To date, a total of 111,972 mt of food and USD 289,238,976 of cash has been delivered.

### Key Highlights

- The worsening security situation is raising the alarm for increasing humanitarian needs due to the war in Ukraine, also amidst decreasing temperatures, as WFP faces a funding shortfall of USD 677 million until April 2023.
- On the days of large-scale strikes (10, 11 and 17 October) by missiles and kamikaze drones, WFP remained operational, delivering almost 1,900 mt of food commodities in 11 regions of the country, including newly accessible areas.
- More than 1.4 million beneficiaries have been assisted with food and cash assistance in October to date.
- 2 WFP-chartered vessel movements are expected at the Chornomorsk sea port in the Black Sea corridor; Pangeo, the sixth vessel is being loaded with 40,000 mt of wheat for Yemen and Afghanistan, while the seventh vessel, Ikaria Angel, is enroute to Chornomorsk upon inspection from Istanbul, to be loaded with 30,000 mt of wheat for Ethiopia.

### WFP Ukraine Response

The escalation of the war in Ukraine continues; in the last two weeks, a marked shift in targeted attacks has been noted. Following the explosion of a bridge linking Russia with Crimea on 8 October, aerial bombardments have intensified across Ukraine, including densely populated urban areas, such as the capital, Kyiv. Critical infrastructure continue to be damaged nationwide by targeted attacks, which is resulting in power cuts with increasing frequency, all while single-digit temperatures have started setting in.

While the hostilities continue, the most widespread aerial attacks since the early weeks of war happened on 10 October in cities including Kyiv, Lviv, Dnipro and Zaporizhzhia, and continued in the following days on 11 and 17 of October in various locations. On these dates, WFP and partners still reached more than 200,000 beneficiaries countrywide with close to 1,900 mt of food (Bread, 30-day rations, Wheat Flour, Rice, and Vegetable Oil) in 11 oblasts including contested regions of Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia.

The latest attacks on Ukrainian cities are a somber reminder that humanitarian needs resulting from the war are growing, as further challenges are foreseen with increasing disruptions for basic services and worsening living conditions.
conditions. With the support of partners, WFP remains committed to stand by and continue serving those who need assistance, prioritizing provision of uninterrupted support in these challenging times.

**Assistance in Newly Accessible Areas**

WFP endeavours to ensure that assistance reaches people living in newly accessible areas as quickly as possible, while also ensuring the assistance is evidence-based.

From 7 to 9 October, a market assessment took place in Kupiansk and Izium of the Kharkiv region. The assessment is aimed to establish a baseline for market recovery, and other security and access considerations. Key findings include local communities’ reliance on WFP’s humanitarian assistance to meet the food needs, since markets remain closed. Many houses have been destroyed or damaged and are without electricity, water, gas supply, and telephone/internet connectivity is poor. Those basic services as well as banking facilities are needed for the return of businesses, hence, the current markets are well short of being sufficiently functional for the delivery of humanitarian cash. Periodic assessments are planned to monitor the changes in market conditions.

On 18 October, WFP carried out a monitoring and assessment mission to the accessible areas of Kherson Oblast for the first time since access to the oblast improved in September 2022. The assessment of this region was similar to what was observed in Kharkiv: a lack of basic services, high levels of destruction, need for shelter, WASH, health and food. Markets are non-functional and livelihoods are severely hindered by the high presence of unexploded ordnance and mines. To support the conflict-affected people of this region, blanket food distributions will continue into November.

WFP dedicated convoys continue to deliver food baskets in the newly accessible areas; in the past two weeks, three dedicated convoys on 12, 14, and 16 October delivered food baskets to more than 9,400 beneficiaries in Lyman, Kupiansk, and Marhanets respectively.

**Cash Assistance**

Under the cash assistance program, WFP disbursed over USD 11.6 million in cash assistance to over 194,000 beneficiaries in October to date. WFP cash assistance program continues to prioritize the most vulnerable population affected by the war in locations where food is accessible in shops, which in turn supports recovery and revitalization of local markets. Up to five individuals per household receive a monthly cash transfer equal to 2,220 UAH (USD 60) through banks, facilitated by the money transfer company, Western Union (WU). Cash transactions are redeemed at banks via WU codes sent to beneficiaries’ mobile phones. WFP continues to use block-chain technology to ensure deduplication of beneficiaries, so that these essential cash resources are used effectively.

The initial results from the CBT process monitoring of August beneficiaries show that 98% of the approximately 520 beneficiaries monitored were satisfied with the assistance they received from WFP. The majority of respondents used their assistance to purchase necessary food and health items to cover basic needs.

Following the tri-partite agreement between WFP, the Ministry of Social Policy and a vendor to enhance the Unified Information System of the Social Sphere (UISSS), WFP is currently reviewing the first module of work. With the beta version of the first module, the initial set of improvements to the overall social benefit system supported by WFP and its partners will be tested.

**In-Kind Assistance**

In October to date, WFP reached over 1.2 million people through a combination of Bread, Rapid Response Rations, and General Food Distribution (GFD) comprising a 30-day rations, Supplementary Feeding (Infant Cereal) and Institutional Feeding, founded on strong relations with various partners in country.

WFP is focused on ensuring a rapid response to those in need residing in the newly accessible villages and towns across the frontline, as they become reachable. Food distributions remain concentrated where markets are not functioning, and where it is the only viable modality to ensure acceptable levels of food security. WFP continues to work on refining the geographic and beneficiary targeting to ensure that the assistance levels meet the needs of the population. As part of the operational planning for the upcoming year and beyond, partner field level agreements are being updated and extended when appropriate.

**Accountability to Affected Populations**

The Protection, Gender, Accountability to Affected Populations (PGAAP) team of WFP launched a capacity assessment for the United Nations Implementing Partner Protection of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (UN IP PSEA), as a step towards implementing the UN IP PSEA core standards in working with partners.

In addition, a round of capacity building information sessions for Cooperating Partners (CPs) was concluded in the last week. In these sessions, WFP staff shared knowledge in a
wide array of topics including humanitarian principles, protection, security recommendations for the field, PSEA, Anti-Fraud, Anti-Corruption (AFAC) policy, communications and visibility, Complaints and Feedback Mechanism (CFM), and recommendations on in-kind distribution modalities, with over 300 field workers.

WFP's toll-free hotline received 110,077 calls during the last two weeks. The increased number (by 20% since the last report) of calls is mainly associated with the new enrolment from the end of September. 60% of the processed cases were closed as First Case Resolution (FCR), while the remaining 40% were referred to relevant programme focal points. Almost all (99%) of the processed cases were CBT-related (i.e. requests for information on amount of cash assistance, and dealing with Money Transfer Control Number codes), while the remaining (1%) requested information about in-kind food support programme, in terms of entitlements, timing and location.

**WFP Supply Chain and Support to Food Systems**

Since the start of WFP operations in Ukraine in February 2022, over 110,000 mt of food has been delivered to CPs for those war-affected people in need. In October alone, 7,762 mt of has been dispatched to CPs, while a further 46,775 mt of food commodities is in the pipeline (12,766 mt of food in storage, 560 mt of food in transit, and 33,449 mt of food pending supplier delivery).

This week, an internal Food Safety and Quality (FSQ) unit was set up, and the first dedicated focal point joined the country office in Kyiv. The FSQ team will coordinate closely with supply chain and procurement teams from both the country office and the HQ, in an effort to monitor food quality from suppliers and manage associated risks.

**Overland Transport**

272 trucks were in transit to Ukraine by road over the past two weeks, including 57 trucks from Romania, 30 from Poland, 30 from Italy, and 68 trucks from Türkiye, carrying 10,200 mt (canned meat, salt, rice, cereals, and pasta) of cargo to Ukrainian warehouses.

Additional 260 trucks arrived directly from Ukrainian suppliers, mostly with vegetable oil and wheat four.

**The Black Sea Grain Initiative**

High-level discussions to renew the deal continue, as the 120-day validity period of the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI) expires in a month time. Strong support for the renewal has been expressed by many countries including Belgium, China, Egypt, Japan, Kenya, Pakistan, UK and US, as the extension of the BSGI remains particularly crucial for low to low-middle income countries, since more than 40% of wheat shipped so far is going to low and lower-middle income countries.

WFP chartered vessels continue to ship wheat from Ukrainian ports to support global humanitarian efforts; the sixth WFP-chartered vessel, Pangeo is currently finishing loading at Chornomorsk sea port with 40,000 mt of wheat destined for Yemen (30,000 mt), and Afghanistan (10,000 mt), while the seventh WFP-chartered vessel, Ikaria Angel is enroute to the same port, upon inspection in Istanbul on 20 October. To date, five WFP charted vessels transported over 150,000 mt of wheat through various Black Sea ports supporting Ethiopia (35%), Yemen (25%), Afghanistan (20%) and Somalia (20%) since the BSGI deal commenced.

According to the operational update from the Joint Coordination Centre of the BSGI, as of 20 October, the total tonnage of grain and other foodstuffs exported from the three Ukrainian ports is 8,087,665 mt. A total of 738 voyages (375 inbound and 363 outbound) have been enabled so far.

Although Ukraine's export capacity is expected to increase significantly with the resumption of cargo shipping, leading to a decrease of grain prices in the global market, WFP continues to explore alternative corridors (e.g. via the Danube River), as the opening of these seaports is still short of meeting the country's full export level, prior to the conflict. Coordination support to boost capacities in the Danube corridor, in particular, continues as part of contingency planning while stakeholders prepare for the BSGI extension.

**Investment in Ukraine’s economy**

WFP continues to prioritize scaling-up the procurement of food, locally sourced from Ukraine. Overall, the estimated value of the locally procured food amounts to nearly USD 250.4 million worth of food commodities, distributed in Ukraine and globally (mainly in Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia). Of the total, USD 55.7 million was used for humanitarian programmes in-country, and USD 194.7 million was exported to other WFP operations in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen, through Romanian and Ukrainian ports.

In addition, cash-based transfers of more than USD 289 million have been injected into the local economy strengthening individual purchasing power and allowing Ukrainians to spend in their domestic markets. Additional investments into the local economy continue through logistics contracting (USD 14.6 million) and other goods and services (USD 0.9 million) within the country. The total monetary investment value into Ukraine so far is estimated to be well above USD 556 million.

**Partnerships**

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

Between 3-14 October, WFP supported a Sida (Sweden’s government agency for development cooperation) mission to Ukraine. A representative visited WFP offices in Dnipro as part of the monitoring mission. The team accompanied Sida to Derhachi, a town in Kharkiv which was under frequent shelling until recently, where a food distribution was taking place with a CP, ADRA.
On 14 October, WFP hosted a partners’ briefing at its Kyiv country office to share its achievements to date and inform about the continuous collection of data which feeds into programme design and implementation. The meeting was also an opportunity to discuss operational priorities for the coming months and critical funding needs.

In various discussions with the European Union, Japan International Cooperation Agency, and other partners such as Cargill, WFP highlighted the importance of nexus interventions wherever possible, so that affected farmers can rapidly rebuild their livelihoods and move away from humanitarian assistance.

In the beginning of this week, WFP met with key partners and the Governor of Kherson in Kryiv Rih, prior to undertaking a monitoring and assessment mission of the Oblast. The meeting reconfirmed WFP’s commitment to meeting the key food needs in the oblast, and to support recovery.

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)

Through ETC, WFP continues to provide support to UN staff and has resolved a total of 1,370 ICT-related cases for humanitarian personnel across Ukraine since the launch of the Ukraine IT Service Desk on 29 April.

As of 14 October, ETC is providing secure internet connectivity services to 266 staff from twelve humanitarian organizations including UN agencies and INGOs in two humanitarian interagency workspaces, in Dnipro and Lviv.

In October, users of the ETC Chatbot “vBeztpesi” (вБезпеці in Ukrainian, which translates to “safe spaces”), most frequently used the service to access information on humanitarian aid (64%), hotlines and referral methods (15%), other useful information (12%), and human rights (9%). When seeking information on humanitarian aid, users most frequently consulted categories related to general cash assistance and to WFP assistance, accessing information on how to register for assistance and the eligibility criteria.

In total, since the launch of the ETC Chatbot on 20 June, 13,836 unique users in Ukraine have accessed information relating to humanitarian assistance. The latest statistics are available on the monitoring tool.

Clusters Update – International Humanitarian Response

**Food Security and Livelihoods cluster (FSLC)**

Within two weeks, 26 partners of FSLC reached 1.6 million people with in-kind food parcels, emergency rations, hot meals, and livelihood activities and assets across 23 oblasts in Ukraine.

Areas with the highest beneficiaries reached by partners are Kharkiv (over 433,000), Mykolaiv (almost 300,000) and Donetska (almost 150,000) oblasts.

**Logistics Cluster**

During 3-16 October the Cluster supported 41 partners through coordination, information management activities, as well as common logistics services.

Specifically, WFP participated in two interagency convoys on 13 October. Two trucks delivered much needed items related to nutrition, shelter, WASH and health to Lyman and another two trucks transported shelter and other related items to Sviatohirsk.

As of 16 October, the Logistics Cluster stored 4,647 m³ of humanitarian cargo on behalf of 12 partners across four common storage sites across Ukraine. In two weeks 781 m³ of humanitarian relief items have been received in the common storage, while 379 m³ been released.

In preparation of the winter planning, the Cluster is closely monitoring the capacity availability against the need, to mitigate any possible disruptions in delivering much needed assistance during the critical period ahead.

In coordination with the WFP Fuel Team, the Logistics Cluster has also circulated a second fuel survey, to identify changes in the availability and consumption levels, and/or constraints for humanitarian partners in accessing fuel.

**Funding Outlook**

Overall, thanks to the generosity of all partners, WFP continues to provide lifesaving food and cash assistance to conflict-affected and most vulnerable populations, as well as support the humanitarian community with common logistics and telecommunication services.

Earlier this week, WFP received additional contributions from the Republic of Korea of USD 5 million, as well others from private donors, towards lifesaving in-kind and cash assistance to those in need.

However, escalation of the war, worsening security threats spreading to densely populated urban areas, and low temperatures continue to raise the humanitarian need in the country, while additional needs continue to be identified as more areas in the east and south become accessible.

WFP still requires around USD 677 million to sustain cash assistance and in-kind food support throughout the winter months until April 2023.

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WFP would like to thank its partners for their timely support to WFP Limited Emergency Operation, Ukraine.