

One Year of the Black Sea Grain Initiative: Ukraine's Response to Russia's Hunger Games

July 22, 2023, marks one year since the signing of the **Black Sea Grain Initiative** initiated by Ukraine to stabilise the global food supply and decrease price volatility. Despite its intended purpose of delivering food from Ukraine to the world's most vulnerable regions and mitigating the worsening global food crisis caused by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Russia has managed to turn even this crucial global initiative into a tool of blackmail.

On July 17, 2023, Russia halted the Black Sea Grain Initiative from July 18, 2023. This action by Russia is yet another deliberate move in its hunger games that will provoke a rise in prices on the global food market.

Right after withdrawal from the **Black Sea Grain Initiative**, Russia demonstrated its true attitude toward global food security by attacking key Ukrainian seaports, Odesa and Chornomorsk, with numerous missiles and drones. Russia deliberately strikes Ukrainian cities, which are vital for global food security, in order to achieve its political goals.

While Russia has failed to uphold its obligations under the agreement with the UN and Türkiye, Ukraine's commitment to the agreement remains intact.

The Black Sea Grain Initiative results:

Almost

33 million tons of agricultural products were exported to **45 countries**

60%

of the volume exported to countries in Africa and Asia

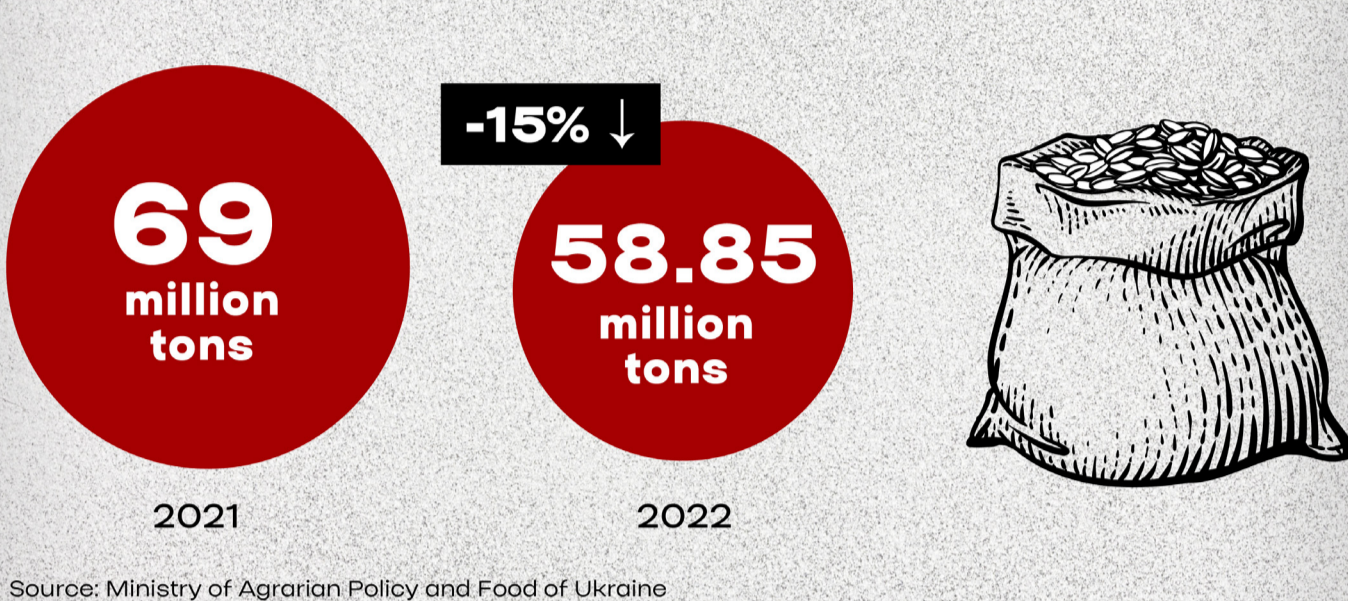
Source: Volodymyr Zelenskyy, President of Ukraine

How Has the World Food System Been Compromised by Russia?

On February 24, 2022, **Russia launched a full-scale war against Ukraine** that profoundly impacted global food security. Blocking food exports from Ukraine via Black Sea ports due to Russia's unprovoked aggression caused a major negative impact on the fragile global food system already affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Russia's actions have disrupted food supply chains worldwide, with long-lasting implications for global food markets.

Visit the "**Russia's Famine Games**" website, providing verified data and consolidated information on the subject.

Ukraine's annual agricultural export



Ukraine's Initiatives to Stabilise Global Food System

● The Black Sea Grain Initiative

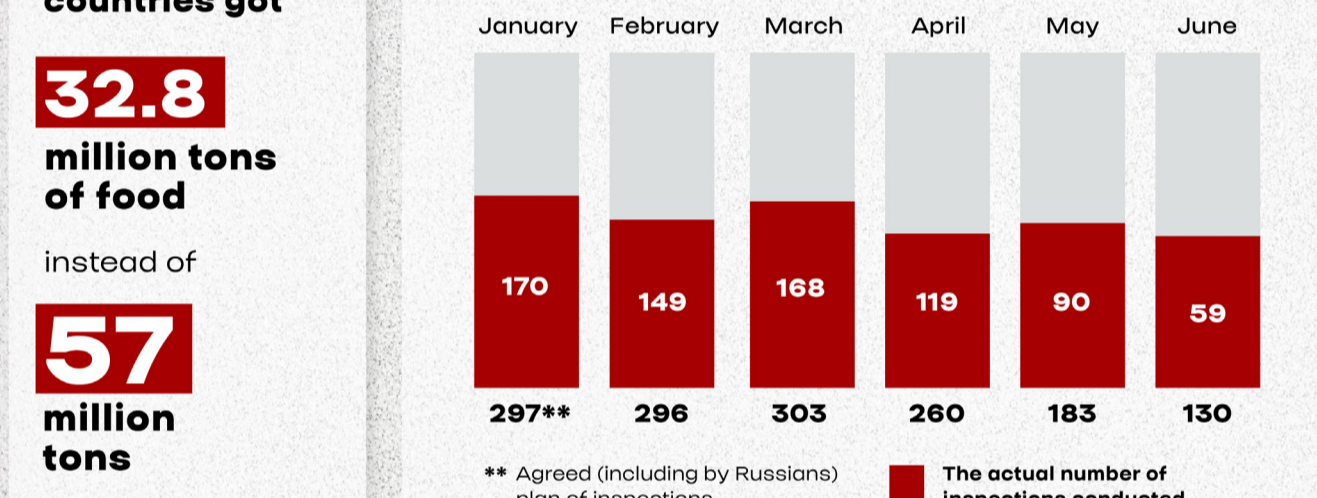
Ukraine has implemented crucial measures and successfully rallied the international community to tackle the global food crisis. Before Russia's full-scale invasion, seaports played a vital role as key routes for grain exports. Despite significant efforts by Ukraine and its EU partners to enhance export volumes by land via **Solidarity Lanes**, de-blocking three Black Sea ports remained crucial. On July 22, 2022, the **Black Sea Grain Initiative** was signed. It consists of two deals: one signed by the UN, Türkiye, and Russia, and the other signed by the UN, Türkiye, and Ukraine. The initiative aimed to secure uninterrupted grain exports from three crucial Ukrainian ports in the Black Sea: Odesa, Chornomorsk, and Pivdennyi.

Thanks to the Black Sea Grain Initiative, **more than half** of the global supply by the United Nations World Food Programme has been covered by Ukrainian grain.

Last year, when the initiative was introduced, grain prices around the world dropped. Together with other factors, it had a positive long-term effect. In June 2023, the prices were 23.4% lower than in March 2022, when Russia started the blockade of the seaports.

Russia's deliberate sabotage and blackmail tactics have disrupted the initiative by delaying inspections of ships and blocking ports in an attempt to advance its own agenda. By violating the agreement's terms, Russia has again proved to be an unreliable partner in fulfilling commitments. This was exemplified by Russia's full blockade of Ukraine's Pivdennyi seaport on April 29, 2023. Consequently, the functioning of the Black Sea Grain Initiative has been fully blocked by Russia, with the last grain vessel departing the port of Odesa on July 16, 2023.

Russia purposefully blocks the implementation of The Black Sea Grain Initiative



● The Grain from Ukraine Initiative

Proving its genuine commitment to guaranteeing food security, Ukraine has also launched an important humanitarian program — **Grain from Ukraine**, initiated by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on November 26, 2022. Within the framework of the initiative, Ukraine distributed grain free of charge to countries in need, particularly in Africa, with the support of **34 donor countries**. This program underscores Ukraine's global role in promoting food security and invites new countries to join, expanding the participant network and safeguarding global food security.

Results of "Grain from Ukraine" humanitarian food program



Ukraine As a Global Food Security Guarantor: Facts & Numbers

Before Russia's full-scale invasion on February 24, 2022, Ukraine provided food for over **400 million** people worldwide and was one of the leading exporters of wheat, corn, and sunflower oil.

As of **July 2023**, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) so far procured **80%** of this year's purchases of wheat grain from Ukraine via the Initiative, up from **50% in 2021 and 2022**.

Source: the UN Coordinator for the Black Sea Grain Initiative

Ukraine's agricultural sector estimated **\$40 billion** in direct and indirect losses.

Source: "Ukraine – Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment: February 2022–2023" from March 2023

Uniting Against Russia's Famine Games

The stability of global food security continues to face vulnerabilities due to Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Ukraine appeals to the international community, urging condemnation of Russia's actions. Food security is one of the important points of the President Zelenskyy's Peace Formula, aimed at restoring just and lasting peace in Ukraine in line with the UN Charter and UNGA resolutions.

It is of utmost importance to raise awareness worldwide, reaching out to partners, friends, and those directly impacted by the reduced food supplies due to Russia's war on Ukraine. By taking joint and resolute actions, the international community must ensure that Russia's food blackmail fails and guarantee unhindered Ukrainian food exports even without relying on any Russian approvals.

Additional information

The special project, **Russia's Famine Games**, aims to provide consolidated and verified information to global audiences and draw the world's attention to Russia weaponising a food supply. **Russia's Famine Games** was launched in August 2022 by BRAND UKRAINE NGO and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. The landing page of the project is a special section on war.ukraine.ua, the official Ukraine's website about Russia's full-scale war.

Ukrainian Farmers — Guardians Of The Harvest

Missile strikes and shelling by Russian troops have damaged and destroyed dozens of farms, stocks of food and seeds, silos, warehouses, oil depots, agriculture machinery and equipment. Explore inspiring **stories** of brave Ukrainian farmers who continue their daily hard and now dangerous work to provide wheat, sunflower, corn, and more to those who depend on those food supplies globally. **Watch videos from Ukraine's agrarian front.**



THE DAMAGE TO THE FARM IS ESTIMATED AT \$1.5 MILLION, BUT WE WILL REBUILD EVERYTHING

The Naporivske farm was under Russian occupation for a month. Despite the huge losses, the farm owner feels optimistic and has already begun the reconstruction.

[READ MORE →](#)

Visit the website **Russia's Famine Games** for more verified data, free illustrations and infographics



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