



WFP Ukraine Limited Emergency Operation

External Situation Report #28

7 October 2022

To date, a total of **104,338 mt** of food and **USD 277,613,770** of cash has been delivered.

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		
March	2,343		600,000	221,095	175,277			1,000	997,372
April	4,244	9,195,450	1,180,776	665,551	178,277	6,440		143,286	2,174,330
May	10,205	64,411,875	724,255	197,302	221,502	44,835	169,013	846,431	2,203,338
June	18,787	66,585,675	744,945	38,819	897,327	50,599	57,372	924,148	2,713,210
July	22,387	59,546,250	781,372	144,053	920,032	63,391	164,759	860,142	2,933,747
August	23,319	33,851,295	967,819	32,071	1,134,716	20,500	48,318	560,215	2,763,639
Sept	19,905	44,023,225	525,609	142,686	1,094,566	74,780	239,751	738,317	2,815,709
October to date	3,148	-*	108,963	80	158,928	19,500	54,734	-*	342,205

*Cash Based Transfers will mainly take place at the end of the month in line with monthly distribution plan.

Key Highlights

- In newly accessible areas of Kharkiv, Kherson, and Luhansk oblasts, **almost 300,000** heavily war-affected residents have been supported with **over 2,500 mt** of food assistance in September.
- This month, WFP surpassed the milestone of serving war-affected people with **more than 100,000 mt of food** since the start of the response in February.
- WFP assisted over **2.8 million beneficiaries** with food and cash assistance in September.
- A tri-partite agreement between WFP, the Ministry of Social Policy (MoSP), and a vendor was signed to strengthen the core system of the Unified Social Registry of MoSP on 8 October.
- On 7 October, the **fifth WFP-chartered vessel**, New Island departed from Chornomorsk Sea port, loaded **with 30,000 mt of wheat destined for Somalia** further supporting humanitarian efforts.
- The risk of a reduction of WFP support in Ukraine during the critical winter period continues, with a funding shortfall of USD 690 million until March 2023.

WFP Ukraine Response

The disputed referendum of eastern oblasts has driven a fear of the potential escalation of the conflict in Ukraine. This has also been manifested with increased military threats not only near the frontline but also drone attacks in other areas, including Odesa and Kyiv.

Despite these challenging circumstances, WFP continues to serve those in need directly with food and cash support; In September, **over 2.8 million conflict-affected people** have been directly assisted with food and cash transfers.

On 26 September, WFP Corporate Response Director, Corinne Fleischer and the Country Director in Ukraine, Matthew Hollingworth attended the Senior Officials Meeting on Ukraine organized by the European Union in Brussels, alongside members of the UN Country Team of Ukraine. The need to maintain critical assistance to the most vulnerable people throughout the winter months and support to the continuation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative were key discussion points.

Assistance in Newly Accessible Areas

WFP was among the first responders to deliver humanitarian support in the **newly accessible areas** of Kherson, Luhansk, and Kharkiv oblasts, where **almost 300,000 heavily war-affected residents** were supported by WFP with **over 2,500 mt of food assistance in September**.

As the conflict continues, WFP's focus in October remains on responding deftly as the needy in the newly accessible villages and towns across the frontline regions in eastern and southern Ukraine become reachable. 400 boxes of 30-day rations were distributed on 4 October in Lyman, a strategic town of Donetsk oblast, only a few days after it became accessible.

In Stariy Saltiv, a village in the Kharkiv oblast that was a target of regular shelling until September, a key bridge was destroyed leaving nearly 3,200 Ukrainians cut off from support. Thanks to WFP partners and a group of dedicated Ukrainian volunteers, food assistance was provided by boat on 2 October ([watch the video](#)).

Cash Assistance

Under the cash assistance program, WFP disbursed over **USD 44 million in cash assistance** to over **738,000 beneficiaries** in September. WFP cash assistance for October remains prioritised for the following groups of people: the low-income households directly affected by the conflict, internally displaced people with disabilities, people with disabilities in the 11 most conflict-affected oblasts in Ukraine, and the elderly with access to functioning markets to utilize cash, either residing in or originating from the 2 most conflict-affected oblasts.

In locations where food is accessible in shops and markets, cash assistance will help local businesses recover as it supports the revitalization of local markets. 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 blockchain technology to ensure deduplication of beneficiaries, so that these essential cash resources are used effectively.

As part of its continuous effort to maximize its reach to the most vulnerable war-affected people in Ukraine, WFP's cash assistance program is shifting its SMS service provider responsible for sending out unique Money Transfer Control Number (MTCN) codes to a new local one. The new agreement will provide **savings up to 80%** of the cost for a single SMS, generating more than USD 20,000 in savings during the first week of operation. These are funds which can now be re-directed to assist needy Ukrainians.

In addition, a tri-partite agreement between WFP, the Ministry of Social Policy and a vendor engaged in improving the Unified Information System of the Social Sphere (UISSS) was formalized on 8 October. This agreement will enable the parties to better address gaps in coverage and to ensure the sustainability of meeting the most vulnerable people's

essential needs more effectively for the eventual ending of the need for WFP's humanitarian assistance in Ukraine.

In-Kind Assistance

Food distributions remain concentrated in the areas along the conflict line where markets are not functioning, and where it is the only viable modality to ensure acceptable levels of food security. WFP continues to work on refining the geographic and beneficiary targeting to ensure that the assistance levels meet the needs of the population, especially since new populations in need are becoming accessible as the conflict dynamics evolve.

In September, WFP reached more than **2 million people** through a combination of Bread, Rapid Response Rations, and General Food Distribution (GFD) comprising a 30-day rations, Supplementary Feeding (Infant Cereal) and Institutional Feeding, founded on strong partnerships with various partners in country. WFP has signed updated field level agreements with six cooperating partners for the period of September to December, while four more agreements are being finalized.

Bread assistance continues to be one of the strongly preferred types of support among communities in the eastern and southern regions of Ukraine; In September, more than **half a million** people were served with fresh bread distribution. WFP is working to increase the local production volume by expanding engagement with local bakeries.

Accountability to Affected Populations

WFP endeavours to ensure that assistance reaches people living in newly accessible areas as quickly as possible, while also ensuring the assistance is evidence-based. Hence, in Kupiansk earlier this week, WFP started **an assessment** on 7 October with a focus on markets in both Kupiansk and Izium, newly accessible towns in the Kharkiv oblast. This assessment will establish a baseline of key indicators for WFP assistance in the newly accessible areas, as WFP adapts its response strategies to fast changing circumstances.

At the same time, WFP's partners continue disseminating leaflets about the Community Feedback Mechanism during distributions, and sharing longer-term distribution plans. These efforts allow the partners to inform the beneficiaries in advance about distributions and entitlements.

WFP's toll-free hotline received 89,285 calls during the last two weeks. 65% of the processed cases were closed as First Case Resolution (FCR), while the remaining 35 % were referred to relevant programme focal points. Almost all (99%) of the processed calls were CBT-related (with the most reported issues being requests for information about WFP's programmes, amount of cash assistance, MTCN codes), while the remaining (1%) requested information about in-kind food support programme, in terms of entitlements, timing and location.

WFP Supply Chain and Support to Food Systems

During the first week of October, WFP marked the milestone of having delivered **over 104,000 mt of food** to CPs for those war-affected people in need, since the start of WFP operations in Ukraine in February 2022.

A further 70,923 mt of food commodities (21,321 mt of food in storage, 3,200 mt of food in transit, and 46,402 mt of food pending supplier delivery) is in the pipeline.

Changes in Dnipro warehouse operations

Due to the security situation in eastern Ukraine, changes related to stock management are being introduced to the Dnipro warehouse, WFP's busiest warehouse, where approximately half of overall commodities are loaded. To ensure a prompt evacuation of the stocks in case of a security emergency, the Dnipro warehouse will minimize excessive buffer stocks, while maintaining of the same delivery capacity level.

Overland Transport

179 trucks were in transit to Ukraine by road over the past two weeks, including 35 trucks from Romania, 30 from Poland, 30 from Italy, and 68 trucks from Türkiye carrying in total 5,800 mt (canned meat, salt, rice, cereals, and pasta) of cargo to Ukrainian warehouses.

The Black Sea Grain Initiative

As the end of the 120-day validity of the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI) draws near (20 November), high-level discussions are taking place to renew the deal. Since the signing of the initiative on 22 July, about 43% of wheat shipped so far is going to low and lower-middle income countries.

On 7 October, **the fifth WFP-chartered vessel** (New Island) departed from the Ukrainian Black Sea Port of Chornomorsk, loaded with **30,000 mt of wheat** destined for WFP's humanitarian response in **Somalia**. WFP plans to continue regular maritime shipment of WFP food assistance from Ukrainian ports to support global humanitarian efforts. So far, over 150,000 mt of wheat have been shipped through various Black Sea ports via WFP-chartered vessels supporting Ethiopia (35%), Yemen (25%), Afghanistan (20%) and Somalia (20%) since the BSGI deal was effectuated.

According to the operational update from the Joint Coordination Centre of the BSGI, as of 6 October, the total tonnage of grain and other foodstuffs exported from the three Ukrainian ports is 6,372,498 mt. A total of 584 voyages (302 inbound and 282 outbound) have been enabled so far.

Although Ukraine's export capacity is expected to increase significantly with the resumption of cargo shipping, leading to a decrease of grain prices in the global market, WFP continues to explore alternative corridors (e.g. via the Danube River), as the opening of these seaports is still short of meeting the country's full export level, prior to the conflict.

Coordination support to boost capacities in the Danube corridor, in particular, continues as part of contingency planning while stakeholders prepare for the BSGI extension.

Investment in Ukraine's economy

WFP continues to prioritize scaling-up the procurement of food, locally sourced from Ukraine. On 23 of September, a deal was signed with the biggest Ukrainian supplier of Vegetable Oil, *Kernel*, in an effort to boost local procurement for in-kind operations, while prospective further cooperation is being discussed to support other WFP emergency operations.

In addition, exploratory discussions of a pilot partnership with the Ukrainian milling industry association took place on 3 and 5 October to potentially strengthen local milling capacity by processing grain into flour in the country. Currently, most of wheat grain exported from Ukraine is shipped to another country (i.e. Türkiye) for the milling process before it is shipped to a final destination.

Overall, the estimated value of the locally procured food amounts to nearly 400,000 mt (USD 235.5 million) of food commodities, distributed in Ukraine and globally (mainly in Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia). Of the total, USD 44 million was used for humanitarian programmes in-country, and USD 191.5 million (close to 350,000 mt) was exported to other WFP operations in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, and Yemen, through Romanian and Ukrainian ports.

In addition, cash-based transfers of more than USD 277 million have been injected into the local economy strengthening individual purchasing power and allowing Ukrainians to spend in their domestic markets. Additional investments into the local economy continue through logistics contracting, USD 14.4 million within the country. The total monetary investment value into Ukraine so far is estimated to be **well above USD 526 million**.

Fuel

Uninterrupted delivery of humanitarian aid to the most conflict-affected regions of Ukraine requires stable access to fuel to keep the trucks running. WFP currently procures fuel cards from WOG and OKKO suppliers and will launch a new local tender in October. Although the current contracts are sufficient to cover all fuel needs for WFP fleet and its partners, WFP is currently coordinating with another supplier to establish a parallel regional fuel supply line while also searching for ways to increase fuel storage capacity. For the emergency needs close to the frontline, fuel storage solutions near the Dnipro Field Office are being explored to service its dedicated fleet. Such efforts will lead to putting a reliable system of steady fuel supply in place, minimizing risk of disruptions in delivering assistance.

Partnerships

WFP continues to cultivate and nurture new and existing partnerships to provide humanitarian assistance to those people affected by the war in desperate need of support.

On 24 September, WFP team in Odesa met with the Norwegian representatives in Ukraine and discussed the current humanitarian response and the implementation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative.

Discussions around provision of support for a school feeding program are ongoing. On 26 September, WFP met with key stakeholders from the Office of the First Lady, Ministry of Education and Science, UNICEF and DECIDE, to discuss school nutrition reform implementation.

During 3-4 October, WFP Representative and Country Director joined an inter-agency mission to both Odesa and Mykolaiv oblasts to assess humanitarian needs, and to further operational activity and cooperation with local and regional authorities. The mission was led by Ukraine RC/HC and included OCHA and UNICEF senior representatives.

WFP is planning several meetings with its partners to discuss the current draft of the Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (January 2023 – June 2024). Through these engagements, WFP seeks to explain the proposed strategic direction and collect feedback on the planned interventions, so it can continue addressing the needs of the most vulnerable and support the Government-led systems to help phase out the need for humanitarian assistance in Ukraine.

Clusters Update –International Humanitarian Response

Food Security and Livelihoods cluster (FSLC)

During the last two weeks, 52 partners of FSLC reached over 2.4 million people with multiple rounds of food assistance and livelihood support (agricultural inputs, trainings) across Ukraine. Areas with the highest beneficiaries reached by partners are Kharkiv, Donetsk and Mykolaiv oblasts, respectively.

Cluster partners are actively delivering assistance to the newly accessible areas of the Kherson and Kharkiv oblasts in coordination with the respective oblast authorities. In detail, 12 cluster partners have responded to the needs of people in 61 Hromadas of Kharkiv oblast: Balakliyska (2,468), Iziumska (75,592), Kupianska (22,400), Shevchenkivska (1,040).

In addition, Cluster partners provided livelihood agricultural and non-agricultural grants and assets in Donetsk oblast for 500 beneficiaries. Also, planning is ongoing to have a cash assistance for agricultural activities to support the winterization of 1,250 farmers during October to December 2022.

Logistics Cluster

As of 2 October, the Logistics Cluster stored 4,491 m³ of humanitarian cargo on behalf of 12 partners across four common storage sites across Ukraine. During 19 September - 2 October 618 m³ of humanitarian relief items have been received in the common storage, while 282 m³ been released.

In addition, cargo was consolidated, and access facilitated on behalf of three partners, who joined the WFP-led convoys on 23, 24, 29 and 30 September. The convoys reached Velykyi Burluk, Pechenihi, Izium in Kharkiv oblast and Ivanivske in Donetsk oblast.

In addition, three inter-agency convoys took place in Balaklia, Velykyi Burluk, Pechenihi (supported with a single convoy), Balaklia, and Izium, handling more than 370 mt of hygiene and shelter items.

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)

WFP TEC team continues to provide support to UN staff and has resolved a total of 1,295 ICT-related cases for humanitarian personnel across Ukraine since the launch of the Ukraine IT Service Desk on 29 April.

As of 30 September, ETC is providing secure internet connectivity services to 266 staff from twelve humanitarian organizations including UN agencies and INGOs in two humanitarian interagency workspaces, in Dnipro and Lviv.

ETC is prepositioning VSAT satellite terminal equipment in Odesa in preparation for a potential deployment, to provide data connectivity services in newly new accessible areas in southern Ukraine.

In September, users of the ETC Chatbot “vBeztpesi” (вБезпечи in Ukrainian, which translates to “safe spaces”), most frequently used the service to access information on humanitarian aid (70%), hotlines and referral methods (12%), other useful information (11%), and human rights (7%). When seeking information on humanitarian aid, users most frequently consulted categories related to general cash assistance and to WFP assistance, accessing information on how to register for assistance and the eligibility criteria.

In total, since the launch of the ETC Chatbot on 20 June, 12,723 unique users in Ukraine have accessed information relating to humanitarian assistance.

Funding Outlook

Overall, 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.

To date, WFP registered contributions from nearly 90 different funding sources, including 62 distinct private donors. During the last two weeks, WFP Ukraine has received the first FCDO contribution of GBP 12 million aimed at strengthening lifesaving in-kind and cash assistance and contributing to the improvement of the Ukrainian social registry platform, UISSS.

However, the current funding only covers 43 percent of the planned needs, as food and nutritional needs of vulnerable households in Ukraine continue to increase as the conflict continues and the critical winter period looms. The number of crisis-affected and internally displaced people in need of food and livelihoods assistance in Ukraine until the end of summer was estimated to be 9.3 million. However, this number is now estimated to be significantly higher by more than 20 percent according to the preliminary analysis of the forthcoming humanitarian needs assessment, due to continued hostilities compounded by harsher conditions projected during the imminent winter season.

Additional requirements are also identified as more areas in the east and south become accessible. Without additional support from its partners, WFP will not be able to respond to these needs and sustain assistance throughout the winter period. The current **estimated funding shortfall until March 2023 is USD 690 million.**

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