

THE **BLACK SEA** GRAIN INITIATIVE

As of November 10, 2022

PHOTO: ADOBE STOCK

BACKGROUND

In July, the UN helped broker a lifesaving deal between Ukraine, Turkey and Russia that enabled Ukraine to resume shipping millions of tons of desperately needed grain exports through the international waters of the Black Sea. The deal unlocked millions of tons of desperately-needed grain and other foods that would otherwise be stuck in Ukraine. The Black Sea Grain Initiative helps people in need across the globe by directly delivering desperately-needed grains to lower-income countries and bringing down food prices. **The Black Sea Grain Initiative could be forced to expire in late November if Putin refuses to renew it. The Black Sea Grain Initiative must continue and be extended.**

Since the first ship went out on August 1:

- Over **435** ships have departed to some **39** countries, transporting over **10** million tons of cargo carrying life-saving food exports from Ukraine ports.
- More than **2.2 million** metric tons of food have been exported directly to countries most vulnerable to severe hunger, like Kenya, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Yemen, Ethiopia, and Somalia.
- Over **1.3 million** metric tons of wheat have been shipped from Ukraine to low and lower-middle income countries through the Black Sea Grain Initiative. That is the equivalent of nearly **3 billion** loaves of bread.

FACTS & FIGURES

<p>The Black Sea Grain Initiative is getting more food onto the market and bringing down the overall cost of food.</p>	<p>Nearly 50% of Ukraine's total Black Sea wheat exports have gone to lower income countries.</p>	<p>The initiative doubled the amount of wheat shipped to least developed countries between August and September – about half a million tons.</p>
<p>The Black Sea Grain Initiative is also important to Ukraine's embattled economy and the livelihoods of tens of thousands of Ukrainian farmers.</p>	<p>The World Food Programme has purchased wheat through the initiative for people who are most vulnerable to severe hunger in Yemen, Ethiopia, Afghanistan and Somalia.</p>	<p>The number of ships and the volume of exports has increased each month. The demand for Ukraine's food exports is clear. Ports must remain open to meet this demand.</p>

BLACK SEA GRAIN INITIATIVE IMPACT ON FOOD PRICES:

- The FAO Food Price Index has fallen every month since its spike at the start of the war.
- While the Black Sea Grain Initiative helped spur declines in critical food prices, concerns stemming from Putin threatening to pull out of the deal are already causing price increases for wheat and corn.
 - The Food Price Index published by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization has shown that, overall, the prices of global food staples have declined for six straight months – by about 8.6% in July, 1.9% in August and 1.1% in September. But with the initiative ending in November and its renewal uncertain, the prices of some commodities, such as wheat and maize, are rising again.

UPDATES ON SHIPS CARRYING USAID-FUNDED EXPORTS:

- The United States has provided funding through the World Food Program (WFP) to buy 210,000 metric tons of grain from Ukraine to move through the Black Sea to feed people around the world facing the most severe food crises, including in Ethiopia, Yemen and Afghanistan. The United States has provided more than \$68 million to WFP as part of this initiative.
- The Ikaria Angel, a USAID-supported ship, departed Ukraine en route to Ethiopia carrying 20,000 metric tons of WFP grain, enough to feed 3 million people for three months.
- In the coming weeks, additional USAID-supported ships are scheduled to deliver grain to Yemen and Afghanistan as part of this commitment.