

WFP Ukraine and Neighbouring Countries

External Situation Report #19

1 June 2022

Highlights

In May, WFP assisted nearly 2.3 million displaced and conflict-affected people with food and cash throughout Ukraine.

WFP cash assistance was scaled up successfully this month with around USD 65 million cash transfers provided to close to 890,000 IDPs across all Ukraine oblasts.

WFP's Ukraine emergency response faces a net funding shortfall of USD 319 million to sustain its operations through the month of August 2022.

In Numbers



2.3 million (estimated monthly) conflict-affected people assisted by WFP in May



10.2 million people in need for food and livelihood assistance (UN Flash Appeal, April 2022)



8 million internally displaced persons (IOM, 3 May 2022)



6.8 million people displaced to neighbouring countries (UNHCR, 29 May 2022)



230 WFP staff on the ground in Ukraine and neighbouring countries

WFP Emergency Response

Since the beginning of the conflict, WFP has reached 5.4 million people with in-kind and cash assistance cumulatively and will continue scaling-up its response to assist up to 4.8 million people on a monthly basis. WFP continues to monitor the food security situation in Ukraine and refugees' movement into neighbouring countries, to adjust its assistance and accommodate surging needs.

In addition, WFP is providing logistics and emergency telecommunications services to the humanitarian community, facilitating the timely provision of assistance inside and outside of Ukraine.

Situation Update

Four months into the conflict, the humanitarian situation continues to worsen in Ukraine with the intensification of fighting in the eastern parts of the country. People uprooted from their homes remain among the most vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition, struggling with prolonged conflict, insecurity and poverty compounding their humanitarian plight. Reliance on coping strategies such as reducing food intake and the number of meals, is also increasing across the country.

Moreover, those who remain in contested areas subject to active shelling are likely facing extreme conditions, mobility restrictions, and acute cross-sectoral needs. In addition, the substantial destruction of critical infrastructure such as roads and bridges in these areas hamper people's access to goods and services and constrain access of humanitarian organizations and delivery of life-saving relief to the people in need.

Logistics challenges are also multiplying, hampering the scale up of humanitarian assistance to reach the country's most vulnerable people and protect their lives and livelihoods. Fuel shortages continue to affect WFP, humanitarian actors, commercial transporters and cooperating partners (CPs). Local supply chains are also under mounting strain from the severity of the conflict, leading to limited availability of food in local markets, mainly in the east of Ukraine.

Ukraine's conflict is not only compromising the food security of those directly affected by it but also exposed the fragility of the global and local food systems, particularly vulnerable to the risks to food markets created by the conflict in the Black Sea area. It compounded the existing challenges faced by millions of acutely-food insecure people in countries relying on highly on imports of food, fuel, and agricultural inputs and vulnerable to global food price shocks.

The World Food Programme (WFP) is closely monitoring the impact of Ukraine conflict and continues to appeal for unfettered, regular and safe passage of food and humanitarian aid to all civilians across Ukraine.

WFP Ukraine Response Strategy



WFP Ukraine Food Security Report - May 2022





WFP Ukraine Response

WFP continues to ramp up its emergency response, combining food and cash where suitable to meet the diverse needs and proactively adapt to the challenging contexts of Ukraine's cities and oblasts. In oblasts and cities where markets and the financial system are functional, WFP provides cash and vouchers to support those who lost their incomes and livelihood opportunities.

In May, WFP has assisted nearly **2.3 million conflict-affected and displaced people** with food and cash across all the oblasts of Ukraine. In this regard, WFP reached **5.4 million beneficiaries** in the country cumulatively since the eruption of the crisis in March. WFP cash assistance is expanding across Ukraine in response to the need for financial assistance expressed by IDPs to access food and other basic services, representing over one third of WFP overall assistance in the country.

Food and Nutrition Support

WFP is working closely with partners, local authorities and communities in Ukraine to improve access and deliver life-saving food and nutrition support and alleviate growing food insecurity and malnutrition in the country.

This month, daily bread distribution started in Bakhmut in the eastern oblast of Donetska, in close coordination with the local administration, with 25 mt of bread distributed so far (50,000 loaves). WFP continues to support bakeries across eight other cities (Kharkiv, Sumy, Dnipro, Poltava, Chernihiv, Odesa, Zaporizhzhia, Mykolaiv) to ensure the availability of bread for crisis-affected people, using local wheat. Over 730,000 people were assisted with bread in May, supplemented with the provision of canned meat in Kharkiv and Dnipro.



Rapid response rations (RRRs) were delivered to over 235,000 vulnerable displaced persons living in areas where markets are constrained, mainly in Kharkiv and Poltava, to support their immediate food needs. General Food Distribution (GFD) has been also provided to close to 420,000 conflict-affected people to support their food needs for up to 30 days in oblasts where supply chains are disrupted but commercial transport is still functional.

The nutrition cluster estimates around 600,000 people in need for nutrition support in Ukraine between March and August 2022. Moreover, most of the people on the move inside Ukraine are women and children in dire need for basic goods and social services. In response, in May, WFP

distributed 75 mt of nutrition commodities to around 41,000 children aged 6 to 23 months in Odesa, Poltava and Zaporizhzhia, through an integrated approach, along GFD and RRRs, to support their growth and development. Overall, over 47,450 children in Ukraine benefitted from WFP nutrition assistance throughout the last three months while the agency aims to extend its nutrition support to close to 100,000 children monthly throughout August.

Cash Assistance

Cash assistance represents one of the most efficient and dignified ways to assist displaced persons during an emergency as they are at high risk of losing their homes and incomes. Cash helps them to determine their needs, decide on the best way to satisfy them and improve their lives.

In Ukraine, at the request of the Government, WFP continues to rollout cash assistance to empower food insecure people with choice to address their essential needs, beyond food consumption, while also boosting local markets. In May, WFP succeeded to scale up its cash transfers, by handing **around USD 65 million multipurpose cash transfers (MPC) to close to 890,000 displaced and vulnerable residents** throughout Ukraine oblasts to support their food security and wellbeing.

People receive between USD 75 and USD 225 per month, depending on family size. Every dollar spent by a family in Ukraine is directly injected into the local economy. As such, WFP transferred nearly **USD 74 million to over one million vulnerable IDPs** since April 2022 and intends to assist 1.1 million displaced persons with cash transfers over the coming three months.

This cash assistance scale-up was achieved at fast pace, thanks to WFP's "Building Blocks" technologies, an innovative solution originally developed by WFP and endorsed by the Cash Working Group. WFP ensured deduplication and saved almost USD 5 million that can be redirected to other IDPs, in close coordination with Ukraine's Ministry of Social Policy (MoSP) and other UN agencies. WFP transferred around USD 50 million to the people in need in ten days from receiving the list of eligible IDPs from the MoSP, while ensuring that people were able to receive the money conveniently, at no cost. WFP is multiplying its efforts to complement the Government's existing national social protection system and strengthen its shock-responsiveness.

Protection & Accountability to Affected Populations

Following the engagement with local organizations to reach the most vulnerable populations in Ukraine, WFP signed a partnership with All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS, a local community-led NGO in Ukraine. This partnership will enable WFP to assist the most vulnerable people with food and cash through local networks. WFP continues to engage with protection cluster to understand emerging protection trends and concerns across the country.

As part of the Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM), WFP has partnered with a call center to respond to the feedback received from affected populations, handle any requests for technical support and share information on how to access humanitarian assistance. WFP also trained 21 call operators on code of conduct with beneficiaries.

Neighbouring Countries

WFP Moldova delivered **419,961 hot meals** (three meals per day) to Ukrainian refugees in 97 centres across 31 different localities in Moldova through cooperating partners (CPs). These meals reached an average of 2,009 people per day.

The first round of the cash assistance for host communities programme was completed on 31 May with a successful transfer of cash (valued at USD 190) - via Western Union - to over **95 percent of almost 11,000 households** registered for assistance (self-registered or through the Government). The WFP hotline is operational, and more than 2236 calls were received as of 30 May. Callers remain predominantly women (74 percent), living in Chisinau. Most of the calls (85 percent) pertain to requests for information on registration for assistance.

Hot meals for Ukrainian Refugees in Moldova

In Satul Cosnita, a small village in Dubasari County of Moldova, WFP Moldova team visited one of the Refugee Accommodation Centre (RACs) providing hot meals to Ukrainian Refugees to monitor the food quality. They were welcomed by children voices, cheerfully running around the centre. Most of them did not know each other, but fate brought them together and now this has been their home for almost three months.

They met 39-years-old Olga Syrbul, holding her two-years-old son Ivan. Olga, her two children and her 64-years-old mother arrived at the centre on 5 March from Odesa. Here, they are served three hot meals.



Photo caption: Olga with her son Ivan at the Refugee Reception Centre in Dubasari, Moldova where WFP provides hot meals to refugees from Ukraine.
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“The food is very nice and tasty. Every day we get something different. It is not just soup and bread. We get meat, vegetables, fresh baked pies or and cookies. My children are so happy, that is why you see them running around” she said. “It gives me a peace of mind not to worry about food for my family. I know as long as we are here, we will not go hungry.”

By the time she left her hometown in Odesa, Olga and her family had depleted all their savings. “We came here with no money at all. What would I have done to feed a family of four? I would have been more stressed and confused,” she added. With the food sorted, she can focus on taking care of her family. She has time to support her older son, eight-years-old Timothy, with his online classes and homework as well as taking care of her mother who has been mentally affected by the war.

WFP, through its CPs, HelpAge and ACTED, is supporting a total of 47 RACs across Moldova providing hot meals to more than 50 percent of the total refugee population accommodated there. Since the program started on 15 March, WFP, with the financial support from the Government of Japan and ECHO, have provided more than 415,000 hot meals through the RACs.

Supply Chain



In May, WFP handed **some 10,275 mt of food commodities** to its cooperating partners in Ukraine, almost double the volumes handed in April (around 4,200 mt), reaching some 16,860 mt of food delivered in the country since the beginning of the conflict. A further 91,700 mt of food commodities are in the pipeline (over 18,000 mt of food in storage, 12,000 mt of food in transit, and close to 61,700 mt of food pending supplier delivery).

The fifth WFP Roll-On-Roll-Off vessel voyage of Ukraine operation is in preparation with 84 trailers containing a total of 1,831 mt of food being loaded for dispatch from Turkey to Romania. The vessel has successfully completed four voyages since the beginning of May, carrying a total of 425 trailers and containers filled with 9,252 mt of rice and pasta, of which 4,500 mt have already been transported onward to Ukraine by road.

A total of 182 trailers, carrying more than 3,500 mt of pasta, rice and canned meat were on their way from Turkey, Greece Bulgaria and Italy to Ukraine last week. Additionally, 50 containers arrived in Romania by sea and are now being transported to Ukraine by road.

From 26 to 29 May, WFP Moldova managed nine shipments delivering 17 pallets of assorted humanitarian cargo to RACs and municipalities on behalf of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP). Logistics operations were phased out by 31 May following the handover of the management and transport services at Vatra warehouse to ACTED (Agency for Technical Cooperation & Development), funded by UNHCR.

Funding Outlook



Funding requirements are expected to significantly grow as a result of increasing humanitarian needs. To date, WFP has received USD 614 million in confirmed contributions.

As of the end of May 2022, WFP requires a net funding shortfall of **USD 319 million** over the next three months to sustain its cash and food assistance in Ukraine and neighbouring countries through August 2022.

Logistics Cluster



As of 29 May, the Logistics Cluster has handled (i.e., stored and/or transported) **12,400 m³ of humanitarian cargo on behalf of 24 partner organisations**. Cargo comprises relief items from multiple sectors, including general programs and operations, food security, health, nutrition, shelter, and WASH.

Fuel shortages remain a significant constraint for the overall humanitarian response. The Logistics Cluster is liaising closely with the WFP fuel team who is working on fuel provision for the humanitarian community.

Reported congestion and long wait times at border crossing are noted to affecting the quick movement of humanitarian cargo and overall availability of logistics transport services. The Logistics Cluster will advocate, via OCHA, for possible solutions to help overcome this challenge at key crossing points into and outgoing from Ukraine.

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)



As of 29 May, the ETC is providing secure internet connectivity services to **158 staff from ten humanitarian organisations** including UN agencies and international NGOs in two humanitarian interagency workspaces in Dnipro and Lviv.

In Mukachevo, the ETC team conducted a mission on 23-26 May to meet local key players and assess the resources required for the setup of a United Nations Department of Safety and Security Operations Centre (UNDSS) Security Operations Center (SOC). The team also deployed and installed critical IT and telecommunication equipment and trained SOC operators on security telecommunications protocol.

In Lviv, the ETC team checked the configuration of security communication systems for seven UNDSS armoured vehicles and two OCHA armoured vehicles. It also extended a secure internet connection for an interagency humanitarian workspace to protect humanitarian data from cyber threats.

Contacts

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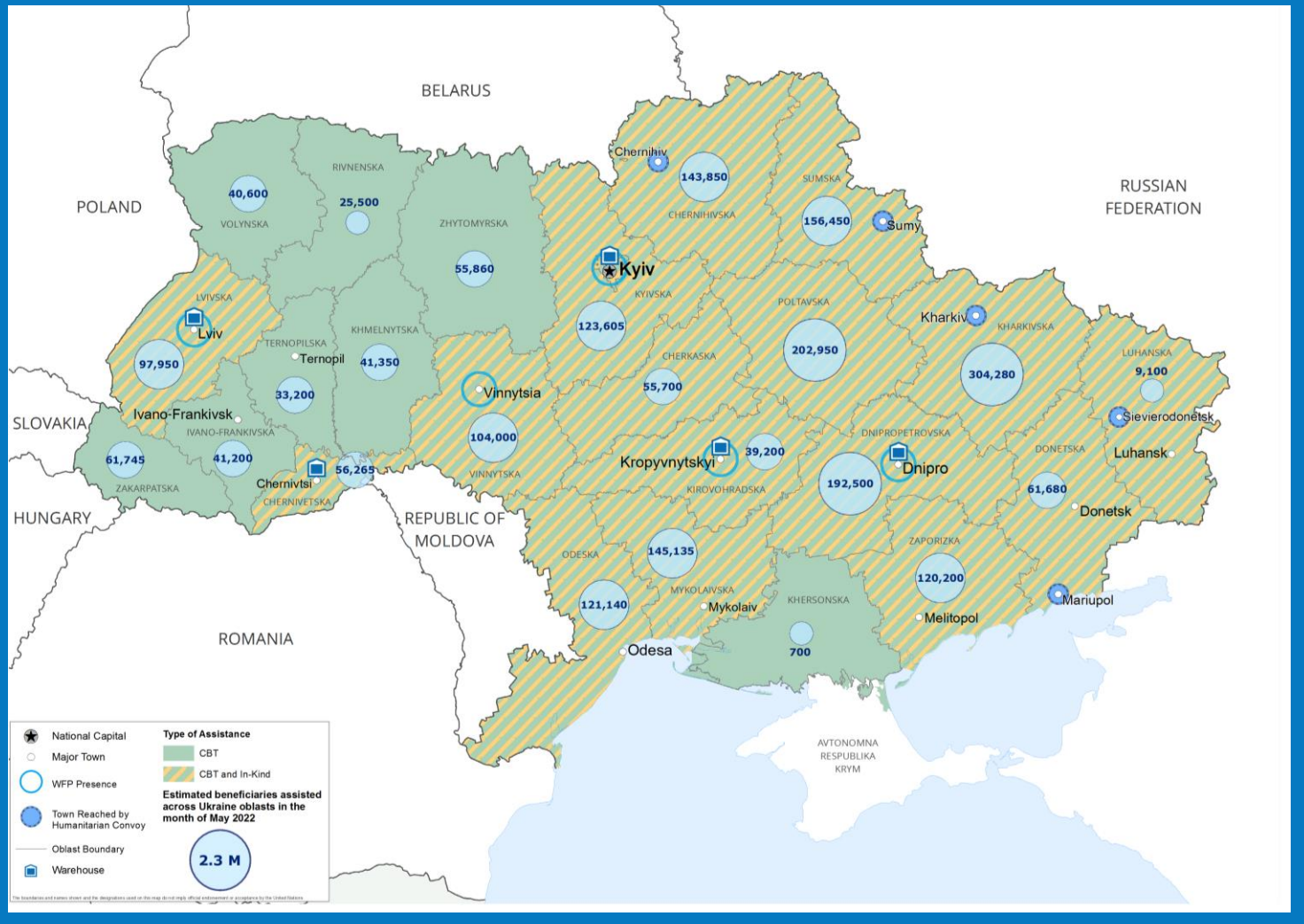
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For further information, visit:

www.wfp.org/emergencies/ukraine-emergency

WFP UKRAINE May Assistance Overview



WFP would like to thank its partners for their timely support to WFP Emergency Response in Ukraine and Neighbouring Countries



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