

# WFP Ukraine and Neighbouring Countries

## External Situation Report #18

25 May 2022

### Highlights

In May, WFP assisted over 1.7 million displaced and conflict-affected people with food and cash thus far throughout Ukraine.

WFP cash assistance increased six-fold this month with around USD 68 million cash transfers provided to up to one million IDPs across Ukraine since the onset of the crisis.

WFP's Ukraine emergency response faces a net funding shortfall of USD 319 million to sustain its operations through the month of August 2022.

### In Numbers



**1.7 million** (estimated monthly)  
conflict-affected people assisted by WFP in May



**10.2 million**  
people in need for food and livelihood assistance  
(UN Flash Appeal, April 2022)



**8 million**  
internally displaced persons (IOM, 3 May 2022)



**6.6 million**  
people displaced to neighbouring countries (UNHCR, 24 May 2022)



**221 WFP staff**  
on the ground in Ukraine and neighbouring countries

### WFP Emergency Response

Since the beginning of the conflict, WFP has reached 5 million people with in-kind and cash assistance cumulatively and will continue scaling-up its response to assist up to 4.8 million people on a monthly basis. WFP continues to monitor the food security situation in Ukraine and refugees' movement into neighbouring countries, to adjust its assistance and accommodate surging needs.

In addition, WFP is providing logistics and emergency telecommunications services to the humanitarian community, facilitating the timely provision of assistance inside and outside of Ukraine.

### Situation Update

Humanitarian needs continue to grow day by day in Ukraine, sparked by three months of ongoing conflict and mounting violence. Fighting remains focalized in eastern Ukraine, slowing in pace but prolonging in time. Sporadic and heightened tensions are taking place in the adjacent areas fuelling constant displacement throughout the country.

Needs are the most acute in contested and encircled areas suffering from massive destruction of civilian infrastructure, where humanitarian access and delivery of life-saving aid to stranded civilians is hampered by hostilities. Local capacities are overstretched in relatively peaceful areas hosting growing flows of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and suffering of shortages of services and commodities.

In this respect, Ukraine's protracted conflict undermines the food security and wellbeing of many people inside the country in diverse ways as crops, livestock and agricultural infrastructure are destroyed and markets are disrupted, creating fear and uncertainty over fulfilling future needs. Insecurity deprives civilians of access to food, water, medical care, fuel, and livelihoods. Normal food supply chains are interrupted from production and harvesting to processing and transport, preventing the movement of goods and people. The lack of fuel and disruption in commercial transportation, limit the farmers ability to deliver their produce to markets. Hence, people, unable to find improved livelihood prospects, resort to coping strategies to feed themselves.

The conflict is also exacerbating vulnerabilities to hunger for large segments of populations in protracted crises situations who have been wrestling with either crisis or emergency levels of food insecurity. It hinders humanitarian efforts to reach those in need and eradicate food insecurity and malnutrition worldwide, in an already challenged global food system.

The World Food Programme (WFP) calls for unconditional, unimpeded, and sustained access to all civilians in need in Ukraine. It also urges for swift action to establish peace and build people-centred and resilient food systems around the world, able to react and adapt to shocks.

**WFP Ukraine Response Strategy**



**WFP Ukraine Food Security Report - May 2022**





## WFP Ukraine Response

In a context of protracted escalation and fluid displacement, WFP continues to ramp up its emergency response, combining food and cash where suitable to meet the diverse needs and proactively adapt to the challenging contexts of Ukraine's cities and oblasts. In oblasts and cities where markets and the financial system are functional, WFP provides cash and vouchers to support those who lost their incomes and livelihood opportunities.

In May to date, WFP has assisted over **1.7 million conflict-affected and displaced people** with food and cash across all the oblasts of Ukraine. In this regard, WFP reached a cumulative five million beneficiaries in the country since the eruption of the crisis.

This month, almost 36 percent of WFP assistance has been delivered in the most conflict-affected east and south oblasts of Ukraine, recording the highest levels of food insecurity as per WFP latest assessment. Namely, Poltavaska, Kharkivska and Dnipropetrovska oblasts received the biggest share of WFP aid, where around 500,000 vulnerable people were supported with food and cash. Over 40 percent of WFP distribution is taking place in the north and centre of Ukraine, in oblasts that were previously the site of active fighting. These areas currently host around 36 percent of the country's IDPs.

### Food and Nutrition Support

WFP continues to ensure the availability of bread for crisis-affected people through its support to bakeries, reaching over 500,000 people across eight cities in Ukraine during the month of May (Kharkiv, Sumy, Dnipro, Poltava, Chernihiv, Odesa, Zaporizhzhia and Mykolaiv). Using wheat sourced locally, more than 5 million loaves of bread have been distributed across these cities since the beginning of the conflict, equivalent to almost 2,500 mt. Daily bread distribution has also been supplemented with the provision of canned meat in Kharkiv and Dnipro.

Rapid response rations (RRRs) were delivered to over 200,000 vulnerable displaced persons living in areas where markets are constrained, mainly in Kharkiv and Poltava, to support their immediate food needs. General Food Distribution (GFD) has been also provided to more than 200,000 conflict-affected people to support their food needs for up to 30 days in oblasts where supply chains are disrupted but commercial transport is still functional.

The nutrition cluster estimates around 600,000 people in need for nutrition support in Ukraine between March and August 2022. Moreover, most of the people on the move inside Ukraine are women and children in dire need for basic goods and social services. In response, in May, WFP distributed nutrition commodities to around 17,000 children aged 6 to 23 months in Odesa, Poltava and Zaporizhzhia, through an integrated approach, along GFD and RRRs, to support their growth and development. Overall, around 23,500 children in Ukraine benefitted from WFP nutrition assistance throughout the last three months while the agency aims to extend its nutrition support to close to 100,000 children monthly throughout August.

### Cash Assistance

Cash assistance represents one of the most efficient and dignified ways to assist displaced persons during an emergency as they are at high risk of losing their homes and regular incomes. Cash helps them to determine their needs, decide on the best way to satisfy them and improve their lives.

In Ukraine, WFP continues to rollout cash assistance to empower food insecure people with choice to address their essential needs, beyond food consumption, while also boosting local markets. In a new record, WFP succeeded to increase its cash transfers six-fold this month, by handing around USD 59 million multipurpose cash transfers (MPC) to over 800,000 displaced and vulnerable residents throughout Ukraine oblasts to support their food security and wellbeing.

Building on WFP advanced technology and data protection measures in place, this cash assistance scale-up was achieved few days after signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Ukraine's ministry of Social Policy and receiving the Government's list of eligible IDPs. People receive between USD 75 and USD 225 per month, depending on family size. Every dollar spent by a family in Ukraine is directly injected into the local economy. As such, WFP transferred USD 68 million to up to one million vulnerable IDPs since April 2022 and intends to assist 1.1 million displaced persons with cash transfers over the coming three months.

In close coordination with Ukraine's Ministry of Social Policy and the Cash Working Group (CWG), WFP is multiplying its efforts to ensure deduplication with the Government assistance, complement the existing national social protection system and strengthen its shock-responsiveness.

### Protection & Accountability to Affected Populations

As part of WFP's accountability to affected population (AAP), WFP is designing the Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) to ensure that safe and accessible complaints and feedback mechanisms are functioning and accessible to all in Ukraine. To date, the team has already responded to around 27,000 feedbacks received through WFP's online feedback form via SMS or email. In addition, WFP continues to advocate for strengthening existing systems for CFM at the inter-agency AAP task force.

As crises impact the lives of women and men, girls and boys in different ways, gender considerations are taken into account in WFP emergency response in Ukraine to leave no one behind. In Vinnytsia, WFP engaged with IDPs and local authorities to understand protection risks related to WFP's humanitarian assistance. The findings should help WFP to further strengthen protection approaches in its programming. WFP also contributed to an assessment of gender-based violence risks for the CWG.

### Monitoring

WFP's global third-party monitor contacted 745 MPC beneficiary households by phone to survey the assistance. The respondents confirmed receipt of the cash transfers. Around 63 percent of beneficiaries primarily used the cash assistance to purchase food, followed by some 15 percent for shelter.

## Neighbouring Countries

WFP Moldova delivered 376,350 hot meals (three meals per day) to Ukrainian refugees in 97 centres across 31 different localities in Moldova through cooperating partners (CPs). These meals reached an average of 1,974 people per day.

Under the cash assistance for host communities programme, almost 11,000 eligible households have been registered for assistance (self-registered or through the Government) and almost 95 percent of the households have received their cash transfers (valued at USD 190) via Western Union. The WFP hotline is operational, and more than 2009 calls were received as of 23 May. Callers remain predominantly women (75 percent), living in Chisinau. Most of the calls (86 percent) pertain to requests for information on registration for assistance.

## Supply Chain



In May, WFP handed over 6,000 mt of food commodities to its cooperating partners in Ukraine, reaching almost 13,000 mt of food delivered in the country since March. A further 100,200 mt of food commodities are in the pipeline (15,300 mt of food in storage, 5,500 mt of food in transit, and 79,400 mt of food pending supplier delivery).

The fourth WFP Roll-On-Roll-Off vessel voyage of Ukraine operation successfully arrived in Constanța (Romania) on 24 May 2022, loaded with 84 trailers containing a total of 1,831 mt of food. The vessel's operation was extended to the month of June, which will guarantee four more rotations from Turkey to Romania and onward to Ukraine. Additionally, a total of 117 trailers carrying over 2,000 mt of pasta, rice, canned beans, and canned meat were dispatched from Turkey, Poland, Romania, and Bulgaria to Ukraine over the past week.

From 19 to 22 May, WFP Moldova managed eleven shipments delivering 26 pallets of assorted humanitarian cargo to Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) and municipalities on behalf of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP). Logistics operations will be phased out by end of May following the handover of the management and transport services at Vatra warehouse to ACTED (Agency for Technical Cooperation & Development).

## Funding Outlook



Funding requirements are expected to significantly grow as a result of increasing humanitarian needs. To date, WFP has received USD 570 million in confirmed contributions.

Over the next three months, WFP require a net funding shortfall of **USD 319 million** to sustain its cash and food assistance in Ukraine and neighbouring countries through August 2022.

## Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster (FSLC)

Since the onset of Ukraine crisis, FSLC partners have reached a cumulative six million people throughout Ukraine with food and cash for food assistance. The FSLC includes 38 cooperating partners, working across all 24 Oblasts on the food assistance response, of which twenty percent are national Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). The map of FSLC partners' presence - food assistance dashboard as of 4 May can be found [here](#).

## Logistics Cluster



As of 22 May, the Logistics Cluster has handled (i.e., stored and/or transported) 11,525 m<sup>3</sup> of humanitarian cargo on behalf of 23 partner organisations, including relief items from multiple sectors such as general programs and operations, food security, health, nutrition, shelter, and WASH.

Fuel shortages across the country are impacting the operational capacity of humanitarian organisations. The Logistics Cluster is liaising with WFP's experts to support the planning of humanitarian partners. Preliminary survey results on organisational fuel requirements show that the needs are greatest in the country's eastern areas.

There are reports of congestion at border crossing points in both Poland and Romania, with more frequent reports of congestion outgoing from Ukraine. The Logistics Cluster is monitoring the situation and working with partners to gather additional information and devise viable solutions.

## Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)



As of 22 May, the ETC is providing secure internet connectivity services to 136 staff from ten humanitarian organisations including UN agencies and international NGOs in two humanitarian interagency workspaces in Dnipro and Lviv.

In Mukachevo, the ETC team is conducting a mission in support of setting up a security communications system, as well as providing training on the use of telecommunications equipment for the United Nations Department of Safety and Security Operations Centre (UNDSS).

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