



World Food Programme

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Immediate Response: Ukraine Crisis

Highlights

- In the coming weeks, WFP will complete distributions of 90,000 daily rations for IDPs.
- To date more than 35,000 daily rations have been provided through partner NGOs in Donetsk and Luhansk.
- Starting in October, 10,000 IDPs will receive food voucher support in the northern areas of Donetsk *oblast*. Vouchers can be redeemed for food in local markets.
- UNHCR has reported 310,264 IDPs. However, due to the shaky ceasefire and the lack of a centralized registration system, the total number of IDPs is estimated 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 up to 120,000 individuals over a six month period from October 2014-March 2015.

In numbers



310,000+ displaced, increasing

1) Current Immediate Response

28,000 total individuals targeted

18,000 receive food¹

10,000 receive vouchers²

3 Months duration
(through 14 November, 2014)

Immediate Needs: US\$1.4m

2) Scale-Up Emergency Op.

(up to) **120,000** individuals targeted

80,000 receive vouchers

40,000 receive food rations

6 Months duration
(1 October 2014—31 March 2015)

Total Cost: US\$15.8m

Situation Update

- Months of fighting have severely disrupted infrastructure and economies in large parts of the eastern *oblasts* of Donetsk and Luhansk, and despite recent ceasefire talks, clashes continue. The food supply chain, and thus food availability, remains threatened.
- Access to food is a priority concern. Families on the move left quickly and with limited and dwindling income or other resources at their disposal. For those with savings, violence in and around conflict areas reduces access to functioning markets and the ability to buy food. Serious and growing unemployment further threatens the issue of access; these vulnerable displaced families require immediate support during this period.
- Current food assistance towards affected IDP populations in these areas is limited, sporadic and unreliable. With winter quickly approaching—amidst rising concerns of a looming fuel crisis, an unresolved housing situation of IDPs, and the deterioration of the food security situation—support from the international community remains essential.

1. Equivalent of 90,000 daily rations

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

WFP Response

- WFP's approach is designed to reach the most vulnerable internally displaced families (IDPs), in and around the eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk – areas most affected by months of fighting. Assistance will be carried out through both in-kind food and food vouchers.
- Locally purchased, ready to eat food parcels are being provided to cover the immediate needs of vulnerable 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 cooking facilities. The package is composed of mostly ready-to-eat items, such as canned meat, fish, and vegetables, as well as buckwheat, biscuits, jam and tea. A single food package (called an Immediate Response Ration—or IRR) is enough to support one person for five days. Overall WFP will provide 18,000 IRRs, equivalent to 90,000 daily rations. By the end of the month all food parcels will be distributed (geographical details in the attached map and table).
- WFP will initiate a food voucher program which will provide financial support to IDPs —valued around US\$45/person/month— to gain access to food items in local supermarkets. Implementation is planned by mid-October in the northern part of Donetsk oblast. IDPs who have lost access to existing social safety nets will be included, as will other food insecure and vulnerable groups. In total, WFP will provide vouchers for 10,000 individuals, the equivalent of approximately US\$450,000. The voucher assistance will allow families to prioritize other needs, including winterization activities, with their own resources.
- WFP will continue to reach those individuals trapped in conflict zones and has performed assessments in *oblasts* neighboring southern coastal areas recently at center stage of the conflict. WFP will continue to support missions to identify, verify, and continuously adapt to evolving needs.

Partnerships

- WFP is coordinating with the Government of Ukraine's State Emergency Services (SES), the Ministry of Social Policy, UN agencies and NGOs with operational presences in the eastern regions of Ukraine. Humanitarian access to areas under siege will be 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 is being distributed by URCS as part of WFP's Immediate Response operation, with SES playing a coordination role. Remaining WFP in-kind food distributions also continue with the assistance of Adventist Development and Relief Agency International (ADRA).
- The voucher assistance will be carried out through NGOs with an operational presence, in coordination with the Ministry of Social Policy; for this initial voucher pilot, WFP is finalizing agreement with international NGO People In Need (PIN).
- For all programs, WFP is continuously developing new relationships with potential cooperating partners. New agreements are built based on needs and access to priority areas.

Resourcing Update

- Funding levels remain a concern. 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 support 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). This is due primarily to recent developments in the southeast, continued fighting despite the ceasefire, 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 builds upon the estimated needs of the PRP and targets up to 120,000 vulnerable IDPs, returnees and possibly resident populations (host families, elderly, etc). This operation is planned to cover the winter period, from October 2014-March 2015, at an estimated total cost of US\$15.8 million.

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