



WFP Ukraine

External Situation Report #48

5 April 2024

In 2024 to date, a total of **42,031 mt** of food and **USD 63.9 million** of cash has been delivered.

Year/ Month	Transfers		Beneficiaries								Total Beneficiaries
	Food Delivered (MT)	Cash Transfer Value (USD)	In-Kind Food Assistance				Cash-Based Assistance				
			Bread	Rapid Resp. Rations	30-Day Ration	Instit. Feeding	Multi-Purpose Cash	Compl. Social Benefits	Market-based Trans. support	School Feeding	
2023											
September	10,233	7,954,124	144,780	80,667	608,040	222,231	79,960	261,499	-	35,348	1,432,525
October	10,433	4,318,089	159,010	101,322	599,621	231,000	-	259,587	27,317	38,780	1,416,637
November	12,025	12,082,506	153,789	67,473	667,078	338,529	54,547	313,539	40,892	39,379	1,675,226
December	13,584	16,755,062	305,543	53,665	750,313	499,210	27,705	374,228	197,891	38,706	2,247,261
2024											
January	13,287	21,187,219	284,630	7,089	727,468	498,725	873	639,969	212,535	49,876	2,421,165
February	12,332	21,920,584	303,136	10,453	649,959	505,605	569	700,109	220,312	52,234	2,442,377
March	14,296	20,238,964	267,200	1,844	785,790	471,438	-	672,692	220,410	-	2,419,374 ¹
April	2,116	533,350	100,009	31	128,667	35,662	-	1,085	13,215	-	278,669

Key Highlights

- In March, WFP assisted **2.4 million people** in need for the fourth month in a row.
- WFP started double distributions in several frontline regions in Donetsk and Kharkiv, due to uncertainty of access continuity.
- On 2 April, the WFP Executive Director signed **the first contribution agreement with the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre** of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for WFP in Ukraine.
- Twelve schools in Zakarpattia region, in which Roma children study, joined the WFP's school meal programme in April.

Situation Update

During the month of March, the security situation in Ukraine worsened as the country faced intensified targeted attacks in Kyiv and many large cities. While daily aerial attacks are unfortunately not new, increased frequency of attacks and the use of hypersonic missiles provided little warning to the

air raid alarms, and civilian casualties grew. On 21 March, the capital Kyiv was hit during the first large-scale attack in 44 days, leaving many injured. Other large cities (Kharkiv, Kropyvnytskyi, Kryvyi Rih, Odesa, Sumy and Zaporizhzhia) and the capital again were targeted by more than 150 aerial objects the next day. The resumption of attacks on the energy and critical infrastructure of Ukraine continues to leave many affected regions and at times the whole country short of electricity and water.

The situation around the frontline which previously had appeared stalled has become more volatile. There is the potential for a further increase in access constraints to reach affected people in need. The security situation in Kharkiv City and the surrounding areas have become notably precarious, as WFP continues to monitor humanitarian needs closely and provide the necessary assistance.

WFP Ukraine Response

In March, WFP reached over **2.4 million people** in need for the fourth month in a row, marking the last month of the winter response. As the security situation has worsened and

¹ This number will increase, once the pending payments for the School Meal Programme are processed.

the risk of potential loss of access has become high in several frontline areas, WFP has started double distributions there.

Cash-Based Assistance

WFP's cash programmes and its cash transfer mechanism continue to provide reliable and timely support to those in need. In March, WFP disbursed over **USD 20.2 million to over 890,000 people in need through various cash-based assistance modalities**. This number will increase once the pending payments for the School Meal Programme are processed.

Under the **School Meal Programme**, WFP covers 30 percent of the financial requirements to provide hot meals to primary school children aged 6 to 11, through monthly reimbursements to schools. The initiative is aimed to alleviate the financial strain on local administrations and parents, whose resources were stretched due to the ongoing war. The programme is currently running in 14 regions for the 2023-2024 academic year, which started in September.

In March, transfers for the year 2023 from September to December were completed in 11 regions. Since January 2024, the programme has expanded to more schools from 6 previously participating regions (Khmelnyskyi, Kyiv, Lviv, Mykolaiv, Ternopil and Zakarpattia) as well as 3 new regions (Dnipropetrovsk, Vinnytsia and Sumy). So far, 2 payments are pending for February 2024 and 1 more for January 2024; Dnipropetrovsk region is still pending signing the regional agreement.

In early February, WFP Country Director ad interim was on a mission to Zakarpattia region with the UN Resident & Humanitarian Coordinator, and other representatives from UN Women, UNHCR, UNDP, UNFPA, IOM, UNICEF, and NEEKA foundation, to get a better understanding of the multi-sectoral needs of Roma women and girls. Following the mission, WFP explored possibility to support the Roma communities through the School Meal Programme. Since April, 12 schools from 3 communities (Chopska, Szurtivska and Velykodobronska) where Roma children study are included in the programme, following the receipt of guaranty letters from the community authorities. Currently, the communities are being registered as vendors.

In-Kind Food Assistance

WFP reached almost **1.5 million people** in March 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 a local market is not functional due to ongoing hostilities, damaged infrastructure, mine contamination, or limited power supply. The vast majority of WFP in-kind assistance is provided in areas near the frontline with the most severe needs.

Double distributions of 30-day rations have been carried out in several frontline areas where potential access constraints are anticipated due to worsening security conditions. In March, in the Donetsk region, 1,153 beneficiaries were reached with double distributions for March and April in Mariinska. In Ocheretynska and Selydivska, double distributions are still ongoing with 7,853 people assisted so

far. While in Novogradovska, double distributions are planned in April for 9,745 people, due to access challenges reported in March. In Kharkiv region, double distributions commenced on 4 April for 3,280 beneficiaries in Vovchansk town.

WFP also continues to remain ready for any sudden increase in needs. On 18 March, 100 people whose houses were destroyed as a result of the overnight Russian missile attack in Mykolaiv were supported with 200 ready-to-eat (RtE) rations.

Accountability to Affected Populations

WFP continues to reinforce integration of Protection, Gender and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) focused approaches for its staff and implementing partners.

On 27 March, WFP Ukraine held an all-staff in-person meeting with the Under-Secretary-General, Special Coordinator for improving the United Nations' response to sexual exploitation and abuse. The discussion reiterated the importance of implementing effective measures in prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (PSEAH), highlighting actionable steps and comprehensive strategies to address PSEAH within the UN system and beyond. It also delved into the implementation of WFP's role as the 2024 Inter-Agency Standing Committee PSEAH Global Champion and its PSEAH-related achievements in Ukraine.

Between 20 and 22 March, a 3-day Training of Trainers session on Protection, Gender and AAP was held for 37 participants from WFP Cooperating Partners. Among the topics were basic principles on protection and gender equality and women's empowerment and AAP, including Community Feedback Mechanisms, communications, disability inclusion, safety and security in the field, livelihoods, and school meal programme.

During the last two weeks, WFP's toll-free hotline received 9,076 calls (8,520 during the working hours), of which 7,096 came from unique phone numbers. In total, 6,795 calls were processed by the hotline operators. Over 88.9 percent of processed cases were closed as First Case Resolution (FCR) without referral, while the remaining were referred to relevant programme focal points. Almost all (96.7 percent) of the processed calls were CBT-related, such as requests for information on the amount of cash assistance and dealing with Money Transfer Control Number codes. The remaining requested information about in-kind food support programme, in terms of entitlements, timing, and location.

WFP Supply Chain and Support to Food Systems

In March, almost 14,300 mt of food was dispatched to CPs. By 5 April, an additional 35,964 mt of food commodities are in the pipeline (21,210 mt of food in storage, and 14,754 mt of food in transit or pending supplier delivery).

Partial blockade of the Polish-Ukrainian border-crossing points continues. While humanitarian cargo is allowed to pass, fewer commercial trucks are available. Thanks to

locally sourcing the majority of the WFP supplies, WFP's delivery of assistance has not been affected.

Local Food Systems

The local bakery project is an initiative to increase contributions to the local economy within WFP's humanitarian operations by further increasing engagement with local bakeries. By the end of March, Field Level Agreements (FLAs) were signed with five more small bakeries (with daily capacity less than 10 mt). Since 1 April, 10 small bakeries in 5 regions (Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, Zaporizhzhia) started dispatching bread. The participating bakeries are expected to cover more than 22 percent of the bread supplies planned for April.

WFP is also strengthening capacities of the small bakeries by supplying appliances related to pest control and hygiene. By the end of March, 7 small bakeries were provided with such items. Further 190 bread delivery trays will be provided to 3 small bakeries in Donetsk region. The list of technical equipment requested by the bakeries is reviewed through capacity assessments; between 26-29 March, bakeries in Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhia regions were visited, while visits are ongoing in Mykolaiv region since 2 April.

Agricultural Mine Action Project

Heavy landmine contamination remains a critical concern among farmers and rural communities in Ukraine. Hence, FAO and WFP are jointly **helping restore livelihoods and revitalize rural communities affected by mines and explosive remnants of war**. The project works to release agricultural lands and provides key agricultural resources and inputs, prioritizing Ukraine's breadbasket regions. The project has been operational in Kharkiv region, while expansion in Mykolaiv is planned this year.

In March, non-technical surveys (NTS) have resumed with better weather. Since the start of the project in 2023, seven teams have completed 337 NTS reports for the total of 3,815 ha. Out of those, 7 land plots (431 ha) have been declared free from explosive ordinance, 256 land plots (total 2,689 ha) were defined as suspected hazard area (SHA) and 74 plots (695 ha) as confirmed hazard area (CHA). So far, Explosive Ordinance Risk Education has reached almost 26,300 beneficiaries through 760 sessions conducted in the project area of Kharkiv region.

On 19 and 20 March, in a joint workshop, WFP and FAO discussed recent updates and the general logframe of the project, including the livelihood support implementation and operational planning for 2024, as well as contingency planning considering the volatile security context in Kharkiv region.

On 14 March, the last of the three locally procured mine rollers was handed over to WFP in Kharkiv. Many Government and technical partners were present discussing how rollers will be used for the project as well as wider clearance operations.

Grain Movement

WFP continues to facilitate grain movement whenever

possible, with **another Grain from Ukraine (GFU) shipment completed for Sudan**. On 24 March, MV FUTURE ID arrived in Port Sudan with 14,588 mt of wheat flour milled out of 19,691 mt of wheat from the WFP Global Commodity Management Facility (GCMF) in Türkiye. This is the second shipment to complete the Sudan donation (the first was 10,742 mt of wheat in February).

Investment in Ukraine's Economy

So far, WFP's total monetary investment into Ukraine's economy is estimated at **USD 1.13 billion**, with about USD 7.9 million invested during the last month. Much of this investment is attributed to cash assistance, strengthening individual purchasing power, and allowing beneficiaries to support the domestic market. The estimated value of the locally procured food is another big contributor, distributed in Ukraine and globally. Additional investments into the local economy continue through logistics contracting, agreements with NGO partners, and other goods and services purchases within the country.

Inter-Agency Humanitarian Response Coordination

Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster (FSLC)

FSLC has been coordinating partner responses to the large-scale aerial attack on the night of 22 March in Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhia regions. In Zaporizhzhia, 120 affected families were supported with food and hygiene kits on the first day by the charity organisation, Sontce UA. An NGO, Beluga UA provided 720 food kits and 2,300 hot meals over two days. In Kharkiv, assistance is provided by the Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS), World Central Kitchen, Roxana and Team, Zavod Frunze NGOs, Strong Family – Free Ukraine charity foundation as well as volunteer groups. In addition, the Buffett Foundation has provided a special kitchen train that can support affected people with 10,000 meals per day.

On 21 March, FSLC presented a food assistance overview to around 60 participants in the Food Assistance Working Group Meeting. In January and February, the cluster partners supported around 2 million people monthly, reaching approximately 65 percent of the cluster target. Area-specific challenges and initiatives addressing the evolving needs of affected population in Kherson, Sumy and Zaporizhzhia regions were discussed. Ongoing efforts to include general food distribution and sectoral cash modalities in the deduplication process were also discussed.

On 20 March, in the Livelihoods Technical Working Group meeting FSLC partners set the priorities and developed action plan for 2024.

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.

On 28 and 29 March, the routine physical inventory checks

were performed at the Odesa common storage warehouse and the Dnipro common warehouse respectively. The results were aligned with the Cluster's tracking system. Two representatives from CARE International partner joined the exercise at the Dnipro warehouse.

On 19 and 20 March, the Logistics Cluster Induction (LCI) Training took place in Odesa with 23 participants representing 21 organisations, including UN agencies, and both national and international NGOs. The Cluster also provided a briefing session on common logistics services and coordination during the IOM-led training for the non-food items (NFI) pipeline partners which was held in Odesa.

Between 18 and 31 March 2024, 140 m³ of humanitarian relief items were received in common storage on behalf of two partners (equivalent to 3 truckloads). As of 31 March, the Cluster is storing 1,713 m³ of humanitarian cargo (47 percent shelter, 46 percent WASH, and 7 percent other cargo) on behalf of 11 partners (equivalent to 36 truckloads).

During the same period, 44 mt of humanitarian commodities (54 percent WASH, 32 percent shelter, 13 percent food security, and 1 percent health) were dispatched on behalf of seven partners to five locations across Kharkiv, Kherson, Mykolaiv, and Odesa regions.

Of the relief items transported, cargo was consolidated, and transport facilitated for one inter-agency convoy, delivering 15 mt of relief items on behalf of five partners through two WFP trucks to Kivsharivka in Kharkiv region.

By 31 March 2024, 148 mt of relief items were delivered on behalf of 11 partners through 13 inter-agency convoys (consisting of 29 WFP-managed trucks) to 12 locations across Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions. In 2023, in total there were 107 inter-agency convoys consisting of 442 WFP-managed trucks.

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)

The ETC continues to support enhanced coordination of humanitarian action through provision of technological solutions.

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

The ETC finalized testing of the firewall equipment donated by Cisco Crisis Response. As part of the ongoing improvement of network reliability and cyber security, the equipment was installed in UNDSS Security Information and Operations Centre (SIOC) in Kyiv, as well as in the back-up Remote Security Operations Centre (RSOC) in Lviv. Further installations are planned for Odesa and Mykolaiv remote sites.

Security communications services

Following the survey held in March for interest among UN agencies and NGOs for the Telecommunications Security Standards {TESS+} training, the ETC received 35 applications from 12 organizations and completed selection of participants. Two five-day sessions are planned in May.

Basic Security Communications System (SCS) training was delivered to six WFP staff in Kropyvnytskyi in the last week of March.

Very High Frequency (VHF) and Radio

The recent aerial attacks damaged a number of Ukrainian Broadcasting, Radiocommunications & Television Concern (BRT). Those include sites previously assessed for potential installation of VHF repeaters. The ETC is now exploring secondary sites for the expansion of VHF network.

At the recommendation of the BRT whose focus is currently on the recovery works, the ETC has started engaging with a third-party supplier who is authorized to perform installations in BRT premises. Other alternatives for the VHF network expansion is also being considered, such as further developing the Remote Site on Vehicle (RSoV) solution.

Services for communities

On 28 March, at the request of the OCHA and local authorities, the ETC provided internet connectivity services at temporary support registration points in Odesa, to assist people affected by the recent aerial strikes. The connectivity was provided through the RSoV solution.

On 21 March, in a mission to Mykolaiv region, the needs for telecommunications services of the affected communities were assessed. This was carried out as part of the expansion of the Invincibility Points project to extend internet connectivity to bomb shelters and invincibility points.

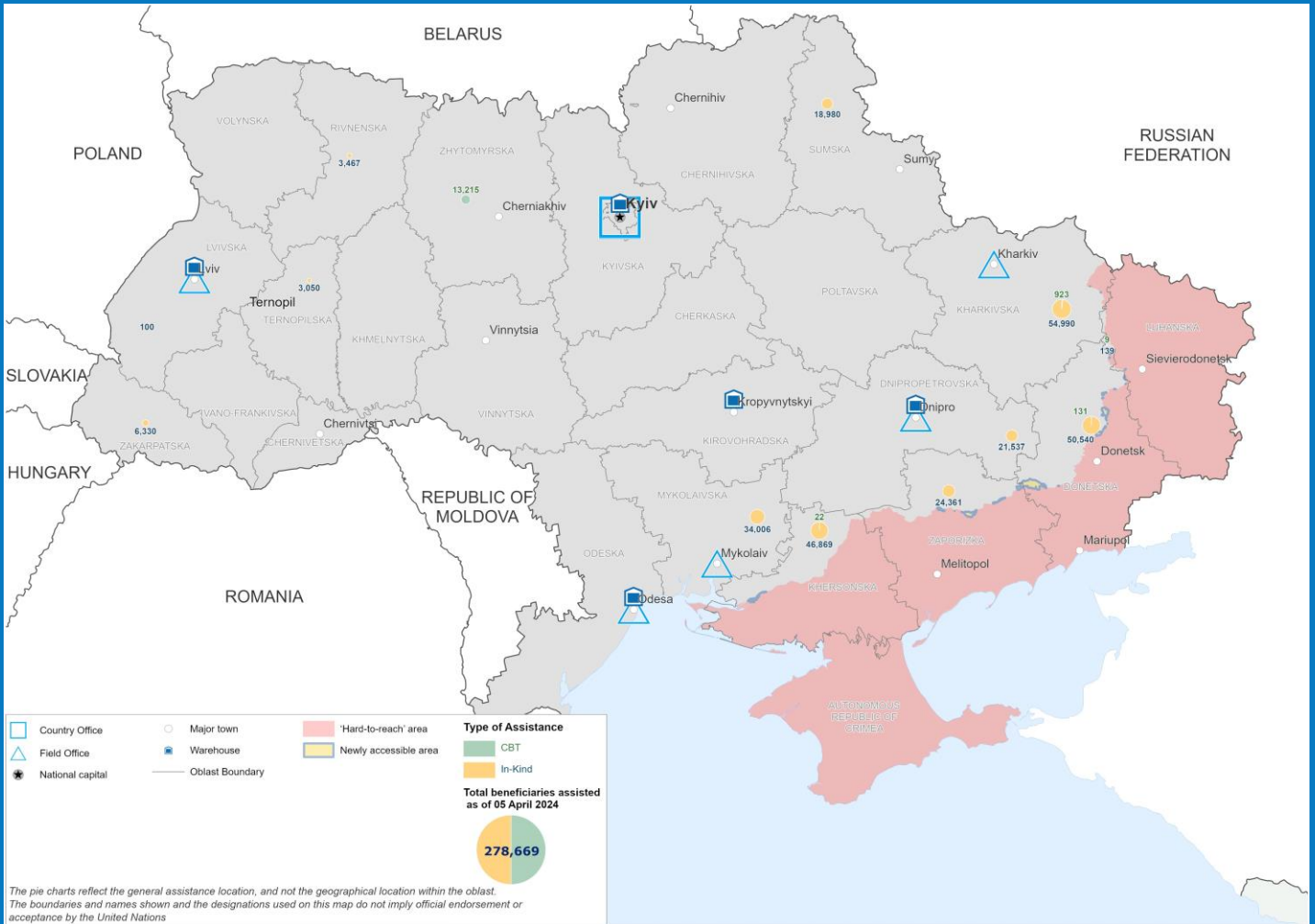
Funding Outlook

Thanks to the generosity of 30 donors and partners, WFP continues to provide lifesaving food and cash assistance to conflict-affected and most vulnerable people, as well as support the humanitarian community with common logistics and telecommunication services.

On 2 April, the WFP Executive Director signed a contribution agreement with the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief). The agreement marks **the first contribution to the WFP Ukraine operations from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**. The contribution will support 141,000 war affected people for 6 months under the institutional feeding programme.

Currently funded at 44 percent, WFP requires an additional **USD 207.8 million** for the next six months until September 2024 to sustain its operations. The funding priorities remain food procurement for the emergency response, as well as support for national social safety nets and agricultural mine-action.

WFP UKRAINE Assistance – April Overview



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

