



- **The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is staying and delivering in Ukraine.** Ongoing work has been pivoted to scale up the humanitarian response. Senior staff have been deployed to the country, while regional and headquarters teams dedicated to Ukraine have also been reinforced.
- **Staff safety continues to be a priority.** All of FAO's staff in Ukraine are safe and determined to remain and support the humanitarian response. While most personnel have already been relocated to safer areas, FAO continues evacuating those still trapped in dangerous locations.
- **FAO has been providing humanitarian support,** including cash and agricultural inputs, to rural families **in eastern parts of the country since 2015.**
- On 7 March 2022, FAO launched a Rapid Response Plan for Ukraine, seeking **USD 50 million** to assist 240 000 vulnerable rural people affected by the war.
- **FAO has already started conducting needs assessments** to access critical real-time data on markets, input prices and availability, and agricultural impacts of the war.
- FAO continues **working closely with the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food** to identify emerging needs and priority actions to safeguard rural livelihoods and will continue to monitor the situation.
- **FAO co-leads the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster in Ukraine,** which has been fully operational in eastern Ukraine since December 2014. The cluster coordinator has been moved to Lviv and is supporting the ongoing sector response.

## Current situation

- The Russian military offensive that began on 24 February has sparked massive displacement. As of 9 March, 2.3 million people had already been forced to abandon their homes and flee across borders for safety. Millions more are on the move within the country.
- The violence has escalated rapidly, with massive humanitarian impacts, and it remains extremely difficult to predict the evolution of the war and its effect on lives and livelihoods. Needs are extremely high and rising daily as access to basic services is squeezed.

## Challenges facing food security and agriculture

- Some 30 percent (about 12.6 million people) of Ukraine's population lives in rural areas and the country is one of the most important agricultural producers in the world.
- In addition to a significant commercial agriculture sector, smallholder producers play a vital role in securing the country's food security, particularly of fruit, vegetables and livestock.
- The coming months are critical. In recent weeks, farmers would typically be preparing lands for vegetable production, with sowing expected from mid-March through mid-May and harvesting between July and mid-September.
- **FAO is deeply concerned about the potential for the war to impact planting and harvesting, especially if farmers cannot access inputs and animal feed.**
- Land preparation and sowing for grains including spring barley, maize and sunflower also occur between February and May, with harvests expected in July/August for spring barley and September/October for maize and sunflower.
- Ukraine's farmers planted the winter wheat in September–October 2021, which will be harvested in July– August 2022.
- **Securing food supply chains and safeguarding household-level production of nutritious foods (e.g. vegetables, livestock) will be critical to averting a food crisis.** The war has already created significant problems in the logistics and on the food supply chains within Ukraine. The country is one of the world's most important sources of cereals, sunflower oil and other key commodities. As such, the food security dimension of the crisis **will affect not only food access but also food availability.**

## Needs assessments

FAO has developed a two-tier monitoring approach using remote technology given operational realities. This monitoring will inform FAO's ongoing humanitarian response and support decision-making of partners in the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster.

1. At the administrative unit (rayon) level – providing an accurate and regular picture of the status of supply chains for agricultural inputs, input prices, market functioning, etc. The first round of analyses is expected at end of March and then on a biweekly basis.
2. At the household-level – focusing on internally displaced people and host communities: their food security, agricultural impacts, and priority needs to protect food production and income.

## FAO's response

- FAO formulated a Rapid Response Plan as part of the UN Flash Appeal, issued on 1 March, seeking USD 50 million to assist 240 000 people in rural areas.
- FAO's first priority is to ensure that rural households can continue to access food for the coming months and, to the extent possible, plant in time for the upcoming spring season.
- A cash+ modality will be employed, combining unconditional, multi-purpose cash transfers with agricultural input support packages, ensuring crisis-affected households are able to cover their immediate basic needs while producing their own food.
- FAO's main beneficiaries are extremely vulnerable smallholder farmers.
- FAO has been operating in the conflict-affected areas of eastern Ukraine since 2015, providing food security, livelihoods and economic recovery assistance for the most vulnerable households.
- FAO has already supported around 55 000 vulnerable rural households located along the previous contact line with assistance including cash+.
- With existing staff on the ground and new surge deployments, backed by dedicated support from the regional office in Budapest and the headquarters-based Office of Emergencies and Resilience, FAO already has the necessary technical and operational capacities in place to scale up humanitarian interventions across Ukraine, including agronomists, economists, experts in livestock, fisheries, forestry, cash and other technical areas, procurement officers, security officers, etc.

## Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster

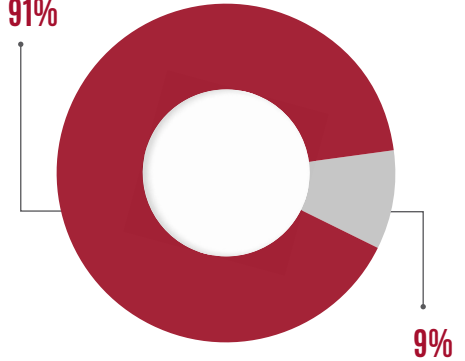
- Under the UN Flash Appeal, the cluster has called for USD 183 million to provide urgent food and livelihoods assistance to people affected by the war.
- The cluster has over 50 partners, and growing, with varying operational capacity given the ongoing war. Some partners have already begun their response operations, while others are facing significant challenges in terms of staffing and funding.
- The cluster coordinator remains on the ground and is receiving significant support from the Global Food Security Cluster team based in Rome.

## Funding

FUNDING GAP

**USD 45.4 million**

**91%**



FUNDING TO-DATE

**USD 4.6 million**



FAO requires

**USD 50 million**



to assist

**240 000 people**

### Partnerships

FAO works in close collaboration with the Government of Ukraine, particularly the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food. FAO's humanitarian response is being rolled out in close collaboration with the ministry and local-level actors, including coordinating with regional oblast administrations to identify needs and advise on input provision. FAO is currently mapping implementing partners and their capacity.

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Food and Agriculture Organization  
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