



LIVELIHOODS BASELINE EVALUATION

📍 Mykolaiv and Kherson Oblasts

⚠️ Please review the BHA Baseline for insight into the sampling methodology for these key findings.



KEY FINDINGS

Improving Agricultural Production

RELIANCE ON AGRICULTURE AS A PRIMARY SOURCE OF INCOME

- In the rural areas of southern Ukraine, agriculture was reported as the primary source of income for both private households and hired labourers employed by large-scale farmers.**
- Subsistence farmers commonly grow vegetables on their plots.**
They also engage in poultry raising, along with maintaining some cattle, usually ranging from one to four animals.
- Residents typically own two plots of land.**
One plot, often ranging from 2 to 5 hectares (larger if households own multiple plots, is dedicated to substantial agricultural production, and is frequently leased to large-scale farmers. Additionally, there is a smaller plot near the house, ranging from 0.2 to 1 hectare per household, used for subsidiary farming.
- In cities and towns, households usually own a small plot of land, ranging from 0.06-0.2 hectares.**

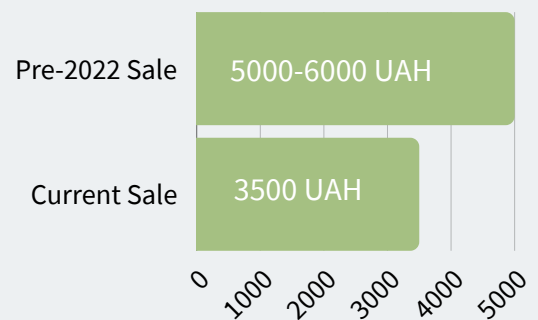
Before February 2022, in villages, a symbiotic relationship was established between large-scale farmers and landowners with subsidiary farms. Large-scale farmers assist village residents in cultivating their smaller plots utilizing their equipment and paying rent for the land through agricultural products, often in the form of grain. This grain, in turn, is used in subsidiary farms for poultry and livestock raising.

Average Hectares per Small Farmer Plot

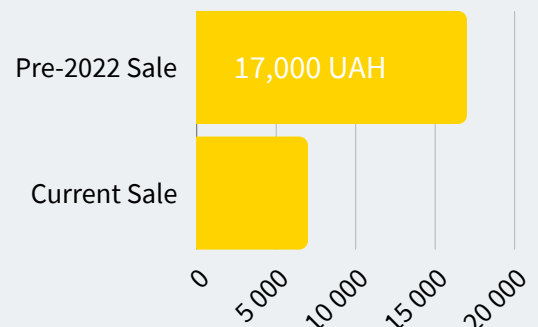
- 0.2-1** Average Hectares per Plot (villages)
- Up to 0.2** Average Hectares per Plot (towns)
- 20 to 30%** Proportion Able to Sell Excess

Agricultural Item Sale Price Comparison

Wheat Production (per tonne)



Sunflower (per tonne)



Villagers depend on the success of the farmer who rents their land. In territories affected by war, this relationship is disrupted. Large-scale farmers face challenges such as landmines affecting 30% to 60% of the land, the destruction of a significant portion of their equipment, and increased costs that hinder them from paying the previous rent for the land. Consequently, small households experience heightened expenses for cultivating land and sustaining livestock.

CHALLENGES TO SUSTAIN AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES IN AREAS AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS

Many territories are mined; whilst garden plots near houses in villages, where people live, are mostly cleared of mines and explosive objects, abandoned plots and pastures are not safe for use.

Since the escalation in conflict, government and non-profit organisations have primarily focused on housing restoration, however, there are outstanding needs for restoration to sheds, stables, and cellars. All this greatly complicates the management of subsidiary farming.

Damage Described per Hromada according to KIIs with Agricultural Specialists

Oblast	Raion	Hromada	Damage Described
Mykolaivska	Mykolaiv	Pervomayska (Blagodatne Village)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete destruction of buildings including cellars and barns
	Bashtanka	Berezneguvatska	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Destroyed infrastructure and housing High number of land mines still exist
	Mykolaiv	Pervomaiska	
	Bashtanka	Snigurivska	
Kherson	Beryslav	Kalynivska	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Villages along Ingulets river (e.g. Davydov Brod, Bylogyrka) destroyed Partial destruction of barns Destroyed infrastructure and housing High number of land mines
		Velyko-Oleksandrivska	
		Kochubievska	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Destroyed infrastructure and housing
		Vysokopilka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Destroyed infrastructure and housing High number of land mines

CHALLENGES TO SUSTAIN AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES IN OTHER TERRITORIES

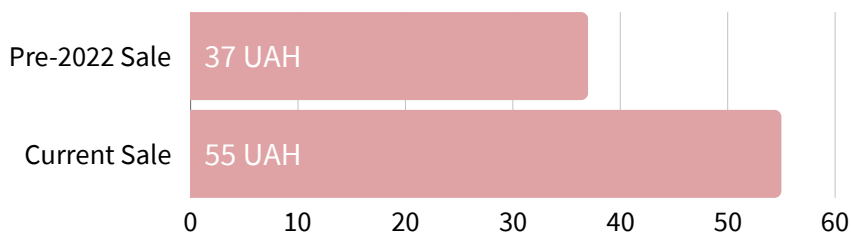
In the south of Ukraine, access to irrigation is crucial due to the dry weather in the summer. In areas where irrigation is well developed, local residents with the necessary knowledge can obtain two harvests of some vegetables per year.

In regions without irrigation, there is a real threat of losing even a single harvest. Heavily reliant on rain, farmers attempt to plant crops as early as possible while there is still moisture in the ground. As an alternative to vegetable growing on such lands, livestock farming is more developed. In areas affected by the crisis, household equipment such as pumps and hoses were damaged or destroyed.

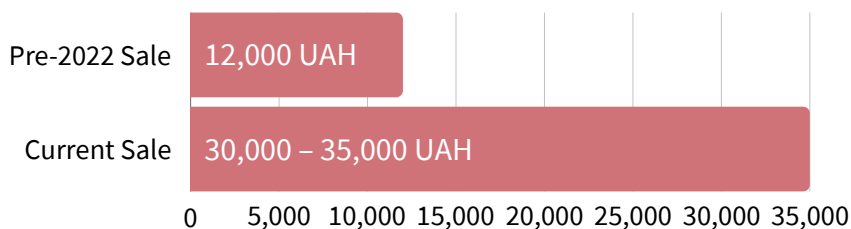
There has been a decrease in farmers' incomes due to an increase in the price of agricultural inputs such as fuel, fertiliser, and transportation.

Agricultural Item Sale Price Comparison

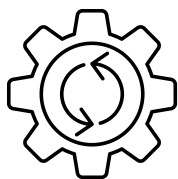
Fuel (per litre)



Fertilizer (per tonne)



SUMMARY OF KEY NEEDS FOR AGRICULTURAL INPUTS



In regions grappling with the aftermath of the crisis, there is an urgent need for the restoration of agricultural buildings and storage, the complete clearance of mines and explosive objects, and the rehabilitation of livestock numbers that suffered losses during the crisis.



In rural areas where there is a decline in income from agricultural activities, it is important to focus efforts on the restoration and development of irrigation systems. Furthermore, there is a need to increase access to larger markets to ensure the price of agricultural inputs in remote areas is not a barrier to revitalising local agriculture.

NEW LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND LIVELIHOOD RESTORATION

CHALLENGES IN BUSINESS TRAJECTORY SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE ESCALATION IN CONFLICT

THE LACK OF QUALIFIED PERSONNEL, ESPECIALLY IN BLUE-COLLAR OCCUPATIONS IS ATTRIBUTED TO SEVERAL FACTORS:

- The migration of the active population to other regions and abroad, particularly in rural areas.
- The mobilization of men.
- A decrease in the prestige of blue-collar professions already started in the pre-war period.

SIMULTANEOUSLY, THERE IS A POOL OF UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS FACING CHALLENGES IN FINDING NEW EMPLOYMENT DUE TO:

- Insufficient skills, with limited opportunities for retraining, as there are few training centres in the Mykolaiv and Kherson regions, and funding for retraining is scarce.
- Reluctance or fear to retrain, as individuals prefer to seek jobs like their previous roles.
- Low salaries, especially in rural areas, where the minimum wage is around 5,500 UAH or less, compared to urban areas where it ranges between 7,000-12,000 UAH.
- Apprehension about mobilization, as men must register with the army recruitment centre when starting a new job or utilizing the services of the state employment centre, including retraining.

Furthermore, enterprises, particularly those in mine-contaminated areas, face challenges such as high loan rate and a reluctance from banks to extend loans, especially to agricultural entities.

Additionally, the loss of traditional trade markets and a reduction in overall purchasing power contribute to the economic strain. This decline is attributed to factors such as population migration, inflation, and marginal increases in wages compared to the pre-war period.

SUMMARY OF KEY NEEDS FOR LIVELIHOOD RESTORATION AND NEW LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Business owners at Focus Group Discussions highlighted the necessity for accessible loan programs featuring low or zero interest rates. This demand is particularly pronounced for farmers in conflict-affected regions, where the destruction or theft of equipment, agricultural machinery, and industrial buildings has occurred. The critical need for agricultural machinery exacerbates the challenge.

There is a pressing need for retraining, with a major barrier being the search for motivated and physically fit workers. Rural areas, in particular, grapple with a population comprising mostly elderly pensioners with physical restrictions and a marginalized segment reliant on odd jobs and humanitarian aid.

