



WFP Ukraine

External Situation Report #43

6 November 2023



In 2023 to date, a total of **137,477 mt** of food and **USD 223 million** of cash has been delivered.

Year/ Month	Transfers		Beneficiaries										Total Beneficiaries	
	Food Delivered (MT)	Cash Transfer Value (USD)	In-Kind Food Assistance					Cash-Based Assistance						
			Bread	Rapid Resp. Rations	30-Day Ration	Suppl. Feeding	Instit. Feeding	Multi- Purpose Cash	Value Vouchers	Compl. Social Benefits	Market- based Trans. support	School 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	729,730	25,000	-	-	12,095	3,042,521	
March	16,479	43,228,961	690,230	215,999	852,222	49,633	478,867	681,435	30,344	-	-	12,095	3,010,825	
April	13,957	39,023,190	422,236	309,345	706,251	6,230	296,098	630,595	15,388	-	-	12,095	2,398,238	
May	14,128	15,421,127	378,820	249,662	714,758	-	293,405	235,163	16,305	-	-	12,095	1,900,208	
June	10,111	4,889,854	359,819	265,577	499,267	-	272,865	83,615	-	-	-	2,982	1,484,125	
July	9,554	9,705,780	389,831	75,207	503,500	-	262,300	165,046	-	-	-	-	1,395,884	
August	9,232	9,191,032	157,045	102,638	510,981	-	252,742	102,267	-	268,629	-	-	1,394,302	
September	10,233	7,773,238	144,780	80,667	608,040	-	222,231	79,960	-	261,499	-	-	1,397,177	
October	10,433	4,127,666	159,010	101,322	599,621	-	231,000	-	-	259,587	27,317	-	1,377,857	
November	1,907	-	12,385	2,000	119,193	-	44,057	-	-	-	-	-	177,635	

Key Highlights

- WFP is planning to serve **2.4 million people** every month during the upcoming winter season.
- **The market-based transitional support programme launched in October**, assisting over 27,000 people with 1,500 UAH (USD 40) per month per person.
- The total monetary investment value into Ukraine's economy by WFP surpasses **USD 1 billion**.
- WFP's participation at the International Donors' Conference on Humanitarian Demining in Ukraine garnered significant interest in FAO-WFP's joint project on Agricultural Mine Action.

Situation Update and Strategic Interventions

As the second winter since the beginning of the war commences, violence in Ukraine continues to reach new

heights. On 5 November, 87 aerial bombs were fired at the settlements of Kherson oblast, the largest number so far in a single day. Along the frontline, the civilian evacuation that started at the end of August due to incessant shelling in Kupiansk, Kharkiv oblast continues, with a high potential for the loss of humanitarian access to people who remain. Avdiivka in Donetsk oblast is one among many cities under intensified attacks since October.

Rapidly decreasing temperatures and the uncertain trajectory of the war are fueling a general sense of concern. Memories of last winter remain fresh in people's minds, marred with bombs, dark streets, power outages, no heating, nor warm food. Considering the ongoing humanitarian needs caused by the war, on 3 November, United Nations leadership called for USD 435 million to provide winter assistance to more than 1.7 million people across Ukraine until March 2024.

Building on last year's experience¹, **WFP is preparing to assist 2.4 million people this winter, and more if the needs change on the ground.** Providing assistance based on specific market conditions in different war-affected regions near the frontline, WFP's aim remains to alleviate immediate hunger needs, help stabilize economic activity and food systems, and augment long-term resilience by supporting national social protection systems.

WFP's efforts to support strengthening the national systems have been recognized by the Ukrainian Government. On 9 October, President Zelensky signed the Decree №681/2023 on the Decision of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine to ensure food security in the country. The second clause of the Decision calls for the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine to increase cooperation with the World Food Programme within a month, to provide assistance to the vulnerable population.

WFP Ukraine Response

WFP continues to refine its **market-based approach** to deliver the appropriate types of assistance, according to the market circumstances, providing different options via diversified modalities.

Cash-based Assistance

WFP's cash assistance programme has been evolving in line with the market-based approach. The **complementary social benefit cash programme**, introduced in August, serves war-affected retirees and persons with disabilities receiving less than the minimum sustainable Government pension (3,000 UAH equivalent to USD 81 per month per person). Since its launch, the programme has supported more than 260,000 people per month.

Starting in October, WFP introduced a programme supporting the transition from food to market-based support (1,500 UAH equivalent to USD 40 per month per person), in areas where previously destroyed markets have begun to recover. This **market-based transitional support programme** aims to help people regain their autonomy while markets recover. Registration has now been completed along with deduplication for Zaporizhzhia and Mykolaiv cities. For October, over 27,000 people have been assisted in Zaporizhzhia town and surrounding areas.

The anticipated change in transfer value of the multi-purpose cash came into effect on 1 October, increasing from 2,220 UAH (USD 60) to 3,600 UAH (approx. USD 97), following a revision by the Cash Working Group. Corresponding adjustments have been made in October for the multi-purpose cash programme, and it will resume this month. Multi-purpose cash assistance is provided to the people who suffered a sudden shock. This includes people experiencing a sudden loss of income, damaged homes, sudden displacement, or the war-related death of a family breadwinner, in the 11 most conflict-affected oblasts in Ukraine.

¹ WFP served on average 3 million people every month during the 2022/2023 winter season.

In-Kind Food Assistance

So far, WFP reached over **900,000 people** in October through a combination of bread, rapid response rations, 30-day rations, and institutional feeding. In-kind assistance is designed to serve people living in hard-to-reach areas, where a local market is deemed not functional, due to ongoing hostilities, damaged infrastructure, mine contamination, or limited power supply.

The 2024 Cooperating Partners (CPs) selection process is ongoing. 43 expressions of interest have been received from both local and international NGOs. Local experience, geographical coverage, efficiency, as well as compliance with Protection, Accountability to Affected Population, Gender Equality and Disability inclusion are among the key criteria in the process.

Efforts to digitally register in-kind beneficiaries have been progressing. Once completed, improvements in the overall precision, accuracy, and efficiency of beneficiary data management are expected.

Accountability to Affected Populations

During the last two weeks, WFP's toll-free hotline received 9,201 calls (8,213 during the working hours), of which 6,777 came from unique phone numbers. In total, 6,712 calls were processed by the hotline operators. 88 percent of processed cases were closed as First Case Resolution (FCR) without referral, while the remaining 12 percent were referred to relevant programme focal points. Almost all (98 percent) of the processed calls were CBT-related, such as requests for information on the amount of cash assistance and dealing with Money Transfer Control Number codes. The remaining (2 percent) requested information about food and value vouchers, in terms of entitlements, timing, and location.

School Feeding

On 18 and 19 October, a delegation of the Ukrainian Government participated in the first [School Meals Coalition \(SMC\)](#) Global Summit in Paris, a platform WFP advocated for to present the Ukrainian School Nutrition Reform and the challenging environment of ongoing implementation. The delegation was composed of the Deputy Minister of Health, Deputy Minister of Education and Science, and the Head of Project Office for School Nutrition Reform and Head of the National Foodservice Association. WFP, UNICEF and WHO supported their preparation for the summit and donor meetings on nutrition reform in Ukraine.

On 18 October, feedback received from the Ministry of Justice was incorporated in the school feeding agreement to be signed between WFP and Oblast authorities, in a meeting between the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Justice, the Kyiv Military Regional Administration and WFP. The draft agreement submitted through the Ministry of Education and Science is now with the 11 Oblast governors for signature. A signing ceremony is planned for the coming weeks.

WFP Supply Chain and Support to Food Systems

In October over 9,800 mt of food was dispatched to CPs. By 6 November, an additional 52,261 mt of food commodities are in the pipeline (18,304 mt of food in storage, and 33,957 mt of food in transit or pending supplier delivery).

While accessibility remains a challenge, WFP plans to support affected people with food and humanitarian assistance on the left bank of the Dnipro River in Kherson oblast, once the areas become accessible. All options are being considered, including mobilization of water-based assets.

Warehouse management

Starting 1 October, one of WFP's Dnipro warehouses was relocated to new premises within the city. The new space with an upgraded warehouse classification improves ease of cargo movements. Overall storage capacity and costs remaining unchanged.

Local Food Systems

From 3 to 6 October, WFP visited local bakeries in Donetsk oblasts in a scoping mission. Six bakeries were visited in Pokrovsk, Sloviansk, Svyatogorsk, Novodonetskoye, and Rodynske. Five were given suggestions for corrective actions before being recommended to partner with WFP. Meanwhile, amid ongoing talks on potential partnership with WFP, ATB, one of the largest food retailers in Ukraine has reopened a shop in Dobropillia in Donetsk, one of the frontline towns severely impacted by the war. Such development aids the rehabilitation of local market conditions, alleviating the hardship faced by the vulnerable people in such regions.

Food Safety and Quality

WFP is planning new rapid response rations, including Meals Ready-to-Eat (MRE) kits, for people on the move or with limited cooking facilities, typically in newly accessible and hard-to-reach areas. Such rations are distributed as an immediate emergency response. MREs are being developed to meet food safety and quality standards, developed in October. Three local suppliers are preparing for final inspections in late November.

Agricultural Mine Action Project

As heavy land mine contamination remains a critical concern among farmers and rural communities in Ukraine, FAO and WFP are jointly **helping restore livelihoods and revitalize rural communities affected by mines and explosive remnants of war**. The project works to release agricultural lands and provides key agricultural resources and inputs, prioritizing Ukraine's breadbasket regions including Kharkiv, Kherson and Mykolaiv oblasts.

From 11-12 October, WFP Country Director and Representative attended the international conference on demining in Zagreb. The joint project was presented highlighting progress and challenges such as limited resources. Significant interest was generated, resulting in

pledges from a number of donors.

With the technical partner Fondation Suisse de déminage (FSD), the project has been conducting extensive Non-Technical Surveys (NTS), delivering wide reaching Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) activities focused on rural communities.

Seven NTS teams have been targeting 76 prioritised farms under 300 ha. in size. As of 1 November, 224 areas (total combined area of 28.32 km²) have been surveyed. Of these, seven plots (total combined area of 4.31 km²) have been declared free from any evidence of mine or explosive ordnance contamination.

These land plots were identified as ready for productive use, with no further mine action interventions necessary. Remaining areas will require further technical surveys and clearance. Explosive Ordnance Risk Education has now reached over 19,700 beneficiaries through 550 sessions conducted in the project area of Kharkiv Oblast.

Clearance operations have been initiated in household agricultural plots in the village of Kamiianka in Izium Rayon in Kharkiv Oblast. In coordination with local authorities, two clearance teams have been deployed in October and started the clearance of 25 prioritised household plots. Eight plots are funded by WFP with the remainder supported by other in-kind capacities of FSD. Demining of household plots has been complemented by additional work of the State Emergency Services of Ukraine (SESU) who have conducted clearance of buildings associated with these agricultural areas.

By the end of September, WFP, FAO together with FSD held a workshop in Kharkiv to develop a strategic workplan on further project implementation.



Grain movement

After the Russian Federation suspended the Black Sea Initiative, export potential of Ukraine's ports has decreased by 40 percent, according to the Minister of Infrastructure of Ukraine. Targeted attacks on ports and grain storage destroyed nearly 300,000 mt of grain, enough to feed 10.5 million people for a year. Yet, since Ukraine established the Temporary Black Sea corridor in August, the cargo movement through Ukrainian sea ports remains; 21 vessels have successfully left and 25 new arrived for loading, said the Minister on 13 October.

WFP continues to facilitate grain movement whenever possible, with a Grain from Ukraine shipment out the

Danube scheduled for December headed for Nigeria (25,000 mt). A further shipment for Sudan (26,000 mt) is currently under negotiation with the Government of Ukraine.

Investment in Ukraine's Economy

So far, WFP's total monetary investment into Ukraine's economy is estimated at **USD 1 billion**. Much of this investment is attributed to cash assistance, strengthening individual purchasing power, and allowing beneficiaries to support the domestic market. The estimated value of the locally procured food is another big contributor, distributed in Ukraine and globally. Approximately, 30 percent was provided to in-country humanitarian programmes, while the rest was utilized to support WFP operations in Ethiopia, Yemen, Afghanistan, Somalia, Kenya and Sudan 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.

On October 16, the second UN Procurement and Vendor Fair was held in Odesa, targeting local businesses in the region, including Odesa, Mykolaiv, Kherson, and other cities. The event aimed to raise awareness about UN procurement practices and opportunities for joining the United Nations' supplier network. As a key participant to the event, WFP emphasized its prioritization of local procurement and its commitment to support local Ukrainian producers.

Inter-Agency Humanitarian Response Coordination

Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster (FSLC)

In September, over 2.7 million people were reached by FSLC partners through food and livelihood assistance across Ukraine. Donetsk (nearly 550,000 people), Kharkiv (nearly 540,000 people), Kherson (over 420,000 people), Zaporizhzhia (nearly 350,000 people) and Dnipro (over 270,000 people) are the top five oblasts with the greatest assistance reach.

FSLC continues to strengthen its sub-national coordination system, through engagement with elected coordination focal points across Ukraine. To date, 12 Coordination Focal Points (CFPs) have been elected and endorsed throughout Ukraine.

On 26 October, the monthly national partner meeting was held in Dnipro, bringing together over 120 representatives from around 70 organizations, the highest number of participants since the start of the operation, reflecting increased level of interest and engagement among partners.

On 9 October, the first [FSLC bulletin](#) in the Ukraine Response was shared with partners. The Cluster is collaborating with WFP and the Cash Working Group on how to strengthen deduplications of multi-purpose cash and in-kind food assistance beneficiaries.

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-charge to the user.

Between 23 October and 5 November 2023, 120 m³ of humanitarian relief items were received in common storage on behalf of five partners (equivalent to 3 truckloads). As of 5 November, the Cluster is storing 2,164 m³ of humanitarian cargo (51 percent WASH, 42 percent shelter, 3 percent logistics and 4 percent other cargo) on behalf of 11 partners (equivalent to 46 truckloads).

During the same period, 85 mt of humanitarian commodities (82 percent WASH, 13 percent shelter and 5 percent other cargo) were dispatched on behalf of eight partners to 6 locations across Dnipropetrovsk, Mykolaiv, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia Oblasts.

Of the relief items transported, cargo was consolidated, and transport facilitated for two inter-agency convoys, delivering 23 mt of relief items on behalf of five partners through 5 WFP trucks to Dobropillia and Tavriiske, both in Zaporizhzhia Oblast.

By 5 November, 3,065 mt of relief items were delivered on behalf of 11 partners through 94 inter-agency convoys (410 WFP trucks) to 109 locations across Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Sumy and Zaporizhzhia Oblasts.

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)

So far, secure internet connectivity services have been provided to 14 humanitarian organisations including UN agencies and INGOs in humanitarian inter-agency workspaces in Lviv, Kharkiv and Odesa.

On 23 October, ETC began to set up the Security Information Operation Center (SIOC) in the newly established UNDSS permanent premises in Kyiv. ETC is engaging with the "Telecommunications Security Standards" (TESS+) collaborative initiative and inter-agency community activity to update frequencies and operating parameters for all UN agencies' very high frequency (VHF) radios.

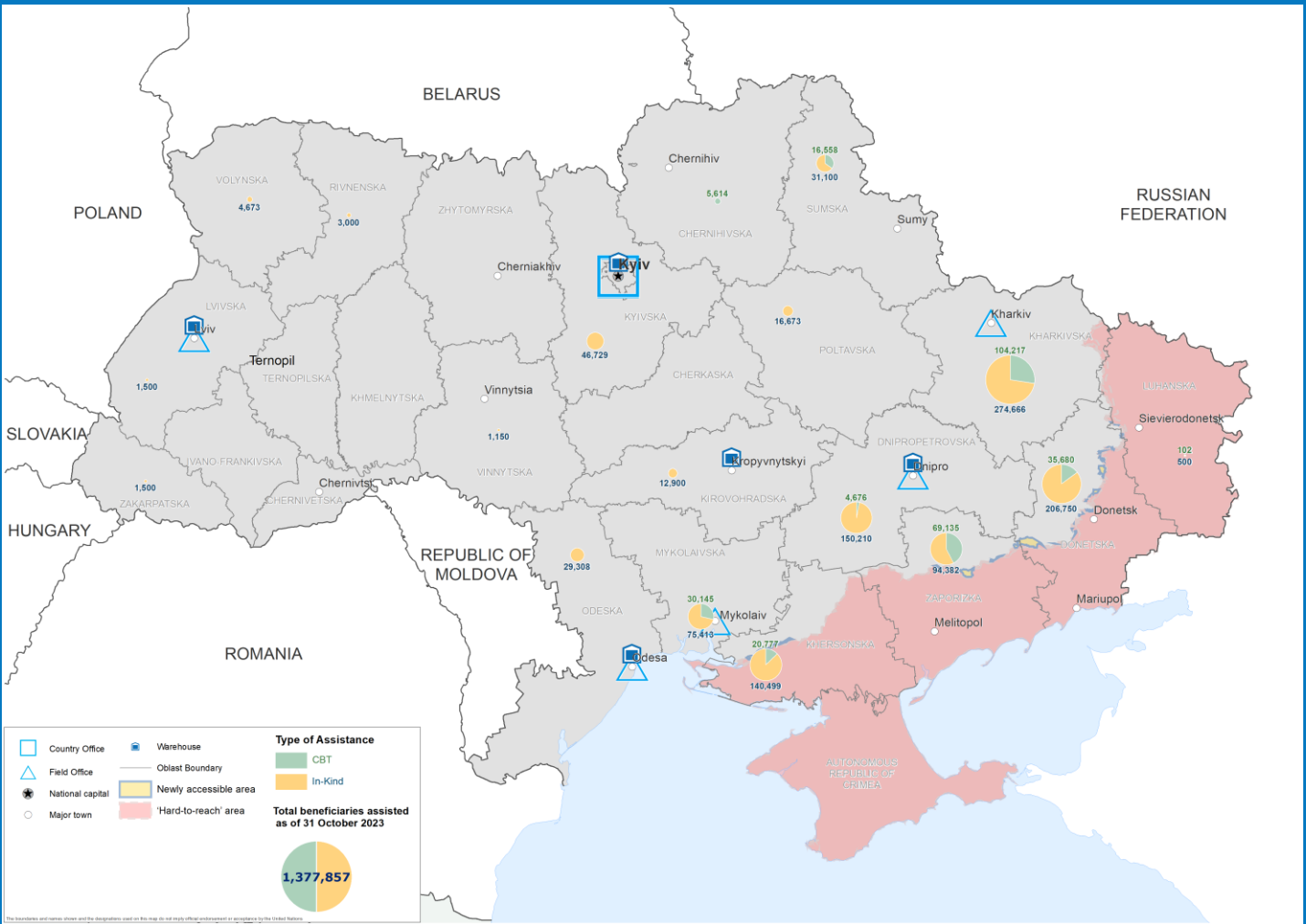
As part of the VHF network expansion, a repeater is being installed in Luch, Mykolaiv oblast, which would expand the coverage in Mykolaiv and Kherson oblasts. Another repeater was installed in Kyiv last week. The ETC also provides technical support to WFP and other UN agencies (IOM, OCHA, UNFPA, UNDSS, WHO) in their technical assessment and installation for the Remote Site on Vehicle (RSoV) solution.

Funding Outlook

Thanks to the generosity of 30 donors and partners, WFP continues to provide lifesaving food and cash assistance to conflict-affected and most vulnerable populations, as well as support the humanitarian community with common logistics and telecommunication services.

Currently funded at 22 percent, WFP requires an additional **USD 557 million** for the next six months until April 2024 to sustain its operations. The funding priorities remain food procurement for the emergency response, as well as support for national social safety nets and agricultural mine action.

WFP UKRAINE Assistance – October Overview



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



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