Key Highlights

- From 31 July to 6 August, WFP Deputy Executive Director (DED), Valerie Guarnieri, and Ukraine Corporate Response Director (CRD), Corinne Fleischer visited Moldova and Ukraine, where they both had a chance to meet with beneficiaries and government officials and see first-hand the impact of WFP humanitarian assistance in both countries.
- In August, WFP has served over 675,000 beneficiaries with food and cash assistance to date.
- Under the UN-backed ‘grain agreement’, 12 vessels carrying grain and sunflower oil have left Ukrainian ports via a safe maritime corridor during the first week of August.
- On 8 August, WFP Deputy Emergency Coordinator for Operations met with the Head of Office of the First Lady of Ukraine to discuss WFP’s support to the national school feeding program, in preparation for the reopening of the schools in September.

WFP Ukraine Response

Despite the continuous attacks with heavy weapons over the past month, WFP served nearly 3 million beneficiaries with food, cash, and livelihood assistance in July. During this reporting period in August, WFP has provided support to over 675,000 beneficiaries.

Food distributions remain concentrated in the east of the country, most affected by the conflict. During the period of 4-6 August, WFP took part in two missions to hard-to-reach areas near the frontlines, supporting the delivery of food kits to Sloviansk with eight trucks (4,500 food kits) and food security assessment in Chasiv Yar, both in Donetsk Oblast.

WFP served around 860,000 people with cash worth over USD 59 million in July, and over 54,000 beneficiaries for around USD 3.5 million within the first week of August. Displaced people seeking safety across the country receive mainly cash. WFP is using block-chain technology to ensure deduplication of beneficiaries. As of August, up to five individuals per household receive a monthly cash transfer equal to 2,220 UAH (USD 75) 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.

Preparation work on value vouchers distribution is ongoing. Currently, the CBT team is focused on sending SMS /e-voucher to beneficiaries in Dnipro, Kryvyi Rih, Kharkiv and distributing Paper Vouchers in Sumyska and Chernihivska oblasts.

Additionally, multipurpose cash assistance has been prepared for internally displaced people (IDPs) following a drastic increase in displacement from Donetsk oblast, coordinating with local authorities to collect phone numbers and send self-registration link.

**In-Kind**

WFP is coordinating with the local administrations on mapping out the needs in frontline areas, so that a smooth transition is done from in-kind assistance to CBT in urban settings where markets remain functional.

In August so far, 300 mt of food has been handed over to Cooperating Partners (CPs) operating in conflict-affected areas in Donetsk oblast, more specifically in Kramatorsk and Pokrovsk rayons. 43.5 mt was provided by Dnipro-based WFP dedicated fleet as a part of WFP Convoy in Sloviansk.

**Nutrition**

On 8 August, WFP Deputy Emergency Coordinator met with the Head of Office of the First Lady of Ukraine to discuss how WFP can better support the First Lady’s efforts to strengthen the national school feeding program. The program was initiated in 2019 with the objective of modernizing the Ukrainian school feeding system. In collaboration with UNICEF, WFP plans to provide direct cash support to schools across Ukraine, in support of schools reopening.

**WFP DED and CRD’s Visit to the Region**

WFP teams in Ukraine and Moldova received a high-level delegation headed by WFP Deputy Executive Director (DED), Valerie Guarnieri, and the Ukraine Corporate Response Director (CRD), Corrine Fleischer. Between 31 July and 1 August, the delegation first visited project sites in Moldova, where WFP and its partners are providing support to Ukrainian refugees that are currently hosted by Moldovan families.

On 2 August, the delegation reached Odesa and met with local Government (including the Odesa Governor) to discuss WFP’s current operations and the implementation of the Black Sea Initiative. They also met with beneficiaries and partners at food distribution sites and visited WFP warehouses.

During her mission to Kyiv from 4-6 August, CRD met with various government representatives, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Social Policy, Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food, as well as the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Ms. Olha Stefanishyna. During these meetings, CRD reiterated WFP’s commitment to provide humanitarian and life-saving assistance, both in cash and food, to the people of Ukraine, especially in those areas most affected by the war. She also highlighted that WFP operations in Ukraine are implemented with the objective of supporting the government’s efforts in areas such as social protection and restoring local markets and agriculture. On her last day in Kyiv, CRD visited a food distribution site in Novoslivka, in the Chernihivska oblast, and met with Samaritan’s Purse (CP), where WFP has been able to assist about 30,000 beneficiaries. CRD finished her mission to Ukraine with a visit to Lviv Field Office, where she was briefed by the WFP team.

**Accountability to Affected Populations**

During 3-5 August, several joint activities of the Protection and Assessment teams took place in Dnipro, including a monitoring visit to a food distribution site. Feedback from the beneficiaries, CPs, and field staff confirmed a good level of reach to vulnerable groups, and highlighted inclusiveness and accessibility of distributions, and good communication with communities. WFP will need to further expand outreach activities to particularly vulnerable categories (people who are at high risk of falling through the cracks of humanitarian assistance) and systematize the use of community feedback mechanisms.

Meetings with regional officials from Ministry of Social Policy and field managers of CPs also took place to further strengthen coordination and collaboration with local authorities and implementing partners in the eastern oblasts.

WFP’s toll-free hotline received almost 28,000 calls during the reporting period. 75% of the processed cases were closed as First Case Resolution (FCR), while the remaining 25% were referred to relevant programme focal points. 98% of the processed calls were CBT-related, while the remaining 2% requested information about WFP’s programmes, amount of cash assistance, and Money Transfer Control Number codes.

**WFP Supply Chain and Support to Food Systems**

Over 60,000 mt of food has been delivered to CPs to date in Ukraine since March. A further 59,300 mt of food commodities are in the pipeline (27,600 mt of food in storage, 16,500 mt of food in transit, and 15,200 mt of food pending supplier delivery). A total of 3,378 mt of food has been handed over to partners as of 6 August.

**Grain Export**

During the first week of August, under a deal brokered by the UN and Türkiye last month, 12 cargo ships carrying grain and sunflower oil have left Ukraine ports via a safe maritime corridor. WFP’s chartered vessel, MV Brave Commander departed Istanbul on 10 August after clearing the Joint Coordination Centre (JCC) inspection to collect Ukrainian Wheat grain purchased by WFP at Ukraine’s Yuzhny port, the first shipment of humanitarian food assistance under the Black Sea Grain Initiative.

Though the export capacity is expected to be increased significantly with cargo shipping resuming, and grain prices
fell on the global market as a result, WFP is continuing to explore alternative corridors, as the opening of these seaports is still short of meeting the full export level prior to the conflict.

**Investment in Ukraine’s Economy**

WFP continues to prioritize scaling-up the procurement of food locally in Ukraine. Overall, the estimated value of the locally procured food (>163,000 mt) amounts to USD 87 million, of which USD 35.4 million was used for humanitarian programmes in-country, and USD 52.2 (>133,000 mt) million worth was exported for other WFP operations, through Romanian and Ukrainian ports.

In addition, cash-based transfers of USD 203.2 million have been injected into the local economy strengthening individual purchasing power and allowing Ukrainians to spend in their domestic markets. Additional investments into local economy continue through logistics contracting within the country. The total monetary investment value into Ukraine so far is estimated to be around USD 280 million.

**Overland Transport**

32 trucks were in transit to Ukraine by road over the past week, including 24 trucks from Romania with rice, four from Poland with infant cereals, and 3 from Bulgaria with pasta, carrying 637 mt to Ukrainian warehouses in total.

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**Clusters Update – International Humanitarian Response**

**Food Security and Livelihoods cluster (FSLC)**

In July under the FSLC, over 3.3 million people were reached with multiple rounds of food assistance and livelihood support (agricultural inputs, trainings) across all 24 oblasts. Oblasts with the highest population reach by partners are, respectively, Kharkivska, Dnipropetrovska, Kyivska and Zaporizka oblasts.

From 45 WFP reporting partners, food parcels (General food distributions) are the most frequent assistance modality equalling to 61% of operations, following by emergency food rations (36%), and hot meal distributions at 3% of reach. Along with six partners working on livelihoods provision, over 40,000 people were assisted with agricultural inputs (seeds and tools), livestock vaccinations, as well as capacity strengthening trainings for farmers.

In July, the Cluster matched requests for assistance for over 11,500 people with food parcels and registered 43 new requests by over 244,194 people, the majority from Dnipropetrovska and Ivano-Frankivska.

Over 1,500 mt of food rations have been distributed along the frontline settlements (or within 20km of the frontline contested areas) by WFP in Donestka, Zaporizka, and Kharkivska in July.

**Logistics Cluster**

As of 7 August, Logistics Cluster has handled 30,082 m³ of humanitarian cargo. A total of 32 partners have been supported with common services, with 375 service requests in progress or completed. The main sectors supported include shelter, WASH and early recovery.

As of 31 July, Logistics Cluster closed its services in Ternopil and Chernivtsi, as well as the overland transport from Poland. Inland transport from Kyiv, Odesa, Kropyvnytskyi and Dnipro will continue to hard-to-reach areas.

**Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)**

WFP TEC team continues to provide support to UN staff and has resolved a total of 890 ICT-related issues for humanitarian personnel across Ukraine since the Ukraine IT Service Desk launch on 29 April.

As of 5 August, the ETC is providing secure internet connectivity services to 265 staff from twelve humanitarian organizations including UN agencies and INGOs in two humanitarian interagency workspaces in Dnipro and Lviv.

Since the launch of the ETC Chatbot, vBeztpesi (вБезпеці in Ukrainian, which translates to “safe spaces”) on 20 June, a total of 9,295 users in Ukraine have accessed information relating to humanitarian assistance, reflecting a steady incline of usership.

**Neighbouring Countries***

**Moldova Update**

Currently, there are approximately 88,780 Ukrainian refugees in Moldova while 83 percent of the Ukrainians who entered the country since February, have left.

**Cash assistance for host communities**: payments are ongoing for the third round of cash transfer for those registered during July 18 - July 31. The eligibility criteria include the requirement to host at least one refugee for a minimum of one week. The payments vary based on the number of refugees hosted: 1 to 4 refugees hosted – 3900 Lei/ household; 5 or more refugees hosted – 4800 Lei/ household. These eligibility criteria will remain for the subsequent rounds and will be adjusted based on monitoring of evolving needs. Once the third-round payments are complete, the data on the number of recipient households will be available on the dedicated dashboard.

As chair of the Moldova Food Security Sub-Working Group, since the start of implementation (15 March), WFP and CPs – with signed FLAs – have delivered 822,015 hot meals (3 per day) in 31 different localities/regions and 93 centres. This represents an average of 1,951 people per day.

During 3-8 August, WFP Moldova Emergency Coordinator, Douglas Mercado had several meetings with representatives of Spain, Japan and USAID/ BHA in Moldova covering varied topics including WFP activities in the country.

*WFP has an operational presence in Moldova and a small number of staff located in Poland, and Romania, to support Ukraine with supply chain corridor support for food commodity movement and liaison with national authorities. By the end of August, WFP plans to close its offices in Poland: Krakow and Rzeszow.*
Funding Outlook

WFP thanks all donors who have generously supported the people of Ukraine through the Limited Emergency Operation. During the reporting period, WFP Ukraine has received two generous contributions from Switzerland (CHF 10 million) and the United States (USD 100 million) which will support the provision of lifesaving food and cash assistance. Additionally, the Supplemental Allocation from the US will enable WFP to work with the Ministry of Social Policy and enhance the adaptability of existing systems to the ongoing humanitarian crisis. The extension of the LEO operation is under approval and will extend the operation to 31 December 2022. The total budget is expected to be just under USD 1 billion.

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WFP would like to thank its partners for their timely support to WFP Limited Emergency Operation, Ukraine