


# Ukraine

## ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PEAK 2022

 **25%** of the total population faced moderate or severe acute food insecurity in 2022

Source: REACH, February 2023.


## Food crisis overview

 Prior to the start of the war in February 2022, acute food insecurity had been limited to the Luhanska and Donetsk oblasts for more than eight years due to conflict, high food prices and limited access to markets and basic services, as well as loss/lack of livelihood opportunities (GRFC, May 2022).

With the escalation and expansion of the conflict to full-scale war, 23 percent of the population experienced moderate levels of acute food insecurity and 2 percent severe levels of acute food insecurity, according to the CARI categorization. See *Technical Notes*. The worst outcomes were recorded in the southern (31 percent) and eastern (29 percent) oblasts, while the lowest levels were in central ones (19 percent) (REACH, February 2023).

Ukraine's agrifood sector suffered massive losses from the war, which have had a profound impact on crop and livestock activities within the country, as well as on global markets as Ukraine was a leading producer and exporter of agricultural commodities (FAO, December 2022).

## Drivers of the crisis, 2022–23

 **Conflict/insecurity** Production of cereals in 2022 was estimated to be about 30 percent lower than the five-year average, due to active fighting in parts of the country as well as lack of labour, high production costs and low farm gate prices. Remnants of the war in fields, especially mines, and constrained fertilizing and harvesting activities have

meant that large cropped areas were left unharvested and have also hampered planting of 2023 crops (FAO-GIEWS, December 2022).

Active fighting and the unprecedented scale of attacks on critical civilian infrastructure, especially energy infrastructure, disrupted public services and constrained farmers' abilities to store and transport crops.

The World Bank estimated that, as of June 2022, the war-induced damage to the agriculture sector within Ukraine was USD 2.2 billion, with the aggregate losses totalling USD 28.3 billion. These damages included the partial or full destruction of machinery and equipment, storage facilities, livestock and perennial crops, extensive losses of inputs and outputs, as well as large-scale damages to agricultural land (WB, August 2022). By February 2023, the damage to the sector was estimated at

USD 8.8 billion, and losses at USD 31.4 billion (WB, 2023).

Food availability at the national level was adequate in 2022 despite crop production being curtailed by war-induced damages (FAO-GIEWS, December 2022). Humanitarian access was highly constrained in parts of Ukraine, especially in frontline oblasts, due to the active fighting and shelling, as well as damage to infrastructure around the country (ACAPS, December 2022).

More than one in four respondents in a 2022 survey in rural areas had reduced or ceased agricultural production, with one in every three respondents having done so in the frontline oblasts (FAO, December 2022). There was also an estimated 40 percent reduction in the area planted with winter cereals, which could impact food availability throughout 2023 (FAO-GIEWS, December 2022).

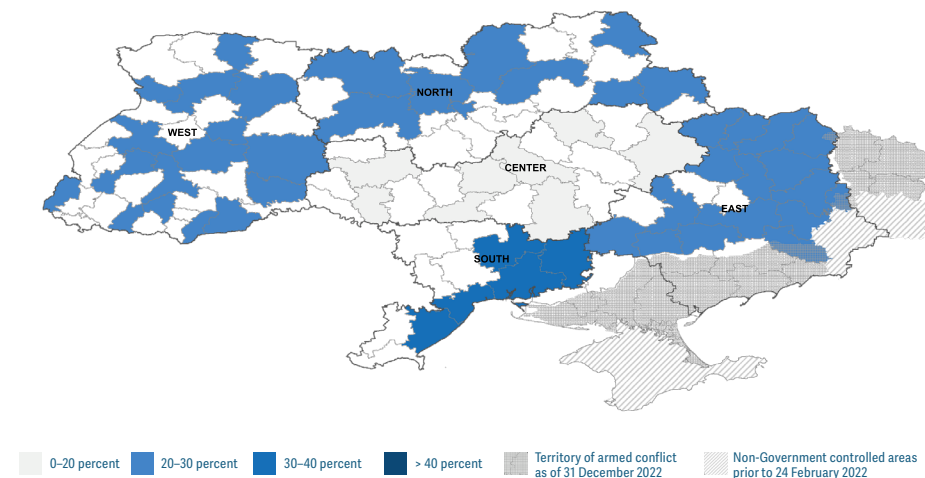


**Economic shocks** The war has had a severe impact on Ukraine's economy, challenging food access for households across the country (FAO-GIEWS, December 2022).

Before February 2022, Ukraine had already been experiencing elevated levels of food price inflation resulting from the conflict in the eastern parts of the country. In February 2022, annual food price inflation stood at 14.3 percent, but it spiked dramatically with the start of the war, rising to 35.1 percent by November 2022 (WFP, March 2023).

Increased energy costs amid high unemployment and limited livelihood opportunities reduced households' purchasing power (FAO-GIEWS, December 2022). The high costs of inputs and low farm gate prices hampered crop production, especially for rural households and small producers who are significant contributors to Ukraine's national crop production (HNO, January 2023).

## Share of the population facing moderate or severe acute food insecurity, 2022



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.  
Source: REACH, February 2023.

## DISPLACEMENT

Number of displaced people as a result of the war in Ukraine



Source: HNO, December 2022.

The war in Ukraine has led to unprecedented movements of people within the country and across its borders into Europe. As of October 2022, there were an estimated 7.7 million registered Ukrainian refugees in Europe.

The number of internally displaced people fluctuated throughout the year, with an estimated 6.5 million people being displaced internally within the first few weeks of the full-scale war. This eventually peaked at 8 million in early May 2022, and since then the number has gradually decreased to around 6.2 million as of September 2022 (HNO, December 2022).

The origin of IDPs also shifted in conjunction with where active fighting took place. At the beginning of the war in Ukraine, 49 percent of IDPs were from Kyiv and northern regions, but that changed from April 2022 when the Government of Ukraine regained control of these areas. The number of IDPs from the eastern oblasts steadily increased from June 2022 (HNO, December 2022).

Compared with the general population, a higher share of IDP households reported adoption of negative coping strategies in response to high prices and limited livelihood opportunities, including reduced food consumption (69 percent, compared with 55 percent of non-IDPs, including returnees) and savings spent (73 percent, compared with 60 percent of non-IDPs, including returnees) (HNO, December 2022).

From the start of the war, refugees' priority needs have remained constant: cash and financial support (67 percent), heating appliances (29 percent), solid fuel (23 percent) and food (22 percent). This is unsurprising given the widespread and continued disruption to utilities as well as respondents' employment of coping strategies to offset the financial exigencies of displacement. Between early November and the end of December 2022, 52 percent of IDP respondents reported actively reducing food consumption, and 63 percent reported reducing usage of gas, electricity and solid fuel due to financial concerns and disruption of supply chains (IOM, December 2022).

## NUTRITION



No recent nutrition data are available for Ukraine, but the factors that underlie wasting have been exacerbated by the war.

### Drivers of undernutrition



#### Food insecurity and lack of access to healthy diets

A remote emergency assessment on food security conducted from March–April 2022 showed that 21 percent of households in Ukraine had a borderline or poor food consumption score. The Luhanska oblast had the highest share of households with inadequate food consumption (47 percent), followed by the Donetska (35 percent) and Khersonska (30 percent) oblasts. In those areas, households principally resorted to consuming less expensive foods and/or reducing portion sizes to stretch out the food that was available to them. IDP households and those headed by women were more likely to have a borderline or poor food consumption score (WFP, May 2022). The assessment took place early in the war, before the active fighting retreated eastwards. Thereafter, following the retreat, in parts of the country not affected by active fighting, economic activities resumed.



#### Limited access to health and nutrition services

The war in Ukraine has put severe pressure on the country's healthcare system. The Ministry of Health of Ukraine reported that 955 health facilities have been damaged and another 144 were destroyed, with the highest numbers recorded in the Kharkivska and Donetska oblasts (HNO, December 2022). This has caused vital healthcare services to be interrupted. Ukrainians' access to medicines, and to health and social services has also been indirectly affected by lack of and rising cost of medicines in pharmacies, issues with transport, and lack of financial resources to pay out-of-pocket expenses (HNO, December 2022). As a result, people's health and nutrition have been negatively impacted.



#### Poor household environment

Damages to water supply and wastewater infrastructure led to shortages of drinking water and breakdowns in centralized heating, sewage and municipal services. This has placed thousands of people at risk of contracting illnesses, such as acute watery diarrhoea (HNO, December 2022). In the southern and eastern oblasts, access to safe water was also limited, as households are heavily dependent on energy for pumping their drinking water supply. In other oblasts, the change in living conditions and constraints on access to WASH services and products created new risks related to water quality and storage, and food and personal hygiene (HNO, December 2022).