



- **The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is extremely concerned about the effects of the war on lives and livelihoods in Ukraine.** The war has already caused extensive loss of life and damage to infrastructure, and the situation remains extremely volatile, with likely significant impacts on food security and agricultural livelihoods.
- **FAO is staying and delivering, and has reinforced its team in Ukraine,** surging 12 staff – in addition to the 81 staff already in the country – to support the scale-up, focusing on operations, cash programming, food security information, procurement, security, coordination, needs assessments and communications.
- About 10 percent of the USD 50 million requested by FAO under the Rapid Response Plan for Ukraine has been received to date. So far, funds received will enable FAO to assist 23 000 vulnerable rural men and women around Donetsk, Luhansk, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia. **If more resources are made available now,** FAO will be able to increase the number of rural people assisted this spring season.
- **FAO has already started conducting needs assessments** to access critical real-time data on markets, input prices and availability, and on the impacts of the war on agriculture.
- 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 importance of smallholder farmers to food security in Ukraine

- Almost one-third of Ukraine's population is rural, with 4.6 million households. Family farms make up 90 percent of the farming units in the country, and represent 38 percent of total agricultural land. They contribute 41 percent to gross agricultural production, with an average land holding of less than 3 ha. This is not an insignificant sector. Family farms play a pivotal role in ensuring the food security and nutrition, incomes and livelihoods of rural populations in Ukraine, as well as influencing the food security and nutrition of urban populations. They dominate subsectors essential for a diverse and nutritious diet, including vegetables (85 percent); fruits and berries (83 percent); honey (99 percent); milk production (70 percent); and eggs (45 percent). They are responsible for almost one-third of the total national meat production.
- FAO's immediate concern is to ensure that rural households are able to plant/sow vegetable and potato seeds this spring season from mid-March to mid-May. Harvesting will take place 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.
- Continued heavy and active fighting threatens lives and livelihoods across Ukraine, restricting access to people in need of assistance and constraining understanding of the full impacts on agricultural production and infrastructure to date.
- 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.

FAO's response

- FAO formulated a Rapid Response Plan as part of the United Nations (UN) Flash Appeal, issued on 1 March, seeking USD 50 million to assist 240 000 people in rural areas. This plan is being implemented within the framework of a longer-term support programme focusing on reinforcing agricultural livelihoods and the agriculture sector in Ukraine.
- With funds received to date, FAO can reach 23 000 people in 92 villages in the most affected oblasts (Donetsk, Luhansk, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia).
- A cash+ modality will be employed to support the most vulnerable households affected by the war through unconditional, multi-purpose cash assistance for three months (USD 74 per person per month) in line with the UN Flash Appeal.
- FAO will pair cash assistance with agricultural inputs, when possible, in order to address immediate basic needs and support the continuation of critical agricultural production.
- FAO's main beneficiaries are extremely vulnerable smallholder farmers.
- Beneficiaries are being identified, in collaboration with local partners with whom FAO has previously worked on recovery interventions.

Needs assessments

FAO is already undertaking needs assessments for the agriculture sector. The results of the assessments will highlight the needs and impediments facing the agriculture sector, as well as those faced by households and internally displaced people. The assessments will provide more in-depth information on food security, nutrition and preferences for livelihoods support. Key informant interviews are currently ongoing. The two tiers of the monitoring system are:

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. Data will be collected through key informant interviews and cover the whole of Ukraine. 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 in oblasts in the west: their food security, agricultural impacts and priority needs to protect food production and income.

Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster

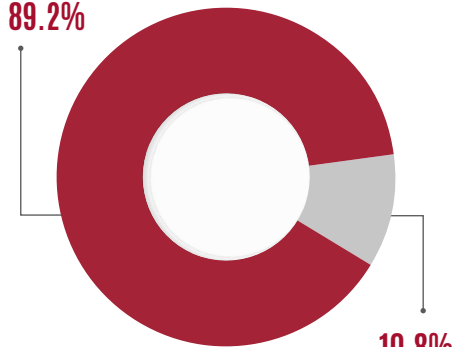
- Under the UN Flash Appeal, the cluster has called for USD 183 million to provide urgent food and livelihoods assistance to people affected by the war.
- The cluster has over 50 partners, with varying operational capacity given the violence. Mapping of partner capacity is ongoing, noting that some partners 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 44.6 million

89.2%



FUNDING TO-DATE

USD 5.4 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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