

Winterization 2017-18 New Year Update

Protracted conflict erodes the coping mechanisms of those living in conflict-affected areas of Eastern Ukraine

Since August 2017, **10,056 households in GCA** and **6,166 households in NGCA** have been or will be assisted with heating materials for the winter period, **while 17,223 individuals in GCA** and **11,642 individuals in NGCA** have or will receive support for purchasing of basic winter clothing and blankets. With over 800 homes damaged in 2017 alone, shelter agencies are assisting **1904 households** with glazing and insulation of their ceilings. Agencies are also assisting **161 communal structures in GCA**: focusing on assisting schools, hospitals, and collective centres.

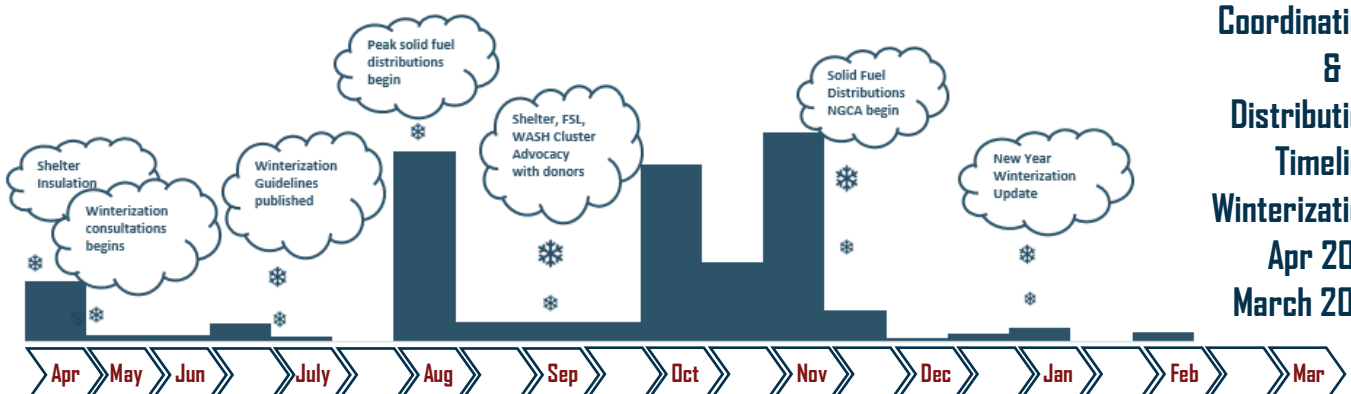
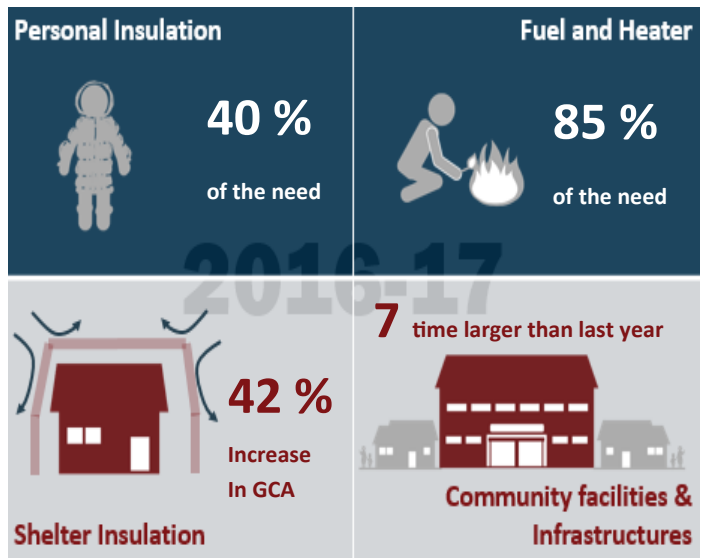


"People live here!" reads the shuttered windows of this house. Village on the contact line, UNHCR/PiN @Nov 2017

Gap Analysis

Since the beginning of this winterization season, the Shelter/NFI Cluster has noticed a decline in coverage from last years of basic winter items and solid fuel and heaters, though the cluster has received 13 referrals during November concerning gap in coverage in these critical areas. The increase in shelter insulation and community facilities and infrastructure in GCA contributes to **an increase in resilience** for formerly conflict-affected households. NGCA communities still have **critical gaps for fuel and heaters**, while **IDPs living in non-contact line areas in GCA** are still in need of assistance to purchase basic winter items.

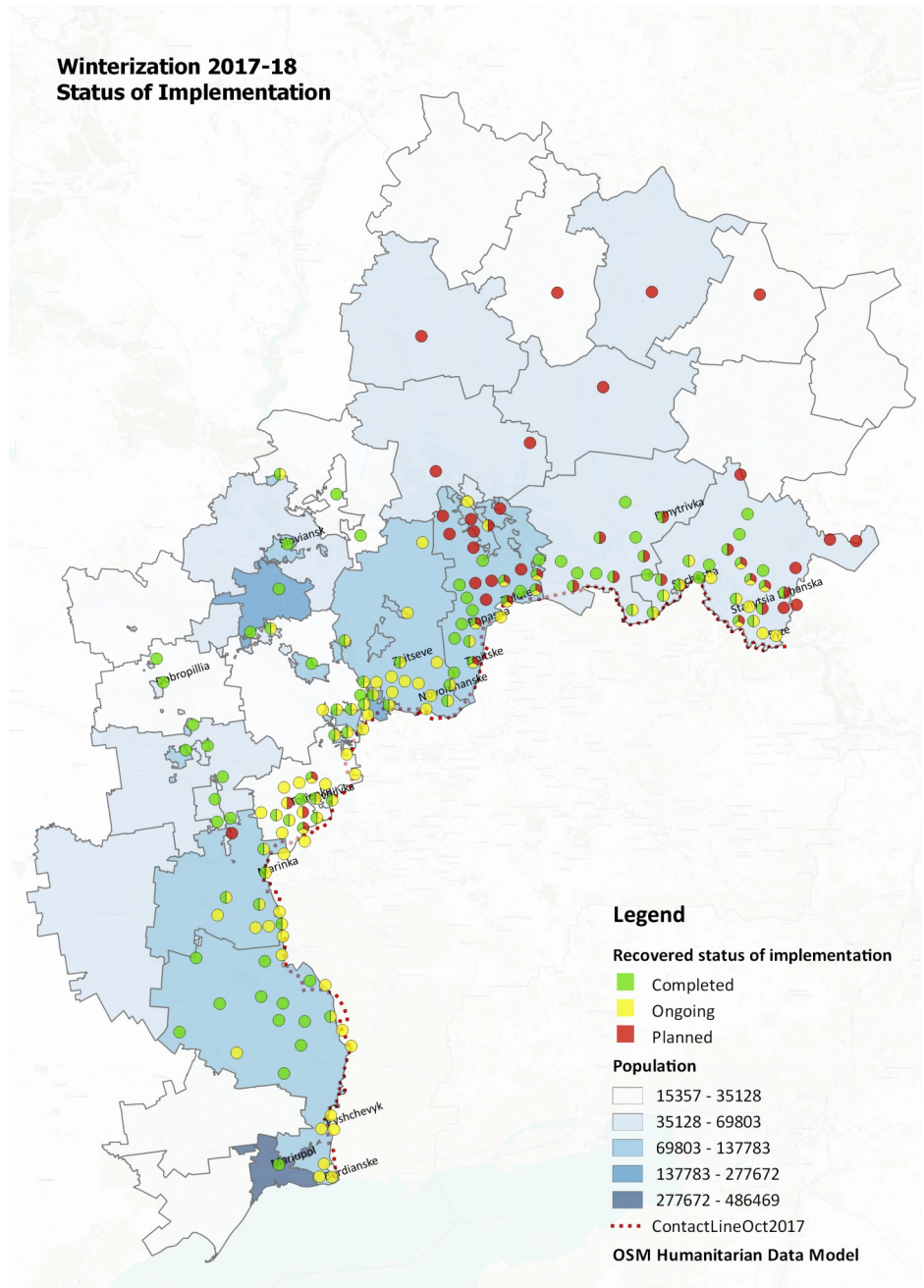
Mid Year Results at Glance



Status and Modality of Implementation

Overall for both GCA and NGCA, **24,465 households** have already received assistance, while **15,302** will still receive some form of assistance. While a number of distributions began in early August, several projects only began in November particularly for fuel distribution in NGCA. In critical contact line areas a number of projects are still ongoing due to the current nature of the crisis. Since the beginning of this year's winterization implementation, a few villages in Donetsk Oblast have shifted sides of the conflict line, complicating access to markets and increasing the need for winterization assistance.

While **71% of distributions are still in-kind in GCA**, nearly 30% of winterization assistance in GCA was monetized in some form. A critical indicator for winterization implementation was whether the community was **connected to markets with adequate winterization goods** or whether it was isolated from markets. Many winterization cash programs were implemented in urban areas of GCA this year.



Challenges

In Government Controlled Areas, agencies have reported that both the **coal and wood markets** have become more challenging. A small number of suppliers now dominant the market and the two sources are scarce which is driving the **prices of quality coal and wood to be 1.5 times larger** than when activities began in the summer of 2017. Entrepreneurial agencies have invested in small early recovery pilot projects in 9 villages to deliver hand presses to beneficiaries so that they can produce their own biomass briquettes as a fuel source. As these alternative forms of energy have a much quicker burn rate, such projects will require further funding in the spring of 2018 to scale up and to produce enough briquettes before the winter of 2018-19. As the crisis phase ebbs to only 20 km of the contact line, these activities and other creative programs in alternative energy would be a way to facilitate recovery through the creation of livelihoods, improve the environmental impact, and help households overcome the lack of affordability and access to heating sources.



Zolote-3 Luhansk Oblast GCA Beneficiaries producing biomass briquettes @July 2017
NRC/Anastasiia Karpilianska