



World Food Programme

## Immediate Response: Ukraine Crisis



### In numbers



**260,000+** displaced, increasing

#### Current Immediate Response

**28,000** total individuals targeted

**18,000** receive food<sup>1</sup>

**10,000** receive vouchers<sup>2</sup>

**3 Months** duration  
(through 14 November, 2014)

**Immediate Needs: US\$1.4m**

**Est. Scale-Up Needs: US\$15m**

**6 Months (begin October, 2014)**

1. Equivalent of 90,000 daily rations

2. Value equal to ~US\$450,000

## Highlights

- This week WFP will initiate its Immediate Response in eastern Ukraine by providing 10,000 daily rations in Donetsk and Luhansk cities—through its NGO cooperating partner (ADRA). Overall, in the following weeks, WFP will distribute 90,000 daily rations.
- Starting October, WFP will support additional 10,000 vulnerable IDPs with Vouchers to be redeemed with food in the oblasts neighbouring Donbas region.
- UNHCR reported over 260,000 IDPs. However, due to the ongoing conflict and the lack of a centralized registration system, UN agencies estimate the total number of IDPs to be double that figure.
- In anticipation of the upcoming winter months, and due to the growing severity of the humanitarian situation, WFP is making preparations to scale up its operations. A full Emergency Operation is being planned to reach around 80,000 individuals over a six month period from October 2014-March 2015.

## Situation Update

- While food availability is not a major concern, months of fighting have severely disrupted infrastructure and economies in large parts of the eastern *oblasts* of Donetsk and Luhansk.
- Physical access to food remains an issue for families on the move with a limited access to or availability of savings. General insecurity in priority areas further reduces access to markets.
- Clashes continue notwithstanding talks of ceasefire raising concerns with regards to a fuel crisis during the upcoming winter months, the housing situation of IDPs and the deterioration of the food security situation of all conflict affected people.

## WFP Response

- WFP's approach in Ukraine is designed to reach the most vulnerable internally displaced families (IDPs), including those transiting through 'humanitarian corridors', or located in centres and hosting areas in and around the eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk – areas most affected by the ongoing fighting. Assistance will be carried out through both in-kind food and food vouchers.

- Locally purchased, ready to eat food packages will be provided for the immediate needs of targeted IDPs in host communities and transition centres. These packages take into account local dietary preferences and the fact that many may not have access to a cooking source. The food package is composed of nine items, including canned fish, canned meat, canned vegetables, biscuits and jam. A single food package (called an Immediate Response Ration—or IRR) is enough to support one person for five days; 18,000 IRRs will provide 90,000 daily rations. By 20 September, all food parcels will be distributed through the Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS) in coordination with the Government of Ukraine's State Emergency Services (SES) as well as Adventist Development and Relief Agency International (ADRA) and other partners.
- Where conditions permit, including a consistent food supply and a functioning market, WFP is initiating a food voucher program. Vouchers will provide financial support—valued around US\$45/person/month—to gain access to food items in shops. The modality will be carried out through NGOs with an appropriate operational presence, in coordination with the Ministry of Social Policy and UNHCR. Already WFP is finalizing agreements with international NGO People In Need (PIN). IDPs who have lost access to existing social safety nets will be prioritized, as will other food insecure groups.
- In total, WFP will provide vouchers for 10,000 individuals, the equivalent of approximately US\$450,000. An additional benefit of voucher assistance, is that families do not need to spend all their savings on food and can reprioritize other needs—including winterization activities.
- WFP will continue to prioritize those individuals trapped in conflict zones. WFP is currently planning assessments in *oblasts* neighboring southern coastal areas recently at center stage of the conflict. The mission will seek to verify reports that they are receiving increased numbers of IDP movements.

## Partnerships

- WFP is coordinating with SES, the Ministry of Social Policy, UN agencies and NGOs with operational presences in the east. Humanitarian access to areas under siege is negotiated (whenever possible) through local NGOs.
- WFP has recently received the official endorsement of the SES to handover 50,000 daily rations to the Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS). The food will be distributed by URCS as part of WFP's Immediate Response operation, with SES playing a coordination role.

## Resourcing Update

- Funding levels remain a concern, as WFP Ukraine has not yet received donations and current activities have been reliant on an internal WFP loan. WFP Ukraine requires support from the donor community to provide immediate assistance as well as ensure reliable food security for the coming months. Without such support, WFP warns of the potentially dangerous strain on an already overburdened government and host community.
- More current indications suggest a significant increase in overall needs since the drafting of the joint Government-United Nations Preliminary Response Plan (PRP)<sup>3</sup>. This is due primarily to recent developments in the southeast, an overall deteriorating humanitarian situation, and the threat of a potential fuel crisis during the upcoming winter months. As such, WFP is making preparations to launch an Emergency Operation (EMOP) that would replace the estimated needs of the PRP and target up to 80,000 among the most vulnerable IDPs, returnees and possibly resident populations. This operation is planned to cover the winter period, from October 2014-March 2015, at an estimated total cost of US\$15 million.

3. On 14 August the UNCT launched a United Nations Preliminary Response Plan (PRP), in the context of which WFP was requesting an estimated US\$5.5 million for three months operations following the IR-EMOP.

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