



- Preliminary results from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) monitoring system show a **worsening trend in food security**, especially in oblasts with active ongoing fighting and those with the highest numbers of displaced people. Within those hosting significant populations of internally displaced people (IDPs), 20 percent of host households lack cash to meet their basic food needs and cover bills, and on average 80 percent are resorting to various coping mechanisms and incurring debts.
- **FAO is particularly concerned about disruption to winter harvesting and spring planting;** agricultural labour availability, impacted by displacement; access to and availability of agricultural inputs, particularly fuel; disruption of logistics and food supply chains; abandonment of and reduced access to agricultural land; damage to crops due to military activity, especially during vegetative stages in spring; and destruction of food system assets and infrastructure.
- **FAO issued an advanced draft of its revised Rapid Response Plan (RRP)** on 8 April 2022, **seeking USD 115.4 million to assist 981 627 people** in rural areas until end December.
- To date, **FAO has raised USD 8.4 million to reach 70 941 people with livelihoods support.** With more resources, FAO will be able to reach more people in time for the spring season.
- **FAO is on the ground in Ukraine, scaling up operations.** FAO already had a significant presence in the country with 81 people. Since the war began, FAO's programme has pivoted towards humanitarian programming and, with staff now in relatively safer areas, 12 additional national and international staff have been recruited and 12 humanitarian specialist staff have been surged to support the scale-up.

Impact of the war on food security in Ukraine

- FAO's rapid needs assessments at different levels (oblast and rayon) indicate an already worsening trend.
 - Some 27 percent of responding oblasts with ongoing military operations and those with the highest number of IDPs face immediate food insecurity issues, with a further 11 percent (partially exposed to fighting) expecting shortages within two months and 22 percent expecting food shortages in the second half of 2022.
 - Within the oblasts hosting significant numbers of IDPs (up to 15 percent of their total population), 20 percent of host households lack cash to meet their basic food needs and to cover bills, and on average 80 percent are resorting to various coping methods and incurring debts.
 - Destocking of small livestock is reported in half of the oblasts and of large ruminants in 25 percent.
 - Ukraine had a good harvest in 2021 and, as a result, some rural households are likely to have above-average levels of food stocks and/or financial resources, which will provide some buffer as livelihoods and incomes are disrupted by the conflict.
- However, if the war continues and spreads, there will be increased pressure until food from the next harvest becomes available in the summer, assuming planting can take place. For rural families without stocks or other resources, with small landholdings or without a primary income-earner, including many of the disabled, widowed and elderly, the situation will be much more precarious.
- Agricultural production going forward is threatened by limited availability of critical agricultural inputs, including seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, equipment, fuel and livestock supplies, arising from a combination of logistical and financial factors. The prices of seeds, fertilizers and fuel have increased by an average of 35-45 percent across the country, and prices are expected to continue to rise.
 - Commercial livestock producers lack physical and/or economic access to animal feed and veterinary medicines, which are crucial livestock survival and production to feed supply chains and markets. Shortages of fuel and liquidity are significant barriers to production.

FAO's response

- With funds received to date, FAO is providing potato or vegetable seed packages to 70 941 people. This involves delivering 14 647 vegetable production packages to 43 941 people in oblasts in the east, including Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk and Zaporizka. FAO will distribute 862 tonnes of potato seeds to 51 720 people in Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizka, as well as in Ivano-Frankivsk, Poltava and Ternopil (centre-west) and Odessa (south).

- FAO is also procuring 10 tonnes of wheat seed, 10 tonnes of barley seed and 5 tonnes of buckwheat and provide it to Lviv National Agrarian University to enable spring planting of 150-200 ha of cereal. The college is hosting and feeding 800 IDPs and students.
- FAO's RRP is aligned with the revised United Nations Flash Appeal and has been designed in coordination with the Government of Ukraine as well as civil society partners across the targeted areas.
- The RRP aims to maintain food production by providing cash and inputs (seeds, fertilizers, plant protection inputs) for cereal crop production (wheat, oilseed) and spring vegetable and potato production. In addition, it plans to provide support to harvest the 2021 winter crop in June/July through cash+/ vouchers/grants; and to provide livestock production and health inputs and services (mineral/vitamin supplements, fodder and feed inputs).
- FAO will support agri-food supply chains, value chains and markets by engaging agri-businesses to provide technical support services to household-level and smallholder producers, supporting private farms and smallholders to maintain key value and supply chains. FAO will also support public-private partnerships with Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food and large- and medium-sized companies.
- Following a formal request from the Ukraine National veterinary service, FAO is developing specifications and estimated quantities for veterinary medicines and supplies to be procured urgently and delivered to national authorities. These will be used to support destroyed farms, damaged storages of unprocessed and processed meat, egg, dairy products.
- FAO will provide multipurpose cash in line with the Minimum Expenditure Basket. With the current level of funding, FAO will only be able to assist 15 000 people (about 10 percent of the target). Where possible, beneficiaries with access to land will also receive vegetable and potato seeds to enable spring sowing and generate nutritious food and income.

Needs assessments

FAO has completed two nationwide surveys through semi-structured interviews of key informants, targeting oblast-level administration and commercial farmers at the rayon level. In addition, a household survey is ongoing that is targeting three oblasts in west Ukraine with a significant influx of IDPs. The assessments provide in-depth information on food security, nutrition and preferences for livelihoods support and the emerging data will be shared with partners to ensure coordinated and coherent responses.

Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster

FAO will continue to coordinate the FSLC, especially through continued assessments of food security, markets and value chains. The FSLC had 37 partners on 24 February and this has now risen to 88 partners, although FAO remains the only organization involved in responding to emergency livelihood needs. FAO is supporting partners from the cluster to coordinate inter-agency efforts in the food and agriculture sector to contribute to the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food strategy support to producers to meet seasonal planting and harvesting deadlines throughout 2022, and prepare for increased food production in 2023.



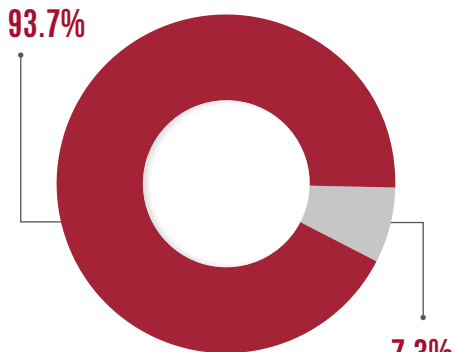
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Funding

FUNDING GAP

USD 107 million

93.7%



FUNDING TO-DATE

USD 8.4 million



FAO requires

USD 115.4 million



to assist

981 627 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.

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