**In Numbers**

- **4.4 million** people affected (OCHA)
- **3.8 million** people in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA)
- **620,000** people food insecure
- **300,000** internally displaced persons (GCA) (HNO 2017)

**Highlights**

- Food parcels that were sealed in warehouse in Donetsk NGCA, were transferred to WFP-cooperating partner Donbass Development Centre (DDC) and will be distributed in the coming months (June-July).
- WFP is in critical need of funding support (USD 16 m) in order to continue providing assistance to the most food insecure population in eastern Ukraine and implement Food-for-Assets and Food-for-Training activities, scheduled to start during the second quarter of 2017.

**Situation Update**

- In March, the de facto authorities imposed ‘external control’ over all Ukrainian business entities located in non-government-controlled areas (NGCAs) of eastern Ukraine, including the electricity company, DTEK. The exceptions were the public utility company, Voda Donbassa, the largest water company in eastern Ukraine and the telecommunication company, MTS. In response to this, the Government of Ukraine enacted a 'State of Emergency' in the Energy sector through an executive order and, soon after, a ban on all trade has come to an effect across the so-called ‘contact line’ that separates government-controlled areas (GCAs) from NGCAs. Although the measures did not have an immediate impact on UN operations on both sides of the ‘contact line’ - humanitarian convoys are normally exempt from the measures - such developments were widely considered and expected to have resulted in a ‘freezing of the conflict’. Notwithstanding the flare-ups of hostilities, including shelling of critical civilian infrastructure that resulted in the recurring interruption of water services, the intensity of hostilities was on a lower scale compared to the previous two months.

- The largest food assistance operation, the Rinat Akhmetov Foundation (RAF), has been banned from NGCA. RAF has provided food assistance to approximately 500,000 people in eastern Ukraine since the beginning of conflict in 2014.

**WFP Response**

- Since November 2014, WFP has been providing food assistance through General Food Assistance (locally purchased monthly food entitlements, and cash or vouchers) to internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees and other people affected by conflict in the eastern Ukraine regions of Donetsk and Luhansk. Under its Emergency Operation EMOP 200765, WFP has provided food assistance to 850,000 people in these regions until December 2016.

- In January 2017, WFP started its Protracted Relief
and Recovery Operation PRRO 200953. It will continue
to address food needs of the most vulnerable people in
eastern Ukraine throughout 2017 while gradually
supporting early recovery activities aiming at enhancing
local livelihoods, increasing income, diversifying crops,
and rehabilitating productive assets. People who are
identified as moderately food-insecure, those who face
difficulties to buy enough food on a daily basis to lead a
healthy life, will be engaged in food assistance-for-
training and food assistance-for-assets activities, which
will be tailored to the local context and based on
available funding.

- WFP food security monitoring systems identified five
categories of most food insecure conflict-affected
beneficiaries, which WFP will prioritize for general food
assistance (GFA) in 2017. These include elderly people
(living alone or as a couple) not staying with their
relatives, households headed by women with more than
two children, chronically ill people (people living with
Tuberculosis, HIV or cancer), people living with a
disability and unaccompanied minors.

### Food Assistance

- Around 13,000 food parcels were planned to be
distributed in Luhansk NGCA by UNHCR in March,
however the distributions were suspended. UNHCR is
expected to receive a renewed registration to operate in
the Luhansk People’s Republic and distribute the
food.
- In November 2016, due to suspension of operational
capacities of WFP cooperating partner People in Need
(PIN), around 64,000 food parcels remained
undistributed in Donetsk NGCA. In March 2017, the
situation has been successfully resolved due to joint
efforts of WFP and its partners. Within the coming
three months, WFP, in partnership with NGO Donbass
Development Centre (DDC), will distribute these food
parcels among the food insecure people in Donetsk
NGCA.
- In-kind food assistance provided by WFP in 2017 was
carry-over stock from EMOP, prepositioned by WFP for
winterisation purposes. Assistance through cash-based
transfers and food vouchers will be resumed with start
of implementation of early recovery activities in late
spring-beginning of summer.

### Clusters and Common Services

#### Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster (FSLC)

- According to the February Food Security and
  Vulnerability Analysis, the total number of food
  insecure people in Donbass is approximately 620,000
  people, of which 38,000 are IDPs. People with poor
  and borderline levels of food consumption is estimated
  at 7.3 percent in GCA, 9.2 percent for IDPs residing in
  GCA and 15.2 percent among the general population
  in NGCA. The analysis also reveals that across all
  areas observed, women continue to be much more
  vulnerable than men (14.8 percent and 5.5 percent of
  average poor and borderline level of food consumed
  accordingly).
- Given the situation in NGCA, following the blockade
  of one of the biggest food security assistance providers,
  RAF, FSLC initiated work to ascertain the capacity
  of organisations to fill a potential gap. This capacity
  remains limited.

#### Logistics Cluster

- The Logistics Cluster assists all humanitarian agencies
  and cooperating partners with coordination and
  information management which focuses on identifying
  logistics bottlenecks and providing a forum for
  humanitarian actors to address challenges.
- On 02 March, a joint AICM and UNICEF humanitarian
  convoy delivered 3.8 mt of humanitarian assistance,
  and on 30 March an AICM convoy distributed 0.4 mt of
  health items. In total the Logistics Cluster successfully
  facilitated the delivery of more than 4.3 mt of
  humanitarian assistance to Donetsk NGCA in March.

### Partnerships

- In order to reach people residing in the most insecure
  areas of Donetsk and Lugansk, both GCA and NGCA,
  WFP partners with international and local NGOs that
  share WFP’s goals to provide life-saving humanitarian
  assistance and have capacity to assist in eastern
  Ukraine.
- In March, WFP has finalized selection of cooperating
  partners for 2017 among which are Adventist
  Development and Relief Agency (DRA), People in Need
  (PIN), DDC, Responsible Citizens (RC), Norwegian
  Refugee Council (NRC) and NGO Network.

### Funding

- With a planned budget of USD 35.7 m WFP aimed to
  assist 220,000 food insecure people in eastern Ukraine
  in 2017. However, due to low funding contributions,
  WFP had to review its implementation plan and
  prioritise its assistance, targeting 70,000 people.
- WFP is grateful for the generous contributions received
  from the Governments of Germany and Italy made in
  2017, these have been used to assist those in need of
  food assistance in eastern Ukraine. Additional funding
  is urgently required to enable WFP stand by its
  commitment of creating livelihoods and providing food
to those in need in eastern Ukraine.

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### WFP Operation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WFP Operation</th>
<th>Total Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>Total Received (in USD)</th>
<th>6 months Net Funding Requirements (Apr-Sep 2017) (in USD)</th>
<th>People Reached (March)</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PRRO 200953 (Jan–Dec 2017)</td>
<td>35.7 m</td>
<td>7 m</td>
<td>16 m</td>
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<td>Cash-based transfers</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. WFP Ukraine distributed stock transferred from EMOP as winterization measure, while new Field Level Agreements (FLAs) for PRRO 2017 are being prepared.