



WFP Ukraine

External Situation Report #39

05 May 2023



In 2023 to date, a total of **74,212 mt** of food and **USD 171,738,429** of cash has been delivered.

| Year/ Month | Transfers | | Rations/Transfers to Beneficiaries | | | | | Total Beneficiaries | |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | Food Delivered (MT) | Cash Transfer Value (USD) | Bread | Rapid Response Rations | General Food Distribution | | | | Cash-Based Transfer |
| | | | | | 30-Day Ration | Suppl. Feeding | Instit. Feeding | | |
| 2023 | | | | | | | | | |
| January | 20,741 | 43,638,960 | 395,658 | 410,753 | 1,100,545 | 5,374 | 372,848 | 731,406 | 3,016,585 |
| February | 20,702 | 45,847,318 | 261,770 | 375,747 | 1,179,649 | 55,450 | 403,080 | 766,825 | 3,042,521 |
| March | 16,479 | 43,228,961 | 690,230 | 215,999 | 852,222 | 49,633 | 478,867 | 723,874 | 3,010,825 |
| April | 13,957 | 39,023,190 | 422,236 | 309,345 | 706,251 | 6,230 | 296,098 | 658,078 | 2,398,238 |
| May | 2,333 | - | 71,113 | 22,061 | 194,309 | - | 62,060 | - | 349,543 |

Key Highlights

- In April, WFP assisted **2.4 million people** in need with Food and Cash.
- On 25 April, **MV Akdeniz M** left the Odesa port carrying 30,000 metric tons of wheat for **Ethiopia**.
- On 5 May, WFP carried out a capacity assessment of the Ukraine Pension Fund to support transitioning recipients of humanitarian cash assistance to Government-led longer-term social benefit assistance.

WFP Ukraine Response

The frontline remains active in the east and south of Ukraine, and the intense ground fighting in Bakhmut is ongoing. Frequent aerial attacks ring the air sirens across the country. While the war continues, warmer temperatures are setting in.

This change in season is welcomed by many Ukrainians, as the 2022/2023 winter season was a difficult one. The cold conditions were exacerbated by the energy crisis and

heating needs associated with the war. The food and essential needs were significantly higher in cost for people especially in frontline areas. To respond to this surge of need, WFP served over 3 million people every month throughout winter months from December 2022 to March 2023. More favorable weather conditions have started easing the burden on each household to pay for essential heating, thus availing more resources to dedicate to food and other needs. This seasonal variation has been reflected in the implementation plan for the spring and summer seasons. Accordingly, **in April**, WFP scaled back its **humanitarian assistance to serve 2.4 million people**. Most of the WFP's assistance continues to be received by women; in 2023 so far, 62% of the total number of people served are estimated to be female, and 38% male.

For May, a similar scale-back is planned to reach 1.8 million people in need of humanitarian assistance under the current food and cash programmes. Concurrently, WFP is closely monitoring the situation and remains agile to scale-up support in case of any significant changes.

WFP is also preparing to launch a complementary social benefit programme in support of the Government's pension

fund reform. As a first step, on 5 May, WFP carried out a capacity assessment of the Pension Fund, supported by the Ministry of Social Policy. This will enable WFP to transition recipients of humanitarian cash assistance to Government-led longer-term social benefit assistance. Once started, up to 300,000 additional people will benefit, in line with the Transitional Framework of the United Nations in Ukraine under the second strategic priority to strengthen national systems and build resilience.

On 18-19 April 2023, WFP facilitated a monitoring mission from Sweden to Eastern Ukraine. The mission visited four distribution sites where WFP, along with its partners, is providing bread and food rations to the vulnerable communities affected by the conflict in the Donetsk oblast. Additionally, the mission visited the Logistics Cluster warehouse where the process for preparing inter-agency convoys was explained. The team also visited the WFP warehouse and observed the kitting line for food parcels.

WFP has started discussions about the anticipated needs during the upcoming 2023/2024 winter season with ECHO on 20 April 2023. Frequent discussions continue with donors about the emergency responses and grain exports. The last week of April, WFP held a series of bilateral meetings with local donor representatives to discuss grain exports (with Norway and Austria) and the emergency response (with United States and Ireland). WFP, also joined by Fondation Suisse de Deminage (FSD) and FAO, met with the Swiss mission to discuss the upcoming launch of the demining project.

Another series of meetings were held with the Government of Ukraine officials from the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food, and the State Agency of Melioration and Fisheries, where commodity specifications and shipping procedure related to grain exports were discussed.

Cash Assistance

Under the cash assistance programme, WFP disbursed more than **USD 39 million in cash assistance to almost 660,000 people in need** in April. WFP cash assistance programmes continue to serve the most vulnerable population affected by the armed conflict in areas where food is available in grocery stores, which promotes rehabilitation of local market conditions. The programme remains consistent with the previous month. Up to five individuals per household receive a monthly cash transfer equal to 2,220 UAH (USD 60) through banks, facilitated by the money transfer company, Western Union (WU). Cash transactions are redeemed at banks via WU codes sent to beneficiaries' mobile phones. WFP continues to use block-chain technology to ensure deduplication of beneficiaries, so that these essential cash resources are used effectively.

Furthermore, value voucher distribution was ongoing in the Kherson hromada where 15,388 people were reached in April. Due to increased security concerns, vouchers are being released in a staggered manner to avoid overcrowding at shops. Prioritized for unemployed people, single mothers, large families with more than four people, and persons with disabilities, each individual under the value voucher

programme receives 6 vouchers to cover the needs of a 2-month period. Each voucher is worth 500 UAH (USD 13.50). Vouchers were sent over SMS to those with working mobile phones, but also printed for people with difficulties in using phones. Distributions have been extended to cover additional populations.

In-Kind Assistance

In April, WFP reached over **1.7 million people** through a combination of bread, rapid response rations, 30-day rations, infant cereal, and institutional feeding. In-kind assistance is designed to serve people living in hard-to-reach areas, where markets are inaccessible due to the ongoing hostilities, damaged infrastructure, mine contamination, or limited power supply.

Missions to WFP field offices and partners in the south and east of Ukraine have taken place to start digitizing beneficiary registration information for food assistance. This will enhance transitioning beneficiaries between the different ration types and transfer modalities, which will ultimately support a transition from humanitarian assistance to the national social security systems.

Accountability to Affected Populations

Inclusion of people facing greater vulnerability continues to be one of the key priorities for WFP. By strengthening linkages between organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) and the Cooperating Partners (CPs), WFP continues to ensure that people who need the assistance the most are receiving the support.

Such dialogue was carried forward to a Training of Trainer (ToT) sessions delivered on 6-7 April. During the ToT sessions, the importance of close coordination between CPs' Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) focal points and OPDs was emphasized by establishing contacts. The knowledge transfer has begun following the ToT; between 25-27 April, Samaritan's Purse trained 60 field workers in Kharkiv. WFP is closely following up with CPs to highlight humanitarian principles and matters related to protection concerns, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), and accountability to affected populations (AAP) in such trainings.

On 25-26 of April in Kyiv, WFP participated in a roundtable event organized by UNFPA on the operationalization of PSEA 2023-2025 in Ukraine. The event was opened by the WFP Representative and Country Director, acting for the Humanitarian Coordinator. Discussions focused on improving SEA survivors access to support as part of the implementation of the multi-year PSEA strategy.

During the last two weeks, WFP's toll-free hotline received 33,083 calls (26,591 calls during the working hours), of which 21,341 calls came from the unique phone numbers. In total, 23,168 of all calls were processed by the hotline operators. 76% of the processed cases were closed as First Case Resolution (FCR), while the remaining 24% were referred to relevant programme focal points. Almost all (94.4%) of the processed calls were CBT-related (i.e. requests for information on amount of cash assistance, and dealing with

Money Transfer Control Number codes), while the remaining (5.6%) requested information about in-kind food support programme and value vouchers, in terms of entitlements, timing and location.

MSNA bulletin published by REACH

The first concrete analysis of the multi-sector needs assessment (MSNA) has been published by REACH Impact. The MSNA contains key data and analysis on the gaps in needs present in Ukraine, as well as priority needs. WFP worked closely with REACH on data collection, leading collection of data in Oblasts close to the front line, and carried out qualitative interviews with people with recent knowledge of non-accessible areas. The results show the economic and physical access are the main drivers of food insecurity in Ukraine, and those demographics more vulnerable to food insecurity. The results are published for [Livelihoods](#), [Shelter/NFI](#), [WASH](#), [Health and Nutrition](#), [Food Security](#), [Protection](#), and [Education](#).

Perekhid Initiative and Social Policy

WFP is finalising the deployment of a humanitarian cash expert to the “Perekhid Initiative” Technical Assistance Facility. The secondment should begin in early May and begin assessing methods of transitioning some humanitarian cash caseloads to the Government-led social protection schemes.

WFP is further supporting the capacity enhancement of the Ministry of Social Policy through technical investments in the Unified Information System of the Social Sphere (UISSS). The UISSS automates the processes of calculating payments, speeds up the consideration of applications, eliminates corruption risks and enhances secure recipient data management. The progress and plans are further documented in [a blog](#) posted by the Minister last week.

On 13-14 and 19-20 April WFP conducted 6 meetings with local social policy departments in regions of Odesa, Dnipro, Pavlohrad and Kamianske. Implementation of UISSS was among the topics discussed where the officials shared issues faced at a local level and corresponding recommendations. In addition, the officials were briefed about key details of the WFP's Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (T-ICSP) to further discuss how WFP can provide support to meet the regional need for humanitarian assistance in wide-ranging topics, such as internally displaced populations, and social, labour, family, and youth policies.

WFP Supply Chain and Support to Food Systems

In April, 13,957 mt of food has been dispatched to CPs, while further 42,127 mt of food commodities are in the pipeline (19,179 mt of food in storage, and 22,948 mt of food in transit or pending supplier delivery).

Direct Contracting with WFP Ukraine

An addendum detailing the transition from WFP to the new

legal entity, WFP Ukraine, in contracts has been shared with current partners and signed. It was to facilitate administrative procedures to claim value-added tax (VAT) under ongoing contracts, and maximize funding directed to the people in need of humanitarian assistance.

The Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI)

WFP remains committed to procuring grain and other foodstuff in Ukraine and exporting it through the Black Sea Ports.

On 25 April, **MV Akdeniz M** left the Odesa port carrying **30,000 mt of wheat for Ethiopia**. Another WFP vessel, MV Glorious Sea set sail on 17 April, carrying 24,000 mt of wheat for Yemen from the Chornomorsk port. MV Deniz M is expected to sail this month to deliver 30,000 mt of wheat for Ethiopia through Djibouti.

To date, **20 WFP-chartered vessels transported over 595,000 mt of wheat** through various Black Sea ports supporting Ethiopia (42%), Yemen (24%), Afghanistan (21%), Somalia (9%), and Kenya (4%).

As the grain price in the global market is heavily influenced by the level of Ukraine's export, the importance of keeping the Black Sea corridor operational has been hailed by the international community. Continuing food exports from Ukraine is of utmost importance to WFP as grain represents most of the traditional food basket globally – without it, severe challenges are expected to supply affordable grain to communities in countries facing acute food insecurity.

As the future of BSGI remains unclear after 17 May, WFP continues to explore alternative corridors via the Danube River as part of contingency planning. In March 2023 ahead of the renewal of the BSGI agreement, WFP shipped 30,000 mt of Ukrainian wheat through Constanta, Romania to assess the capacity and timing of this alternative corridor. The vessel, MV Valentina, arrived on 15 March and sailed off on 25 March to support WFP operations in Yemen. Prior to the BSGI, WFP transported total 90,000 mt of wheat through this port.

According to the latest operational figures published by the Joint Coordination Centre, as of 5 May, **the total tonnage of grain and other foodstuffs** exported from the three Ukrainian ports is **29,501,584 mt**. Of this amount, 8.3 million mt is wheat representing 28 percent of the total amount and ranking as the second most exported commodity, just after corn, which represents 50 percent of the total exported.

Investment in Ukraine's Economy

So far, the total monetary investment value into Ukraine's economy by WFP is estimated to be over **USD 870 million**. Much of this investment is attributed to cash assistance, strengthening individual purchasing power, and allowing Ukrainians to spend in their domestic markets. The estimated value of the locally procured food is another big contributor, distributed in Ukraine and globally. Approximately 30% was spent for in-country humanitarian programmes, while the rest was utilized to support WFP operations in Ethiopia, Yemen, Afghanistan, Somalia, and

Kenya through Romanian and Ukrainian ports. Additional investments into the local economy continue through logistics contracting, field level agreements with CPs, and other goods and services within the country.

Inter-Agency Humanitarian Response Coordination

Food Security and Livelihoods cluster (FSLC)

While April figures are not yet available, in March, 3.5 million people were reached by the FSL Cluster partners through food and livelihood assistance across Ukraine. The largest areas of the assistance took place in Kharkiv (nearly 690,000 people), Kherson (nearly 500,000 people), Zaporizhzhia (nearly 500,000 people), Donetsk (nearly 480,000 people), and Mykolaiv (over 400,000 people) oblasts.

On 20 April, Food Assistance Working Group meeting was held. During this session, participants were informed about the latest Food Assistance overview, and the partners shared their needs and requests. On 18 April, Livelihoods Technical Working Group met to discuss the results of agricultural enterprise assessment.

Logistics Cluster

The Logistics Cluster continues to support humanitarian organisations by providing logistics coordination and information management, and by facilitating access to common logistics services free-of-cost to the user.

Between 17 and 30 April 2023, 355 m³ of humanitarian relief items were received in common storage on behalf of five partners (equivalent to 8 truckloads), and 248 m³ of cargo were released to eight partners (equivalent to 5 truckloads). As of 30 April, the Logistics Cluster is storing 3,932 m³ of humanitarian cargo (48% Shelter, 22% WASH, 12% Early recovery, 12% Logistics, and 6% other cargo) on behalf of 14 partners (equivalent to 84 truckloads).

During the same period, 304 mt of humanitarian commodities (64% Shelter, 16% WASH, 12% Food Security and 8% other cargo) were dispatched on behalf of thirteen partners to 12 locations across Cherkasy, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, Odesa and Zaporizhzhia oblasts.

Of relief items transported, cargo was consolidated, and transport facilitated for three inter-agency convoys, delivering 116 mt of relief items on behalf of seven partners through 16 WFP trucks to Kupiansk in Kharkiv oblast on 20 April, Orikhiv in Zaporizhzhia oblast on 26 April and Novoselivka and Yarova both in Donetsk oblast on 28 April.

The Logistics Cluster moved to the newly contracted storage space in Dnipro, which has a total common storage capacity of approximately 4,500 m². The previous warehouse in Ternova street is now closed.

By the end of April, 1,789 mt of relief items were delivered in 2023, on behalf of 10 partners through 41 inter-agency convoys (215 WFP trucks) to 35 locations across Donetsk,

Kharkiv, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia oblasts.

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)

Currently, the ETC is providing secure internet connectivity services to 310 staff from 14 humanitarian organizations including UN agencies and INGOs in two humanitarian interagency workspaces in Dnipro and Odesa, as well as in the UN Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS) back-up Security Operations Centre in Lviv.

To better respond to radio training needs for all UN agencies in Kyiv, Dnipro and Odesa, the training schedule is being updated based on the results of a recent survey.

ETC continues to focus on providing support to expand Very High Frequency (VHF) network and related equipment. During the last three weeks, the team in Lviv assessed the very high frequency (VHF) base station installation for the Crisis Coordination Hub (CCH) together with UNDSS and WHO.

On 14 April, during a mission to Kramatorsk, a Starlink kit and other telecommunications equipment were installed as a part of the VHF network and Remote Security Operations Centre (RSOC) setup. Following the mission, the failover mechanism for the Kramatorsk remote site was tested to ensure remote internet connectivity.

In Dnipro, the Logistics Cluster was assisted with installation of mobile VHF radios on seven trucks. In Odesa, on 26 April, the coverage of radio communications was assessed in Mykolaiv to monitor connectivity in the region. In Kyiv, the Remote Site on Vehicle (RSOV) project, which includes a pilot mobile VHF radio solution for UN armoured vehicles in high-risk areas is progressing.

Since the launch of the ETC Chatbot “vBeztpesi” (вБезтпесї in Ukrainian, which translates to “safe spaces”), on 20 June 2022, 19,108 unique users in Ukraine have accessed information relating to humanitarian assistance. So far, users of the ETC Chatbot most frequently used the service to access information on humanitarian aid (73%), hotlines and referral methods (16%), human rights (6%), and other useful information (5%). When seeking information on humanitarian aid, the most frequently consulted categories were related to general cash assistance and to WFP assistance.

Funding Outlook

WFP requires a total of USD 1.257 billion for this year, to implement T-ICSP in line with identified needs. Thanks to the generosity of all partners, WFP continues to provide lifesaving food and cash assistance to conflict-affected most vulnerable populations, as well as support the humanitarian community with common logistics and telecommunication services.

This year, so far, 14 different funding sources have allocated funds towards WFPs operations. Along with contributions which have been confirmed in late 2022, WFP is currently funded at 40 percent of the needs-based plan. Further flexibility and predictability in funding is required to enable

WFP to sustain its operation as WFP requires an additional **USD 335 million** to sustain its operations in Ukraine until October 2023. The main funding priorities remain emergency assistance for multi-purpose cash and voucher assistance, as well as support to national social safety nets and demining of agricultural land.

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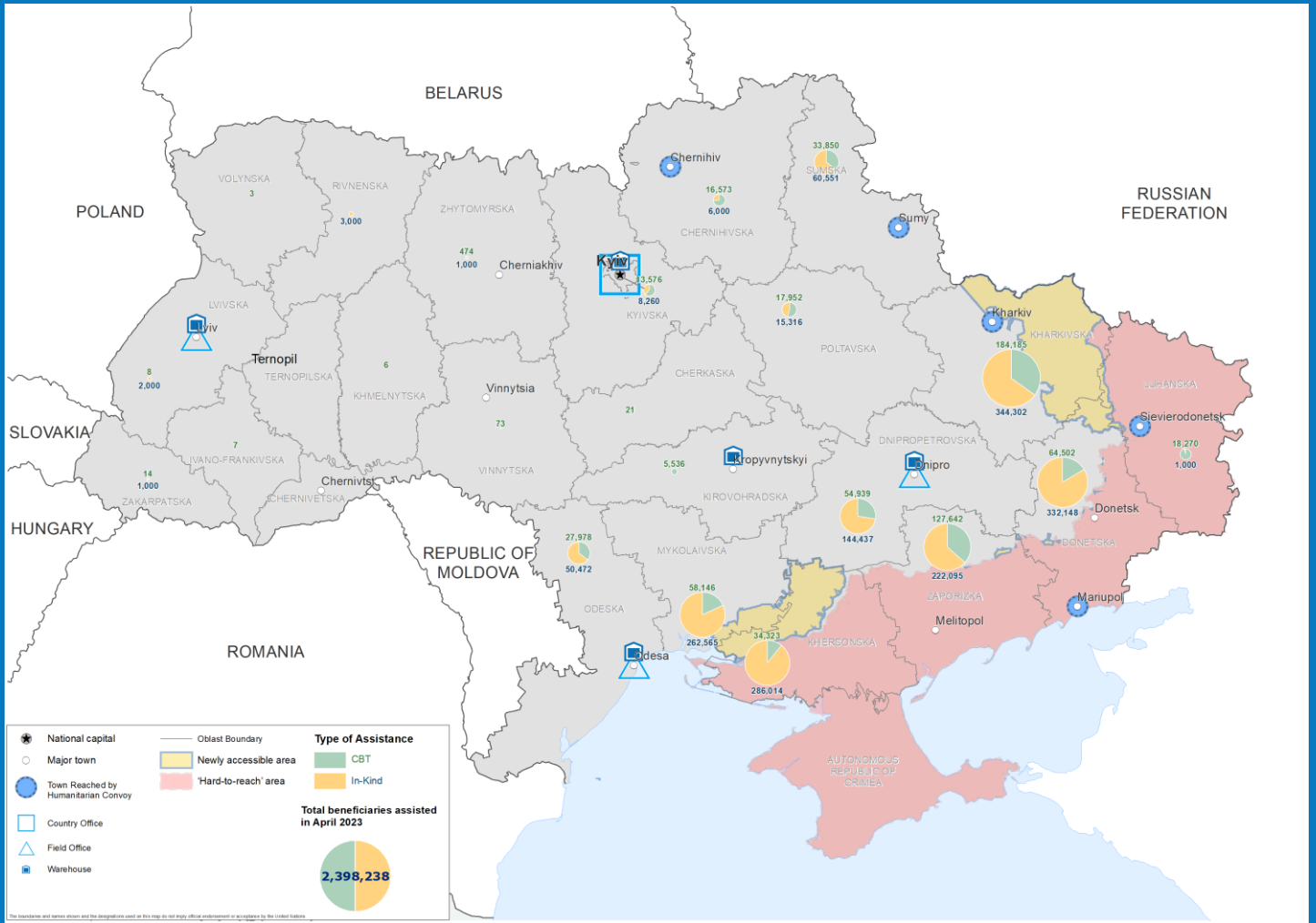
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For further information, visit:

www.wfp.org/emergencies/ukraine-emergency

WFP UKRAINE Assistance – April Overview



WFP would like to thank its partners for their timely support to WFP Ukraine

