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SPR Reading Guidance



**Protecting and Restoring Sustainable Livelihoods in
Conflict-Affected Eastern Ukraine**

Standard Project Report 2017

World Food Programme in Ukraine (UA)



World Food Programme

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Country Context and WFP Objectives



Achievements at Country Level

After four years since the start of the conflict, the crisis in Ukraine has developed into a protracted humanitarian emergency. Consequences of the war and a political stalemate are evident, with restrictions imposed by de-facto authorities in non-government controlled areas (NGCA) of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, humanitarian access and monitoring constraints, lack of funding and tax issues in government-controlled areas (GCA). In order to alleviate some of these social pressures, WFP worked closely with local cooperating partners and liaised with local authorities to secure access to people targeted for food assistance when and where possible.

For 2017, mainly due to the protracted nature of the conflict, WFP changed its strategy in Ukraine to focus on recovery through a one-year PRRO (January-December 2017). Despite the number of food insecure people reached under the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), it was not possible to reach all the planned beneficiaries on a monthly basis, reducing the number of distributions against the originally planned target. The PRRO aimed to reach 220,000 beneficiaries through recovery activities (150,000 beneficiaries) with a smaller relief component (70,000 beneficiaries), for a total budget of USD 37.8 million.

Despite a shrinking of the humanitarian space, significant funding constraints, and access issues, WFP continued to address the food needs of the most vulnerable, food insecure people in the conflict-affected eastern Ukraine. Under the early recovery component of the PRRO, WFP gradually supported activities aimed at enhancing local livelihoods, increasing income, and rehabilitating productive assets. Implementation of Food Assistance-for-Assets (FFA) activities, identified through consultations with communities, included rehabilitation of greenhouses and restoration of fruit gardens and water pipes. The majority of participants engaged in Food-For-Training (FFT) activities were households headed by women with children, considered to be the most vulnerable amongst the food-insecure population. Skill-building activities included trainings and awareness sessions on gender based violence, violence in the family, gender equality, and gender stereotypes to build the resilience of women among internally displaced persons (IDPs) with children and basic life skills for young people.

WFP successfully implemented almost all of the planned community projects, with the assistance of cooperating partners. To ensure project sustainability, WFP agreed with other UN agencies, non-government partners, and cooperating partners (CP) that its remaining activities would be completed in alignment with their own water,

sanitary and hygiene (WASH) and Shelter activities. Through this, WFP cooperating partners will use lessons learnt and replicate similar activities in 2018.

WFP worked closely with key stakeholders to identify and verify the most vulnerable localities and categories of the population. WFP CPs verified the list of people requiring humanitarian assistance and referral information provided by other humanitarian actors, UN agencies, the State of Emergency Service, the Ministry of Social Policy and the Ministry for Temporarily Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced Persons (MTOT) against the vulnerability criteria of Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster (FSLC). Particular focus was given to single women with children to ensure that assistance is delivered to the people experiencing the greatest levels of food insecurity. Through cooperating partners, WFP was able to adjust and refine the response required within the volatile context; based on increases in food prices, the FSLC members recommended to raise the cash-based transfer (CBT) value from UAH 550 to 700 UAH (USD 20 to USD 26) respectively, per person per month to comply with 75 percent of daily minimum requirements of 2,100 kcal. WFP applied this value increase from October 2017 onward. Additional recommendations included the extension of the field-level agreements (FLAs) with cooperating partners by two additional months during winter, when the food insecurity traditionally increases to cover the needs of the most vulnerable.

Access restrictions imposed by the de-facto authorities and multiple rounds of cumbersome negotiations, complicated operational access. WFP was able to negotiate access permission from the de-facto authorities to distribute locally-procured, in-kind food parcels to conflict-affected food insecure people residing in NGCA and along the contact line between NGCA and GCA.

In 2017, WFP fostered effective partnerships with seven non-government agencies (including two international), and five UN agencies: the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organisation and UNAIDS. In close coordination with UNAIDS, WFP launched and implements a successful project aimed to increase adherence to treatment among food insecure HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis patients in conflict-affected areas of Ukraine by provision of CBT in emergency humanitarian settings. Together with FAO, WFP co-leads the FSLC and implemented a successful FFT project for distribution of poultry to beneficiaries and conducting trainings on food security, agricultural inputs and technical assistance were provided jointly with FAO and alongside local authorities in rural areas, increasing household food production where land is available and accessible. With WHO, WFP successfully provided food assistance to health institutions in food-insecure conflict-affected areas.

Country Context and Response of the Government

A lower-middle income country, ranked 81 out of 188 countries in the 2016 Human Development Index, Ukraine is facing its most serious challenges since it achieved independence in 1991. Civil unrest began in late 2013, when a turnaround in the national political line led to the countrywide civil 'Euromaidan' protests, the dismissal of the former President and, eventually, early parliamentary and presidential elections. In April 2014, historical tensions between the west and east of the country escalated and erupted into a full-scale military conflict, with non-state armed groups seizing power in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions (referred to as the 'Donbas') of eastern Ukraine. Competing with large-scale global conflicts, Ukraine disappeared from global headlines and became a so-called 'forgotten crisis'. Four years after the start of the conflict, the security situation in eastern Ukraine remains fragile and highly volatile. The ceasefire agreement, agreed by between both parties to the conflict, often faces direct and indirect violations. Exchanges of fire and shelling are common in densely populated areas along the contact line between government-controlled areas (GCA) and non-government controlled areas (NGCA) of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

As per the last Humanitarian Needs Overview (November 2017), in total, 4.4 million people have been affected by the conflict, with 3.4 million in need of humanitarian assistance. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights estimates that, as of August 2017, more than 2,500 civilians have been killed since the beginning of the conflict, and another 7,000-9,000 having been injured. Damage to critical civilian infrastructure, including water, heating and electricity supply facilities, is having a detrimental effect on the lives of millions of people on both sides of the contact line, especially in the harsh winter months. The protracted crisis is causing large-scale displacement of people. Some 1.6 million internally displaced persons do not have access to their social benefits, including pensions, due to bureaucratic impediments. More than 7,000 km² of land close to the contact line is contaminated with landmines and other explosive remnants of war which endangers civilian lives and denies farmers access to arable land. The central Government transferred its responsibilities to departments of the local government, such as Emergency Services, and Ministry for Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs (MTOT), which was established in April 2016, to respond to the challenges and needs caused by the armed conflict.

Ukraine has a strong agricultural sector and is one of the world's largest grain exporters. As a food surplus nation, food availability in Ukraine was not a concern for the majority of the country before the conflict. The latest findings of the 'Analysis of Impact of Conflict on Socio-Economic Situation in Eastern Ukraine', released in September 2017, highlighted that the conflict has had an impact on Ukraine's economy. The Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts have been most affected with losses of control of territory, infrastructure, markets and resources, as well as an indirect impact through exacerbation of negative structural changes and poverty. Consumer prices are growing faster than incomes, limiting household purchasing power and general access to food. A ban on the trading between GCA and NGCA introduced by the government and continuous fighting isolates civilian populations on the violence-wracked east of the country. This exacerbates civilian suffering cutting off the access to food markets, medical care, education and other vital social services and preventing people from satisfying their basic needs. Poor performance of national economy, one of the highest global food inflation rates, significantly weakens the households' ability to maintain food security, as does a decrease in income and rising unemployment. According to the latest joint Food Security Assessment (September 2017), the number of food insecure people in 2017 significantly increased in NGCA and GCA, approximately 1.2 million people, compared to 621,000 in mid-2016. This represents both severely and moderately food insecure people: 26 percent in NGCA (Luhansk and Donetsk), 15 percent in Donetsk GCA, and 14 percent in Luhansk GCA. Households headed by women, households with a person living with disabilities, single-parent households were identified amongst the most vulnerable to economic shocks.

Under Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 200953, WFP has provided food assistance to 216,358 people. In line with criteria developed by Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster and under special prioritization criteria, WFP utilized available resources to provide assistance to the most vulnerable and food insecure people in conflict-affected regions, with a special focus on elderly people, households headed by women with more than two children, chronically ill people (people living with Tuberculosis, HIV or cancer), people living with disabilities and unaccompanied minors.

In its response to humanitarian needs, WFP takes into consideration existing social safety nets of the national government when selecting the beneficiaries. Specifically, WFP and its partners prioritises assistance to people not captured by the social security system, including internally displaced persons (IDPs) who are in the process of restoring their documents supporting their eligibility to social support.

In 2017, WFP further strengthened its collaboration with the government, both at central and regional levels, to ensure WFP activities complement government priorities. As part of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework road map, WFP focused on assisting the Government of Ukraine in achieving Sustainable Development Goals 2: Zero Hunger and 17: Partnerships for the Goals. In 2017, in collaboration with other humanitarian actors and government authorities, WFP continued to work to ensure a comprehensive and complementary phase-out strategy.

WFP Objectives and Strategic Coordination

The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) Road Map prioritized three dimensions for short, medium and long-term operations. To support the Government in implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), WFP focuses on two key areas i) humanitarian response for conflict-affected regions and internally displaced persons (IDPs), and ii) recovery, stabilization and rehabilitation for eastern Ukraine and other affected regions.

Mainly due to the protracted and low-intensity nature of the conflict, WFP changed its strategy to focus on recovery through a one-year Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), January-December 2017. The PRRO built on the activities of, and lessons learned from, Emergency Operation (EMOP) 200765 and was informed by assessments, evaluations and consultations. This included the recommendations of the WFP evaluation missions in 2016 and 2017 which led to a refinement of the programme strategy and the choice of transfer modalities. The PRRO focused on two core activities designed to meet the short and medium-term food security needs of vulnerable populations in eastern Ukraine. It addressed the food needs of the most vulnerable people in eastern Ukraine while gradually supporting early recovery by engaging vulnerable groups into Food Assistance-for-Assets (FFA) and Food-For-Training (FFT) activities, strengthening the resilience and improve cohesion within the conflict-affected communities. The operation is aligned with WFP's Strategic Plan (2017–2021), which includes guidelines on gender and protection, focusing on meeting emergency and protracted relief food needs caused by conflict in the eastern Ukraine. In particular, special emphasis is placed on single women with children and households headed by women through safe and dignified distribution mechanisms. By doing this, WFP empowers them to the decision-making in utilisation of the food assistance within the household. The PRRO is also guided by SDGs 2: Zero Hunger and 17: Partnerships for the Goals, fostering partnerships and national plans and strategies to achieve zero hunger. It incorporates cross-cutting issues such as gender and protection while considering

seasonality. Asset rehabilitation activities were scheduled to warmer months when the weather conditions allowed for the best working outcomes. Many women beneficiaries participated and often brought their children to FFT activities to the auditoriums.

Through PRRO 200925, in 2017, WFP aimed to provide food assistance through unconditional resource transfers (through in-kind food or cash-based transfer: CBT) to 220,000 food-insecure people in conflict-affected eastern Ukraine. WFP targeted the most vulnerable and food insecure people in conflict-affected regions: elderly people (living alone or as a couple), households headed by women with more than two children, chronically ill people (people living with Tuberculosis: TB, HIV or Cancer), people living with disabilities, and unaccompanied minors. WFP utilised available coordination mechanisms and liaised with Government bodies, as well as with International Committee of the Red Cross, private foundations and other organizations, to ensure that the remaining conflict-affected people will be targeted by other food assistance actors.

WFP strengthened partners' capacity to deliver through training on beneficiary selection, food security, monitoring and reporting, and such cross-cutting themes as protection, gender when implementing the activities. Through its partners, WFP raised also awareness at the community level and promoted the participation of affected populations while ensuring safe and dignified food assistance. In 2017, WFP partnered with seven NGO cooperating partners, building on their capacities, solid presence on the ground, and complementary actions with other UN agencies to conduct food assistance activities, reaching people in need of food assistance in non-government controlled areas (NGCA) where the humanitarian access is limited. WFP also continued to cooperate with the third-party monitoring.

WFP leads the Logistics Cluster and co-leads the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster (FSLC) with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). During 2017, FSLC cooperated and coordinated more than twenty organisations, including national NGOs and INGOs and local private foundations, engaged in food security and early recovery livelihoods interventions in Ukraine. The FSLC and cluster partners have continued to promote the jointly developed common targeting criteria and updated harmonised transfer values, taking into account results of joint assessments and the evolving situation on the ground. Working to ensure that needs were met where possible (taking into consideration both funding restrictions and the shrinking humanitarian space) and that duplication is avoided, the FSLC team have strengthened the partner reporting format and undertaken 28 coordination meetings during 2017, of which 16 were field-level meetings. To further strengthen its field capacity, FSLC has also appointed district focal points to assist with coordination in case of flare ups. To maximize resources and ensure a well-coordinated response, the FSLC continuously engaged with national and local authorities, United Nations agencies, non-government organizations (NGO) partners and other key stakeholders. In parallel, WFP strengthened its partnership with government counterparts and local authorities. In September 2017, the Joint Food Security Assessment was published by FSLC indicating increased food insecurity levels with WFP taking an active role, leveraging on its comparative advantages including in Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping and Monitoring and Evaluation food security monitoring systems.

The Logistics Cluster provided coordination and in-depth information management services, which contributed to improved efficiency for the logistics response to the operation. Given the food needs identified beyond the contact line in NGCA and criticality to address those with in-kind assistance, WFP Ukraine Supply Chain unit supported the Logistics Cluster in its activities, providing assistance to the humanitarian community for the delivery of essential humanitarian cargo in NGCA through the contact line. Roads and access points to the NGCA were regularly assessed and monitored, with the results presented in a road access constraints map.

WFP participates in the Ukraine humanitarian coordination structures, including the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), and coordinates with the NGO forum. WFP will continue to coordinate with other United Nations agencies and the NGO forum to evaluate potential risks and develop appropriate mitigation strategies. WFP coordinated with UNAIDS, UNFPA, and UN Women in order to streamline its response to ensure some of the most vulnerable groups affected by the conflict, such as HIV/AIDS/TB patients, were included. This is in line with the UNAIDS strategy on eliminating HIV in contributing to effective treatment by improving access to food to support adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART). WFP contributes to core decisions on HIV and TB issues as a member of the sub-cluster on HIV/TB and opioid substitution therapy led by the World Health Organization. On this, WFP, through its cooperating partner, launched an emergency food assistance project via CBTs in the form of electronic food vouchers to conflict-affected people living with HIV, who are also food insecure. WFP is also member of the United Nations Gender Theme Group led by UN Women.

In 2017, WFP continued its coordination with the Government of Ukraine, including Ministries of Social Policy, Agriculture and Ministry of Ukraine for Temporarily Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced Persons (MTOT), and worked on improving approaches to targeting the most vulnerable groups. New technologies for improved beneficiary data management and better targeting include WFP's data management system (SCOPE), a digital platform for managing beneficiary information. SCOPE has been successfully implemented in Ukraine as a beneficiary database with 27,000 people uploaded in the system. WFP continues to support the United Nations Children's Fund in rolling out SCOPE in relation to their WASH activities.

Country Resources and Results

Resources for Results

In part, due to the protracted and low-intensity nature of the conflict, WFP changed its strategy to focus on recovery through a one-year Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) (January-December 2017). The PRRO targeted 220,000 beneficiaries through recovery activities (150,000 beneficiaries) with a smaller relief component (70,000 beneficiaries), for a total budget of USD 37.8 million. Excluding multilateral and Strategic Resource Allocation Committee's funds, the PRRO has received USD 7.7 million from donors (Germany, Italy and USA) against the planned budget (20.4 percent). After a funding peak in 2015, it has become increasingly difficult to maintain donor interest in WFP's Ukraine operation. A similar downwards funding trend is affecting other UN agencies and NGOs, resulting in several programmes being reduced or closed.

To achieve operational targets and mitigate funding limitations, WFP engaged cooperating partners (CPs) within the available funding and continued advocacy with donors for mobilization of additional resources. In late 2017, WFP secured two contributions, which enabled the provision of an increased unconditional resource transfer (cash-based transfers) to reflect the increased prices and deteriorated socio-economic situation, and to launch relief food assistance during the cold winter season of 2017-2018. Germany remained a reliable donor for WFP Ukraine; the multi-year contribution for 2016 and 2017, for the first months of operation, was the only support that WFP received that ensured funding predictability and availability, and allowed planning and launching the food assistance program amidst general donor fatigue.

To assist the severely food insecure beneficiaries in a situation of the limited resources, WFP focused its food assistance on the most vulnerable categories of population among those identified by WFP food security monitoring systems, within the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster (FSLC) vulnerability criteria. In addition, WFP worked with CPs, the Government, and local authorities to address food needs in areas with higher food insecurity, where no other food assistance programs are present. Amidst insufficient resources, WFP provided food assistance to 216,358 food insecure beneficiaries (98 percent), affected by the armed conflict in the east of Ukraine out of 220,000 people originally planned. This is explained by prioritization of the categories of beneficiaries and reduction of number of rounds of food assistance provided per person in both Government-controlled areas (GCAs) and non-Government controlled areas (NGCAs). The restriction on the number of rounds of WFP food assistance in NGCA continued from earlier WFP response in Ukraine, when local authorities restricted the number of rounds of assistance per household. The position of the *de facto* authorities was to ensure the support for as many people as possible by providing less rounds of assistance but to larger number of people. Another reasoning provided was also to avoid social tensions. Due to impossibility of monitoring in Luhansk NGCA, as a result of restrictions imposed by the *de facto* authorities, WFP redirected its food assistance to Donetsk NGCA, where monitoring is possible, further increasing the overall beneficiary figure. Despite these challenges, WFP ensured that all prioritized beneficiaries who were assisted, received the full monthly entitlement whether in-kind (in NGCA) or CBT (in GCA).

WFP continued to ensure cost efficiency in implementation of food assistance in Ukraine. During the NGO partnership selection process, WFP put emphasis on cost sharing component, capacity and operational presence of the NGOs in the area of operation. As a result of strategic planning, as well as WFP scaling down in Ukraine, WFP reallocated savings from support costs to provide food assistance to more of the most vulnerable conflict-affected beneficiaries.

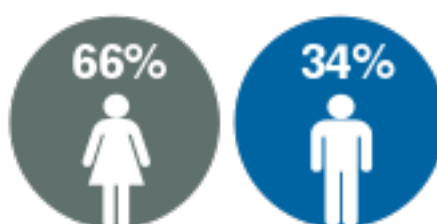
WFP continued to ensure value for money; efficiency was increased in operations through the finance and administration departments, with the introduction of an invoice tracking system for finance department (ITS) and fleet management system (FMS) – by administration unit. ITS minimizes the errors and improves performance of invoice processing. Whereas, FMS optimized cost and efficiency of fuel consumption and tracking of vehicles.

Throughout the PRRO, WFP took active role in the joint UN committees, as well as specific WFP donor visits to eastern Ukraine, enabling interested stakeholders to visit the conflict-affected areas and to get a better understanding of humanitarian needs on the ground. Despite WFP's plan for a gradual phase out from Ukraine in 2018, to ensure sustainability, cost-efficiency and continuation of the started activities, WFP continues advocacy with the donor community to mobilize resources directly to the national NGO partners.



Annual Country Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	6,491	7,140	13,631
Children (5-18 years)	8,871	8,871	17,742
Adults (18 years plus)	58,849	126,136	184,985
Total number of beneficiaries in 2017	74,211	142,147	216,358




Annual Food Distribution in Country (mt)

Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Single Country PRRO	3	1	-	-	3,652	3,656
Total Food Distributed in 2017	3	1	-	-	3,652	3,656



Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher Distribution (USD)

Project Type	Cash	Value Voucher	Commodity Voucher
Single Country PRRO	1,193,367	2,098,644	-
Total Distributed in 2017	1,193,367	2,098,644	-

Supply Chain

The logistics infrastructure in Ukraine is well-developed across four main shipment options – air, sea, surface and rail. Road infrastructure covers the entirety of the country with a total length of 165,000 km of roads, of which approximately 80 percent are covered with hard surface (asphalt). Except for international class highways, the road surface condition is often below acceptable standards, which reduces speed of the traffic and increases cargo transit time. Unpaved roads connecting remote villages present potential challenge for access in winter. Road practicability highly depends on the season; in winter, the roads are blocked with snow, while in spring and autumn they are washed out after rains.

WFP purchased food parcels locally, utilizing a new food supply agreement modality which reduced lead times and resulted in a more efficient delivery of food. Procurement followed standard WFP procedures ensuring integrity and transparency of the tendering process. There are only two checkpoints used by the convoys to cross the contact line from Government-controlled areas (GCAs) to non-Government controlled areas (NGCA) with the crossing procedure accompanied with cumbersome bureaucratic processes and restrictions.

In 2017, a total of 2,316 mt of food was “delivered at place” INCOTERMS (DAP). Cooperating Partners (CPs) provided secondary transport to areas of final distribution. DAP also ensured risk mitigation for WFP as all delivery risks were with the supplier before the handover to cooperating partners (CPs). In 2016, post-delivery losses were nominal, amounting to 80 kg (6 food parcels). WFP worked closely with CPs to improve distribution processes and storage security which resulted in no post-delivery losses in 2017.

Since purchases were made at DAP, WFP coordinated with suppliers and other humanitarian actors to introduce schedule of convoys delivering food to NGCA, which helped avoiding overcrowding at checkpoints. This increased supply chain efficiency and timely delivery of food.

After being activated in 2015, the Logistics Cluster helped coordinate and facilitate the movement across the contact line and set up common temporary storage space on both sides of the conflict line. In 2017, the Logistics Cluster succeeded in facilitating 29 joint humanitarian convoys, which contributed to deliver more than 2,658 mt and 5,753 m³ of water, sanitary and hygiene (WASH), Health, Shelter, Education and Telecommunication items to Donetsk and Luhansk NGCA regions respectively, and assisting WFP with the delivery of food items to Donetsk (NGCA). The cluster also provided warehouse space in Dnipro to four humanitarian organisations for short-term storage and coordinated the consolidation of cargo into convoys. Strategic location of the warehouse enabled to secure the storage facility that satisfied the WFP standards and ensured cost-efficient and timely delivery of cargo after being repositioned.

Due to the planned deactivation of the Logistics Cluster, WFP together with the Supply Chain ensured capacity building of national partners and other humanitarian actors through facilitating and preparing the convoys, complemented with capacity building events (workshops etc.) and sharing its expertise with key partnering organisations with the perspective to possible future hand over.



Annual Food Purchases for the Country (mt)

Commodity	Local	Regional/International	Total
Rations	1,909	-	1,909
Total	1,909	-	1,909
Percentage	100.0%	-	

Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

Recommendations of the WFP Emergency Operation (EMOP) 200765 Decentralized Operation Evaluation (December 2015 - February 2016) were incorporated into the design of Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 200953.

WFP followed the recommendation concerning engagement in Ukraine by shifting from an EMOP to a one-year PRRO, starting January 2017, providing an emergency response while gradually supporting early recovery via the

Food Assistance-for-Assets (FFA) and Food-For-Training (FFT) activities. After completing the PRRO in 2017, one of the main lessons learned is that the one-year project duration is insufficient for adequate planning, launching and implementation of project activities to ensure impact of early recovery activities (FFA/FFT); a minimum two to three-year project duration would be more appropriate.

Following the lessons learned and a food security assessment, PRRO activities were extended to deliver the assistance in January and February 2018 when needs were higher due to the harsh winter months. The lessons learned exercise began following the deactivation of the Level 2 Emergency, and included the results of external performance audit are being finalized.

Another recommendation, WFP strengthened its involvement in the Cash Working Group led by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Ukraine, playing an active role and contributing to the coordination of cash-based transfers (CBT). Additionally, WFP established its internal cash working group with participating of the programme, supply chain and other relevant units to discuss all CBT-related matters of the operation.

Other key recommendations for WFP was to continue playing a prominent advocacy role in coordination mechanisms and, the consolidation and strengthening of the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster's (FSLC) coordination capacity. To support the Cluster Coordinator and Information Management Officer and to strengthen coordination at field-level, in 2017, district focal points were appointed in Kramatorsk, Donetsk & Sievierodonetsk WFP offices. District focal points helped gather information on the food security situation and coordinate on the ground in case of a sudden escalation of the conflict. With the support of WFP field focal points, a set of meetings were held with Luhansk and Donetsk Oblast Civil-Military Administrations, and State Emergency Service in the Government-controlled area (GCA) of Donetsk oblast to strengthen coordination with the Government. Moreover, FSLC meetings regularly engaged representatives from the Ministry of Ukraine for Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs.

Following recommendations of the mission on integrating gender into needs assessments, implementation, monitoring and reporting, WFP continued incorporating data disaggregated by activity, age and gender into assessments to better interpret and address the needs of high-risk groups, and applied different approaches for activities in GCA and non-Government-controlled area (NGCA), based on varying contexts and levels of access.

The evaluation report recommended the use of technological platforms such as SCOPE by WFP and other partners for cash operations to strengthen coordination and avoid overlaps. In 2017, WFP coordinated with its cooperating partners to utilize SCOPE as beneficiary management system, and engaged into partnership with United Nations Children's Fund to introduce SCOPE into UNICEF project activities in Ukraine.

In May 2017, WFP Ukraine hosted the mission of the Regional Programme Advisor from WFP Regional Bureau in Cairo. Based on the mission report, a set of recommendations regarding refinement of work norms for FFA activities were incorporated into PRRO programming.

Story worth telling: shining a light in the 'forgotten crisis'

Taramchuk is one of those tiny isolated villages in Donetsk region trapped in-between belligerent positions where shelling goes on day and night. People living in Taramchuk who spend most of their time in the basements taking refuge from the shelling are among the one million people who have been assisted by WFP since November 2014 with in-kind food entitlements and cash-based transfers. Most of the local residents in Taramchuk have been affected by the conflict with their houses being damaged by constant shelling, resulting in loss of assets, and jobs. For a short period of time their stories of suffering garnered the media spotlight, however as the conflict continued, they began to feel forgotten and eventually, invisible to both the government and international humanitarian community.

Vera Hryhorievna, a 75-year-old woman, is one the few residents of Taramchuk who remain in the village. Elderly people in Taramchuk are among the most affected by the ongoing conflict as they could not leave the village either due to their age or health condition. Vera stayed because she has nowhere else to go. Before the conflict, she lived in her own house together with her son. Now, Vera together with her son spend almost every single evening in her basement. Her house burned down after the recent shelling, and a small summer kitchen with no windows is the only place more or less fit for sleeping. She shares it with her son but they have to sleep in shifts since the tiny space can accommodate only one narrow bed.

Frequent conflict flare-ups make the access to location highly insecure with only occasional windows of safety for humanitarian actors to reach and deliver the assistance to people in Taramchuk. WFP was one of the first and few humanitarian organizations to respond to the needs of local residents, providing them with emergency in-kind food assistance. People receiving WFP in-kind food assistance are provided with monthly food ration that includes buckwheat grain, pasta, sunflower oil, sugar, iodised salt, rice, wheat flour and peas. By complimenting this monthly entitlement with some fresh vegetables from their kitchen gardens, residents of Taramchuk were able to cover their most urgent and basic food needs and survive through the harsh winter.

“My son is trying to repair at least one room in our old house so we could sleep there in winter”, shares the old lady hopelessly. “We have no money to fix what is left of our house. We never thought something like that would ever happen to us. I used to like the quietness of our country side. But now, we're scared to fall asleep.”

WFP delivered food parcels to the Taramchuk residents to help them get through hard period when the conflict was raging in the area in February. With no employment opportunities and lack of operating markets within the reach, this food became the only support local residents can rely upon when the fighting escalates and cuts off the access to the village. “And though it does not bring us back peace, it gives us hope to look into the future and feel we are not forgotten” said Vera.

Project Results

Activities and Operational Partnerships

During 2017, WFP maintained its partnership with the Government of Ukraine at both central and local levels and through its cooperating partners (CPs), continued providing food assistance to food insecure people affected by the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine, residing in both government-controlled areas (GCA) and non-government controlled areas (NGCA). People received monthly assistance through unconditional resource transfers (either cash-based transfers: CBT, e-vouchers or direct cash transfers; or in-kind food assistance). WFP targeted the most vulnerable groups specified in the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) prioritization plan under the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster's (FSLC) vulnerability criteria: elderly people living alone or as a couple, households headed by women with more than two children, chronically ill people living with tuberculosis (TB), HIV/AIDS or cancer, people living with a disability, and unaccompanied minors, with emphasis on single households with children headed by women. WFP's monthly food assistance provided for 75 percent of daily minimum food requirements.

For the most vulnerable people incapable to travel to distribution points (disabled, bed-ridden and elderly living alone in rural areas), where possible, community mobilizers and volunteers arranged door-to-door deliveries. For the remaining beneficiaries, distribution points in the secure areas were arranged where people could collect their entitlements personally.

Conflict-affected people living with HIV (PLHIV) fall under the category of chronically ill people, identified as one of the most food insecure and in need of food assistance. For PLHIV, food insecurity leads to increased number of drop-outs from the treatment. In coordination with UNAIDS, under the 'Mitigation and Safety Nets' component, WFP provided food assistance to food insecure PLHIV affected by the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine. In 2017, WFP launched food assistance via conditional e-vouchers, targeting PLHIV, including those with TB co-infection. PLHIV received eight monthly rounds of assistance via e-vouchers, contingent on their attendance of medical facilities and adherence, and were distributed to HIV/TB patients by medical staff in medical facilities. Results indicated positive impact of WFP food assistance: increased food security of PLHIV; decreased number of interruptions of antiretroviral therapy (ART) and treatment of TB; improved adherence to ART and TB drugs regimens; and suppression of viral load.

In GCA, where the security situation so permitted and cash-based modality was possible, WFP implemented Food Assistance-for-Assets (FFA) and Food-For-Training (FFT) livelihood activities utilizing CBTs through e-vouchers and cash transfers. These activities focused on social infrastructure rehabilitation using participatory approaches, community-based targeting and gender analysis. Joint planning of activities with participation of the conflict-affected communities ensured community ownership and benefited social cohesion. FFA activities included community greenhouses rehabilitation, fruit gardens and water pipe restoration. Almost 95 percent of planned community projects were successfully completed by the end of PRRO. FFT and low labour intense FFA activities specifically targeted women and elderly. The main challenges included one-year duration of PRRO and the fact that non-food items were not initially budgeted. In 2017, WFP held consultations with the partners to explore possibility for continuation of successful activities once WFP has phased out its assistance. Some partners committed to continue in Spring 2018 with funds from other sources. Some of WFP partners plan to provide equipment that would allow communities to process and store harvest from the rehabilitated assets like the fruit orchards. For both FFA and FFT activities, skilled staff also required additional expenses. To provide for those, WFP partners agreed to cover such costs by matching funds from other donors.

WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) implemented a joint programme to improve food security of rural populations in conflict affected eastern regions. By providing poultry and related animal husbandry, these communities were supported by WFP cash assistance to ensure immediate food needs are met during the breeding period.

As part of FFT activities, WFP through its partners, in close collaboration and coordination with the Social Employment Services, delivered a series of trainings in GCA to enable them to obtain new opportunities for employment. Complementary activities with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), enabled beneficiaries to receive series of trainings on topics related to food security including family budget planning in circumstances shortage of foods and resources. Feedback from the beneficiaries collected by the implementing partners confirmed that budget planning skills of the beneficiaries improved since the people were able to better manage scarce resources available for the household. Additionally, WFP and UNICEF have entered into an inter-agency contribution agreement to introduce SCOPE (WFP's data management system) into UNICEF projects.

Partnership with seven international and local NGOs enabled WFP to reach the most food insecure people residing in conflict-affected areas of eastern Ukraine under PRRO. In September 2017, due to increased insecurity and an ever-shrinking humanitarian space, WFP was forced to end a field-level agreement with a cooperating partner in Luhansk NGCA as it was no longer feasible to continue monitoring activities. In Donetsk NGCA, all activities were successfully completed in December 2017 via “Donbass Development Center” despite the existing challenges.

WFP provided programme-related guidance to cooperating partners via the relevant workshops, consultations, regular bilateral meetings. To refine implementation of the FFA activities based on recommendations received from the Regional Programme Advisor, WFP delivered thematic capacity building sessions for partners on participatory training techniques, logistic issues and other.

WFP and its CPs ensured accountability to affected population and complied with “do not harm” principle. Ukrainian legislation imposes a threshold of minimum non-taxable individual income, which also relates to CBT assistance. Not to exceed the specified threshold, which could lead to beneficiaries losing their social benefits, WFP and its partners conducted detailed cross-checking of beneficiary lists to avoid duplications, coordinated with other humanitarian actors to ensure that the person is not receiving assistance from other sources upon enrolment into the project.

Results

Strategic Objective 1: End hunger by protecting access to food

Strategic Outcome 1.1: Maintained/enhanced individual and household access to adequate food

Activity: Unconditional Resource Transfer

WFP's unconditional resource transfer (either through in-kind food assistance or cash-based transfer: CBT, both cash and vouchers) supported regular access to food among the most vulnerable in conflict affected areas of eastern Ukraine. Through CBTs, over USD 3.2 million was injected into local economies, equating to 226 percent of in-kind and 25 percent of CBT beneficiaries were reached [1]. Despite this however, only 15.5 percent of the planned total transfer and 51.3 percent of planned mt of locally procured food was distributed over 2017. This is explained by prioritization of the categories of beneficiaries and reduction of number of rounds of food assistance provided per person in both government-controlled areas (GCA) and non-Government controlled areas (NGCA). Due to impossibility of monitoring in NGCA Luhansk as a result of restrictions imposed by the *de facto* authorities, WFP redirected its food assistance to NGCA Donetsk, where monitoring is possible, further increasing the overall beneficiary figure. Despite multiple challenges in funding and access, WFP ensured that all beneficiaries received the complete monthly ration whether in-kind or CBT. In October, WFP increased the value of CBT transfers from 550 to 700 UAH per person/month (USD 20 to USD 26) to maintain the provision of a 75 percent daily kcal requirement due to increasing food prices associated with demand driven inflation.

Severe funding shortfalls heavily impacted WFP's ability to reach planned targets. WFP had to further prioritize the most vulnerable groups and provided a majority of the in-kind food assistance during the winter months, when food insecurity is more prevalent and food prices higher. The number of monthly rounds of CBT in GCA areas was reduced. A second challenge faced was the access restrictions in NGCA due to the ongoing tense security situation and political decisions of the *de-facto* authorities, which limited WFP's ability to distribute through cooperating partners (CPs) and conduct regular monitoring.

The food security situation declined in eastern Ukraine over 2017 with the number of food insecure doubling since 2016, based on latest Joint Food Security Assessment led by WFP (released in September 2017). Increasing food prices, higher unemployment rates and a sharp decline in assistance by large local organizations undermined the populations' ability to access sufficient food. These external factors influenced the outcome results of WFP's activities this year.

Despite these challenges, following WFP assistance, food consumption and dietary diversity improved among beneficiaries, particularly in the summer months during the first round of post-distribution monitoring (PDM), compared to the baseline conducted in the spring. However, all outcome indicators declined the following winter in November in both GCA and NGCA areas, in-line with assessment findings that food insecurity increases in winter. Coping strategies in particular, both short-term food related and long-term livelihood coping strategies, were adopted at a higher frequency and severity by the end of the year, meaning beneficiaries had a more difficult time meeting their food needs in winter compared to the prior PDM in the summer. Higher cost of living in the winter associated with freezing temperatures is a likely reason for this decline. Expenditure patterns of beneficiaries confirm that the proportion of expenditures on food decreased in winter compared to summer, as more expenses were allocated to heating and clothing. Increased vulnerabilities during winter is the main reason why WFP will continue two more rounds of in-kind food assistance in January - February 2018.

Due to a smaller sample size of households headed by men compared to households headed by women, the following can be considered indicative but not representative for the population. Households headed by women had higher food consumption at baseline than households headed by men, following WFP assistance over both PDM rounds, both households headed by men and women had very similar food consumption, with acceptable food consumption always within 2 percent of one another. However, findings showed households headed by women more often adopted negative coping strategies over time in order to maintain similar levels of food consumption. This could be related to the wage gap where men earn on average 25 percent more than women in 2017 and in focus groups men often noted it was easier for them to find work than women.

Following the provision of general food assistance in Ukraine, outcome targets to improve from baseline were met for food consumption, dietary diversity and food expenditure share indicators, but not met for the food and livelihood coping strategies indexes. The main reasons not all targets were met is related to funding constraints which led to most beneficiaries receiving less rounds than planned, as well as harsh winter conditions, the general deterioration of food security situation in the east and less assistance provided by other actors.

Activity: Food Assistance-for-Assets and Food-for-Training (early recovery)

In 2017, WFP strengthened community participation and ownership in re-designing Food Assistance-for-Assets (FFA) and Food-For-Training (FFT) activities to promote early recovery and enhance local livelihoods. WFP, through partnerships with CPs, successfully rehabilitated 95 percent of planned assets by the end of 2017 including the rehabilitation of irrigation canals, orchards, schools, kindergartens, playgrounds, family centres, and other communal sites in conflict-affected areas of eastern Ukraine. Cooperating partners will continue with the last few assets into early 2018.

In partnership with Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), who provided animal husbandry training and live poultry, WFP provided CBT assistance (UAH 550, equivalent to USD 20) and nutrition trainings as a part of a poultry growing livelihoods project in conflict-affected areas reaching 2,500 households to enable families to supplement their diets with higher quality animal products and earn an income from egg and meat sales.

Through the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), WFP conducted 21 vocational training courses in 14 different professions over 2017 such as in sales, tailoring, hair styling and cooking. These trainings lasted from two to six months depending on the level of skills needed to meet market demands. In addition, through two other CPs, WFP conducted one-day nutritional trainings on healthy eating and meal preparation.

While FFA/FFT activities were originally planned to take place in the spring and summer, due to delays caused by funding shortfalls, presence of mines, CP non-food items (NFI) procurement issues and the longer-term nature of livelihood activities planned, most activities started as late as July, resulting in fewer beneficiaries being reached. All participants of the FFA and FFT activities graduated from assistance and will not receive in-kind food assistance in January and February. Those people categorised as extremely vulnerable, most of whom could not participate in FFA/FFT activities due to physical constraints or childcare needs, will receive winterization in-kind food assistance during the winter of 2017. WFP is working closely with NRC to ensure more comprehensive outcome results of these activities are monitored and reported on including employment rates post-training, with plans to do so in early 2018 following the completion of all activities. The lessons learned and consultation with CPs showed that FFA activities had a positive effect on the protection of beneficiaries in conflict areas by ensuring the absence of mines at project sites, in coordination with the local State Emergency Department.

Strategic Objective: 4. Support implementation of Sustainable Development Goals

Strategic Outcome 5.1: Enhanced capacities of public- and private-sector institutions and systems, including local responders, to identify, target and assist food-insecure and nutritionally vulnerable populations

Activity: Institutional capacity strengthening activities

Through regular consultations, workshops and trainings, WFP strived to strengthen capacities of government counterparts from the capital to field level local emergency departments, as well as the third-party monitoring (TPM) partner Kiev International Institution of Sociology (KIIS), CPs and participating Food Security Cluster organizations. In May, WFP hosted a Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Government Partnership workshop in Cairo to build institutional capacity of Ukrainian ministerial counterparts on how to use national surveys as an evidence-base to establish baselines, monitor the food security situation and how to improve data visualization through new techniques. In addition, delegates from the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food (MoAPF) and office of the State Statistical Service of Ukraine participated in a Safety-Nets Alert Platform (SNAP) training developed by WFP to enhance government price monitoring systems and better prepare them to respond to price fluctuations in the future. Emergency preparedness was also a component of the workshop to enable agencies to be more responsive

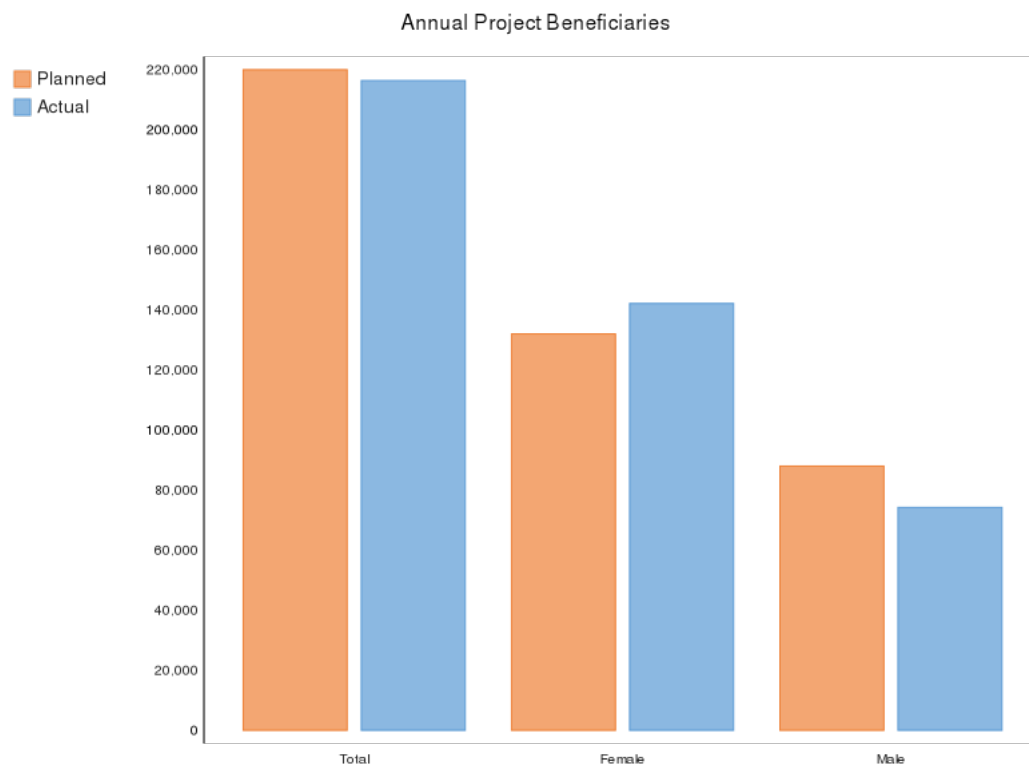
to future shocks.

At the field level, WFP supported local emergency response departments in both GCA and NGCA areas by training, funding and embedding CP staff in these local response offices to build their capacity to better target beneficiaries, provide orderly emergency assistance, understand proper warehouse management and how to track and monitor assistance provided, given these local government offices regularly responded to ad-hoc flare-ups of conflict throughout the east.

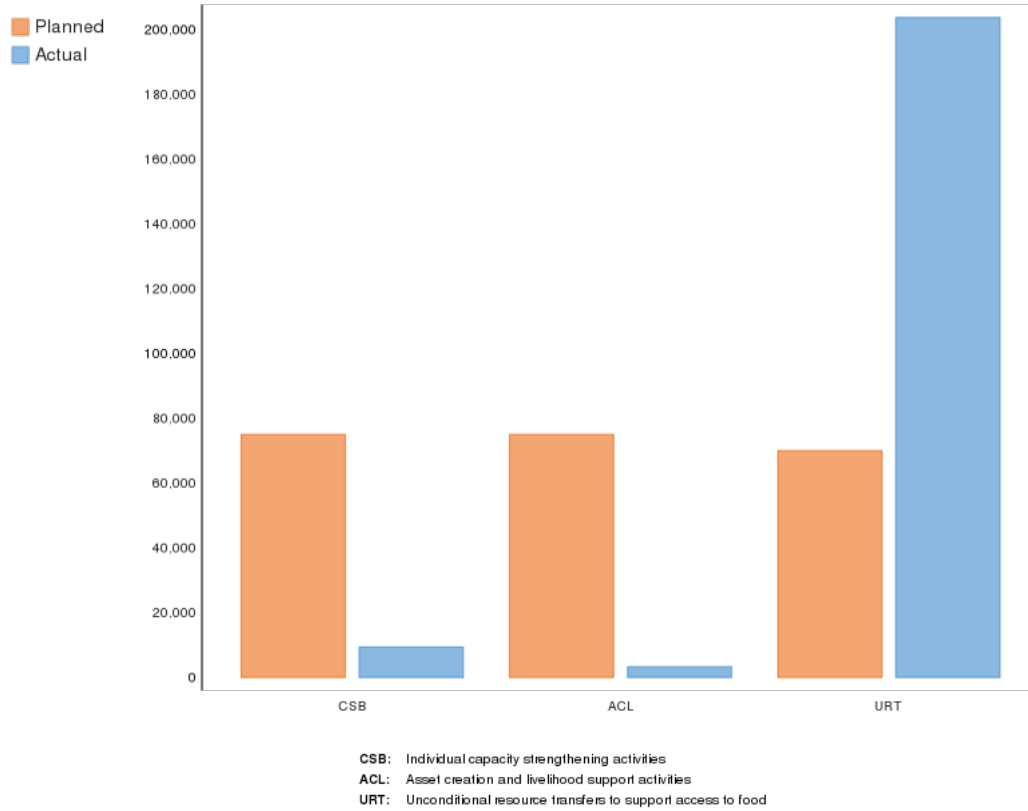
With the gradual phase-out of operations, WFP improved the technical capacity of the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster (FSLC) to take on future food security assessments after the last survey in September was run by WFP together with FSLC staff. WFP also worked to incorporate food security indicator modules into other humanitarian assessments such as REACH surveys and cash working group studies over the year.

In December, WFP conducted a comprehensive training of national and international humanitarian organizations and representatives from government entities in the east to improve supply chain practices and capacities on the whole process from purchases to movements, storage, tracking and distribution.

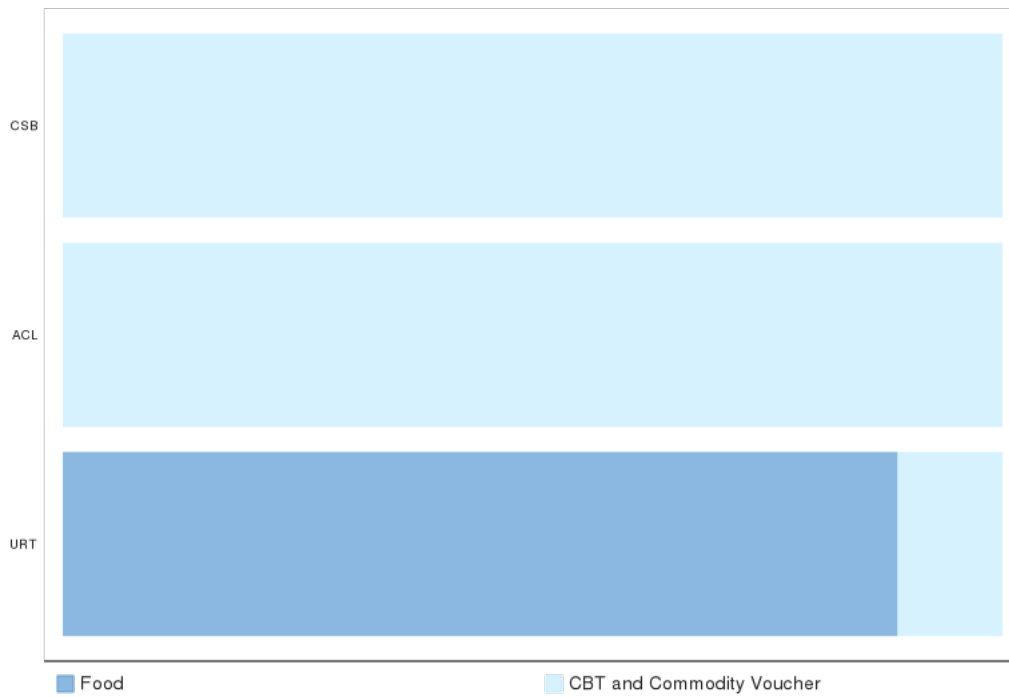
[1] Data Notes



Annual Project Beneficiaries by Activity



Modality of Transfer by Activity





Annual Project Food Distribution

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
Buckwheat	-	0	-
Iodised Salt	-	0	-
Pasta	-	0	-
Rations	7,076	3,650	51.6%
Sugar	-	1	-
Vegetable Oil	-	1	-
Wheat Flour	-	3	-
Total	7,076	3,656	51.7%



Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher Distribution for the Project (USD)

Modality	Planned (USD)	Actual (USD)	% Actual v. Planned
Cash	19,360,000	1,193,367	6.2%
Value Voucher	-	2,098,644	-
Total	19,360,000	3,292,011	17.0%

Performance Monitoring

Through the new Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) WFP further refined the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system to account for additional Food Assistance-for-Assets (FFA) and Food-For-Training (FFT) activities and changes in the operational environment in Ukraine. Even though severe funding shortfalls hampered WFP's ability to hire more field monitor assistants and limited the number of post-distribution monitoring (PDM) rounds that could be done, WFP and the third-party monitoring (TPM) partner successfully monitored 50 distribution sites, 163 retailer shops including food prices, nine focus group discussions and conducted 2,643 pre-assistance baseline (PAB) and PDM interviews in eastern Ukraine over 2017. All cooperating partners (CPs) ran hotlines in their respective areas of operation with both male and female operators to document beneficiary complaints and answer questions, receiving more than 14,000 calls. In addition, 59 monitoring visits took place to FFA implementation sites and FFT training sessions.

The TPM continued to collect all outcome and price monitoring data on behalf of WFP in government-controlled area (GCA) and non-government controlled areas (NGCA), and in early 2017 WFP shifted process monitoring responsibilities from the TPM to WFP monitors in sub-offices. In late 2016, WFP faced restrictions by the de-facto authorities preventing access to most NGCA areas, but in August 2017 WFP was able to successfully negotiate approvals to continue monitoring by WFP staff in Donetsk Oblast, enabling the completion of two representative PDM rounds in 2017 in both GCA and NGCA areas. In addition to monitoring beneficiary outcomes, based on the recommendation of the 2016 Operational Evaluation, in November WFP measured a small sample of those who received food assistance in August but did not receive further rounds, given challenges imposed by de-facto authorities enforcing no more than two months of assistance per household in NGCA areas. This information helped WFP understand how beneficiaries' are coping after not receiving assistance for some time. WFP also worked closely with CPs to measure outcomes of the FFA and FFT activities, which are planned to be reported on by

February 2018. The restriction on the number of rounds of WFP food assistance continued from earlier WFP response in Ukraine when local authorities restricted the number of rounds of assistance per household. The position of the de facto authorities was to ensure the support for as many people as possible by providing less rounds of assistance but to larger number of people. Another reasoning provided was also to avoid tensions in the society.

All outcome and price data collected by the TPM was cross-checked by WFP M&E and Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping where possible, ad-hoc field monitor visits took place to verify prices and all outcome datasets were reviewed for quality and completeness. Sex disaggregated data was always collected and reported on through assessments and monitoring products. WFP improved the capacity of the TPM through multiple trainings on protection, tool design, sampling, data collection, analysis and reporting. With the phase-out of WFP operations and following the aforementioned capacity development activities provided by WFP, the TPM partner won a contract with a large national non-profit organization for a nationwide survey of IDPs in Ukraine.

The main limitation to outcome data collection is the challenge in ensuring all CPs consistently focused on the same priority beneficiary groups within the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster vulnerability criteria. At times, certain CPs would prioritize some vulnerability criteria over others, meaning the PDM was not measuring the same targeted groups consistently, thus causing data comparability issues over the year. For this reason, data collected in locations where WFP partner People in Need operates was excluded from analysis to ensure stronger comparability with baseline, even though a new baseline was conducted in July to help mitigate this issue. Other challenges included receiving regular beneficiary lists very late and sporadically gaining access from de-facto authorities to NGCA areas, which led to delays or cancellation of monitoring activities.

Progress Towards Gender Equality

After three years of armed conflict, the security situation in eastern Ukraine remains precariously fragile. Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 20053 has a gender marker code 2A, this is achieved when an integrated gender approach is applied to ensure that the project contributes significantly to gender equality. WFP continued providing life-saving food assistance to the most vulnerable groups among the internally displaced people, returnees, host families and those trapped in conflict hotspots, including in the non-government controlled area (NGCA) of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, in particular single women with children.

The situation for conflict-affected women in Ukraine is of a particular concern, as the majority of the displaced population in government-controlled areas (GCA) and non-government controlled areas (NGCA), are women. Moreover, the conflict has disproportionately high numbers of elderly people, of which are predominately women and in dire need of food assistance. Significant deterioration of the socioeconomic situation has increased the vulnerability of women and girls to sexual and gender-based violence on both sides of the contact line. Conflict-affected populations in the east of Ukraine, including children and pregnant women have become dependent on international humanitarian supplies of food, medications and commodities for their lives and survival. Based on WFP food security monitoring systems, market updates and indicator analysis, food consumption levels analysed from a gender perspective show that in 2017, households headed by women remained to be more affected by inadequate food consumption levels due the socioeconomic context in the country and the fact that women usually receive lower income than men.

WFP beneficiary prioritization criteria was aligned with the vulnerability criteria of the Food Security and Livelihoods Sector (FSLC) to address gender and age vulnerabilities. Overall in 2017, WFP assisted more women than men – 66 percent versus 34 percent respectively. Another reason for this breakdown is that on NGCA, WFP with its cooperating partner (CP) mostly covered households headed by women and women over 75 years of age. WFP together with its partners aimed to distribute food entitlements to women empowering them in the food-based decision making process.

In 2017, under the PRRO, WFP Ukraine implemented early recovery activities through Food Assistance-for-Assets (FFA) and Food-For-Training (FFT) schemes which provided beneficiaries with various income-generating and skill-building opportunities. These trainings and awareness sessions streamlined core messages on Gender-based violence, Prevention of domestic violence, Gender equality, Gender stereotypes, the resilience of IDP women with children and basic life skills for young people. Together with partners, WFP organised nutrition education trainings for those female beneficiaries and engaged them in capacity-strengthening opportunities to increase their ability to generate sustainable livelihoods. WFP's CPs often emphasized that early recovery activities received a positive feedback from local authorities in terms of women empowerment, community mobilization and reunion.

Under PRRO 200953, WFP focused on the protection of assisted women and girls by involving a high percentage of women from the community in project design and implementation consultations. For FFA activities, team leaders were nominated through the support of their communities and local authorities; WFP ensured that both women and

men were appointed to supervisory positions. A complaints mechanism for participants through CPs' hotlines was put in place with mostly female operators engaged.

WFP was able to monitor activities through the collection of beneficiary gender-disaggregated data. WFP field and Third-Party Monitoring teams, including both males and females, are used to provide the data and feedback on WFP activities. This information is supplemented by feedback from the CPs and beneficiaries using the partner feedback mechanisms that are designed to ensure safe and equal access by women, men, girls and boys in the communities served by WFP.

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

Restrictions on freedom of movement and the transfer of goods imposed by both sides of the conflict have exposed civilians to increased security risks. Ukrainian financial systems do not operate on non-Government controlled areas (NGCA), which forces people to frequently cross the contact line in order to receive their social payments. At the same time, NGCA *de facto* authorities imposed rigid restrictions on humanitarian access to the food insecure people and WFP's monitoring activities.

To avoid exposing WFP beneficiaries to potential risks associated with food assistance, WFP introduced a number of mitigation measures:

- Modalities of intervention were chosen based on analysis of functioning markets, availability of financial service providers and retailers, and proximity and convenience for beneficiaries, with protection issues incorporated as cross-cutting within the assessments.
- WFP team organised field sessions for the programme staff of cooperating partners (CPs), giving briefs on protection and accountability to affected populations, particularly on how to organise safe distributions and crowd control;
- Distribution sites were selected carefully, in close coordination with local authorities and civil society organizations, strategically locating them to reduce travel times and distance for beneficiaries;
- For particularly vulnerable people, including the elderly and people living with disabilities, food and cash-based transfer (CBT) were delivered to their place of residence;
- WFP and its partners utilised various available means of communication to inform people on the targeting criteria, entitlements, and the required supporting documents to confirm eligibility for food assistance, by developing and distributing informative leaflets among people assisted and displaying this information at distribution points, as well as managing hotlines where people could obtain detailed consultations. People were additionally informed about time, place, and disbursement of food assistance via the text messages (SMS) or phone calls;
- WFP together with CPs continued to advocate with NGCA *de facto* authorities for permission to conduct post-distribution monitoring in line with WFP standard procedures.

For complaints and feedback, the beneficiaries were given the option and encouraged to refer to the hotlines managed by the WFP CPs; NGOs working directly with the beneficiaries to implement the food assistance activities. The telephone helplines were used mostly by people living in the conflict-affected areas, to inquire about humanitarian assistance. WFP and the NGO partners made all efforts to respond to queries and adapt activities to this feedback. As for the cash-transfer modality, the feedback from beneficiaries indicated that not all of them are able to withdraw the cash from the ATMs due to their irregular functioning, or it was difficult or impossible for disabled recipients of in-kind food assistance to reach them. The program was therefore, adjusted by enabling the people to receive the assistance through home deliveries by the post-office service, which has a good network and geographical coverage.

Information on protection and accountability to affected populations (AAP) cross-cutting indicators was collected through focus group discussions and post distribution monitoring. During Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 2017, interviewed assisted people reported no protection challenges. Additionally, no security incidents were reported at WFP registration sites or distribution points.

Under PRRO, WFP has been supporting people living with HIV, aiming to increase their food security and adherence to antiretroviral therapy, which required special approach in project implementation. A specialized partner organisation worked directly with the beneficiaries respecting personal data protection and confidentiality protocols.

Ukrainian legislation regulates requirements for collection and sharing of personal data. In this regard, WFP partners have been requesting written and informed consent from beneficiaries to collect, store and share their personal data with WFP.

Figures and Indicators

Data Notes

Cover page photo © WFP / Pieter Jan de Pue

An elderly man who lives alone in a house near the contact line in Donetsk region of Ukraine (GCA). He owns a cow that allows him to have fresh milk and other dairy products on daily basis.

Explanatory notes:

WFP provided food assistance to 216,358 food insecure beneficiaries affected by the armed conflict in the east of Ukraine, representing 98 percent of the planned 220,000. WFP was able to reach this high figure, albeit faced with scarce resources, through adjusting aspects of the operation:

- Funding constraints resulted in prioritization of the categories of beneficiaries and reduction of number of rounds of food assistance provided per person in both Government and non-Government controlled areas (“GCA” and “NGCA”).
- Shrinking humanitarian access, volatile and unpredictable operational context, and the restrictions imposed by the *de facto* authorities in NGCA enabled providing no more than two months of assistance per household in NGCA.
- After *de facto* authorities in Luhansk NGCA imposed rigid restrictions not enabling any monitoring, WFP redirected its food assistance to NGCA Donetsk, where monitoring is possible, to assist people under the same Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster’s (FSLC) vulnerability criteria, thus further increasing the overall beneficiary figure.
- Movement of beneficiaries between GCA and NGCA continued, as well as within these areas, in search of new sources of income, thus making it challenging to reach those on move with regular assistance.

Despite these challenges, WFP ensured that all prioritized beneficiaries who were assisted, received the complete monthly ration whether in-kind (in NGCA) or cash-based transfers (in GCA).

Overview of Project Beneficiary Information: Overview of Project Beneficiary Information

Table 1

One of the reasons why WFP overachieved the number of children under 5 years old was that WFP’s partners in Luhansk NGCA experienced significant limitations in beneficiary selection due to restrictions imposed by the *de facto* authorities. Both partners could not be involved in the beneficiary selection and targeting was based on general categories and lists provided by the local authorities. As a result, only in this region WFP reached 7,400 households headed by single women with children up to 1 year old and 7,150 children with disabilities, children living without parents or children from families with low income between 5 and 18 years of age.

Figures and Indicators: Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)

Table 3

Asset creation and livelihoods/CSB beneficiaries are participants multiplied by 3 (family size) however, due to rounding there might be one beneficiary added or subtracted under male/female.

Overview of Project Beneficiary Information

Table 1: Overview of Project Beneficiary Information

Beneficiary Category	Planned (male)	Planned (female)	Planned (total)	Actual (male)	Actual (female)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (male)	% Actual v. Planned (female)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
Total Beneficiaries	88,000	132,000	220,000	74,211	142,147	216,358	84.3%	107.7%	98.3%
By Age-group:									
Children (under 5 years)	2,200	2,200	4,400	6,491	7,140	13,631	295.0%	324.5%	309.8%
Children (5-18 years)	4,840	4,840	9,680	8,871	8,871	17,742	183.3%	183.3%	183.3%
Adults (18 years plus)	80,960	124,960	205,920	58,849	126,136	184,985	72.7%	100.9%	89.8%
By Residence status:									
Internally displaced persons (IDPs)	23,760	35,640	59,400	9,541	15,430	24,971	40.2%	43.3%	42.0%
Residents	64,240	96,360	160,600	80,872	110,515	191,387	125.9%	114.7%	119.2%

Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity and Modality

Table 2: Beneficiaries by Activity and Modality

Activity	Planned (food)	Planned (CBT)	Planned (total)	Actual (food)	Actual (CBT)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (food)	% Actual v. Planned (CBT)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
Unconditional resource transfers to support access to food	50,000	20,000	70,000	180,981	22,736	203,717	362.0%	113.7%	291.0%
Asset creation and livelihood support activities	15,000	60,000	75,000	-	3,263	3,263	-	5.4%	4.4%
Individual capacity strengthening activities	15,000	60,000	75,000	-	9,378	9,378	-	15.6%	12.5%

Annex: Participants by Activity and Modality

Activity	Planned (food)	Planned (CBT)	Planned (total)	Actual (food)	Actual (CBT)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (food)	% Actual v. Planned (CBT)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
Unconditional resource transfers to support access to food	50,000	20,000	70,000	180,981	22,736	203,717	362.0%	113.7%	291.0%
Asset creation and livelihood support activities	5,000	20,000	25,000	-	1,088	1,088	-	5.4%	4.4%
Individual capacity strengthening activities	5,000	20,000	25,000	-	3,126	3,126	-	15.6%	12.5%

Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)

Table 3: Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)

Beneficiary Category	Planned (male)	Planned (female)	Planned (total)	Actual (male)	Actual (female)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (male)	% Actual v. Planned (female)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
Unconditional resource transfers to support access to food									
People receiving resource transfers	28,000	42,000	70,000	69,875	133,842	203,717	249.6%	318.7%	291.0%
Total participants	28,000	42,000	70,000	69,875	133,842	203,717	249.6%	318.7%	291.0%
Total beneficiaries	28,000	42,000	70,000	69,875	133,842	203,717	249.6%	318.7%	291.0%
Asset creation and livelihood support activities									
People participating in asset creation and livelihood support activities	10,000	15,000	25,000	435	653	1,088	4.4%	4.4%	4.4%
Total participants	10,000	15,000	25,000	435	653	1,088	4.4%	4.4%	4.4%
Total beneficiaries	30,000	45,000	75,000	1,306	1,957	3,263	4.4%	4.3%	4.4%
Individual capacity strengthening activities									

Beneficiary Category	Planned (male)	Planned (female)	Planned (total)	Actual (male)	Actual (female)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (male)	% Actual v. Planned (female)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
People participating in individual capacity strengthening activities	10,000	15,000	25,000	1,250	1,876	3,126	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%
Total participants	10,000	15,000	25,000	1,250	1,876	3,126	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%
Total beneficiaries	30,000	45,000	75,000	3,751	5,627	9,378	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%

Project Indicators

Outcome Indicators

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
SR1 Everyone has access to food				
Maintained/enhanced individual and household access to adequate food				
Consumption-based Coping Strategy Index (Average) / Female				
<i>UKRAINE, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2017.06, WFP survey, Baseline Survey, Previous Follow-up: 2017.08, WFP survey, PDM, Latest Follow-up: 2017.11, WFP survey, PDM</i>	<4.94	4.94	8.49	15.07
Consumption-based Coping Strategy Index (Average) / Male				
<i>UKRAINE, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2017.06, WFP survey, Baseline Survey, Previous Follow-up: 2017.08, WFP survey, PDM, Latest Follow-up: 2017.11, WFP survey, PDM</i>	<3.15	3.15	7.09	12.03
Consumption-based Coping Strategy Index (Average) / Overall				
<i>UKRAINE, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2017.06, WFP survey, Baseline Survey, Previous Follow-up: 2017.08, WFP survey, PDM, Latest Follow-up: 2017.11, WFP survey, PDM</i>	<3.95	3.95	7.70	14.18
Food Consumption Score / Percentage of households with Acceptable Food Consumption Score / Female				
<i>UKRAINE, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2017.06, WFP survey, Baseline Survey, Previous Follow-up: 2017.08, WFP survey, PDM, Latest Follow-up: 2017.11, WFP survey, PDM</i>	≥74.40	74.40	89.70	76.20
Food Consumption Score / Percentage of households with Acceptable Food Consumption Score / Male				
<i>UKRAINE, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2017.06, WFP survey, Baseline Survey, Previous Follow-up: 2017.08, WFP survey, PDM, Latest Follow-up: 2017.11, WFP survey, PDM</i>	≥82.00	82.00	91.60	78.10

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Food Consumption Score / Percentage of households with Acceptable Food Consumption Score / Overall				
<i>UKRAINE, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2017.06, WFP survey, Baseline Survey, Previous Follow-up: 2017.08, WFP survey, PDM, Latest Follow-up: 2017.11, WFP survey, PDM</i>	≥77.30	77.30	90.70	76.80
Food Consumption Score / Percentage of households with Borderline Food Consumption Score / Female				
<i>UKRAINE, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2017.06, WFP survey, Baseline Survey, Previous Follow-up: 2017.08, WFP survey, PDM, Latest Follow-up: 2017.11, WFP survey, PDM</i>	<18.60	18.60	8.80	14.20
Food Consumption Score / Percentage of households with Borderline Food Consumption Score / Male				
<i>UKRAINE, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2017.06, WFP survey, Baseline Survey, Previous Follow-up: 2017.08, WFP survey, PDM, Latest Follow-up: 2017.11, WFP survey, PDM</i>	<14.10	14.10	7.70	13.50
Food Consumption Score / Percentage of households with Borderline Food Consumption Score / Overall				
<i>UKRAINE, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2017.06, WFP survey, Baseline Survey, Previous Follow-up: 2017.08, WFP survey, PDM, Latest Follow-up: 2017.11, WFP survey, PDM</i>	<16.90	16.90	8.20	14.00
Food Consumption Score / Percentage of households with Poor Food Consumption Score / Female				
<i>UKRAINE, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2017.06, WFP survey, Baseline Survey, Previous Follow-up: 2017.08, WFP survey, PDM, Latest Follow-up: 2017.11, WFP survey, PDM</i>	<7.00	7.00	1.40	9.60
Food Consumption Score / Percentage of households with Poor Food Consumption Score / Male				
<i>UKRAINE, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2017.06, WFP survey, Baseline Survey, Previous Follow-up: 2017.08, WFP survey, PDM, Latest Follow-up: 2017.11, WFP survey, PDM</i>	<3.90	3.90	0.80	8.40
Food Consumption Score / Percentage of households with Poor Food Consumption Score / Overall				
<i>UKRAINE, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2017.06, WFP survey, Baseline Survey, Previous Follow-up: 2017.08, WFP survey, PDM, Latest Follow-up: 2017.11, WFP survey, PDM</i>	<5.80	5.80	1.10	9.20
Food Expenditure Share / Female				
<i>UKRAINE, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2017.06, WFP survey, Baseline Survey, Previous Follow-up: 2017.08, WFP survey, PDM, Latest Follow-up: 2017.11, WFP survey, PDM</i>	=10.50	21.10	23.80	12.70
Food Expenditure Share / Male				
<i>UKRAINE, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2017.06, WFP survey, Baseline Survey, Previous Follow-up: 2017.08, WFP survey, PDM, Latest Follow-up: 2017.11, WFP survey, PDM</i>	=12.20	24.40	29.30	14.50

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Food Expenditure Share / Overall				
<i>UKRAINE, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2017.06, WFP survey, Baseline Survey, Previous Follow-up: 2017.08, WFP survey, PDM, Latest Follow-up: 2017.11, WFP survey, PDM</i>	=11.45	22.90	26.90	13.20
Livelihood-based Coping Strategy Index (Average) / Female				
<i>UKRAINE, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2017.06, WFP survey, Baseline Survey, Previous Follow-up: 2017.08, WFP survey, PDM, Latest Follow-up: 2017.11, WFP survey, PDM</i>	<2.63	2.63	1.85	3.21
Livelihood-based Coping Strategy Index (Average) / Male				
<i>UKRAINE, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2017.06, WFP survey, Baseline Survey, Previous Follow-up: 2017.08, WFP survey, PDM, Latest Follow-up: 2017.11, WFP survey, PDM</i>	<1.73	1.73	1.49	3.09
Livelihood-based Coping Strategy Index (Average) / Overall				
<i>UKRAINE, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2017.06, WFP survey, Baseline Survey, Previous Follow-up: 2017.08, WFP survey, PDM, Latest Follow-up: 2017.11, WFP survey, PDM</i>	<2.13	2.13	1.65	3.18

Output Indicators

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
CRF SO1-SR1: Asset creation and livelihood support activities				
Hectares (ha) of land cleared	Ha	26	26	100.0%
Kilometers (km) of drinking water supply line constructed/rehabilitated	Km	9	9	100.0%
Kilometres (km) of feeder roads rehabilitated and maintained	Km	2	0	20.0%
Number of Green Houses Constructed	unit	18	15	83.3%
Number of community gardens established	garden	10	10	100.0%
Number of fish ponds constructed (FFA) and maintained (self-help)	fish pond	2	2	100.0%
Number of water springs developed	water spring	1	1	100.0%

Gender Indicators

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Proportion of food assistance decision-making entity – committees, boards, teams, etc. – members who are women				
<i>UKRAINE, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2017.06, Previous Follow-up: 2017.08, Latest Follow-up: 2017.11</i>	=100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Proportion of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality / Decisions jointly made by women and men				
<i>UKRAINE, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2017.06, Previous Follow-up: 2017.08, Latest Follow-up: 2017.11</i>	>23.00	23.00	26.00	33.00
Proportion of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality / Decisions made by men				
<i>UKRAINE, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2017.06, Previous Follow-up: 2017.08, Latest Follow-up: 2017.11</i>	≤5.00	5.00	4.00	6.00
Proportion of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality / Decisions made by women				
<i>UKRAINE, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2017.06, Previous Follow-up: 2017.08, Latest Follow-up: 2017.11</i>	≤72.00	72.00	70.00	61.00

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations Indicators

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, length of assistance) / Female				
<i>UKRAINE, GFA, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2017.06, Previous Follow-up: 2017.08, Latest Follow-up: 2017.11</i>	=80.00	4.00	29.00	19.00
Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, length of assistance) / Female				
<i>UKRAINE, FFA, FFT, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2017.06, Previous Follow-up: 2017.08, Latest Follow-up: 2017.11</i>	=80.00	28.00	39.00	28.00
Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, length of assistance) / Male				
<i>UKRAINE, GFA, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2017.06, Previous Follow-up: 2017.08, Latest Follow-up: 2017.11</i>	=80.00	5.00	21.00	23.00
Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, length of assistance) / Male				
<i>UKRAINE, FFA, FFT, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2017.06, Previous Follow-up: 2017.08, Latest Follow-up: 2017.11</i>	=80.00	25.00	26.00	16.00
Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, length of assistance) / Overall				
<i>UKRAINE, GFA, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2017.06, Previous Follow-up: 2017.08, Latest Follow-up: 2017.11</i>	=80.00	5.00	25.00	20.00
Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, length of assistance) / Overall				
<i>UKRAINE, FFA, FFT, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2017.06, Previous Follow-up: 2017.08, Latest Follow-up: 2017.11</i>	=80.00	27.00	33.00	24.00

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Proportion of project activities for which beneficiary feedback is documented, analysed and integrated into programme improvements				
<i>UKRAINE, FFA, FFT, GFA, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2017.06, Previous Follow-up: 2017.08, Latest Follow-up: 2017.11</i>	=100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Proportion of targeted people accessing assistance without protection challenges / Female				
<i>UKRAINE, FFA, FFT, GFA, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2017.08, Latest Follow-up: 2017.11</i>	=90.00	100.00	-	100.00
Proportion of targeted people accessing assistance without protection challenges / Male				
<i>UKRAINE, FFA, FFT, GFA, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2017.08, Latest Follow-up: 2017.11</i>	=90.00	100.00	-	100.00
Proportion of targeted people accessing assistance without protection challenges / Overall				
<i>UKRAINE, FFA, FFT, GFA, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2017.08, Latest Follow-up: 2017.11</i>	=90.00	100.00	-	100.00

Resource Inputs from Donors

Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	Purchased in 2017 (mt)	
			In-Kind	Cash
Italy	ITA-C-00200-05	Rations	-	619
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Rations	-	1,289
Private Donors	WPD-C-04118-01	Buckwheat	3	-
Private Donors	WPD-C-04118-01	Iodised Salt	1	-
Private Donors	WPD-C-04118-01	Pasta	3	-
Private Donors	WPD-C-04118-01	Rice	3	-
Private Donors	WPD-C-04118-01	Split Peas	2	-
Private Donors	WPD-C-04118-01	Sugar	3	-
Private Donors	WPD-C-04118-01	Vegetable Oil	2	-
Private Donors	WPD-C-04118-01	Wheat Flour	5	-
		Total	20	1,908