



Photo Credit: PIN

**By 13 November, WFP, through PIN, distributed 10,000 vouchers in six locations within northern Donetsk oblast.*

In numbers

450,000 + displaced, increasing

Activities to date:

30,000 reached

20,000 in-kind food

10,000 vouchers

Total Cost: US\$1.4m

Planned, through April 2015.

120,000 individuals targeted

40,000 in-kind food (one-off)

80,000 receive C&V (x3 rounds)

6 Months duration



World Food Programme

Emergency Response: Ukraine Crisis

Highlights

- WFP in Ukraine will reach 120,000 individuals through a new Emergency Operation (EMOP). Beginning in November, the EMOP will cover critical food needs during cold weather months through April 2015.
- The EMOP builds on WFP's ongoing assistance in eastern Ukraine. Through its NGO partners, nearly 30,000 displaced and conflict affected individuals have been reached since distributions began in early September. This includes a mixed response of both in-kind and voucher assistance.
- Food is currently being distributed throughout the Donbas region (Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts). Particular focus is to distribute in areas directly affected by ongoing fighting and not yet reached by international humanitarian assistance.

Situation Update

- Fighting and a build-up of troops in the east has continued to worsen. Considering the possibility of increased hostilities, a spike in population displacements can be expected. This places additional strain on an already fatigued local host community, as displacements are mostly longstanding since the onset of crisis earlier this year, and mostly centralized in the east.
- Eroded purchasing power at the family level continues to make it increasingly difficult to keep food on the table. Inflation rates are worsening, with the local hryvnia amongst the most underperforming currencies in the world, and food prices are increasing. This, coupled with high unemployment and the need for household expenditures to go towards winter preparedness, signals the potential for a deteriorating food security situation in the coming months.
- The Government of Ukraine has stated it will seize social benefits (including pensions) for individuals registered in areas no longer under its control. Similarly, it also announced the closure of state offices and bank services in these areas, too. Without access to savings, pensions, or sources of hard currency, these affected individuals will not be able to purchase food available in stores.
- Following parliamentary elections on 26 October, steps are still being made to appoint a full Cabinet of Ministers. Due to this long political process, normal functioning of the national government has yet to resume.

WFP Response

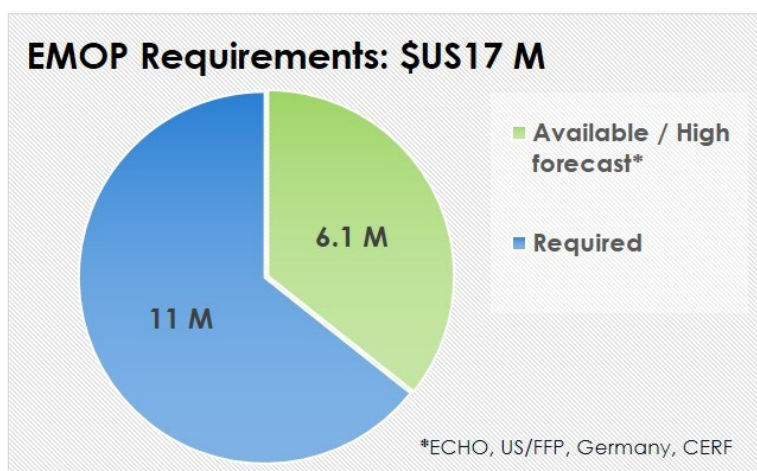
- WFP's approach is designed to reach the most vulnerable internally displaced families (IDPs), returnees, host families and those trapped in conflict hotspots. Assistance is provided mostly in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts – areas most affected by months of fighting – as well as neighboring oblasts of Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia.
- The response is “gap-filling.” WFP - through the food security and nutrition sector -takes into account ongoing assistance provided mostly by the civil society, NGOs, private foundations and other key actors.
- Upholding high humanitarian standards, WFP will continue to deliver impartial and neutral humanitarian assistance in order to reach more vulnerable individuals affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine.
- The food voucher—valued around US\$45/person/month— provides access to food items available in local supermarkets. C&V modality will reach 80,000 individuals — each for a three month period. Vouchers, or cash, will address short-term food needs in more secure IDP hosting areas with adequate food supply and where markets are functioning.
- Locally purchased food parcels are being provided to cover needs where C&V are not feasible. The current package (called an Immediate Response Ration—or IRR) is composed of canned meat, fish, buckwheat, pasta, beans, as well as oil, sugar, salt and tea. During the upcoming winter months, WFP has increased the food basket to feed one person for a 30 day period — including heightened daily caloric requirements for colder weather (2,600kcal/person/day).
- In order to better gather food security information, and as such comprehensive data has been unavailable to date, WFP began conducting a rolling assessment throughout the five eastern oblasts. This data will be used to refine targets of future WFP programming. Results will be made available to share throughout the humanitarian community.

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 has been and will continue to be negotiated (whenever possible) through local NGOs.
- Food has been distributed by the Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS) and Adventist Development and Relief Agency International (ADRA). Voucher assistance to date has been carried out through People in Need (PIN).
- For all upcoming 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

- Since the approval of the EMOP, WFP has resourced over a third of the total requirements for the upcoming six months. However, WFP is still in urgent need to procure food parcels for prepositioning ahead of the coldest months, as well as to provide full support for planned Cash/Voucher activities.
- WFP's funding appeal is in line with the OCHA-led Strategic Response Plan 2015, set to be launched in early December.



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