



# FOOD SECURITY & GRAIN INITIATIVES

Maryna Maiboroda & Luba Krylova  
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# **Why is Food Security Important in the Context of Russia's War in Ukraine?**



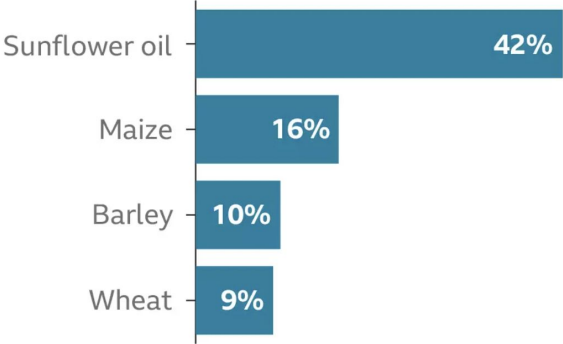
## Background

- Ukraine is a “**breadbasket of Europe**”
- **55%** of the territory is arable land; Ukraine has **30%** of the world’s black soil
- Pre-2022, Ukraine produced enough food to feed **400 million people per year**
- World Food Programme (WFP) sources **40%** of the wheat for its emergency food-relief programs from Ukraine



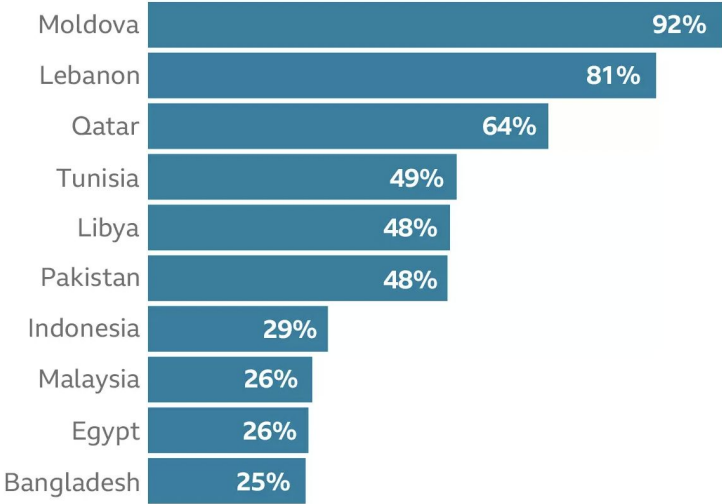
# Ukraine is a major supplier of key crops

% share of global exports, 2019



# Ukraine plays crucial role in the global food supply

% of wheat imports sourced from Ukraine



Source: Our World in Data, UN Food and Agriculture Organization



Source: UN Food and Agriculture Organization, data for 2020



# Russia's Attack on Ukraine's Agriculture & Farmland

- Since February 2022, Russia blocked safe passage to and from Ukrainian ports.
- It has been setting **sea mines** in the Black Sea and **shelling** Ukrainian ports.
- **1 in 6** Ukrainian crop storage facilities has been damaged, destroyed, or captured by Russia
- **Over 4 million tons** of Ukrainian grain were destroyed or stolen and smuggled from occupied territories
- **30%** of Ukraine's farmland is occupied by Russian forces or unsafe due to shelling or mining



Ukrainian field after airstrikes by Russia. May 2022. Roman Ratushnyi



# Spillover Effects on Global Food Security

- Global food system had already been affected by the pandemic and the climate crisis pre-invasion.
- Since February 2022, an increase from **287 million in 2021** to **349 million** people suffering from acute food insecurity in 2022.
- Increase of the Food Price Index by **14%** and increase in the cost of fertilizer.
- Vulnerable countries dependent on grain imports were hit the hardest (Lebanon, Tunisia, Somalia, Libya, Eritrea).

→ Russia is weaponizing food supplies in its war against Ukraine

# Black Sea Grain Initiative

- Facilitated by the United Nations and Türkiye to allow the export of 22 million tons of Ukrainian wheat, corn, and other cereals and signed in July 2022.
- **800 vessel trips** exported over **21 million tonnes of food** (February 2023).
- **65%** of exported wheat reached developing countries.
- Challenges:
  - Russia's threats to leave the deal
  - Slowdown in vessel inspections – 145 ships are waiting in the waters of Türkiye



The first commercial vessel carrying grain under the Black Sea Grain Initiative. UN OCHA/Levent Kulu



## Grain from Ukraine

- Launched by President Zelenskyy on the 90th anniversary of the beginning of the Holodomor.
- Humanitarian program aims to supply at least **60 vessels** of Ukrainian grain to over **1 million people** in countries most vulnerable to food insecurity (e.g. Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Congo, Kenya, Nigeria and Yemen).
- Ukraine so far raised **\$200 million from 30 countries**, including EU, Qatar, Türkiye, Japan, Norway, Korea, Canada and the United States.
- Food security is a critical part of President Zelenskyy's 10-point peace formula.



- "Ukraine, as one of the guarantors of global food security, will continue making its key contribution. Despite the war. Despite any challenges. Ukraine will fulfill its export obligations regarding the supply of grain and other foodstuffs to the global market," – Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the first International Food Security Summit.



Participation of the President of Ukraine in the inaugural International Summit on Food Security. 26 November 2022. The Presidential Office of Ukraine



# Food Security Disinformation

- In attempts to deflect its responsibility for disrupting the global food supply, Russia has been spreading disinformation and conspiracy theories around food security, primarily targeting affected countries in Africa and Middle East
- Key disinformation narratives focus on:
  - Impact of Western sanctions on food security
  - Recipients of Ukrainian grain
  - Deliberate withholding of food supplies by the West

# Harmful Language - Food Security Edition



Hungry world at critical crossroads



SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## Ukraine ripple effects drive record food insecurity

Number of people acutely food insecure or at high risk (millions)

Category	2021	2022
Who we are	56.2	59.1
Our work	50.1	53.8
Where we work	49.5	59.1
MEDIA & RESOURCES	49.7	51.4
Get involved	49.7	51.4

### 'This war must end': The Ukraine crisis seven months on

The World Food Programme's regional chief, Corinne Fleischer, on why peace is the best long-term solution for the country and those around the world dependent on its grain.

15 September 2022, Peyvand Khorsandi



WHO WE ARE



WHAT WE DO

WHERE

IMPACT

RESEARCH

DASHBOARDS

NEWS & EVENTS

HOW WE WORK

FUNDERS

News alert:

Our team in Syria is working to deliver essential supplies to communities affected by a magnitude 7.8 earthquake.

### How to Avert a Food Crisis Caused by Conflict in Ukraine



## The Russian-Ukrainian Conflict and Its Food Security Implications in Northwest Syria

# Thank you!

