

# In focus: Black Sea Initiative and Memorandum of Understanding

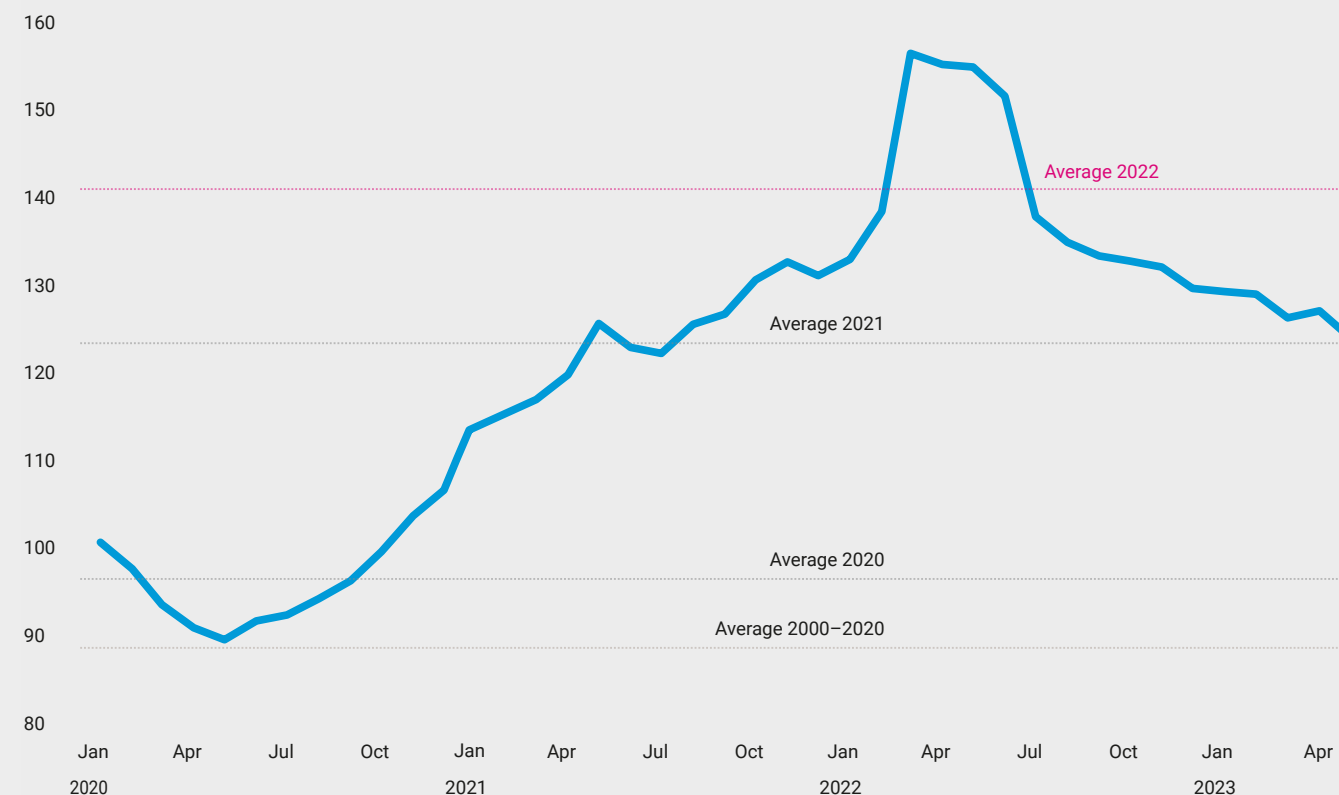
The Initiative on the Safe Transportation of Grain and Foodstuffs from Ukrainian Ports (Black Sea Initiative) was signed by Türkiye, the Russian Federation and Ukraine and witnessed by the United Nations on 22 July 2022. The Memorandum of Understanding between the Russian Federation and the Secretariat of the United Nations on promoting Russian food products and fertilizers to the world markets was also signed on 22 July 2022.



**OVER  
32 MILLION**  
tons of foodstuffs  
have been exported under the Initiative\*  
\*as at June 2023

## The Initiative has helped to reverse rising food prices, but affordability remains a challenge

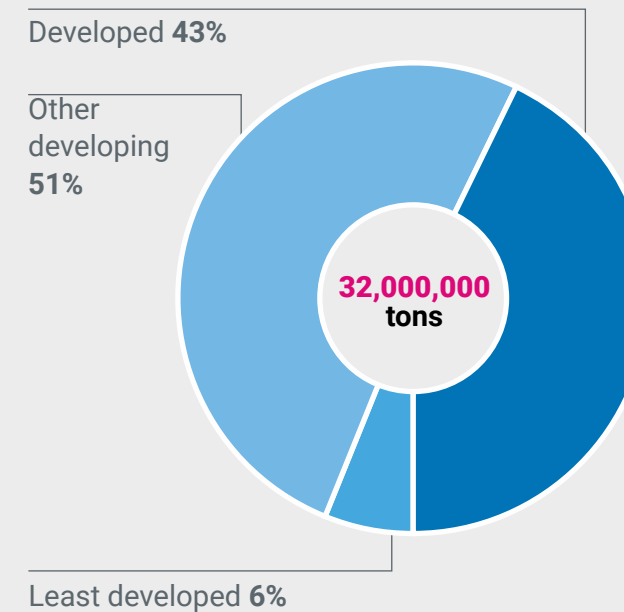
FAO Food Price Index (100=January 2020)



Source: UNCTAD secretariat based on data from the Joint Coordination Centre as at 15 June 2023.

## Developing countries are the main importers under the Initiative

The Initiative has enabled exports to 45 countries across three continents, with more than half to Africa and Asia  
*Share of foodstuff exports to country groups by development status*



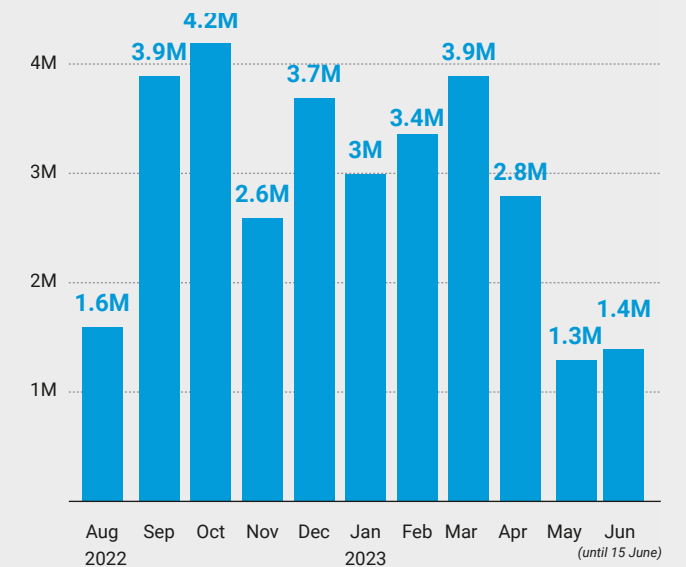
Source: Data from the Joint Coordination Centre and the Black Sea Initiative website as at 15 June 2023.  
Note: Cargo may be processed and re-exported from the primary destination.

## The Initiative restored a vital supply of wheat for the World Food Programme's humanitarian operations

As of mid-June, WFP had shipped 655,000 metric tons of wheat under the Initiative in support of its humanitarian operations in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. In 2022, Ukraine supplied more than half of the global wheat grain procurement of WFP, as was the case in 2021.

## Exports under the Initiative have fluctuated but been sustained

Monthly exports under the Black Sea Initiative in metric tons



Source: Data from the Joint Coordination Centre and the Black Sea Initiative website as at 15 June 2023.

## Memorandum of Understanding

The Memorandum of Understanding with the Russian Federation has contributed to:

The reduction of global food prices since their heights in March 2022

Increased export volumes of Russian food and fertilizers to global markets

A steady number of ships calling at Russian ports

Lower freight and insurance rates

The United Nations remains resolute in its efforts to ensure global food security by making food and fertilizers available worldwide at reasonable prices.