Ukraine
Response programme
January–December 2023
Restoring food systems and protecting food security in Ukraine
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The outbreak of war in Ukraine on 24 February 2022* has resulted in civilian casualties, cross-border and internal displacement and destruction across the country. By the end of 2022, intense hostilities and fighting had left at least 17.6 million people in need of humanitarian assistance¹ and protection – including close to 6 million internally displaced people (IDPs)² – and inflicted significant damages on all economic activities in Ukraine, including agriculture – a key driver of the economy. The damages inflicted on civil infrastructure, including the presence of mines and unexploded ordnance (UXOs), damages to transportation infrastructure, as well as restrictions on movements of people and goods have in many cases prevented farmers from tending their fields, harvesting and marketing their crops and livestock products, and have substantially increased their production costs. As the war continues, its destructive effects on the agriculture sector, rural populations and their livelihoods are expected to further intensify.

As of November 2022, the war had already resulted in total damages of USD 6.6 billion for the agriculture sector,³ while the aggregate losses reached USD 34.25 billion. The damages include partial or complete destruction of machinery and equipment, storage facilities, livestock

* The conflict in Ukraine, which started in 2014, escalated into a war in February 2022.
and perennial crops, extensive losses of inputs and outputs, as well as large-scale damages to agricultural land, including UXO contamination. Additionally, production losses resulting from unharvested winter crops, higher farm production costs, and lower farm gate prices due to disruptions to logistics and exports are of particular significance to Ukraine’s export-oriented agriculture sector. Furthermore, the damages inflicted on Ukraine’s power plants and energy transmission systems have resulted in widespread disruptions to the functioning of the country’s critical energy supply with far-reaching impacts on the production, storage, transformation, transportation, and distribution of agricultural products.

Before the onset of the war, Ukraine’s agrifood sector was a vital source of livelihoods for nearly 13 million people living in rural areas. While commercial enterprises accounted for around 65 percent of agricultural production, rural households accounted for the remaining 35 percent, including approximately 85 percent of fruit and vegetable production, 80 percent of milk production, and around half of livestock production. Mostly involved in backyard farming/small-scale agricultural production and typically not registered on official farmer registration systems, rural households play a pivotal role in ensuring the food security, livelihoods and incomes of rural populations. These households produce food for their own consumption and sell products locally, supplying local value chains and contributing to the resilience of rural communities. In 2022, localized rural food production proved critical to supporting IDPs who have moved from urban to rural areas to escape the impact of the war.

As the deteriorating security situation continues to negatively impact the country’s economy, the agrifood sector, a key pillar of Ukraine’s economy, is contracting rapidly, with serious consequences for broader food and nutrition security. Based on information provided by the Government of Ukraine, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) forecasts that the 2022 cereal harvest (comprising winter and spring/summer crops) will total 51 million tonnes, about two thirds of the annual average and 40 percent below the exceptional 2021 harvest. This sizeable decline is primarily attributed to the impacts of the war which have restricted access to fields and marketing activities.

Despite elevated international prices of agricultural products, local farm gate prices remain depressed, which combining with high domestic transportation and marketing costs, have resulted in a decrease of farmers’ incomes. Limited access to increasingly unaffordable agricultural inputs (e.g. fertilizers, fuel, pesticides and seeds) and restricted access to agricultural land due to mine contamination resulted in significant declines in the winter sowing campaign for 2023 crops. The situation is highly unlikely to improve in time for the spring sowing campaign, usually starting in April. According to the findings of an assessment on the impact of the war on rural livelihoods conducted by FAO in September–October 2022, around 25 percent of rural households have either reduced or

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* There are approximately 4.5 million households in Ukraine cultivating approximately one sixth of the total agricultural land (5.4 million ha).
entirely stopped agricultural production due to the war. In front-line oblasts, this percentage reached 38 percent and above. Aggravated by the growing threats to Ukraine’s energy supply, smallholders across the crop, livestock and fisheries sectors are likely to face increasing difficulties in sustaining production.

![Figure 1. Percentage of rural households that have stopped or reduced agricultural production due to war](image)

The loss of agricultural assets, low revenues from the sale of production and increases in production costs ranging from 25 percent to over 50 percent\(^7\) for both crop and livestock activities have resulted in an economic crisis for the sector. This is expected to profoundly impact the agrifood sector in Ukraine. Active hostilities in the eastern part of the country necessitate a shift in vegetable production from traditional to less-traditional regions, while low profit margins are prompting a shift from wheat to more profitable grain and oilseed crops, creating both opportunities and challenges with domestic, regional and global implications. In the near term, the conditions are especially challenging for farmers who will face multiple challenges in the coming spring. FAO and its partners are particularly concerned that the decline in profitability and reduced prospects for income generation among agricultural producers will substantially impact their capacity to cultivate critical cereal crops and other staple food commodities in 2023. To mitigate this, small and medium-sized farmers urgently need a wide array of support – particularly in the form of seeds – to sustain agricultural production in 2023.
FAO and its partners have been focusing their humanitarian assistance in support of conflict-affected rural populations who have been disproportionately underserved since the start of the war and require urgent support to access the inputs needed to restore agricultural production. The impact of the war on production has already drastically reduced their incomes: in September–October 2022, around 32 percent of the households surveyed by FAO reported significant and/or drastic reductions in income (from 25 percent to over 50 percent), reaching 39–43 percent for rural households in Donetska, Khmelnytska, Kyivska, Lvivska, Odeska, Sumska, Vinnytska and Zaporizka oblasts. This has led to the adoption of crisis coping strategies such as selling productive assets, reducing expenditure on critical productive inputs, and cutting down on essentials such as healthcare.

The rapid erosion of resilience is severely undermining the productive capacities of rural communities, which require urgent protection from the continuing impacts of the war on the agricultural economy. In addition, rural communities must retain the capacity to continue hosting and supporting IDPs. Moreover, FAO household surveys further underline the increasing difficulties faced by livestock keeping households. Active hostilities have in many cases restricted access to grazing areas and resulted in the loss of animal feed stocks. Providing access to animal feed, mineral supplements, livestock shelter materials, veterinary supplies, medicines and services is critical to ensure the survival of existing livestock assets and prevent rapid animal destocking, which will have long-term implications.

In 2023, FAO’s overarching priority in Ukraine is to protect the food security and livelihoods of rural families while also sustaining the country’s food systems. FAO will achieve this by supporting the production capacities of rural communities and preserving the functionality of national supply chains and access to markets. Strengthening the resilience of rural households will also support their contribution to the country’s broader food systems. Support to small and medium-sized producers across the agriculture sector will prevent the further deterioration of national agrifood systems until the cessation of hostilities.
Results achieved and lessons learned in 2022

Results achieved

The FAO Ukraine Rapid Response Plan (RRP) for May–December 2022 sought to assist nearly 1 million rural people through (i) maintaining critical food production systems; (ii) supporting agrifood supply chains, value chains, and markets; and (iii) developing evidence-based analysis of the evolving food security status and impact of the war on rural populations. In parallel, the FAO Grain Storage Support Strategy (GSSS) aimed to address 25 percent of the national grain storage deficit with temporary and fixed storage solutions. As of 31 December 2022, FAO had mobilized USD 102.2 million of the required USD 180.4 million (approximately 57 percent) for 2022, leaving a funding gap of USD 78.2 million. Funding received included USD 60.1 million out of USD 65 million (equivalent to 92 percent) for the GSSS, and USD 42.1 million out of USD 115 million (equivalent to 37 percent) for the RRP 2022. These funds include timely contributions from Australia, Belgium, Canada, the Central Emergency Response Fund, the European Union, France, Germany, Japan, the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund, the Louis Dreyfus Foundation, the Minderoo Foundation, the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund and United States of America as well as FAO internal funding mechanisms.

With funding received against the RRP, FAO reached approximately 40 000 rural households (100 000 people) with emergency agricultural support: 20 147 households received vegetable seeds, 18 258 households received seed potatoes, and 1 857 households received multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA), while some of the households received all types of support. FAO provided MPCA to 2 069 vulnerable rural households in Dnipropetrovska, Khersonska and Zaporizka oblasts. FAO’s cash programme is aligned with government and humanitarian standards and provides flexible support worth USD 512 per household, which has helped cover some of their damages and losses, estimated at an average of USD 483 per household.\(^7\) FAO also distributed winter wheat seeds to small-scale farmers and rural households in war-affected oblasts. Around 5 400 tonnes of seeds were distributed to 6 619 rural households and 1 508 small-scale farmers. An additional 27 000 livestock-keeping households benefited from winter season support (e.g. animal feed and vouchers for livestock shelter repairs). With the GSSS funding, FAO has distributed 26 012 grain sleeves to 1 470 small and medium-sized farmers. By the end of March 2023, FAO will complete the distribution of the remainder of the 30 000 polyethylene grain sleeves (equivalent to 6 million tonnes of storage capacity) as well as 105 sets of grain loading and unloading machinery to local agricultural producers.

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\(^7\) Damages and losses amount to approximately USD 483 per rural household on average, not considering the temporarily occupied territories.
In addition, FAO invested in a suite of evidence-based analyses, including a nation-wide household survey on the food security and livelihoods of rural populations and various sector-specific damage and loss assessments pertaining to Ukrainian agrifood systems, to improve the relevance and impact of its response and support the work of the Food Security and Livelihood Sector (FSLC).

Lessons learned

Prior to the outbreak of war on 24 February 2022, FAO’s work in Ukraine was mostly development-oriented, with the establishment of an emergency response following the conflict in the eastern parts of the country in 2014–2015. In 2022, FAO rapidly scaled up its presence and response to meet the increased needs brought on by the war. In doing so, the Organization has faced numerous challenges, not least due to the highly volatile security situation across the country. Together with its governmental and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners, FAO has developed innovative ways to expand its response activities. For example, FAO rolled out a technological solution to send customized Short Message Service (SMS) texts to cash programme beneficiaries through the “Identification Delivery Empowerment Application” (IDEA), an in-house FAO system which was deployed in less than three months, building on best practices from FAO offices worldwide. The lessons learned from these experiences have enabled FAO to become more agile and adaptive. FAO has refined its strategic approach in 2023 and designed a programme better suited to the realities and needs of the communities it serves and the unique implementation context of Ukraine. The significant investment in analytical work positions FAO on stronger footing to design an evidence-based humanitarian response programme that is effective, context-driven, accountable, conflict-sensitive and guided by a humanitarian–development–peace nexus approach.
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Assessment and evidence generation

To guide its programming, FAO will continue to develop and carry out regular assessments on the impact of the war on food security and agricultural livelihoods and production. The ongoing and planned analyses are produced in close collaboration with national stakeholders. These partners range from academia to civil society and public institutions.

FAO is planning to conduct seven assessments over the course of 2023, divided into two broad categories: (i) assessments on the impact of the war on agricultural production and livelihoods of households and producers; (ii) sectoral assessments on agricultural damages and losses:

Assessments on the impact of the war on agricultural production and livelihoods of households and producers:
- impact of the war on rural populations and rural livelihoods – second round (report from the first round was published in December 2022);
- impact of the war on agricultural producers;
- impact of the war on commercial crop producers and storage capacities;
- assessment of livelihoods in settlements in front-line areas; and
- food security and livelihoods analysis.

Sectoral assessments of damages and losses on agriculture:
- aquaculture and fishery sectors; and
- forestry sector.

Should new needs emerge over the course of 2023, FAO will adjust and introduce new types of assessments as needed to inform its response.

Partnerships and coordination

FAO has a strong partnership with the Government of Ukraine and has developed the 2023 response plan based on specific requests for support received from the government. FAO and the Government of Ukraine will continue to collaborate on joint programmes in 2023. This partnership will remain essential to ensuring the successful implementation and sustainability of FAO’s programmes. FAO works with a solid network of partners, which will also be instrumental to the successful implementation of its 2023 response. FAO will continue to work in close collaboration with United Nations sister agencies as well as national and international NGOs to explore complementarities, develop synergies and increase the added value of its response.
As co-lead of FSLC, FAO will continue to play a pivotal role in engaging the 57 operational reporting partners, 243 implementing partners, and over 330 partners on the cluster mailing list; and supporting improved coordination and information flows to strengthen the cluster response in support of the most vulnerable population groups.

Targeting

Ukraine’s agriculture sector comprises a wide range of production actors whose needs for support are distinct. Adopting appropriate and conflict-sensitive targeting mechanisms will be key to ensure the provision of the right package of support to the right actors at the right time. FAO will also pay close attention to the equitable targeting of host communities, IDPs and returnees, as well as the inclusion of vulnerable conflict-affected households and communities who do not have the option to leave their homes. In coordination with local authorities, implementing partners and community leaders, FAO has developed a community-driven approach to establish eligibility and vulnerability criteria to identify and select beneficiaries, depending on the type of assistance to be provided. FAO and implementing partners discuss and determine vulnerability criteria together with representative committees from affected communities and local authorities. This robust procedure for beneficiary verification also includes publication of beneficiary lists when possible and remote/physical verification exercises. Vulnerability criteria are used to prioritize households and farms based on their vulnerability ranking and in consultation with community members. Criteria include demographic and income factors, as well as factors related to the presence of returnees and IDPs. These criteria consider the different social dimensions that intersect and compound the vulnerability of individuals and households, including age, gender and disability.

A Rapid Gender Analysis carried out in May 2022 by UN Women and CARE® reported an increase in inequalities, with older women and single mothers representing the majority of Ukraine’s poor. This is reflected in FAO’s cash assistance to rural households in Khersonska oblast, where 66 percent of beneficiaries were women over 60 years of age. Women and girls are also more at risk of displacement and its consequences, including loss of jobs and incomes, and heightened protection risks. FAO will continue to refine and update its vulnerability criteria and selection processes in 2023 to ensure that additional vulnerabilities unique to specific contexts and communities are included. FAO will also continue to engage in inclusive consultations with affected women, men, youth and local actors at all stages of the response from information and data gathering, needs assessments and targeting, through to monitoring and evaluation.

In 2023, FAO will utilize the State Agrarian Registry (SAR) to identify beneficiaries for a number of interventions targeting small and medium-sized farmers. SAR is an electronic, online registry of agrarian producers in Ukraine. While agrarian producers (individuals or legal entities) sign up on a voluntary basis, SAR is expected to become mandatory for beneficiaries
of state support for agricultural activities. FAO and its partners will sensitize the communities on SAR system, specifically as a means for qualifying to receive support through FAO programmes.

In 2023, FAO’s programme will prioritize the following categories of actors:

- **Pillar 1**: Vulnerable conflict-affected rural farming households with a focus on women-headed households and the elderly
- **Pillar 2**: Small and medium-sized producers
- **Pillar 3**: National authorities, local farmer associations and providers of critical technical services

**Response priorities**

The war has placed the entire Ukrainian agrifood system at risk, with significant consequences for food security both in Ukraine and globally. Should urgent support to the Ukrainian agrifood sector fail to materialize, and if other factors impacting global food security remain constant, humanitarian needs across the world will continue to rise, possibly triggering further mass displacements and increases in food insecurity. The stability of global food value chains will remain under threat.

FAO is uniquely positioned in Ukraine to implement a multidimensional and innovative strategy to address the needs of conflict-affected rural populations as well as to sustain and restore agrifood systems at scale. The Organization will focus on three pillars:

1. responding to the urgent needs of rural communities and protecting upcoming agricultural campaigns;
2. restoring critical agricultural production and value chains; and
3. supporting the continued functioning of productive food systems, contributing to local, national and global food security.
Pillar 1 – Restoring food security and improving self-sufficiency in front-line communities

**Target:**
Immediate support to 500,000 rural households in nine front-line oblasts, coastal territories and other heavily impacted rural areas, based on the application of FAO’s community-driven vulnerability criteria, to reduce dependency on food assistance.

**Funding requirement:**
USD 100 million

**Key challenge**

Immediate humanitarian needs: Communities near the front-line and in newly accessible areas (e.g. Kharkivska, Khersonska and Zaporizka oblasts) rely heavily on agricultural production for their livelihoods as well as food and nutrition security. Due to the disruptions caused by the war, both household- and community-level production has been reduced substantially. With targeted, flexible and appropriate assistance from FAO, these populations will be able to restore their food production capacities and improve their self-sufficiency. To date, the humanitarian response in Ukraine has focused on IDPs and people in need of social assistance while support to farmers has primarily targeted the registered, larger agricultural producers, thereby leaving rural households, particularly those in proximity to the front-line, largely under-served. As a result, these households are experiencing severe constraints in accessing agricultural inputs and credit, which is reducing productivity, income-generating opportunities and the availability of food for household consumption.

FAO and its partners are already delivering cash assistance in areas near the frontline. FAO will prioritize these populations with flexible assistance packages delivered through adapted modalities. FAO’s community-driven vulnerability criteria identified women-headed households and the elderly as the priority groups for this intervention with a focus on newly accessible oblasts in the east and northeast of Ukraine.

**Response**

FAO will target 500,000 rural households with access to critical agricultural inputs in nine key front-line oblasts, coastal territories and other heavily conflict-affected rural areas. Activities under Pillar 1 seek to boost household-level food production, generate household income and revive local economies to protect the food security and livelihoods of conflict-affected rural communities. FAO’s response is designed to increase the resilience of under-served rural communities and prevent their further sliding into crisis, thereby reducing the need for further humanitarian assistance.
FAO’s package of assistance is comprehensive and adapted to the needs of rural households. Through this intervention, FAO will provide crop production and livestock inputs through various delivery modalities combining cash, vouchers and in-kind support based on analyses of the local context and market.

- **Crop production inputs** include seeds, mineral and organic fertilizers, effective composting technologies and plant protection products, as well as cash assistance through FAO’s “Cash+” approach in support of livelihood recovery. Using response analyses to design appropriate and flexible assistance packages, these activities will support the recovery of livelihoods and incentivize households to re-establish and continue agricultural production, which is critical to the food and nutrition security of rural populations. In addition to community-driven vulnerability criteria, FAO will target vulnerable rural farming households engaged in backyard gardening (mainly focusing on vegetable production or small crop production with up to 5 ha of land) and small-scale farmers (with up to 200 ha).

- **Livestock production inputs** include much-needed animal feed, minerals and supplements, complemented with cash assistance for the most vulnerable livestock raising households. Innovative voucher-based approaches will be used to increase access to animal health products and livestock shelter needs in areas where the context and local markets allow. The combination of cash and in-kind assistance – whether through direct distributions or vouchers – will improve the effectiveness of the support to the maintenance and survival of existing livestock populations and will incentivize rural farming households to sustain their production activities. This will also safeguard livestock assets and prevent the premature consumption or sale of critical livestock assets as a coping strategy. FAO will target vulnerable rural farming households (poultry, pig and cow livestock keepers with up to five heads of livestock).
Pillar 2 – Restoring critical agricultural production and value chains

**Target:**
Restoration of agrifood systems in newly accessible areas

**Funding requirement:**
USD 90 million

**Key challenges**

I. **Systemic risks to agrifood systems:** As the war persists and farmers exhaust their resilience capacities, agricultural production is expected to decline significantly in 2023, with the potential risk of complete collapse in the most affected oblasts due to limited access and unaffordability of essential agricultural inputs. Producers are also discouraged by the uncertainty surrounding their ability to export via the maritime ports. This will likely result in an additional sizeable reduction in agricultural revenues/incomes, increase the number of bankruptcies, and intensify the risks to both national and global grain markets and food security.

II. **Disruption of value chains** (short cycle agricultural production and fisheries): The competitiveness of the agricultural sector continues to decline due to reduced investment and lack of labour force. Agri-food supply chains and value chains will need ongoing support to re-establish or reinforce pre-war level functionality; expand capacity to address incremental demand; recalibrate the needs of the shifting landscape of end-markets, including those for local and national consumption and for export.

III. Ukrainian authorities estimate that close to one-third of the country remains contaminated with UXO and landmines. In addition to posing ongoing threats to the safety of civilian populations, these explosive hazards create major impediment to accessing agricultural lands and prevent displaced households from returning to their homes.

**Response**

FAO will support agricultural production in Ukraine by protecting critical points in the food system. FAO will assist small and medium-sized agricultural producers in priority conflict-affected areas, particularly newly accessible areas. Producers will receive seeds and other essential agricultural inputs and temporary energy solutions to enable them to sustain production and facilitate a ripple effect along value chains, both within and between local communities and regions.

- **Energy for Food (E4F):** In close collaboration with the government and key partners, FAO will support the identification of alternative energy solutions for small/medium-sized farmers. The main sectors targeted
are animal husbandry, fisheries (including aquaculture), and other related agro-processing industries. This will ultimately support the daily operation of core food/agro-processing industries where energy supply is either limited or non-existent. As a result, this will enable rural communities to access local food sources and, in turn, enable local small/medium-scale farmers to continue to generate income and safeguard employment. These alternative energy solutions will support the continuity of energy supply in nine conflict-affected oblasts, which serve up to 25 percent of the population (approximately 9 million people). Energy solutions will be provided either through direct in-kind distribution to the end users (prioritizing generators working on natural gas), or through matching grants with the private sector or civil society organizations within the framework of relevant FAO's policy on operational modalities. FAO will also provide support to affected communities by investing in renewable energy generation and efficient grain drying technologies to ensure energy efficiency in agricultural production, effective use of biomass, integration of food and energy systems at the local level, and the development of agriculture-energy value chains following Integrated Food and Energy System approach.

- **Sustaining agricultural production**: FAO will target small and medium-sized cereal farmers in conflict-affected regions with the distribution of priority and high-quality treated seed varieties. FAO will distribute seed kits comprised of cereal seeds sufficient for sowing up to 10 ha of land. The proposed quantity is informed by previous FAO interventions. The kits are likely to include maize, spring wheat, and winter wheat seeds for the autumn planting season, as well as other crops based on ongoing assessments and requests from the government. Kit composition will be adapted to the region where the seeds will be supplied. FAO will also provide mineral and organic fertilizers along with the seed kits where required. This intervention will use the SAR to identify beneficiaries, will support the functionality of the sector and will be closely coordinated with the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food (MAPF).

- **FAO will also make targeted investments** through matching grants and technical support to stimulate and develop short cycle value chains (VC). Consultations conducted with stakeholders have underlined the need for continued investment support to small and medium-sized farmers to maintain, reinforce and strengthen production, processing and VC-based activities. Investment in commercially viable small-scale agriculture and processing are key to supporting any recovery process and should accompany conflict-sensitive emergency interventions to ensure coherent programming along the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

- **FAO will partner with relevant agencies and organizations specialized in supporting demining actions** to facilitate the clearance of contaminated agricultural land. This will help increase access to agricultural land and restore cultivation and support the return of displaced households and the long-term rehabilitation of rural livelihoods in conflict-affected oblasts.
Pillar 3 – Restoring critical agrifood system services

Target:
Systemic/nationwide

Funding requirement:
USD 15 million

Key challenges

I. In the current conflict context, Ukraine’s capacity to export grain needs to be consolidated by strengthening alternative export routes, increasing grain production in areas where it is feasible to do so, and improving grain quality to reduce the risk of refusal by buyers.

II. Potential threats to public health security from possible outbreaks of food-borne diseases caused by damaged energy infrastructure in the agro-processing industries and contaminated food supplies being distributed to food warehouses and shops. Potential epizootic outbreaks due to reduced access to veterinary services, including lack of disinfectants for safe burials of animal carcases and treatment of existing burial sites.

III. The National Gene Bank of Plants of Ukraine is located in the city of Kharkiv, which was heavily impacted by the war in May 2022, threatening the 150 000 samples of 1,802 species representing 544 types of crops hosted in this facility. It is estimated that only four percent of the seeds of this unique collection has been backed up. As the war continues, there is a considerable risk that part, or all, of this unique asset could be lost forever, substantially setting back research for crop varieties that are resilient to pests, disease and other adversities, and Ukraine’s ability to adapt its agricultural production to the impacts of climate change.

Response

FAO’s actions under Pillar 3 will include support towards improving and sustaining grain quality; addressing technical challenges related to overland transportation (e.g. control, and packaging); and facilitating the export of grain for distribution and marketing in highly food insecure countries.

• Support to the “Grain from Ukraine” initiative and to the movement of food stocks in the country to critical markets: The “Grain from Ukraine” initiative was launched by the Government of Ukraine to enable resource partners to purchase Ukrainian grain for low-income countries in Africa and Asia to ensure food availability in these areas and support the Ukrainian economy. In 2023, FAO will contribute to this initiative by supporting agrifood testing and certification for export.
FAO will support health security through maintaining critical veterinary services.

- Support to critical veterinary services under the One Health approach: building on its Emergency Livestock Strategy, FAO will continue to strengthen the capacity of the State Service for Food Safety and Consumer Protection, other related governmental bodies, agri-producers, traders and other relevant stakeholders to mitigate the risks associated with food-borne diseases and the introduction and spread of transboundary animal diseases, and to implement the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance. Additionally, FAO plans to deliver up to 198 tonnes of various disinfectants required for safe burial of animal carcases.

FAO is also supporting the relocation of the National Gene Bank of Plants of Ukraine from its highly vulnerable location in Kharkiv to safer sites in Lviv to protect this critical repository of plant genetic material.
FAO has expanded its presence in Ukraine and established a strong multidisciplinary team to deliver its programmes, with a specific focus on operations, cash and voucher programming, food security information and analysis, procurement, security, coordination, needs assessments and communications. FAO’s country office remains in Kyiv, with field offices in Lviv and Dnipro, and continues to oversee emergency operations across the country with a team of around 100 staff. The country programme is technically and operationally backstopped by FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia in Budapest and FAO headquarters in Rome. The Organization, together with its implementing partners, retains the capacity to operate in areas within front-line oblasts and is well-positioned to support the government in the highly impacted and newly accessible areas. FAO is undertaking contingency planning for areas that may become accessible in 2023.

Accountability to affected populations (AAP)

FAO has a dedicated Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) to ensure AAP, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) within FAO programming. The GRM is applied across all programmes implemented by FAO in Ukraine to mitigate
possible protection, gender and conflict-sensitivity risks that could affect the programme implementation process. A call centre with two dedicated hotlines for incoming calls as well as an e-mail address for beneficiaries/stakeholders have been in service since April 2022 and are operated by designated GRM and AAP, PSEA and GBV focal points. All cases are tracked and referred to FAO designated personnel to prepare individualized responses where appropriate. The hotline numbers and e-mail address are disseminated widely and publicized through awareness raising materials and meetings with local beneficiary representatives to maintain safe and accessible pathways for beneficiaries to report on cases of sexual exploitation and abuse, strengthen AAP and ensure greater transparency.

To communicate with Cash+ beneficiaries, FAO is using its corporate beneficiary data management platform, IDEA, and has established an individual SMS-notification process providing details on how to receive the payment. Beneficiaries of other programmes are notified through local implementing partners and local authorities. Moreover, to communicate with small and medium-sized farmers, FAO will use SAR on which the registration process for the assistance and sending messages to the registered farmers can be set up and tailored. FAO first utilized the SAR in 2022 for the distribution of support under its GSSS, through which beneficiaries applied for support through the registry and received reminders and confirmations relating to the assistance to be provided. The SAR will similarly be utilized in 2023 for programmes targeting farmers under Pillar 2.
Beneficiaries will be kept informed of project activities through two-way communication pathways within the established FAO Communications Strategy. FAO’s implementing partners have been trained in AAP/PSEA and GBV principles, and commitments to respecting key principles are included in partner agreements. Partners are required to communicate regularly with beneficiaries and communities about all aspects of the programme and to promote the use of the GRM. Feedback received is used to take real-time corrective action where possible, redressed in a timely manner and archived for accountability and to inform future emergency programming.

**Monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL)**

As the operational context remains highly dynamic, it is crucial for FAO to understand the changing needs of its target population and address programme challenges and opportunities in delivery. FAO has invested in the establishment of comprehensive systems and mechanisms at global and regional levels, as well as at the country level. A dedicated international expert leads MEAL activities across the programme. FAO produces assessment and monitoring data that is disaggregated by gender, age and vulnerability to support robust, evidence-based targeting and monitoring mechanisms. FAO MEAL activities include verifying beneficiary selection based on pre-determined vulnerability criteria, field visits to monitor progress and quality of activities, as well as post-distribution monitoring (PDM) for in-kind, cash as well as voucher programming. FAO’s PDM system will help improve programming, including cash payment modalities, agricultural input distributions, timeliness, quality of assistance, among other elements, and will
reinforce protection and accountability to beneficiaries. The monitoring of programme implementation will also rely on FAO’s GRM with feedback and complaints instruments developed to ensure that the beneficiaries have a say in assessing the quality of the assistance delivered through the intervention. FAO will monitor progress of the programme against its workplan, milestones and indicators on a quarterly basis, jointly with its partners, and adjust implementation as required in close consultation with the Organization’s resource partners.

**Knowledge management**

FAO will continue to identify and disseminate lessons learned and good practices, as well as support the facilitation of learning processes and the organization of knowledge sharing activities related to food security, nutrition and resilience analysis and response in food crises contexts. Knowledge management and learning efforts (presentations, reports, multimedia and publications) shall be documented and organized in an online archive at FAO’s repositories. This includes the FAO Knowledge Resilience platform, an online platform that supports building resilience to food insecurity and malnutrition in the face of shocks and stresses and helps inform programming and interventions on how to strengthen the resilience of agriculture-based livelihoods. The platform provides an overview of tools, approaches, programmes, analyses and methodologies on resilience implemented by FAO and other key partners in different contexts. It serves as an integrated and action-oriented platform on resilience-related initiatives and provides good practices on resilience building. Where appropriate, FAO will ensure that all key documents, findings and publications generated by the project are available and disseminated in both English and Ukrainian.

**Communication, visibility and outreach**

FAO has a robust communications team in Ukraine, supported by regional and headquarters-level experts, that ensures coherent and coordinated communication with all stakeholders at both the national and global levels. This includes communications actions within the country (e.g. TV, radio, internet and printed press) and internationally through media outreach, the FAO website and social media platforms. The communications team has a strong partnership with local and international media outlets as well as with the press offices of MAPF and the Ministry of Economy, which helps disseminate information promptly and effectively to the target audience.

In 2023, sustaining effective communication with target groups will include:
- Media advisories, press releases, interviews and media opportunities, human interest stories, press conferences and press visits to project sites (security permitting) to provide media coverage of key events, milestones and success stories;
• public events (e.g. conferences, presentations, farmer days, in-country meetings, visits of officials and field visits) and capacity-building activities (e.g. workshops, seminars and educational programmes) – to ensure consistency of messaging, quality of events, and visibility;
• public information materials such as publications, factsheets, posters and infographics – to be shared with the resource partners, beneficiaries, implementing partners and relevant stakeholders on a regular basis;
• FAO websites and social media accounts – to raise awareness among the general public on FAO’s activities in Ukraine; and
• Videos and photographs of projects activities to be used in communications materials and social media platforms.

On bi-weekly basis, FAO produces a bulletin to inform resource partners on project implementation status. On monthly basis, FAO issues a Humanitarian Response Update to highlight urgent needs and ongoing and planned assistance. On quarterly basis, FAO publishes reports on the impact of the war to provide a detailed analysis of the current status of food security and agricultural livelihoods. Relevant communications and branded materials feature the logos of both FAO and the respective resource partner(s). Branded banners are produced and used during the activities related to programme implementation.

Table 1. Financial requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Budget (USD million)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pillar 1 – Restoring food security and improving self-sufficiency in front-line communities</strong></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crop and livestock production inputs</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food security and livelihood impact assessments</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pillar 2 – Restoring critical agricultural production and value chains</strong></td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical crop seed support</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>E4F</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Value chain development</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural land demining recovery</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pillar 3 – Restoring critical agrifood system services</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Grain from Ukraine” Initiative</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veterinary laboratory services and equipment for vaccination</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Gene Bank of Plants of Ukraine</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sectoral damage and loss assessments</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
References

Saving livelihoods saves lives

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