire IDPs, underscores the complexity of integration, compounded by various barriers in these communities. See **Figure 23**.

A key informant from Stryiskyi raion stated that:

"Good relationships and their integration greatly facilitate their employment. Integrating them into economic activities would have a very positive impact."

The integration of IDPs into local communities faces obstacles, such as employment discrimination and harassment of children by their peers, highlighting widespread integration issues.

There's a recognised need for improved community engagement in each region to foster social cohesion and integration. In Chevervonohradskyi raion, a significant number of social cohesion issues were reported, with language identified as a primary factor in various challenges. While some participants described their relationship with the community as initially tense but eventually positive, the adaptation to speaking Ukrainian was seen as a key step towards social integration. Bullying of IDP children in schools, as mentioned by both key informants and FGD participants, underscores the complexities of social integration and the need for targeted interventions to support vulnerable groups.

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[52] Source of Data: DRC Protection Monitoring

Figure 23: Factors for Community Integration[53]
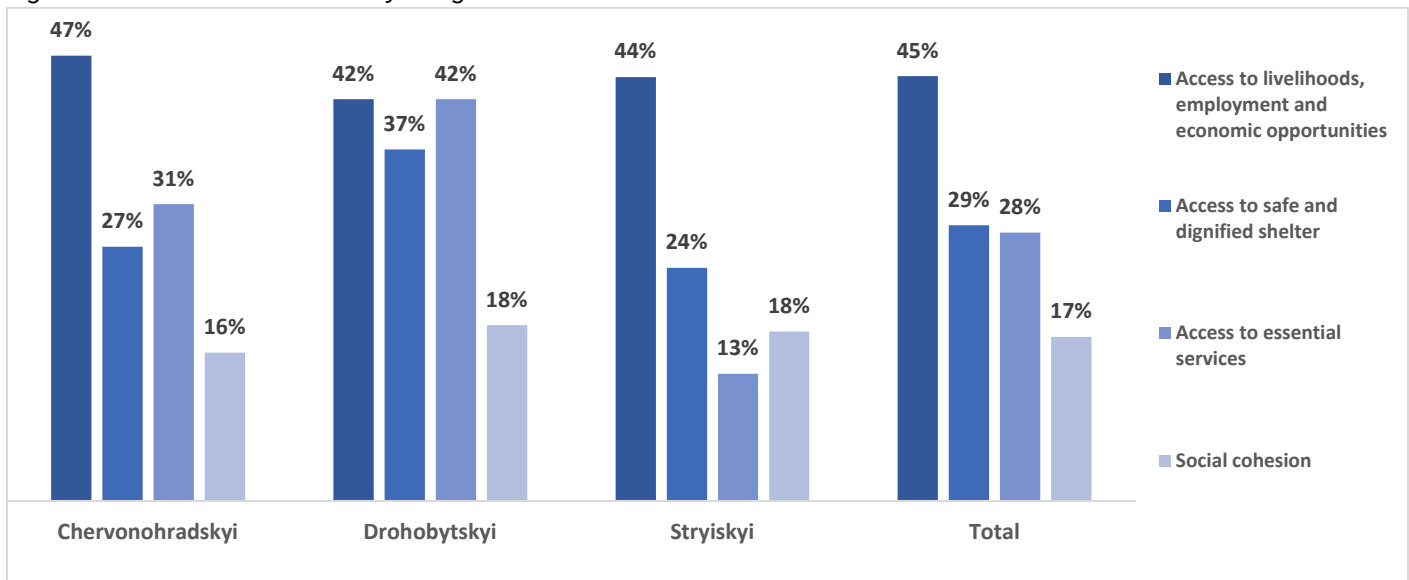
Social Cohesion Barriers and Challenges

Social cohesion barriers and challenges include social tensions arising from conflicts between IDPs and local communities, driven by perceptions of inequality and stereotypes. Language and cultural barriers further exacerbate tensions across all regions.

Figure 24 below shows the percentage of FGD participants in both the Livelihood and Shelter FGDs that reported some issue related to social cohesion, such as linguistic or territorial discrimination, being associated with negative stereotypes and/or instances of conflict.

When asked how they would describe the relationship between IDPs and the local community, an FGD participant from Drohobytskyi raion stated:

"'Cold relations with the local community, no access to work in the local community due to origin".

Figure 24: FGD Participants who reported Social Tension[54]
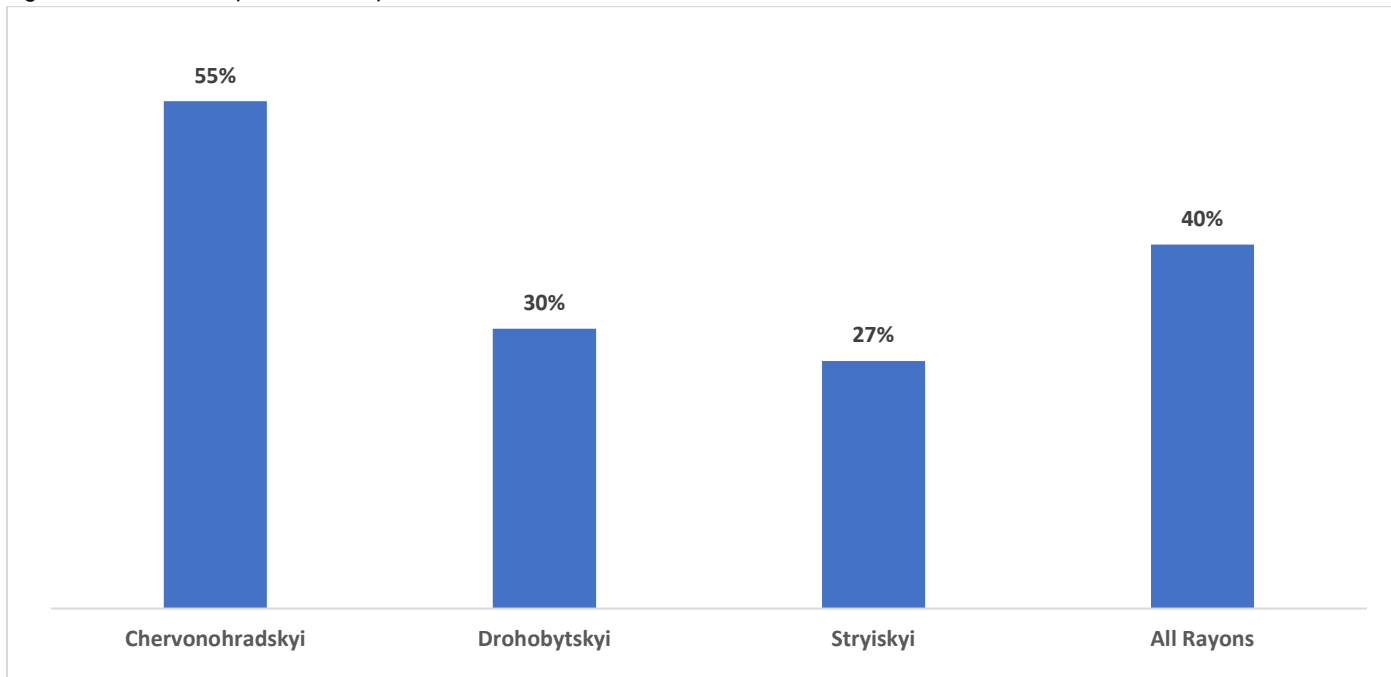
Economic inequality and poverty are identified as the main reasons for tensions in communities, mentioned by three-quarters of key informants who noticed social tensions. Additionally, half of these informants pointed out that cultural and ethnic differences, a lack of effective communication, and discrimination and prejudice also play significant roles in creating tensions. This shows that social tensions arise from a combination of economic issues, cultural and ethnic differences, communication problems, and discriminatory attitudes.

Key Informant Suggestions to Improve Social Cohesion

Informants across different regions have put forward several recommendations to bolster community cohesion and address social fragmentation. They have emphasised the importance of initiating projects that enhance social protection conditions equitably for all IDPs, regardless of their displacement timeline. There's a strong advocacy for improving integration programs specifically tailored for IDPs, individuals facing mental health challenges and veterans, aiming to facilitate their smoother assimilation into the community fabric.

The discourse also highlighted the critical role of legal aid provision and the organisation of cultural events as effective interventions to support reduction in social tensions. Additionally, the success stories of IDP integration into local economies were noted, with a call for programs that encourage their active participation in economic activities and support for small business ventures. This approach is seen as vital to overcoming employment, wage disparities, and economic assimilation hurdles, thereby strengthening community ties. One suggestion to enhance understanding among community members includes:

"Organising various cultural events. Joint employment would aid in the integration of IDPs into the community. <As would> involvement of local organisations to build friendships among children, which in turn helps to strengthen relationships between families."

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[54] Source of Data: Shelter and Infrastructure FGDs, Livelihoods FGDs

Moreover, there is a consensus on the need for concerted efforts to foster mutual understanding, collaboration, and empathy within the community. Such measures are considered crucial for achieving communal harmony, underscoring a collective approach to integrating IDPs and enhancing social cohesion.

Summary of Key Findings for Social Cohesion

- **Residency and Integration Intentions**:
  - Across the regions, there's a pronounced intention among residents, particularly IDPs, to integrate into their local communities for the long term. Chervonohradskyi raion stands out with the strongest inclination towards integration, demonstrating a widespread desire across these areas to build cohesive communities.
  - IDPs, especially in Chervonohradskyi and Stryiskyi raions, express a significant desire to remain and integrate, underscoring the critical relationship between integration efforts and social cohesion. The local community's openness to integration plays a vital role in fostering social harmony.
- **Barriers to Social Cohesion**:
  - Conflicts between IDPs and local communities arise from perceptions of inequality, stereotypes, and language and cultural barriers, challenging the social fabric of these regions.
  - Issues of employment discrimination against IDPs and harassment of IDP children in schools indicate systemic barriers to integration, with a noted need for enhanced community engagement to address these challenges.
- **Factors Contributing to Community Tensions**
  - Economic inequality and poverty are primary causes of community tensions, as observed by three-quarters of key informants, with cultural/ethnic differences, communication issues, and discrimination also contributing significantly.
- **Key Informant Suggestions to Improve Social Cohesion**
  - Informants across regions suggest launching initiatives to bolster social protection for IDPs, ensuring equitable treatment across all displacement timelines.
  - A focused effort is advocated to develop integration programs specifically designed for IDPs, individuals dealing with mental health issues and veterans, aimed at their seamless integration into the community.
  - Emphasis is placed on the crucial roles that legal aid and cultural events play in mitigating social tensions, suggesting these as vital strategies for fostering community cohesion.
  - Highlighting successful examples of IDP integration into the local economy, informants call for the creation of programs that encourage IDP engagement in economic activities, alongside support mechanisms for small business development.

Recommendations

Following the findings from the MSNA, this section presents targeted recommendations aimed at enhancing the effectiveness and reach of services in critical areas identified. These recommendations are directed towards relevant humanitarian actors and the Government of Ukraine. By addressing these key stakeholders, the goal is to foster a collaborative effort in implementing solutions that mitigate the challenges presented by the MSNA. Through strategic action and policy adjustments, gaps in services and support mechanisms may be addressed.

Housing

Repurpose Unused Properties: There is a need for actors supporting housing solutions to work with local authorities to resolve documentation issues relating to the status and ownership and repurpose dormant properties, such as unoccupied dormitories, into safe, secure, and affordable housing or temporary accommodations which meets minimum standards. HLP rights is essential precursor to access to long term housing solutions.

Rental Assistance Programs: Actors supporting access to housing should implement financial support and rental assistance programs to help cover housing expenses for low-income groups, elderly, pensioners, and individuals with disabilities.

Sustainable Funding for Housing IDPs: Local authorities should establish partnerships with local businesses, international donors, and NGOs to create sustainable funding solutions for unused dormitories for IDP accommodation. Addressing housing policy and stock/inventory issues is essential to meet the needs of thousands of IDP households unable to return or secure suitable housing in their displacement areas.

Housing Renovation and Infrastructure Repair: Relevant actors should launch repair and restoration projects focused on improving accessibility for individuals with disabilities, upgrading water supply systems, and conducting broad infrastructure improvements. Additionally, repairs for collective centres, including heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) maintenance, structural repairs, and technology upgrades, is critical for infrastructure resilience.

Area Infrastructure

Addressing Transportation Challenges: Enhance transportation solutions through both advocacy to local administrations and the exploration of more immediate solutions, such as social taxis, to address the challenges posed by transportation difficulties and the remoteness of locations, which significantly impede access to employment and social services.

Internet and Communication: Improve digital connectivity to overcome the issues caused by the lack of reliable internet and mobile communication, which adversely affects access to services and employment opportunities.

Development of Recreational Child-friendly: Develop recreational zones designed for children, including both indoor and outdoor areas. Ensuring these spaces are accessible and inclusive to foster a safe and engaging environment that supports their play, learning, and social interaction.

Livelihoods

Economic Development Programs: Livelihood actors should enhance digital connectivity and literacy, improve transportation infrastructure, provide specialised business premises, and facilitate access to agricultural land with direct financial support. Streamline bureaucratic processes to encourage local entrepreneurship, online businesses, and remote work opportunities.

Caregiver Responsibilities: Protection actors should advocate for supportive policies and support flexible employment opportunities that accommodate caregiver responsibilities for children, family members with a disability, and elderly family members presents a significant barrier to employment.

Training and Employment Support: There is a clear need to establish accessible, flexible, and inclusive training programs that address the diverse needs within the community for re-skilling and up-skilling. This includes special consideration for those with caregiver responsibilities, disabilities, and language barriers. Specifically, tailored training programs should encompass digital literacy, language proficiency, especially in English, to mitigate employment obstacles related to insufficient language skills. Vocational skills training relevant to the local job market is also essential.

Practical vocational training that leads to certification and employment in technical fields, as well as programs that offer advanced education for trades and professional career paths, are highly desired. Moreover, training initiatives that facilitate understanding of entrepreneurship, such as workshops on business paperwork and tax processes, alongside internships in local industries like the paper and pulp mill, are important for providing hands-on learning experiences and insights into business operations.

Career Counselling and Support Services: Provide career counselling, educational resources, and professional development opportunities, especially targeting those with care responsibilities and skill mismatches.

Inclusive Employment Practices: Advocate for inclusive employment practices to overcome employer reluctance to recruit and discrimination against IDPs, elderly, and individuals with disabilities.

Protection

Advocate for Improved Healthcare Services: Protection actors should advocate to relevant stakeholders to increase and/or establish mobile medical units to provide specialised healthcare services within the community.

Strengthen Access to Social Services: Implement mobile services or community outreach programs to bring essential services closer to those in remote areas. Launch digital literacy programs and provide affordable internet access, focusing on the elderly and low-income families to bridge the digital divide.

Enhance Information and Support Networks: Develop platforms and partnerships to improve the flow of official information and support effective communication and information dissemination of available services and assistance provided by both the state and NGOs by developing platforms and promoting equitable local partnerships.

Protection Case Management: introduce protection case management to support individuals at heightened risk, including elderly people, persons with disabilities and serious medical conditions, single caregivers and others, in order to assist them in claiming their rights and building self-resilience.

Psychosocial Support Programs: launch structured psychosocial support services and promote peer-to-peer support among elderly people, people with disabilities, single caregivers, and families of missing/fallen soldiers and veterans.

Capacity Development Programs: deliver capacity development support programs to duty bearers, including social protection departments and humanitarian coordination centres, for them to assist Persons of Concern in an inclusive and sustainable manner.

Legal Assistance for Families of Missing/Fallen soldiers and Veterans: There is a significant need for legal support for families of missing/fallen soldiers as well as for ex-combatants, and this demand is expected to rise over time. It is crucial to explore legal solutions and opportunities for families of missing/fallen soldiers and veterans, including assistance with accompaniment services (legal case management) and employment support (legal and organisational aspects of SEP registration, etc).

Legal Awareness Raising Sessions: increase legal awareness of Persons of Concern on their rights, freedoms and responsibilities according to the Ukrainian legislation, including martial law and legislation regulating internal displacement.

Social Cohesion

Social Integration Programs: Design and implement targeted cross-sectoral support programs aimed at supporting the integration of IDPs in local socio-economic environment and foster mutual understanding between IDPs and host communities. Address language differences and regional stereotypes through cultural exchange and language learning initiatives as well as by engaging in community initiatives focused on improving quality of life.

Reinforce Community Engagement: Reinvigorate community relations by enhancing participation in workshops, cultural events, sports, and arts activities. Facilitate inclusive events bringing together both IDPs and non-IDPs and promote advocacy for changes at a community level to investing in a sense of unity and shared community identity.

Conflict Resolution and Mediation: Facilitate community dialogues and mediation sessions to address conflicts and tensions, promoting a peaceful coexistence and strengthening community ties.

Conclusion

The analysis across Chervonohradskyi, Drohobytskyi, and Stryiskyi raions uncovers several critical needs and challenges faced by their populations, particularly emphasising the struggles of IDPs and other vulnerable groups. The overarching themes of healthcare access, livelihood opportunities, social housing, area infrastructure, protection, and social cohesion form the crux of the issues at hand.

Access to more appropriate housing and the inadequacy of area infrastructure are closely intertwined issues. The shortage of affordable housing exacerbates the vulnerability of families, IDPs, and other marginalised groups, making the development of appropriate housing a critical priority. Simultaneously, improving area infrastructure—such as transportation, utilities, and healthcare facilities—is essential for enhancing the quality of life, enabling access to services, and supporting economic activities.

Employment challenges, highlighted by discrimination and reluctance to hire IDPs, underscore the need for livelihood opportunities. The integration of IDPs into the local economy is critical for fostering independence and self-sufficiency, necessitating interventions to mitigate employer biases and promote inclusive hiring practices. Additionally, the expressed interest in job training programs indicates a pathway for equipping individuals with the skills needed to access emerging economic opportunities.

Healthcare access stands out as a pressing need, with a significant emphasis on the lack of specialised medical services and rehabilitation facilities. This gap in healthcare provision necessitates a focused effort to bolster healthcare infrastructure, ensuring that both basic and specialised care are accessible to all community members, thereby addressing a fundamental aspect of well-being and security.

The issue of information access, especially regarding humanitarian assistance and social protection services, points to a gap in communication infrastructure. The inability of certain segments of the population, notably the elderly and low-income families, to afford internet connections or smartphones limits their access to vital services and opportunities. Enhancing digital connectivity and ensuring the widespread availability of crucial information would significantly empower these communities, enabling them to access support services more effectively.

Social cohesion emerges as a complex challenge, with barriers including language and cultural differences, social tensions between IDPs and local communities, and the broader need for improved community engagement. Addressing these issues requires a nuanced approach that fosters mutual understanding, respects cultural diversity, and promotes inclusive community practices.

Addressing the intertwined challenges of healthcare, livelihoods, housing, infrastructure, and social cohesion requires a comprehensive, multi-faceted strategy. Collaborative efforts from government, non-governmental organisations, and community stakeholders are essential to develop and implement solutions that are responsive to the diverse needs of these populations. Through targeted interventions and sustained support, it is possible to build more resilient communities that can offer a foundation for long-term stability, well-being, and integration of all members, especially the most vulnerable.

Appendixes

Appendix 1

List of Key Informants

#	Date of KII	Administrative Level	Oblast/Raion	Hromada	Type of Institution
1	2023-12-11	Raion	Stryiskyi	Hnizdychivska	Collective Site
2	2023-12-11	Raion	Stryiskyi	Morshynska	Collective Site
3	2023-12-12	Oblast	Lvivska Oblast	N/A	Department of Social Services
4	2023-12-12	Oblast	Lvivska Oblast	N/A	IDP Council
5	2023-12-12	Raion	Drohobytskyi	Drohobytska	Local Government
6	2023-12-13	Oblast	Ivano-Frankivska Oblast	N/A	IDP Council
7	2023-12-13	Oblast	Ivano-Frankivska Oblast	N/A	Department of Social Services
8	2023-12-13	Raion	Drohobytskyi	Truskavetska	Coordination Centre
9	2023-12-13	Raion	Drohobytskyi	Drohobytska	Collective Site
10	2023-12-13	Raion	Chervonohradskyi	Sokalska	Collective Site
11	2023-12-13	Raion	Stryiskyi	Stryiska	Coordination Centre
12	2023-12-14	Raion	Chervonohradskyi	N/A	Department of Social Services
13	2023-12-15	Raion	Chervonohradskyi	Chervonohradska	Department of Social Services
14	2023-12-15	Raion	Stryiskyi	Stryiska	Local Government
15	2023-12-18	Oblast	Lvivska Oblast	N/A	Oblast Government
16	2023-12-18	Raion	Chervonohradskyi	Chervonohradska	IDP Council
17	2023-12-18	Oblast	Lvivska Oblast	N/A	Oblast Government
18	2023-12-18	Oblast	Lvivska Oblast	N/A	IDP Council
19	2023-12-18	Raion	Stryiskyi	Stryiska	Department of Social Services
20	2023-12-18	Raion	Chervonohradskyi	Radekhivska	Local Government
21	2023-12-18	Raion	Stryiskyi	Stryiska	Local Government
22	2023-12-19	Raion	Drohobytskyi	Drohobytska	Department of Social Services
23	2023-12-19	Raion	Stryiskyi	Stryiska	Department of Social Services
24	2023-12-19	Raion	Stryiskyi	Stryiska	Local Government
25	2023-12-19	Raion	Drohobytskyi	Skhidnytska	Department of Social Services
26	2023-12-19	Raion	Drohobytskyi	Drohobytska	Local Government
27	2023-12-20	Raion	Drohobytskyi	Truskavetska	Department of Social Services
28	2023-12-20	Oblast	Volyn Oblast	N/A	Department of Social Services
29	2023-12-20	Oblast	Lvivska Oblast	N/A	IDP Council
30	2023-12-21	Raion	Drohobytskyi	Skhidnytska	Department of Social Services
31	2023-12-21	Raion	Drohobytskyi	Boryslavska	IDP Council
32	2023-12-22	Raion	Stryiskyi	Mykolaivska	Coordination Centre
33	2023-12-22	Raion	Chervonohradskyi	Sokalska	Local Government
34	2024-01-19	Raion	Chervonohradskyi	Chervonohradska	Coordination Centre

List of Focus Group Discussions

#	Date of FGD	Raion	Hromada	Community Type	Target Audience	Number and Gender of Participants
1	2023-12-28	Drohobytskyi	Skhidnytska	Urban	Vulnerable IDP and Non-IDPs	16 (14 Female, 2 Male)
2	2024-01-02	Drohobytskyi	Drohobytska	Rural	Vulnerable IDP and Non-IDPs	8 (4 Female, 4 Male)
3	2024-01-02	Drohobytskyi	Drohobytska	Urban	Vulnerable IDP and Non-IDPs	8 (8 Female)
4	2024-01-03	Stryiskyi	Stryiska	Rural	Vulnerable IDP and Non-IDPs	11 (9 Female, 2 Male)
5	2024-01-09	Chervonohradskyi	Chervonohradska	Rural	Vulnerable IDP and Non-IDPs	6 (5 Female, 1 Male)
6	2024-01-09	Drohobytskyi	Drohobytska	Urban	Vulnerable IDP and Non-IDPs	20 (12 Female, 8 Male)
7	2024-01-11	Stryiskyi	Stryiska	Rural	Vulnerable IDP and Non-IDPs	6 (5 Female, 1 Male)
8	2024-01-11	Stryiskyi	Stryiska	Rural	Vulnerable IDP and Non-IDPs	8 (7 Female, 1 Male)
9	2024-01-15	Drohobytskyi	Truskavetska	Urban	Unemployed IDPs	8 (7 Female, 1 Male)
10	2024-01-15	Drohobytskyi	Truskavetska	Urban	Residents of Collective Sites	17 (16 Female, 1 Male)
11	2024-01-16	Chervonohradskyi	Sokalska	Rural	Unemployed IDPs	7 (6 Female, 1 Male)
12	2024-01-16	Chervonohradskyi	Chervonohrad	Urban	Residents of Collective Sites	8 (7 Female, 1 Male)
13	2024-01-17	Stryiskyi	Hnizdychivska	Rural	Unemployed IDPs	4 (4 Female)
14	2024-01-17	Stryiskyi	Morshynska	Rural	Unemployed IDPs	8 (8 Female)
15	2024-01-17	Stryiskyi	Hnizdychivska	Rural	Residents of Collective Sites	6 (5 Female, 1 Male)
16	2024-01-17	Stryiskyi	Morshynska	Rural	Residents of Collective Sites	8 (7 Female, 1 Male)
17	2024-01-18	Drohobytskyi	Boryslavska	Rural	Unemployed IDPs	8 (8 Female)
18	2024-01-18	Drohobytskyi	Boryslavska	Urban	Residents of Collective Sites	13 (9 Female, 4 Male)
19	2024-01-19	Chervonohradskyi	Chervonohrad	Urban	Unemployed IDPs	6 (6 Female)
20	2024-01-19	Chervonohradskyi	Chervonohradska	Urban	Residents of Collective Sites	8 (8 Female)

Household Demographics of DRC Protection Monitoring Data

	18-29	30-49	50-59	60+	Total
Chervonohradskyi raion	6	50	8	29	**93**
Drohobytskyi raion	9	56	19	70	**154**
Stryiskyi raion	10	60	17	30	**117**
Total	**25**	**166**	**44**	**129**	**364**

Household Accommodation Type DRC Protection Monitoring Data

Housing	Collective shelter (public building)	House/Apartment	Privately-owned collective shelter	Room in private house
Chervonohradskyi raion	40	43	0	4
Drohobytskyi raion	65	32	28	9
Stryiskyi raion	48	50	2	4
Total	**153**	**125**	**30**	**17**

Appendix 2

Analysis Methodology [55]

1. **Segmentation and Categorisation of Key Informant Interviews (KIIs):** The analysis commenced with a systematic segmentation of KII data, initially dividing it by sector to ensure a focused examination of sector-specific issues. Subsequently, the data underwent further categorisation by raion, facilitating the identification of unique regional challenges. This dual-layered segmentation lays the groundwork for a nuanced analysis, enabling the delineation of both sectoral and regional dynamics critical for comprehensive regional assessments.

2. **Focused Examination of Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Data:** Following a similar methodological framework, FGD data was meticulously analysed, with an initial focus on sectoral themes before proceeding to raion-specific categorisation. This approach ensures that the analysis captures a broad spectrum of perspectives, highlighting both commonalities and variances within and across sectors and regions.

3. **Integrated Analysis of FGD and KII Data:** A pivotal component of our methodology involved the synthesis of insights from both FGDs and KIIs at the raion level, aiming to coalesce the diverse narratives into cohesive thematic clusters. This integration accentuates prevalent themes and concerns, offering a rich tapestry of the community's experiences and challenges.

4. **Sector-Level Comparative Analysis:** The analytical process extends to a sector-by-sector examination of both FGD and KII data, uncovering the intricacies of each sector's unique and shared challenges. This granular analysis is instrumental in understanding the sector-specific landscapes, facilitating targeted interventions.

5. **Cross-Analysis for a Holistic Overview:** Employing a comprehensive cross-analysis, all collected data from FGDs and KIIs underwent a meticulous examination to derive insights that span across multiple raions and sectors. This expansive analysis aids in extrapolating interconnected themes and challenges, enhancing the breadth of understanding across the assessed domains.

6. **Data Correlation with Protection Monitoring Metrics:** A critical aspect of our methodology involved correlating the qualitative insights from FGDs and KIIs with quantitative data derived from protection monitoring efforts. This comparative analysis serves as a mechanism for validating identified trends, pinpointing discrepancies, and confirming consistencies between statistical data and personal narratives. Such an approach not only reinforces the reliability of the findings but also provides a multi-dimensional view of the issues at hand, grounding the analysis in both quantitative metrics and qualitative accounts.

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[55] Caveat on Data Representation: It is essential to acknowledge that the percentages provided are indicative and not statistically significant due to the nature of FGD and KII methodologies. Furthermore, the representativeness of KII data is limited by the number of participants from each raion, affecting the generalizability.

Criteria to Determine Single Caregiver Status

The determination of single caregiver Households within the statistics was inferred using a set of criteria, due to the absence of direct data collection on this demographic:

1. **Households with two persons, one adult aged 18-59** and **one person aged 0-17 or 60+,** were considered single caregiver Households.

2. **Households with two persons, one elderly aged 60+** and **one person aged 0-17**, were considered single caregiver Households.

3. **Households with two adults**, where **one adult does not have a disability or serious medical condition and is not pregnant or lactating**, and the **other has a disability or serious medical condition or is pregnant or lactating**, were considered single caregiver Households.

4. **Households of three or more persons** with a **single adult aged 18-59 and one or more persons aged 0-17 or 6**0+ were considered single caregiver Households.

5. **Households of three or more persons with two or more adults aged 18-59, no person aged 0-17 or 60+, but only one adult without disability or serious medical condition or not pregnant or lactating**, were considered single caregiver Households.

6. **Households of three or more persons** with **two or more adults aged 18-59**, where **only one adult does not have a disability or serious medical condition or is not pregnant or lactating**, and there is **one or more persons aged 0-17 or 60+**, were considered single caregiver Households.