

WFP News Video: WFP Scales Up Food Assistance in Ukraine

WFP News Video

Shot: 16-17Feb2015

TRT: [3:04](#)

Location: Donetsk region, Ukraine

Language: Russian/English

Shotlist:

:00-:11

GV's apartment building destroyed in a missile attack

Mykolaivka, Ukraine

shot:17Feb2015

:11-:22

SOT Ivan (Russian)

Ivan, a 75 years old retiree, lived on the 4th floor of the destroyed building.

"Up there a woman was killed..all they found was pieces of her body below. 14 people were killed"

Mykolaivka, Ukraine

shot:17Feb2015

:22-:27

Child's doll amongst the ruins of destroyed building

Mykolaivka, Ukraine

shot:17Feb2015

:27-:50

Displaced people from Debaltseve living in a railway car

Sloviansk railway station, Ukraine

shot:16Feb2015

:50-:56

Displaced people waiting to receive WFP food vouchers

The vouchers are worth \$45 per person-enough food for 1month. They can be redeemed in shops vetted by WFP. This allows them to choose a variety of foods like milk, fresh fruit,vegetables, eggs and meat and helps boost the local host economy

Sloviansk,Ukraine

shot:16Feb2015

:56-:59

Nellya (in red hat) is waiting in line for her vouchers. She is from near Donestk. The baby in her arms is 23months old. Her mother died in October 2014 so, Nellya is taking care of her now.

Sloviansk,Ukraine

shot:16Feb2015

:59-01:11

SOT Nellya (Russian)

"What is wrong? You have snow in your eye? We spend only on children and food..everything is for the kids."

Sloviansk,Ukraine

shot:16Feb2015

01:11-01:26

Displaced people receiving WFP food vouchers.The vouchers are worth \$45 per person-enough food for 1month. They can be redeemed in shops vetted by WFP. This allows them to choose a variety of foods like milk, fresh fruit,vegetables, eggs and meat and helps boost the local host economy.

Sloviansk,Ukraine

shot:16Feb2015

01:26-01:53

SOT Abeer Etefa, WFP Spokesperson

"The World Food Programme is providing food assistance in the form of food vouchers in the areas where markets are still functioning. So this is the relatively stable areas.In..near the front lines, WFP is providing traditional food rations. Its a drop in the ocean.The needs are great. Right now we are prepositioning food hoping that the ceasefire will hold and we are able to push food to over 60,000 people near the front lines"

Druzhkiuka,Ukraine

shot:17Feb2015

[01:53-02:09](#)

Sloviansk food market. Here both vendors and shoppers say food prices have gone up while many displaced people have exhausted their income and savings. Agricultural production has been affected by the fighting throughout eastern Ukraine. In non-government controlled and frontline areas food supplies have increasingly been interrupted. A recent survey indicates some areas with more than a 30% increase in prices for basic food items like bread and milk and up to 80% for meat and cheese.

Sloviansk,Ukraine

shot:17Feb2015

[02:09-02:48](#)

Irena, a nurse, and 2 of her 3 children cook, recite prayers and eat their lunch. They were forced to flee the fighting in Luhansk when their house was destroyed in Nov.2014 .They are now staying in a friend's apartment in Kramatorsk. They received WFP food vouchers.

Kramatorsk,Ukraine

shot:16Feb2015

[02:48-02:55](#)

SOT Irena(Russian)

"Can it be that a country that was as rich as ours was before cannot not feed itself and be dependent on others to help it?"

Kramatorsk,Ukraine

shot:16Feb2015

[02:55-03:04](#)

Irena being comforted by her daughter.

Kramatorsk,Ukraine

shot:16Feb2015

ENDS

WFP News Release

[19 February 2015](#)

**WFP SCALES UP FOOD ASSISTANCE IN UKRAINE
TO DISPLACED AND CIVILIANS TRAPPED BY FIGHTING**

KIEV – The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is scaling up its emergency operation in eastern Ukraine to feed close to 190,000 vulnerable people displaced by the conflict and civilians trapped near the frontlines.

WFP has also stocked food supplies near the conflict areas in anticipation of further waves of displacement and for distribution to people who are besieged by the violence.

“The humanitarian situation has deteriorated over the last few months in Donetsk and Luhansk with people fleeing their homes and taking refuge with extended families, in shelters, rented apartments and even in railway carriages,” said Carlo Scaramella, WFP Deputy Regional Director for the Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

“In areas where the fighting is still raging, the situation is even more precarious with civilians without access to functioning markets or food supplies,” he said.

Over the next few months, WFP will increase its assistance, including a one-off distribution of locally-procured food to over 110,000 people to meet their urgent food needs in largely besieged areas where access is limited and food supplies have dwindled.

The food rations include staples such as rice, vegetable oil, pasta, wheat flour, and canned food. In relatively stable areas with functioning markets and an influx of displaced families, WFP will distribute three rounds of food vouchers for nearly 80,000 of the most vulnerable people, particularly the elderly and female-headed households.

WFP uses food vouchers when food is available in markets but people cannot afford to buy it. Vouchers also inject money into the local economies of the host community – usually overburdened by hosting displaced people from other areas.

It is estimated that over 1 million people have been displaced in Ukraine since the start of the crisis. Many of them have exhausted their life savings and have no access to jobs.

Food prices have also risen dramatically in the eastern parts of the country. A recent survey found that prices in the area have gone up by 30 percent for items such as bread and milk and by 75-80 percent for meat and cheese compared to the same period last year.

A WFP team in Sloviansk has met newly displaced families from areas near Debaltseve and Horlivka. These families managed to escape the violence, but say that many civilians remain stranded. A 90-year-old woman, evacuated at night by her neighbours following heavy fighting in her village near Debaltseve, is now taking refuge in a railroad car in Sloviansk’s main railway station.

“I was taken from my home and I am here alone and I don’t know where I am,” she said. “I have children in Debaltseve and many family members. I am so worried about them.” WFP is prioritizing food assistance to displaced elderly people and host communities caring for them.

WFP began its operations in Ukraine in August 2014 and has reached over 50,000 people with food vouchers and food parcel distributions at a cost of US\$21.5 million. WFP needs an immediate US\$9 million to continue to provide assistance until June.

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WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide, delivering food in emergencies and working with communities to build resilience. In 2013, WFP assisted more than 80 million people in 75 countries.

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