

Black Sea Initiative Ukraine grain exports exceed one million tonnes

More than one million tonnes of grain and other commodities have been exported from Ukrainian ports under the recent Black Sea initiative so far, says its UN Coordinator Amir Abdulla.

Mr Abdulla credits the ardent efforts of Joint Coordination Centre (JCC), without whom this remarkable achievement amidst the repercussions of the ongoing war would not have been possible.

JCC was established on July 27, with its operations beginning on August 1, 2022. The JCC brings together representatives from Ukraine, Russia, Turkey and the UN – the signatories of the landmark agreement.

In its initial run of 120 days, the Initiative hopes to see significant volumes of commercial grain exports move from three key Ukrainian ports in the Black Sea – Odesa, Chornomorsk, Yuzhny – to world markets.

“As the world grapples with food insecurity and high prices, the importance of this Initiative is clear. As increased volumes of Ukraine’s agricultural production are now heading to market by sea, confidence has grown in the food and shipping industries, driving down prices and reducing risk,” comments Mr Abdulla.

“These are all important first steps but much more needs to be done,” he stresses. “Across the world, high prices in fuel and fertiliser, climate change and conflict are placing immense pressure on farmers and consumers alike; driving millions more into poverty and hunger.”

While the agreement includes commercial activities for the restart of exports, he also reveals that the World Food Programme (WFP) has also been able to resume buying Ukrainian wheat for its humanitarian operations in nations like Ethiopia and Yemen.

Following Russia's invasion on February 24, Ukraine, one of the biggest grain exporters in the world, has been unable to ship grain through its Black Sea ports for almost half a year.

With extra grain being brought in from the current crop, Ukraine is believed to have more than 20 million tonnes of grain in storage at its Black Sea port facilities.