



Investing in Ukraine's economy and food systems

WFP WORKS WITH BAKERIES AND OTHER LOCAL FOOD PRODUCERS TO DELIVER FOOD ASSISTANCE NEAR THE FRONTLINE

WFP is committed to ensuring that its humanitarian assistance in Ukraine contributes to the recovery and sustainability of food systems, injects money directly in the local economy and promotes employment.

OUR APPROACH

Bringing fresh, local, ready-to-eat foods near the frontline

WFP distributes ready-to-eat rations including fresh bread to people on the move or living in places where they may not have electricity or gas to cook - most often near the frontline.

Bread is an essential staple of the Ukrainian diet but often difficult to find or very expensive near the frontline as bakeries have closed down or struggle with electricity and raw materials.

Engaging directly with local traders, businesses and farmers

Since the onset of the Ukraine emergency response in March 2022, WFP has been actively engaging with food producers, food traders, businesses and farmers to source more and more of its commodities locally. WFP is already sourcing all of its bread, pasta, wheat, oats, sugar and sunflower oil locally, and will start procuring millet, buckwheat and yellow split peas locally as well - continuously working to reach 100% locally-procured food.

IN NUMBERS

US\$1.2 BILLION

Invested in the economy since March 2022 through local procurements, cash assistance and grain exports

50

Local businesses are registered as WFP food suppliers

100K-300K

People receive bread from WFP each month

30 MILLION

Fresh loaves of bread were distributed by WFP and its partners in 2023

3%

Of Ukraine's total bread production was bought by WFP in 2023

4,000-5,000

Employees work in WFP-contracted bakeries



19 BAKERIES

currently contracted by WFP to supply bread



80%

Of WFP's food is procured locally



March 2024

ZOOM IN: MYKOLAIV BAKERY

Mykolaiv Bakery is the largest bakery in Mykolaiv oblast and a **critical link in the local economy and local food system**.

Its owner, Alyona, explained that her toughest months were in the end of 2022 when the business was greatly affected by reduced demand and the energy crisis resulting from attacks on infrastructure. **Her production decreased tenfold from 80 tonnes per day to 8 tonnes per day, but quickly got back up to 30-40 tonnes per day after signing a contract with WFP** in December 2022.

The demand from WFP helped the bakery stay in business and expand. It then **played a critical role in enabling lifesaving food assistance** to residents of Mykolaiv and Kherson oblasts, two regions among the most affected by the war, where **many families do not have access to electricity or gas to cook**.

Particularly, the bread from this bakery was **distributed to tens of thousands of Ukrainians affected by massive flooding** and devastation after the destruction of the Kakhovka dam in June 2023.

300

Employees

60%

Women

1 MILLION

loaves per month

"THIS PROGRAMME GIVES US THE OPPORTUNITY TO DELIVER BREAD TO PEOPLE WHO CANNOT AFFORD IT, AND VILLAGES WHERE THERE IS NO ELECTRICITY, GAS OR WATER."

WAY FORWARD

Contracting small-medium scale bakeries close to response areas

Following the successful collaboration with larger bakeries such as the Mykolaiv bakery, WFP is currently working to contract 23 new, small and medium scale bakeries in areas closer to distributions, to directly support communities in Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson and Kharkiv regions.

Improving energy efficiency and nutritional value

WFP is exploring options to support new baking and oven technologies such as the use of pellets to increase energy efficiency, and has plans to promote the fortification of bread to improve nutrition as well as broaden market opportunities for the bakeries.

Analysing value chains

WFP continues to analyse the most effective ways to positively impact Ukrainian food systems. WFP recently commissioned the Kyiv School of Economics with an analysis of wheat and oil value chains, which will further inform the design of our programmes and supply chains.



Alyona is the owner and manager of the Mykolaiv bakery. Credit: WFP/Antoine Vallas

Left: a recipient of WFP ready-to-eat rations, including fresh bread from the Mykolaiv bakery, in Mykolaiv city. Credit: WFP/Antoine Vallas / Right: a recipient of WFP ready-to-eat rations, including fresh bread from Mykolaiv bakery, in Kherson during the Kakhovka emergency. Credit: WFP/Yana Kononova

Cover photo: WFP/Antoine Vallas

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