



# WFP Ukraine

## External Situation Report #42

11 August 2023

In 2023 to date, a total of **110,246 mt** of food and **USD 206,398,830** of cash has been delivered.

Year/ Month	Transfers		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		
<b>2023</b>									
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
March	16,479	43,228,961	690,230	215,999	852,222	49,633	478,867	723,874	3,010,825
April	13,957	39,023,190	422,236	309,345	706,251	6,230	296,098	658,078	2,398,238
May	14,128	15,421,127	378,820	249,662	714,758	-	293,405	263,563	1,900,208
June	10,111	4,889,854	359,819	265,577	499,267	-	272,865	86,597	1,484,125
July	9,554	9,705,780	389,831	75,207	503,500	-	262,300	165,046	1,395,884
August	4,575	4,643,640	63,651	15,500	246,506	-	151,281	78,447	555,385

### Key Highlights

- So far, the total monetary investment value into Ukraine's economy by WFP is estimated to be over **USD 1 billion**.
- On 28 July, the project to provide **complementary cash to pensioners** in war territories was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.
- According to the latest post distribution monitoring in July, the **beneficiary awareness of Feedback and Complaint Mechanisms has more than doubled** since October 2022.
- A total of five boats and nine engines, the water-based assets used for the Kakhovka Dam Flood response, were handed over to local administrations in Kherson oblast.
- On 31 July, the agreement for the largest ever donation by Croatia to WFP of EUR 1 million was signed.

### Situation Update and Strategic Interventions

As the last quarter of 2023 is just around the corner, planning discussions are taking place to prepare for what is expected to be an even more difficult winter and beyond in 2024. Still, the needs at present remain dire and dynamic as the war in Ukraine continues to escalate. Fierce fighting is ongoing while intensified attacks are reported around the northeastern city of Kupiansk in Kharkiv Oblast. Fighting is ongoing throughout the entire contact line, including the Zaporizhzhia Oblast, and north and south of Bakhmut in Donetsk Oblast. Air sirens sound more frequently as aerial attacks have intensified.

On 4 August, Ukraine announced military operations against six Russian Black Sea ports, following continuous targeted attacks on Ukrainian sea port infrastructure. A critical turning point was on 17 July, when the Black Sea Initiative was

suspended as the Russian Federation withdrew from the deal, after which, targeted air raids destroyed and damaged the Ukrainian Black Sea ports and grain storage facilities in Chornomorsk, Odesa, as well as Izmail, a Danube River port.

On 4 August 2023, the chargé d'affaires ad interim (a.i.) from the **Embassy of Sweden visited a food distribution point** in Kramatorsk in Donetsk Oblast, where WFP has been consistently providing emergency food kits since the area became accessible, throughout the winter and the intensified hostilities. Sweden was briefed about the frontline operation involving both rapid response and bread deliveries. Thanks to the flexibility and generosity of donors such as Sweden, WFP has been able to swiftly adapt assistance modalities according to the fast-evolving ground realities.

On 1 August, a partner briefing was delivered focusing on three key WFP priorities: emergency response, cash & social protection, and the revitalization of food systems & livelihoods, including agricultural mine action. On the same day, WFP's social protection programmes were discussed with the World Bank, especially about the project to provide complementary cash to pensioners.

On 31 July 2023, WFP Representative and Country Director in Ukraine, and the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia signed a Directed Multilateral Contribution Agreement for **EUR 1 million**, in the presence of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Economy of Ukraine. This is **Croatia's largest ever donation to WFP and will contribute towards accelerating land release process** through technical surveys for the joint WFP-FAO agricultural mine action project. Croatia will host the International Donor Conference on Humanitarian Demining in Ukraine on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of October in Zagreb. The conference will be a platform to mobilize additional international support and resources for demining initiatives in Ukraine.

On 26 July, the WFP Representative and Country Director (CD) in Ukraine met with the newly appointed Head of Civil Military Administration in Orikhiv, Zaporizhzhia Oblast, and visited a school, previously used as a humanitarian hub, destroyed by an aerial bomb on July 9. The CD also visited the former reservoir of Kakhovka dam that is currently dried up as a result of the dam destruction on 6 June 2023. On site, they assessed the humanitarian and environmental conditions in the affected areas.

## WFP Ukraine Response

As a follow-up to the Kakhovka Dam Flood response, on 21 July, WFP transferred water-based assets to Stanislav and Muzykivka Village Administrations in Kherson oblast, since the water levels in Dnipro have notably subsided reducing the demand for the use of water-based assets for people in need. As a part of WFP's commitment to support people of Ukraine both through immediate relief and longer-term resilience-building, in total 5 boats, 9 engines and related equipment, were handed over to hromadas to boost their resilience in responding to future potential crises.

## Cash Assistance

In the first half of July, WFP started **multi-purpose cash (MPC) transfers directly into beneficiaries' bank accounts** under the agreement with Privat Bank. This is expected to facilitate WFP's reach to a more diverse beneficiary base, including those who previously faced difficulties accessing the Western Union service.

The value of the monthly transfer, currently 2,220 UAH (USD 60), is being reviewed by the Cash Working Group, following the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) review held in July. The food component is expected to range between 40-50% of the total adjusted MEB. WFP will adjust the monthly cash transfer value accordingly.

On 28 July, upon receiving feedback from the local authorities, WFP presented targeting criteria for the planned **transition from in-kind to cash assistance in Zaporizhzhia city and Mykolaiv Oblast**. The transition has been planned based on the assessment that the market has sufficiently recovered. The beneficiary registration will start shortly, with the first transfer expected by the beginning of September.

On the same day, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved the resolution on **implementation of a joint project with the Ministry of Social Policy to provide complementary cash support for pensioners** living in the territories of active or possible hostilities, for an initial period of 4 months. WFP has signed the final version of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Pension Fund of Ukraine, to be followed by the first transfers expected by the end of the month.

## In-Kind Assistance

WFP reached over **1.2 million people** in July 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 markets are inaccessible due to ongoing hostilities, damaged infrastructure, mine contamination, or limited power supply.

Preparations are underway to launch a call for proposals for 2024 Cooperating Partners (CPs). At the same time, a presentation was delivered to CPs on 10 August to explain the beneficiary registration process as WFP prepares to transition into digital beneficiary registration. The process should aid further potential deduplication.

## Accountability to Affected Populations

In collaboration with UNFPA, information booklets on Gender-based Violence (GBV) have been developed for dissemination. Printed and translated into Ukrainian, the booklets have been designed to be handed out by the CPs as part of the distribution of food boxes. The booklets include information on prevention and mitigation of GBV incidents, as well as contact information for support centres. As of 7 August, 300,000 booklets have been delivered to Dnipro, Kropyvnytskyi, Kyiv and Odesa for distribution.

According to the latest third-party monitoring performed in July, **the beneficiary awareness of WFP Feedback and**

**Complaint Mechanisms has increased 2.5 times** compared to October 2022 (from 16% to 36%). The number of beneficiaries who are aware of reporting mechanisms in case of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse has also doubled (from 12% to 23%). The significant increase is attributed to ongoing effort to increase awareness at food distribution points through dissemination of information materials and through Cooperating Partner (CP) trainings.

### School Feeding

A total of 3,676 individual schools have applied to participate in the September scale-up round among the already selected 11 Oblasts. By the end of July, the applications were reviewed, and tentative lists of schools have been prepared according to the vulnerability criteria per each Oblast. They were then shared with the regional authorities for their feedback.

Following their feedback, in the first half of August, the final list with the last adjustments in line with targeting criteria and programmatic needs has been sent to the Ministry of Education and Science for their communication to regional authorities. In total, more than 70,000 children from more than 450 schools are expected to use the canteens supported by WFP by the beginning of the 2023-2024 academic year, thanks to the continuous generosity from the Government of France.

## WFP Supply Chain and Support to Food Systems

In August, almost 2,800 mt of food was dispatched to CPs, while a further 37,564 mt of food commodities are in the pipeline (18,930 mt of food in storage, and 18,368 mt of food in transit or pending supplier delivery).

### Digital Commodity Accounting

On 8 and 10 August, two further training sessions were delivered on the last-mile digital application for CPs, Samaritan's Purse and Tarilka. The roll-out of the application is to enhance accountability and precision in commodity accounting based on live data. Application is already in use by another CP, CO Network.

### Grain Movement

Since the suspension of the Black Sea grain deal by the Russian Federation on 17 July, Ukraine's grain storage and export infrastructure in the Odesa region have been under a series of air strikes targeting both sea and river ports. On 5 August, WFP Country Director a.i., together with the Humanitarian Coordinator visited the Port of Izmail, one of the key alternative export routes on the Danube River, to assess the level of destruction left by the Russian strikes on grain storage facilities on 2 August. Estimated 40,000 mt of grains were damaged as a result, an amount equivalent to feed 66 million people for a day.

Discussions around the grain donation from the Ukrainian Government for Sudan and Nigeria are continuing with relevant ministries and other stakeholders. With the suspension of the Black Sea Initiative as well as security and

capacity concerns around alternative ports pose additional challenges, hence requiring a careful refinement of the logistical details.

### Agricultural Mine Action Project

The joint WFP-FAO project, with the technical partner Fondation Suisse de deminage (FSD) is making progress with the Non-Technical Surveys (NTS). Four teams have been reaching out to farmers with less than 300 hectares. As of 4 August, 6 sites (total combined area of 3.43 km<sup>2</sup>) have been declared free of any evidence of mine or explosive ordnance contamination. These land plots were cancelled from the list of areas suspected of contamination, therefore, have become ready for productive use.

The other lands that are not confirmed to be free of any explosive ordnance will require further technical surveys and clearance.

Currently, FSD is conducting Battle Area Clearance (BAC) trainings. BAC is a systematic search, detection, and removal process to clear land, contaminated with ordnance and munitions, and can only be conducted on land that is free from landmines. Once the trainings are completed by 18 August, 11 staff will become ready for deployment.

FSD is also working on augmenting its capacity for technical surveys to expand land release activities, by engaging locally manufactured equipment solutions. By the beginning of August, the first Ukrainian-made roller system, built in Kharkiv, was certified for use. The project is currently in the process of procuring three of them.



*The first Ukrainian-made certified roller system is being used for technical surveys in Kharkiv oblast in June 2023. ©WFP*

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) sessions also continue to be provided to people alongside WFP food distribution sites.

The project is part of the recovery and resilience strengthening efforts in Ukraine, as it seeks to restore food production among rural families. Studies have shown families with their own food production are much more resilient against hunger, when faced with adversity. By releasing land for agricultural production to Ukrainian smallholder farmers through testing and clearance when required, the project aims to contribute to long-term food security of the communities affected by the ongoing war.

## Investment in Ukraine's Economy

So far, the total monetary investment value into Ukraine's economy by WFP is estimated to be over **USD 1 billion**. Much of this investment is attributed to cash assistance, strengthening individual purchasing power, and allowing beneficiaries to spend in the local domestic market. 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 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.

## Inter-Agency Humanitarian Response Coordination

### Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) Cluster

As part of the **Humanitarian Program Cycle** (HPC) process, the FSL Cluster is working on the 2024 Humanitarian Needs & Response Plan (HNRP), currently focusing on the analysis of data collected through the Multi Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA).

On 27 July, Monthly Partner Meeting brought together over 90 partners from over than 43 organizations to discuss winterization and "Restoring livelihoods and revitalizing rural communities affected by mines and explosive remnants of war", a project implemented jointly by FAO and WFP with technical support from FSD.

The FSL Cluster supports five sub-national Oblast level Cluster Focal Points to provide coordination roles in Dnipro, Kharkiv, Poltava, Rivne and Vinnytsia. In regular coordination forums FSLC field-based colleagues followed up on contingency planning with food assistance partners to support a response through to the end of the year. At the same time, authorities in Kherson, Mykolaiv and Odesa Oblasts introduce more strict targeting criteria with a move from status-based to a vulnerability-based approach.

### 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 17 and 30 July 2023, 160 mt of humanitarian commodities (59% WASH, 18% Shelter, 17% Food Security and 6% other cargo) were dispatched on behalf of 10 partners to 13 locations across Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Mykolaiv and Odesa Oblasts.

In addition, the Cluster supported the first inter-agency convoy to Druzhba in Sumy Oblast, which is close to the border location.

By 30 July, 2,805 mt of relief items were delivered on behalf of 11 partners through 80 inter-agency convoys (364 WFP

trucks) to 62 locations across Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia Oblasts.

### Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)

So far, secure internet connectivity services have been provided to 384 staff from 14 humanitarian organisations including UN agencies and INGOs in humanitarian inter-agency workspaces in Lviv, Kharkiv and Odesa.

Under the **VHF network expansion** project, designed to aid humanitarian operations, the planned network diagram has been finalized. The new diagram has integrated data security devices and features, such as Cisco Security appliance devices with the VHF internet connectivity, and Radio over Internet Protocol (RoIP) gateways, which augments two-way radio communications. Installation of VHF radio repeaters are planned for the first five locations in Dnipro, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Luch in Mykolaiv oblast, and Lviv.

A UN-wide capacity strengthening plan is being implemented by providing security communication training to UN staff. As of today, ETC has delivered 29 VHF training sessions for 303 staff out of 600 from ten UN agencies (WFP, IOM, HRMMU, OCHA, WHO, UNDSS, FAO, UN Women, UNICEF, and OHCHR).

## Funding Outlook

WFP requires a total of USD 1.257 billion this year, to implement Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (T-ICSP) in line with identified needs. Thanks to the generosity of all 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.

This year, so far, 30 different donors have allocated funds towards WFP's operations. Along with contributions that have been confirmed in late 2022, WFP is currently funded at 33 percent of the needs-based plan until January 2024. Further flexibility and predictability in funding are required to enable WFP to sustain its operations as WFP requires **USD 396 million** to sustain its operations in Ukraine until January 2024. The main funding priorities remain emergency assistance for multi-purpose cash and voucher assistance, as well as support for national social safety nets and the agricultural mine action.

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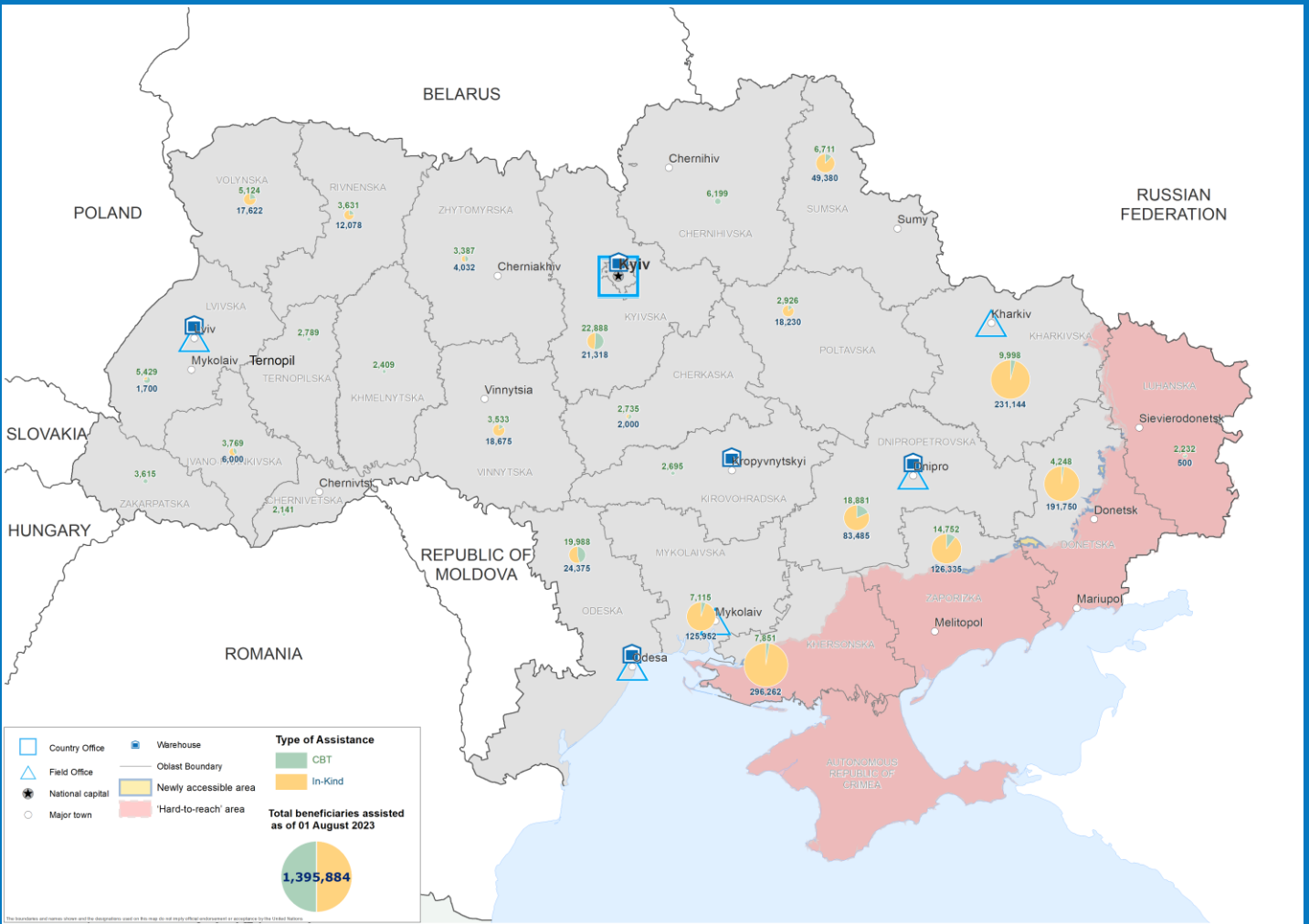
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For further information, visit:

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# WFP UKRAINE Assistance – July Overview



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

