

### WFP Ukraine

External Situation Report #59 | March 2025

World Food Programme



SAVING LIVES CHANGING LIVES

 WFP RESOURCES
 USD 275 M

 SIX MONTH NET FUNDING REQUIRED
 USD 275 M

 April- September 2025, based on the Needs-Based Plan
 USD 275 M









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### **KEY HIGHLIGHTS**

- WFP-supported warehouse and distribution points were hit, which destroyed 7.5 mt of food boxes in Donetsk, Kharkiv, and Mykolaiv regions.
- 2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) has been reprioritized due to expected funding shortfalls.
- WFP signed an addendum with the Zaporizhzhia city administration to include 17 new underground schools (for nearly 2,000 students) in the School Meals Programme.
- WFP and partners provided emergency assistance in the border region of Sumy and registered affected residents for rapid cash support.

# SITUATION UPDATE

- In March, WFP food supplies in Ukraine were impacted by four separate security incidents. On 3 March, a bomb struck close to a storage facility run by NGO partner Angels of Salvation (AoS) in Andriivka-Klevtsove, Donetsk region, which severely damaged the cultural center where WFP food boxes were stored. The attack destroyed 350 food boxes (4,864 kg), damaged 11 nearby houses and left one civilian injured. Fortunately, no distributions were underway at the time. On 19 March. WFP-supported warehouse а in Kostiantynivka, Donetsk region - also managed by AoS - sustained damage during a rocket attack, which resulted in the loss of 1,393 kg of food supplies (100 food kits). Four days later, a UAV strike hit a WFPsupported distribution site run by 100% Life in Pechenihy, Kharkiv region, partially collapsed the structure and destroyed 96 food kits. No injuries were reported in either incident. On 27 March, shelling in Kherson caused minor damage to an ADRA warehouse on Mykolaiv Highway, and affected some canned goods in Ready-to-Eat kits. The full extent of the losses remains under assessment.
- Intense fighting persists along the border, with major • escalations observed in Sumy region. Daily strikes destroyed critical infrastructure including two schools, (one WFP-supported), two hospitals supported by WFP and a bakery. The most severe attack occurred on 25 March, which injured 103 people including 23 children, damaged 51 buildings and claimed eight civilian lives. Local authorities have evacuated residents from several border communities, with approximately 3,000 people relocated so far. WFP and partners provided emergency assistance, registered affected residents for rapid cash support and prepared food deliveries (General Food Distribution of 791 food boxes) to vulnerable communities.



#### WFP assisted an estimated 1.3 million people in March through various activities.

#### **GENERAL FOOD ASSISTANCE**

#### Food and Nutrition Assistance

- WFP reached over 676,800 food-insecure Ukrainians through rapid response rations, 30-day rations, institutional feeding and bread to meet the most affected populations. Most of WFP's in-kind support goes to frontline communities.
- In March, WFP reached **4,671 beneficiaries with double distributions** in the Donetsk region.

**DOUBLE DISTRIBUTIONS**: WFP continues to provide double distributions in areas where access is challenging, especially along the frontline.

#### Cash-Based Transfers

- WFP disbursed **USD 19.3 million to almost 622,000 people** through various cash-based assistance modalities.
- Due to funding constraints, WFP is forced to prioritize its resources and phase out operations in certain areas. In March, some recipients of cash assistance in Dnipro and Mykolaiv oblasts received a double transfer of 3,000 UAH (Approx USD 73.2) per person, covering support for both March and April in preparation for a possible phase out.
- WFP continued to provide one-time cash assistance of 10,800 UAH (approx. USD 263.5) to more than 1,600 people affected by attacks in the Odesa region and evacuees in the Sumy and Donetsk regions.
- Due to the indexation of pensions approved by the Cabinet of Ministers, minimum pensions have increased by 11.5 percent, which led to the natural phase-out from programmes of pensioners assisted with the social topup from WFP since August 2023. From March to May, WFP will assist 185,529 beneficiaries with USD 1.8 million a month as a top-up to the pension.

#### **UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSE PLAN**

 Ukraine's 2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) has undergone further reprioritization due to expected funding shortfalls. The revised plan targets 4.8 million people (80 percent of the original) with a budget of USD 1.67 billion (64 percent of the original). Activities in better-resourced areas (Kyiv City, Lviv, and Odesa municipalities) have been deprioritized, along with activities not aligned with the plan's four core priorities. The Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster has cut all non-lifesaving assistance from the HRP (largely FAO's livelihoods proposals), which now targets only 1.4 million beneficiaries with a USD 335 million budget, representing a 45 percent cut in this cluster from what was proposed in January when the HNRP was launched.

#### **HUMANITARIAN MINE ACTION**

 WFP announced its collaboration with the State Emergency Services Unit (SESU) to include Explosive Ordnance Risk Education leaflets in WFP food boxes that will be distributed to over 1,000 communities in the next months.

#### **SCHOOL FEEDING**

 WFP expanded its School Meals Programme in Zaporizhzhia to 17 underground schools for nearly 2,000 students, which brought the total to 87 schools supporting approximately 16,000 children under the emergency approach in Zaporizhzhia city.

## CLUSTERS AND COMMON SERVICES

#### FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS CLUSTER (FSLC)

 FSLC partners continued to support evacuees in Kharkiv and Donetsk regions, and reached 4,500 evacuated individuals in February and March, with ready-to-eat meals and hot meals.

#### LOGISTICS CLUSTER

 The INGO HI/Atlas Logistique, a key collaborator of the Cluster operating logistics hubs in Kharkiv and Mykolaiv, announced the closure of operations in Ukraine by the end of April due to a lack of funds. As a result, the Logistics Cluster expects a significant increase in logistics service requests from the humanitarian community in the coming weeks and months. The Logistics Cluster is exploring solutions, including consultations with humanitarian partners and increased donor advocacy, to address the gap.

#### **EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS CLUSTER (ETC)**

- In preparation for the Very High Frequency (VHF) network expansion in four new remote sites, including Shostka, Barvinkove, Kryviy Rih, and Velyka Oleksandrivka, the cluster received a new frequency license permit for Velyka Oleksandrivka and Kramatorsk, and conducted an assessment mission of the VHF repeater installation in Shostka.
- The ETC established the **Ukraine transition phase and exit strategy task force committee** to outline and discuss the process flow and timeline of strategies, including service transition, cost-sharing, equipment maintenance, and technical support.

# RESOURCING UPDATE

• WFP faces a significant funding gap. Currently funded at 24 percent for the next six months (until September 2025), WFP's needs-based plan requires an additional **USD 275 million** to sustain operations.