UK rebuts Putin claim that Ukraine grain exports not going to poor countries

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The UK government at the weekend dismissed the claim made last week by Russian President Vladimir Putin that only a small percentage of the grain being exported from Ukraine via the Black Sea Corridor agreement was being delivered to poor countries.

The Russian president had claimed that only two of 87 ships, carrying 60,000 tons of products, had gone to poor countries. The agreement to allow grain exports from three Ukrainian Black Sea ports was brokered by the UN and Turkey in late July and came into effect early in August.

Quoting UN figures, the UK Ministry of Defence said that about 30% of grains exported under the deal had been supplied to low and middle-income countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

The Ministry said that Russia was pursuing a deliberate misinformation strategy as it sought to deflect blame for food insecurity issues, discredit Ukraine and minimize opposition to its invasion.