



World Food  
Program USA



FEBRUARY 2025

# UKRAINE REPORT

*WFP's Pilot Livelihoods Project provides skills such as cooking, plastering and accounting to people like Oleksandra Koklench, who cooks as a volunteer to support those in frontline areas and dreams of starting her own business. Photo: WFP/Sayed Asif Mahmud*





Photo: WFP/Sayed Asif Mahmud

## OVERVIEW

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This February marks three years since the start of the conflict in Ukraine. The war has caused immense human suffering, displaced families, ravaged farmland and weakened food production. Intensified airstrikes continue to damage infrastructure, disrupt essential services, and kill or injure civilians both near and away from the frontlines.

Attacks intensified in 2024 and worsened the humanitarian situation along the frontlines. In the last three months of 2024, there was an alarming rise in attacks against humanitarian assets and distribution points.

5 million people in Ukraine need food assistance, including more than 426,000 people facing severe food insecurity. The conflict has also driven record levels of displacement. More than 9 million Ukrainians have been displaced, with 3.6 million internally displaced in Ukraine and 6 million displaced to other countries. They have experienced loss, trauma, and unemployment or greatly reduced incomes. Many who return find their homes reduced to rubble and struggle to rebuild their lives.

Since March 2022, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has provided emergency food and cash assistance to millions of Ukrainians affected by the ongoing violence. WFP has also worked to change lives by investing in school meals, local food systems and demining efforts.

**Your support has helped make this work possible. Thanks to you, WFP can provide lifesaving and life-changing aid.**



*Photo: WFP/Sayed Asif Mahmud*

## FOOD ASSISTANCE

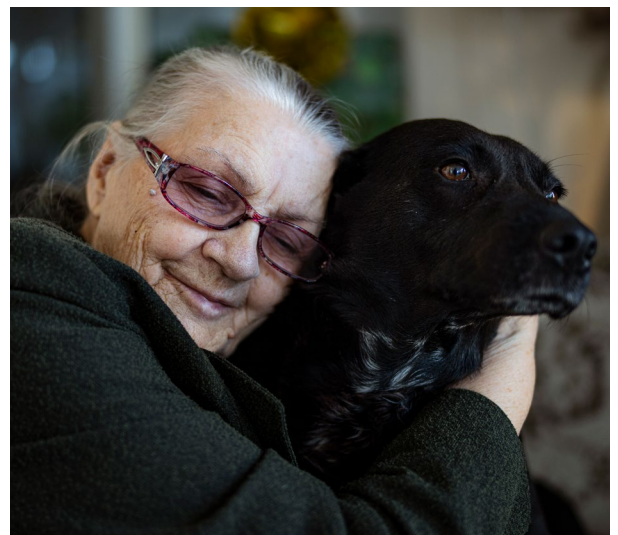
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WFP supports nearly 1.6 million people in Ukraine each month with food and cash assistance, working with local organizations and government authorities to distribute it. WFP leads the U.N. Logistics Cluster and works with other humanitarian organizations to overcome the logistical challenges related to delivering humanitarian assistance in conflict zones. This coordinated approach enables organizations to deliver food and other essentials to people in hard-to-reach areas.

WFP also locally purchases 82% of all the food it distributes, which helps to boost the economy and strengthen food systems.

WFP regularly delivers food to institutions that care for people experiencing high levels of vulnerability, such as homes for the elderly and disabled, displacement centers, hospitals and orphanages.

Alla Zenovieva, 87, lived through the hardships of World War II and is now experiencing the devastation of the ongoing conflict in her country. Nine years ago, after losing several members of her family, she moved into a boarding home in Mykolaiv. She says she receives excellent care and the home has a welcoming atmosphere. Each day, she enjoys four nutritious meals with WFP-provided ingredients such as pasta, wheat flour, sunflower oil and buckwheat. Each month, 175,000 Ukrainians benefit from this same program.



*Photo: WFP/Sayed Asif Mahmud*





*Olena has been working for a bakery in Novodonetske for three years. Photo: WFP/Sayed Asif Mahmud*

## BAKERY SUPPORT

WFP supports 18 bakeries in frontline areas with essential equipment, including generators and ovens, so they can distribute bread whenever it's safe to do so. These bakeries directly support the local economy and provide jobs.

WFP is committed to ensuring that its humanitarian assistance in Ukraine contributes to the recovery and sustainability of its food systems.

**"The cooperation with WFP is a big success for our village and for our small bakery."**

- Vlad, bakery owner in Novodonet'ske, Donetsk region

WFP distributes its own fresh bread to people on the move or living in places where they may not have electricity or gas to cook. In 2024, WFP and its partners distributed an estimated 10 million fresh loaves of bread.



*Vlad is the owner of the small bakery in Novodonet'ske that WFP collaborates with. Photo: WFP/Antoine Vallas*





*Oleksandr Viktorovych, 70, uses cash assistance from WFP to pay for seasonal fruits and vegetables and heating in his home during the cold winter. Photo: WFP/Polina Hlushko*

## CASH ASSISTANCE

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WFP is one of the largest cash distributors in Ukraine. Since April 2022, WFP has provided \$708 million dollars to 800,000 people displaced and affected by the war. This kind of assistance allows families to buy food, medicine and other essential items in local markets. The \$90 dollars they receive each month - for a minimum of three months - helps them meet their basic needs while supporting Ukraine's economic recovery.





*Eva, 7, likes going to school and receives a daily school meal from WFP. Photo: WFP/Sayed Asif Mahmud*

## SCHOOL MEALS

Schools in Ukraine have been heavily impacted by the war. In response to frequent air raid alerts, shelter limitations, and other challenges, schools have adapted by operating in multiple shifts. WFP provides school meals in these ever-changing environments, ensuring children are well-nourished and able to concentrate. By providing school meals, WFP also helps reduce the cost of schooling for parents, many of whom have lost jobs or income during the war.

In total, WFP works in partnership with the government of Ukraine to provide daily nutritious meals for up to 174,000 schoolchildren, including students in underground and bunker schools in frontline regions such as Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhia.





*A ship arrives in Mozambique carrying corn from Ukraine as a part of the Grain from Ukraine initiative. Photo: WFP/Ana Mato Hombre*

## GRAIN FROM UKRAINE INITIATIVE

WFP is committed to supporting the export of grain and other foods from Ukraine which are vital for many countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Before the war, its food exports fed 400 million people each year. Due to its competitive pricing and location, Ukraine has long been one of WFP's largest suppliers of wheat, vegetable oil and peas.

Since the onset of the war, its food exports have suffered. The closure of Black Sea ports in 2022 significantly limited Ukraine's export capacity, sending shockwaves through global food markets and contributing to a sudden rise in food prices around the world.

WFP advocates for the safe passage of commercial vessels transporting grain and other food commodities to and from the Ukrainian Black Sea ports. Civilian port infrastructure continues to be regularly targeted – port workers have been injured or killed, and humanitarian shipments have been disrupted.

Announced in 2022, the Grain from Ukraine initiative – of which WFP is a partner – aims to facilitate the export of Ukrainian agricultural products to the world's most food insecure countries. Under the initiative, WFP transported 623 million pounds of Ukrainian food products to its operations in many countries, including Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Yemen, Nigeria and Sudan.



*Liubov receives a monthly food basket from WFP. Photo: WFP/Sayed Asif Mahmud*

## DEMINING AND RECOVERING FARMLAND

On June 30, 2024, Liubov stepped on a butterfly mine while collecting apricots in an abandoned yard in Yaremivka. Neighbors rushed to her aid and took her to the hospital, but the impact of the explosion severed half of her foot. Soon she will receive a custom prosthetic and begin the process of learning to walk again.

Liubov's story underscores the importance of demining work in Ukraine. The war has turned vast areas of farmland into deadly minefields, making Ukraine one of the most heavily contaminated countries in the world. Approximately 15,000 square miles of agricultural land are potentially contaminated with explosives, and 5% to 10% are estimated to require proactive clearance.

Agriculture makes up an important part of Ukraine's economy, but current conditions make this work unsafe and unprofitable. Many local communities and rural families rely on produce from their own gardens to meet their daily nutritional needs.

To address the issue, WFP and the Food and Agricultural Organization are working on a demining project focused on small-scale farmers and rural communities. The program is initially being rolled out in the eastern Kharkiv Region, with plans to expand to two of Ukraine's other top farming regions, Mykolaiv and Kherson. By allowing farmers to use their land again, demining can also bring major financial returns. This small-scale farmer project alone could save up to \$60 million dollars in direct food assistance to rural communities.





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# THANK YOU

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Thank you for your commitment to our mission to end hunger. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and fuels WFP's vital work in places like Ukraine. To learn more about WFP's work in Ukraine and the different ways you can make a difference, please visit [our website](#).

*WFP provides ready to eat foods, such as locally produced bread and canned beans, to those affected by destruction and displacement. Photo: WFP/Yana Kononova*