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REACH MEDIA BULLETIN

JANUARY 2023



UKRAINE

Navigating winter in Ukraine: A look at the Cold Spot Risk Assessment

While more than **7 million Ukrainians** have left the country since the start of the conflict, those left in Ukraine are in the midst of a harsh winter, facing extreme cold conditions. As temperatures continue to stay below zero in most parts of the country, functioning infrastructure is crucial to get Ukrainians through the depth of winter.

Ukraine is already feeling the impact of destroyed and damaged infrastructure, **as scheduled blackouts** were introduced in many parts of the country to mitigate the power shortages. Due to the interconnectivity between essential utilities, electricity shortages can have a cascading effect, disrupting households' ability to heat their homes and access water. These freezing temperatures could also worsen already damaged infrastructure and lead to the inability to repair damages, putting populations at further risk.

Prior to the dropping temperatures REACH conducted a **Cold Spot Risk Assessment** and developed an **interactive story map** based on the analysis of the factsheet. The assessment aimed to identify the geographic locations of 'Cold Spots' where populations would be most impacted by winter conditions.

What are 'Cold Spots'

Cold spots are geographic areas where winter-related hazards (e.g., cold waves) compound with susceptibilities (e.g., internal displacement; older persons; etc.) and the Lack of Coping Capacity (LOCC) (e.g., infrastructure damages).

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REACH analysis found cold spots will be most severe in eastern areas of Ukraine, where vulnerable populations are also some of the most exposed to winter hazards.

Ukraine is no stranger to sub-zero temperatures and harsh winter conditions, yet the ongoing hostilities have increased vulnerabilities and diminished coping capacities nation-wide. In fact, **REACH data from the Cold Spot Risk Assessment** found areas experiencing the harshest winter conditions are also those with the most vulnerable populations:

- Overall, the analysis found cold spot impacts would likely be most severe in eastern areas of the country including raions in Kharkivska, Dnipropetrovska, and Donetska oblasts (Cold Spot Index (CSI) = Very High). Kharkivska and Dnipropetrovska oblast in particular saw 'Very High' winter hazards compounded with areas of high susceptibility – which assesses susceptibilities to winter conditions across Ukraine including criteria such as IDPs populations, proportion of older persons within oblasts' population, and household income.
- In western areas, raions within the oblasts of Vinnytska, Khmelnytska, and Zhytomyrska recorded the highest Cold Spot Index, falling under the category 'High.'

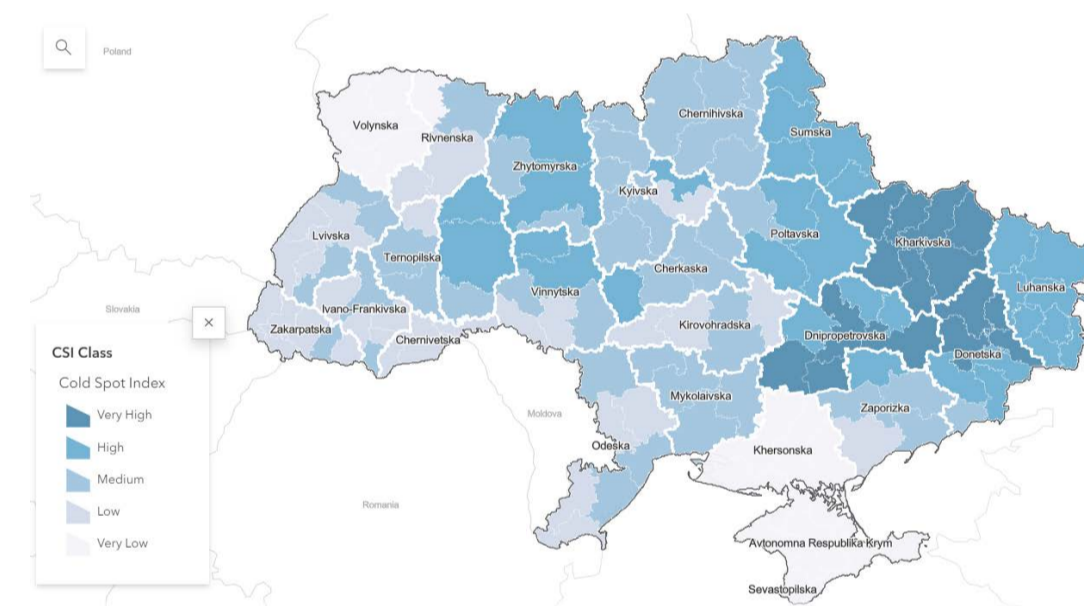
Further reading

- [Interactive Storymap - Ukraine Cold Spot Risk Assessment analysis and case examples from Kharkiv City and Dnipro City](#)
- [Factsheet - Cold Spot Risk Assessment Winterization 2022/23](#)

Ongoing hostilities have greatly diminished households' ability to cope with the winter conditions.

Looking at the analysis of indicators per group, lack of coping capacities was highest in the eastern and southern regions, specifically in areas along the present or historic line of conflict. Additionally, areas with high conflict incidences and infrastructure damage, such as newly liberated raions, recorded a severe lack of coping capacities. Notably **Bohodukhivskiy (CSI = 4.8), Kharkivskiy (CSI = 4.8), and Chuhuivskiy (CSI = 4.8), raions with the highest Cold Spot Index values in Ukraine** and which likely need specific winterization assistance.

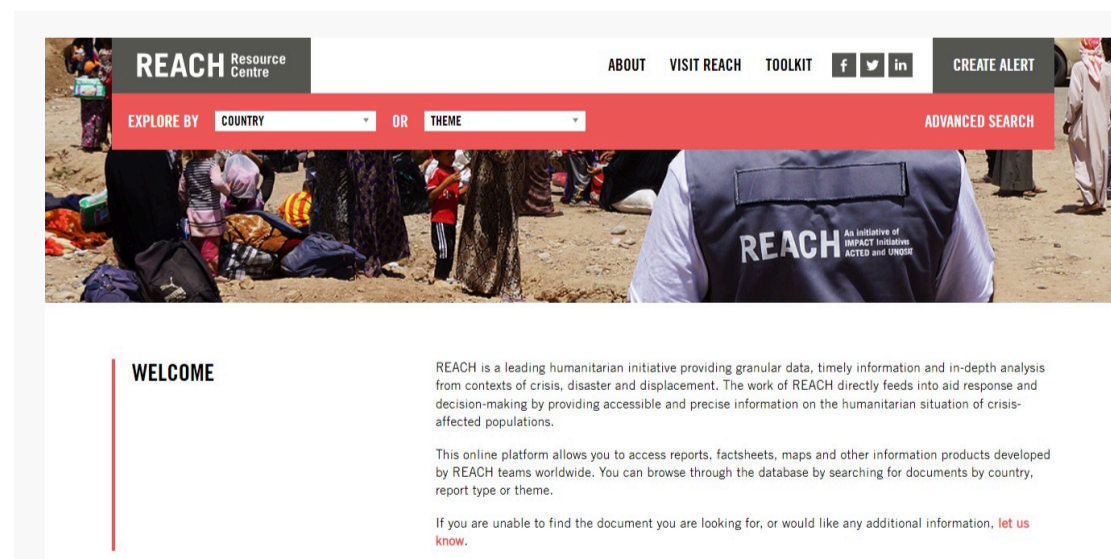
Lack of Coping Capacity: The LOCC component assesses infrastructure damages and capacities relevant for coping with cold conditions across Ukraine.



To build upon the Cold Spot Risk Assessment, the interactive storymap included case stories from **Kharkiv City (Highest Cold Spot Index)** and **Dnipro City (Very High Cold Spot Index)**. These case stories provide insights into factors that contribute to the risk of cold spots at a local level, including personal accounts from residents near the front line who describe their struggles and increased needs due to harsh winter conditions, increased vulnerability, and limited ability to cope.

Further reading

- [Interactive Storymap - Ukraine Cold Spot Risk Assessment analysis and case stories from Kharkiv City and Dnipro City](#)



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