



World Food Programme

Immediate Response: Ukraine Crisis

Highlights

- In the coming days, WFP will complete distributions of 90,000 daily rations for IDPs.
- More than 60,000 daily rations have been provided through partner NGOs in Donetsk and Luhansk, including Donetsk and Luhansk cities.
- 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.
- Government statistics report more than 292,000 IDPs. However, this is not a comprehensive registration and 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



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 an agreed ceasefire, clashes continue. The food supply chain, and thus food availability, remains threatened.
- Access to food is a priority concern. Families on the move left their homes quickly, with limited income or other resources at their disposal or no longer have access to their pensions or entitlements. For those with available savings, violence in and around conflict areas reduces access to markets and the ability to buy food. Serious and growing unemployment further compounds access to food, and displaced families require immediate support during this period.
- Current food assistance for 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, transition centres and other conflict affected areas. 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.
- 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 cut off areas will be negotiated (whenever possible) through local NGOs.
- Following an official endorsement of the SES for WFP to handover 50,000+ daily rations to the Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS), food is being distributed by URCS as part of WFP's Immediate Response operation. SES continues to play a coordination role. Remaining WFP in-kind 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 round, WFP has finalized an agreement with the 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.

For further information, please contact:

Carlo Scaramella

Deputy Regional Director, Cairo

Mobile: +2 010 6661 6604

Francesca Caponera

Head of WFP Office in Ukraine

Mobile: +380 (96) 463 7642

