



WFP Ukraine

External Situation Report #37

8 March 2023

In 2023 to date, a total of **41,443 mt** of food and **USD 89,486,279** 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

Key Highlights

- For the third consecutive month, WFP supported **over 3 million people** with food and cash assistance during the coldest months, as the war in Ukraine passed the one-year mark on 24 February 2023 since the escalation in 2022.
- WFP has **prepositioned and implemented double distributions for an estimated 300,000 people** in frontline areas at risk of potential lost access.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 24 February with the Ministry of Education and Science to start the pilot School Feeding programme.

WFP Ukraine Response

After over 21,000 civilian casualties, 5,000 missile strikes, 3,500 air strikes and 1,000 drone attacks, **the 24th of February 2023 marked the one-year anniversary** since the escalation of the war in 2022, which prompted a sudden humanitarian crisis with 14 million people displaced, and 11 million people in need of food, leading to an unprecedented global food crisis. On this sombre occasion, the WFP Representative and Country Director in Ukraine joined several world leaders and representatives of other UN

agencies based in Kyiv, at the “February. Year. Resilience” event organized by the Government of Ukraine, and chaired by the president, re-confirming WFP’s commitment and solidarity with the international community to stand by the Ukrainian people facing difficulties due to the conflict in the direst times of need.

Intense ground fighting in the east of the country continues, where a reduction of accessible areas was observed during the last two weeks. **WFP’s anticipatory action to preposition and double-distribute food enabled timely support to an estimated 300,000 people in frontline areas** deemed at risk of losing access during the month of February.

Despite the month of February being a short month, as well as heightened security concerns, WFP supported **over 3 million people in need with food and cash, for the third consecutive month** amid the cold winter, together with its Cooperating Partners (CPs).

Demining for Food Systems

Aimed at helping phase out the need for humanitarian relief for thousands of farmers, the three-phased demining project proposal has been approved by the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (UHF) after the revision process. The grant agreement is being prepared for the disbursement of funds to kickstart

the project. A field level agreement is also being finalized with Fondation Suisse de Déminage (FSD), to carry out demining education and clearance activities in Ukraine. In collaboration with the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food and FAO, the project will identify households where demining and clearance activities will have the highest impact on livelihoods and production.

The first phase is targeting and transparent prioritization of farmers with a focus on **small-size farmers regaining their livelihoods**. The second phase is demining work consisting of non-technical assessments, unexploded ordnance (UXO) and mine clearance and post clearance soil-assessments. The final step is land rehabilitation, where FAO will provide seeds, machinery or access to credit and WFP could link farmers to WFP's procurement.

Cash Assistance

Under the cash assistance programme, WFP disbursed nearly **USD 46 million in cash assistance to 754,730 people in need** in February. 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, **another round of value voucher distribution (February-March) is ongoing to serve 73,000 people in the Kherson hromada**. In February, 25,000 people have already received value vouchers. One of the supermarkets used by the programme was close to a missile strike, causing disruptions in distributions.

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.

Post Distribution Monitoring for Cash Assistance

WFP published a "[post distribution monitoring](#)" report for its cash-based transfer programme in 2022. The monitoring findings show that the cash assistance reached the intended beneficiaries, who were satisfied by the assistance received. The conditions for receiving the assistance were assessed by the majority of recipients as safe and dignified and all beneficiaries felt they were treated respectfully.

School Feeding

On 24 February, WFP signed an agreement with the Ministry of Education and Science to frame the implementation of a school feeding programme. The framework outlines the first phase of the **pilot to start immediately in 58 primary school of the Kyiv Oblast for 10,000 children**, selected among the institutions targeted by UNICEF, until June 2023. Kyiv oblast was chosen as most primary schools have returned to in-person education in the oblast, and the high enrolment rate of internally displaced children. WFP will further scale up the programme in the 2023-2024 school year. The seed funding for this pilot phase has been provided by France.

In-Kind Assistance

In February, WFP reached nearly **2.3 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.

Moreover, during the last month, WFP distributed almost **1.2 million** of boxes with the **30-day rations**, specifically designed to meet food needs for one-month, containing pasta, wheat flour, canned beans, canned meat, sugar, sunflower oil, and oats.

Social Protection

WFP teams in the Ukraine country office and regional bureau in Cairo have prepared an [article](#) documenting some of the efforts made to date. The article highlights how WFP is supporting the Ministry of Social Protection in its efforts to identify the people most in need and enable the efficient provision of humanitarian assistance by the Government and humanitarian actors, complementing efforts through the social protection system.

WFP and the World Bank Social Protection team discussed the ongoing support to the national social protection system, on Friday 3 March, including the progress to date on the Unified Information System of the Social Sphere (UISSS).

Accountability to Affected Populations

Partner Training

Following the signing of the nine field level agreements (FLAs) with CPs for food distribution in 2023, CPs and field-based staff were trained in Dnipro on 2023 FLA implementation.

The three-day training from 20-22 February included key sessions on food distribution management to the staff directly carrying out the activities, and covered community feedback mechanisms and monitoring.

Two more sessions are planned for the rest of the CPs in Dnipro by the end of this month. Similar trainings will take place at Odesa and Lviv field offices.



Cooperating Partners and field-based WFP staff attend the partner training in the eastern city of Dnipro on 22 February. ©WFP

Community Engagement and Community Feedback Mechanism

During the last two weeks, WFP Ukraine participated in the corporate annual health check survey focusing on implementation of the Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM), and the Community Engagement (CE) for accountability to affected population strategy.

An exercise aimed at improving the CFM standardisation initiative through feedback, the survey included reporting on several key performance indicators. The results of the survey will be used to measure the functionality of the Country Office CFMs, setting a baseline status of CE Action Plans, to identify best practices, as well as areas for improvement.

During the last two weeks, WFP's toll-free hotline received 69,921 calls (52,920 calls during the working hours), of which 42,839 calls came from the unique phone numbers. In total, 46,193 of all calls were processed by the hotline operators. 70% of the processed cases were closed as First Case Resolution (FCR), while the remaining 30% were referred to relevant programme focal points. Almost all (97.8%) 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 (2.2%) requested information about in-kind food support programme and value vouchers, in terms of entitlements, timing and location.

Partnerships

WFP has been working with World Central Kitchen (WCK) to launch a new project to provide hot meals and ready-to-eat rations to the households in Ukraine that lack access to utility services. Through a Commodity Voucher mechanism, this partnership will leverage WCK's experiences in hot meal and ready-to-eat ration provision in Ukraine to complement WFP's food distributions in conflict-affected communities.

In the past two weeks, WFP held several bilateral meetings with its traditional partners (US/BHA, UK/FCDO, Ireland) providing latest operational updates and attended the warm-up session on Ukraine in preparation to the European Humanitarian Forum which is due to take place in Brussels between 20-21 March 2023.

On 27 February, WFP met with the Resident Representative of IMF in Ukraine and the technical team to discuss the economic situation and outlook focusing on the agriculture sector and market recovery.

WFP Supply Chain and Support to Food Systems

In February, 20,710 mt of food has been dispatched to CPs, while further 34,400 mt of food commodities are in the pipeline (21,200 mt of food in storage, and 12,200 mt of food in transit or pending supplier delivery).

100% Completion of Distribution Plan

During the last three months, WFP supply chain team has completed 100% of the food release notes under the monthly implementation plan. In February, in addition to the previously planned requirements, the team also fulfilled an additional 169,000 emergency boxes of 30-day rations for prepositioning and double-distribution, responding to the anticipated increased needs due to the escalated risk across the frontline areas.

The Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI)

WFP has 3 vessels due to pick 80,000 mt of wheat in the coming days, while the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI) is set to expire or be extended on 18 March.

To date, WFP chartered vessels transported over 481,000 mt of wheat through various Black Sea ports supporting Ethiopia (36%), Afghanistan (27%), Yemen (20%), Somalia (11%), and Kenya (5%).

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

WFP remains committed to procuring grain and other foodstuff in Ukraine and exporting it through the Black Sea Ports. In the past two weeks, WFP launched the procurement process for additional quantities of grain to replenish its food pipeline globally. Stocks are expected to move out of the country within this month, however, this depends on vessel availability and the extension of the Black Sea Grain Initiative.

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 such as Ethiopia, Yemen, Afghanistan, Somalia, and Kenya, facing acute food insecurity.

According to the latest operational figures published by the Joint Coordination Centre, as of 3 March, **the total tonnage of grain and other foodstuffs** exported from the three Ukrainian ports is **22,958,948 mt**. A total of 1,552 voyages have been enabled so far.

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. The continued export of grain is also an important activity for the local economy, as keeping the grain flowing allows farmers to be self-reliant.

Investment in Ukraine's Economy

So far, the total monetary investment value into Ukraine's economy by WFP is estimated to be over **USD 790 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)

During the reporting period, 3 million people were reached by the FSL Cluster partners through food and livelihood assistance across Ukraine.

Of this, over 99% of people were reached with the In-kind food distribution, and the largest areas of food assistance took place in Kharkiv oblast (over 700,000 people), and Donetsk oblast (580,000).

The Cluster supported the review of the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) for food security indicators. The MSNA report, jointly prepared by WFP and REACH based on data collected by the two organisations, is expected to be launched later this month.

Logistics Cluster

During 14-22 February, the Logistics Cluster supported the emergency scaled-up delivery and prepositioning of critical relief items through the facilitation of 13 inter-agency convoys near frontline locations under heightened security concerns ahead of the one-year anniversary.

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 Kyiv, bringing together representatives from 36 organisations. Four information management products were published on the operation webpage.

Between 13 and 26 February 2023, 433 m³ of humanitarian relief items were received in common storage on behalf of six partners (equivalent to 11 truckloads), and 425 m³ of cargo were released to nine partners (equivalent to 11 truckloads). As of 26 February, the Logistics Cluster is storing 3,662 m³ of humanitarian cargo (49% shelter, 35% WASH, 8% health, and 8% other cargo) on behalf of 17 partners (equivalent to 97 truckloads).

During the reporting period, 946 mt of humanitarian

commodities (46% food security, 31% shelter, 21% WASH, and 2% other cargo) were dispatched on behalf of seven partners to 20 locations across Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, Odesa, and Zaporizhzhia oblasts.

Of the relief items transported, cargo was consolidated, and transport facilitated for 13 interagency convoys conducted across eight consecutive days - with a schedule of two convoys per day across five days- which delivered 834 mt of relief items through 76 trucks, on behalf of six organisations to 12 locations across Donetsk, Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhia oblasts. This represents a significant joint, inter-agency effort to ensure continued support to those most in need along the frontline.

During the reporting period, the Logistics Cluster dedicated truck fleet has been augmented with 12 newly procured trucks to be operational both out of Dnipro and Odesa, to increase its support to partners via transport services to hard-to-reach areas in eastern and southern oblasts and via inter-agency convoys.

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)

As of 27 February, the ETC is providing secure internet connectivity services to 304 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, the cluster began **the set-up of the Starlink Very Small Aperture Terminal in the UNDSS' premises in Dnipro** on 21 February to provide backup connectivity in the inter-agency common office.

In addition, earlier last month, the ETC started re-deploying staff to the field offices to provide more support across the frontline operations in Kharkiv, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Mykolaiv, and potentially Kherson oblasts with emergency telecommunication services.

Since the launch of the ETC Chatbot "vBezpeci" (вБезпеці in Ukrainian, which translates to "safe spaces"), on 20 June, 18,249 unique users in Ukraine have accessed information relating to humanitarian assistance. The latest statistics are available on the monitoring tool.

Funding Outlook

Thanks to the generosity of its donors, over USD 421 million has been received against the Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2023 - 2024) from over ten different funding sources, including US/BHA and private donors, which remain the top two contributors to the response.

During the reporting period, WFP registered the 2023 Supplementary Budget allocation from Japan of USD 19.1 million focusing on emergency response and common services. Allocated resources have enabled WFP to remain agile in its response to date supporting consistently over 3 million people per month during this winter season. Further flexibility and predictability in funding is required to enable

WFP to sustain its operation for the next six months.

Without an additional **USD 327.3 million**, WFP will not be able to disburse cash beyond April nor distribute food beyond June 2023. Imminent funding gaps are recorded in the social protection activity as well as food systems support.

Contacts

Matthew Hollingworth, WFP Representative and Country Director (CD), matthew.hollingworth@wfp.org;

Marianne Ward, WFP Deputy Country Director, Operations (DCD), marianne.ward@wfp.org;

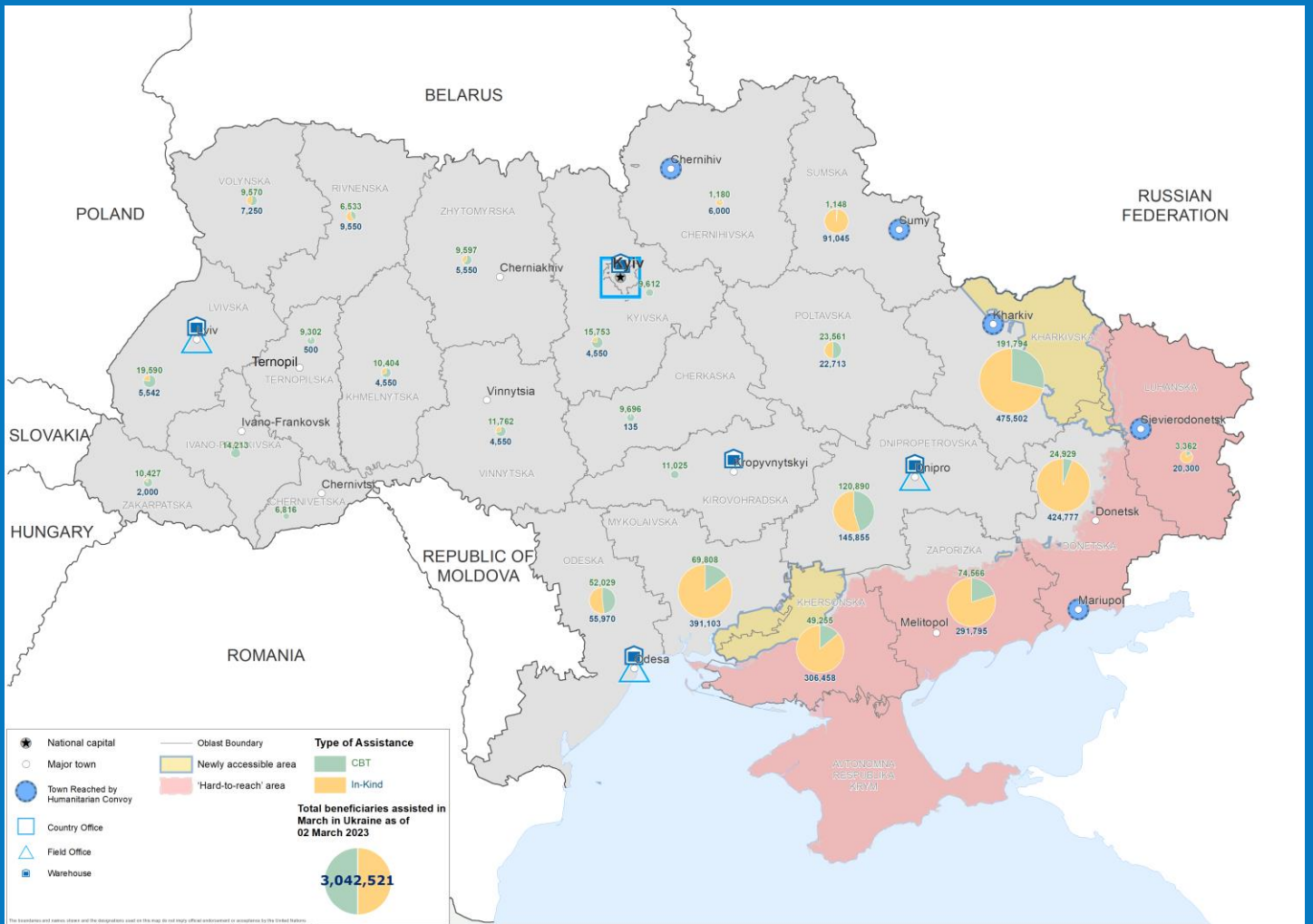
Steve Nsubuga, WFP Deputy Country Director, Enabling Services (DCD), steve.nsubuga@wfp.org;

Clara Jin, Head of Operational Information Management, clara.jin@wfp.org;

For further information, visit:

www.wfp.org/emergencies/ukraine-emergency

WFP UKRAINE Assistance - February Overview



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

