



WFP Ukraine

External Situation Report #38

23 March 2023

In 2023 to date, a total of **53,791 mt** of food and **USD 106,654,222** 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	12,348	17,167,944	261,958	149,563	654,956	32,310	324,269	280,052	1,703,108

Key Highlights

- On 9 March, the field level agreement was signed with Fondation Suisse de Déminage (FSD), to carry out demining activities in Ukraine.
- From 6-10 March, Deputy Executive Director and the Director of Emergencies discussed WFP operations with several high-level Government officials in a series of meetings.
- On 21 March, **MV Deniz M** set sail to Djibouti, carrying 30,000 mt of wheat for Ethiopia.

WFP Ukraine Response

As the end of winter season approaches, gradually increasing temperatures are helping ease the compounded difficulties associated with the cold winter. However, in the past few weeks, with the easing weather conditions, attacks have become more aggressive both from the air and in the frontline areas. Increased air attacks involved different types of missiles, leading to more frequent and extended air raid alarms across Ukraine. On 9 March, 12 civilian lives were lost due to a barrage of more than 80 missiles and exploding drones targeting residential buildings and critical

infrastructure across the country, including Kyiv, Odesa and Lviv. Intense ground fighting in the Bakhmut frontline area has become a long and difficult battle for the civilians in the region. To support those people in need, WFP participated in deliveries to locations that are increasingly hard to reach with humanitarian assistance. In total 750 GFD rations were dispatched to Chasiv Yar, located a few kilometres from the Bakhmut frontline as well as 1,500 rations to Kupiansk, Lyman and Preobrazhenka, in coordination with OCHA and with key support from the Logistics Cluster during the last two weeks. These deliveries to critical locations in Donetsk, Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhia oblasts are vital to ensure the assistance reaches communities close to the frontline.

From 6-10 March, the Deputy Executive Director (DED), Ramiro Lopes da Silva, and the Director of Emergencies (DOE), Kyung-Nan Park visited Odesa, Mykolaiv, and Kyiv on a mission, accompanied by the WFP Representative.

On 6 March, WFP met with the Ministry of Social Policy, presenting WFP's work in 2022 in Ukraine, and potential further alignment in 2023. Also attended by three deputy ministers, discussion topics included incorporation of analysis from the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment data in line with the Ministry's needs, and appropriate entry points for WFP to provide top-ups to social benefits aligned to the

Government's Social Protection Reform Agenda.

During the last two weeks, WFP continued its outreach to partners around the food systems and social protection activities. Bilateral discussions were held with Austria, Norway and Canada. WFP also met with Cargill and Nibulon to compare notes on ongoing food systems interventions and with Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) to discuss frontline assistance and the Black Sea Grain Initiative.

Demining for Food Systems

On 9 March, a Field Level Agreement was signed with the long-time partner, Fondation Suisse de Déminage (FSD), to carry out demining education and clearance activities in Ukraine, currently the most mined country in the world. The project, being carried out in close collaboration with FAO, will identify households where demining and clearance activities will have the highest impact on livelihoods and production. Currently, additional resources are required to bring the much-needed specialized demining equipment into the country.

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 frontline, and carried out qualitative interviews with people with recent knowledge of non-accessible areas. The main priority need reported were food (39% reported as priority), medicine (31%) and healthcare (20%).

Launch of Perekhid Steering Committee

The "Perekhid Initiative" held its first steering committee meeting this week, chaired by the Minister of Social Policy. The Initiative is a looking to provide guidance through a technical facility housed in the Ministry of Social Policy to transition humanitarian cash to shock responsive social protection when the situation in Ukraine enables this. The initiative includes humanitarian donors, the Ministry, UN agencies, and international and national NGOs.

Cash Assistance

Under the cash assistance programme, WFP disbursed more than **USD 17 million in cash assistance to over 280,000 people in need** in March, to date. 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 is ongoing in the Kherson hromada where 48,000 people will be reached in March. Due to increased security concerns, vouchers are being released in a staged 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 needs of a 2-month period. Each voucher is worth 500 UAH (USD 13.50). Vouchers are sent over SMS to those with working mobile phones, but also printed for people with difficulties in using phones.



A Kherson resident purchases necessary goods at a local store with the WFP value voucher on 17 February. ©WFP/ADRA

School Feeding

WFP in partnership with the Ministry of Education has launched a school feeding programme in Kyiv Oblast. WFP started assisting more than 12,000 children every month in 58 targeted schools in the Oblast, identified due to higher numbers of internally displaced children in the region and in the school. Current support will continue throughout the remainder of the 2022/2023 school year, after which a scale-up is planned.

In-Kind Assistance

In March, to date, WFP reached nearly **1.5 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.

Accountability to Affected Populations

Ensuring safety during distributions is one of the key priorities. Hence, as a safety and security mitigation measure for beneficiaries at distribution points, WFP security team and security focal points of Cooperating Partners (CPs) are teaming up to ensure proper security measures are in place, through timely exchange of necessary security related information.

To better provide timely and geographically tailored information to beneficiaries, the linkage between WFP's

Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM, also referred to as a hotline) and that of CPs is being strengthened. The available hotline numbers of the CPs have been mapped by 3 administrative levels: Oblast, Rayon, and Hromada, to redirect information requests on specific locations and timing of distributions relevant to the caller. By facilitating direct exchange of information between beneficiaries and relevant CPs, the information flow is streamlined, while improving user experience.

During the last two weeks, WFP's toll-free hotline received 63,400 calls (51,505 calls during the working hours), of which 39,386 calls came from the unique phone numbers. In total, 41,672 of all calls were processed by the hotline operators. 73% of the processed cases were closed as First Case Resolution (FCR), while the remaining 27% were referred to relevant programme focal points. Almost all (94.5%) 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 (5.5%) requested information about in-kind food support programme and value vouchers, in terms of entitlements, timing and location.

WFP Supply Chain and Support to Food Systems

In March, to date, 11,413 mt of food has been dispatched to CPs, while further 29,230 mt of food commodities are in the pipeline (21,590 mt of food in storage, and 7,640 mt of food in transit or pending supplier delivery).

Ensuring Food Safety and Quality

Over the past 3 months, WFP inspected more than 11 local suppliers (wheat flour, canned pulses and meat, pasta productions) on their production conditions, technical equipment, and food safety and quality conditions. Recommendations made to suppliers have enhanced the overall food safety and quality standards, which were considered in awarding new or extension of contracts.

On March 9, WFP inspected a Ukrainian canned meat producer, in an effort to further increase local procurement. Renovated in 2022 and equipped with modern food sterilization technology, the company has enough production capacity to cover almost all of WFP's monthly requirements. The company is currently adopting recommendations provided as a result of the inspection, after which the procurement process is expected to commence.

Exploring New In-Kind Assistance Modalities

In-kind assistance modalities currently in place are being reviewed to better reflect the needs of the beneficiaries. A new 5-day ready-to-eat ration, ready-to-heat before

consumption is being explored for implementation. The Food Safety and Quality unit is currently conducting a market analysis to assess types of products, nutritional values, and potential suppliers.

The Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI)

On 18 March, the extension of the Black Sea Grain initiative was confirmed for 60 days. The initiative allows for the facilitation of the safe navigation for the exports of grain and related foodstuffs and fertilizers, including ammonia, from designated Ukrainian seaports.

WFP remains committed to procuring grain and other foodstuff in Ukraine and exporting it through the Black Sea Ports. WFP has completed the procurement process for an additional 110,000 mt of Ukrainian wheat. Out of the total amount, **30,000 mt of wheat for Ethiopia** has set sail to Djibouti via **MV Deniz M from Odesa port on 21 March**. The remaining 80,000 mt are destined for Yemen. Of which, 30,000 mt has been procured and will be moved under the Grain from Ukraine initiative, thanks to the support received from the US, France and Spain. On 19 March, another WFP-chartered vessel the MV Negmar Cicek, berthed at the Chornomorsk port, is being loaded for its imminent departure.

On 17 March 2023, WFP met with the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food to discuss ongoing shipments from Ukraine and explore new collaborations in support of local food systems.

To date, WFP-chartered vessels transported over 511,000 mt of wheat through various Black Sea ports supporting Ethiopia (40%), Afghanistan (26%), Yemen (19%), Somalia (11%), and Kenya (5%).

Prior to the BSGI, WFP transported total 90,000 mt of wheat through the port of Constanza in Romania.

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 the majority of the traditional food basket globally – without it, severe challenges are expected to supply affordable grain to communities in countries facing acute food insecurity.

According to the latest operational figures published by the Joint Coordination Centre, as of 23 March, **the total tonnage of grain and other foodstuffs** exported from the three Ukrainian ports is **25,362,288 mt**. Of this amount, 6.8 million mt is wheat representing 27 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 around **USD 815 million**. The majority 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 Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Yemen, Kenya and Sri Lanka 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)

In February alone, 2.4 million people were reached by the FSLC Cluster partners through food and livelihood assistance across Ukraine. The largest areas of the assistance took place in Kharkiv (almost 500,000 people), Donetsk (460,000 people), and in Mykolaiv (390,000 people) oblasts.

Moreover, Cluster supported the process for Ukraine Humanitarian Fund Standard Allocation of USD 70 million. Therefore, FSLC partners are eligible to apply for integrated programmes in southern oblasts and northern areas of return in line with the Humanitarian Response Plan.

During the reporting period, FSLC attended General Coordination Meetings with partners and the Government in Chernihiv, Zhytomyr, and Poltava Oblasts. In addition, technical trainings are being organized for partners and are expected to take place in late March 2023.

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.

The Logistics Cluster chaired two coordination meetings in Dnipro and Odesa, bringing together representatives from 12 humanitarian organisations. Four information management products were published on the operation webpage.

Between 27 February and 12 March 2023, 2,140 m³ of humanitarian relief items were received in common storage on behalf of eight partners (equivalent to 46 truckloads), and 412 m³ of cargo were released to nine partners (equivalent to 9 truckloads). As of 12 March, the Logistics Cluster is storing 4,982 m³ of humanitarian cargo (54% shelter, 29% WASH, 5% health, 5% logistics, and 7% other cargo) on behalf of 18 partners (equivalent to 106 truckloads).

During the reporting period, 266 mt of humanitarian commodities (71% WASH, 22% shelter, and 7% other cargo) were dispatched on behalf of nine partners to 12 locations across Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Lviv, Mykolaiv and Odesa oblasts.

Of relief items transported, cargo was consolidated, and transport facilitated for two inter-agency convoys, delivering 40 mt of relief items on behalf of five partners through seven WFP trucks to Stanislav in Kherson oblast on 3 March, and Chasiv Yar in Donetsk oblast on 10 March.

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)

As of 10 March, the ETC is providing secure internet connectivity services to 306 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. Moreover, 12 Starlink terminals have been installed throughout Ukraine to provide back-up satellite connectivity for WFP and ETC services.

In addition, the ETC conducted two missions to Kramatorsk in Donetsk oblast, on 3 and 6 March ahead of the planned expansion of the very high frequency (VHF) network to the frontline location. The team pre-positioned a VHF repeater and Remote Security Operations Centre (RSOC) equipment for activation once the frequency license for the new location is received from the government.

Since the launch of the ETC Chatbot “vBezpechi” (вБезпеці in Ukrainian, which translates to “safe spaces”), on 20 June, 18,567 unique users in Ukraine have accessed information relating to humanitarian assistance. The latest statistics are available on the monitoring tool.

Funding Outlook

WFP requires a total of USD 1.257 billion for this year, to implement the Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TiCSP) in line with identified needs. So far, thanks to the generosity of its donors, 34 percent has been mobilized allowing to cover most critical needs.

During last two weeks, WFP received a French donation of EUR 1 million towards its school meals programme being piloted in Kyiv oblast jointly with the Ministry of Education and Science as well as USD 6.1 million from the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (UHF) in support of the demining work to be carry out in the most war-affected areas of the country starting with Kharkiv oblast.

Further flexibility and predictability in funding is required to enable WFP to sustain its operation for the next six months. Between April and September 2023, WFP requires an additional **USD 342.3 million** to sustain its operations in Ukraine. The main funding priorities remain emergency assistance (especially for vouchers and MPCA which are only covered until early May 2023), support to national safety nets and demining of agriculture land.

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