

WFP Ukraine

External Situation Report #61 | May 2025

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES CHANGING LIVES





WFP OPERATIONAL PRESENCE



WFP UKRAINE STAFF: WFP UKRAINE OFFICES: WFP UKRAINE COOPERATING PARTNERS Ukraine interim country strategic plan (2025–2027) 298 4 12

WFP Ukraine Country Director and Representative: Richard RAGAN

WFP Ukraine Operational Information Management and Performance Reporting and Geographical Information Systems (OIM and GIS): Lydia M. Jamenya (Wydia Jamenya@wfp.org) Food Security and Livelihoods Custer: Sarka VLCKOVA (sarka.vickova@wfp.org) Logistics Cluster: Katja HILDEBRAND (katja.hildebrand@wfp.org) Emergency Telecommunications Cluster: Mohamedou NDIATH (Mohamedou.ndiath@wfp.org) WFP.org/Ukraine



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security incidents impacting WFP and partners have significantly increased, with six drone attacks in May 2025 alone, and 41 incidents in total since May 2024.
- WFP successfully conducted its first frontline food distribution convoys using WFP armoured vehicles in very hard-to-reach areas in the Kharkiv Region.

SITUATION UPDATE

In May, six separate drone strikes hampered WFP's humanitarian operations in Ukraine, highlighting the escalating dangers faced by humanitarian workers on the frontline. On 30 May, WFP's operations were directly impacted after an attack on its partner's warehouse, leading to the loss of 19 mt of food, and potential contamination of the remaining stock. In 2024, 28 incidents were recorded, with a total of 41 incidents occurring over the past 12 months (from May 2024 to May 2025). Already in 2025, 18 incidents have been reported, including seven in May alone. Although no fatalities were reported, these incidents underscore the risks to humanitarian operations in frontline regions, which hinder the delivery of critical food assistance to vulnerable populations in high-need areas.

******* WFP UKRAINE RESPONSE

• WFP assisted an estimated **1 million people** in May through various activities.

GENERAL FOOD ASSISTANCE AND CASH ASSISTANCE

- Following consultations with local authorities in four frontline communities of Kharkiv region, WFP successfully conducted its first frontline food distribution convoy using WFP armoured vehicles on 22–23 May in the Dvorichanska community. This initiative, aimed at delivering critical food assistance to very hard-to-reach areas, was welcomed by local authorities.
- In May, WFP provided emergency food assistance to over 465,800 food-insecure Ukrainians through in-kind assistance, particularly 30-day rations, rapid response rations, and bread and cash to 543,670 people to help cover their monthly food needs.
- Based on feedback from beneficiaries and partners, WFP switched from Ready-to-Eat (RTE) rations to more compact and nutritious Meals Ready-to-Eat (MRE) kits in May for rapid response assistance to 1,541 evacuees in high-need areas. MREs offer better dietary diversity, higher micronutrient content, longer shelf life, more complete meals, and improved hydration.
- WFP continued to assist evacuees and people affected by the attacks, providing cash assistance as one off-payment of UAH 10,800 (USD 260) to more than 1,500 individuals. Starting from May, WFP's partner is

registering evacuees from the Donetsk region in the transit centre in Pavlohrad, Dnipro region.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring and assessment results for the first quarter of 2025 revealed a concerning deterioration in household food security, affected by the ongoing escalation. In February, 21 percent of households reported insufficient food consumption — the highest recorded in the past year. While a slight improvement was observed in March, levels remained elevated compared to 2024. To cope with limited access to adequate and diverse food, households are increasingly resorting to negative coping strategies: 63 percent are consuming lower-quality food, 25 percent are reducing portion sizes, and 23 percent are cutting the number of daily meals. The most severe cases are concentrated in Kharkiv, Sumy, and Mykolaiv regions, where households with insufficient food consumption frequently employ extreme coping mechanisms. Additionally, 65 percent of households reported engaging in high-risk livelihood strategies to secure food, such as depleting savings, reducing healthcare expenditures, taking on additional work and relying on loans. While these measures provide short-term relief, they threaten longterm resilience and recovery.

SCHOOL FEEDING

- WFP signed the school feeding agreement with the Ministry of Education and Science for the 2025-26 academic year to support schools with cash transfers covering the cost of school meals. Under this agreement, WFP will prioritize eight frontline regions: Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, Mykolaiv, and Odesa. A total of 2,604 schools across these regions will participate, delivering education through either full-time in-person instruction or a hybrid model that combines in-person and online learning. The programme is projected to benefit approximately 250,000 schoolchildren.
- An exit strategy is being implemented for 710 schools in Poltava, Cherkasy, Kyiv, Vinnytsia, Khmelnytskyi, Ternopil, Chernivtsi, Zakarpattia, and Lviv regions, which will be phased out of the programme following the conclusion of the current academic year.

HUMANITARIAN MINE ACTION

 WFP and mine action partners participated in field tests of the MinesEye system in Mykolaiv Region, which uses drones to detect explosives buried underground, up to 2 meters, or concealed by vegetation. Supported by UNDP, the technology aims to enhance mine detection by identifying high-risk areas more quickly and safely, while reducing demining costs, and risks to human life.

PSEA

 At the request of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), WFP assisted the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network Ukraine in rolling out the 2024 PSEA Mapping Exercise

 a technical survey designed to assess progress on PSEA using standardised core indicators. The findings

 will be shared with the PSEA Network Ukraine for further action.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

 WFP transferred its monthly complementary cash assistance by topping up the threshold of UAH 3,250 per month/per individual for about 319,000 beneficiaries for USD 5.1 million in frontline regions, helping pensioners, persons with disabilities, including children and persons without a right to a pension to meet their basic needs.

CLUSTERS AND COMMON SERVICES

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS CLUSTER (FSLC)

 The Building Blocks platform has demonstrated significant progress in preventing duplicate assistance, thanks to increased partner engagement and data sharing. In May, deduplication efforts prevented USD 2.15 million in overlapping inkind food transfers—a 49 percent improvement while also avoiding USD 1.6 million in duplicate cash distributions. Livelihood grants saw deduplicated transfers grow by over 50 percent to USD 132,000. These results highlight the system's growing effectiveness in optimizing aid delivery.

LOGISTICS CLUSTER

- **Two Inter-Agency Convoys were facilitated** by the Cluster, delivering Food, Health, Protection, Shelter, and WASH items on behalf of eight humanitarian organisations to Kherson and Nova Kamianka in Kherson region.
- The Logistics Cluster chaired its monthly national and two sub-national coordination meetings for south and east with 82 participants representing 47 organisations. Main topics discussed were logistics common services, localisation strategy in Ukraine, overall humanitarian operations, logistics challenges of the humanitarian community and partners' updates.

EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS CLUSTER (ETC)

- On 1 May, ETC and Cash Working launched a new <u>Chatbot</u> to disseminate humanitarian information to affected populations. Since its launch, the <u>Chatbot</u> has reached 20,242 users, with 91 percent accessing it via Telegram. The majority of users are women (89 percent), primarily among ages 30–44 (54 percent).
- The ETC expanded its VHF radio network by activating two new remote sites: Shostka, enhancing security communications in the northeastern Sumy region, and Barvinkove improving coverage in the eastern Kharkiv region. This expansion strengthens reliable communications in critical frontline areas.

RESOURCING UPDATE

• WFP in Ukraine faces a significant funding gap, with the operation currently funded at 25 percent for the next six months (until November 2025). WFP requires an additional **USD 272 million** to sustain operations.