**Why Cash?**

Multi-Purpose Cash (MPC) assistance is one of the most efficient and effective ways to support people forced to flee, or who remain in areas heavily affected by the war. It serves as a transitional safety net pending the individual’s ability to find a job or be included in national social protection schemes. Using secure finance technology combined with strict data protection measures, UNHCR provides those in need with cash securely and quickly. Families can purchase goods and services from local businesses, boosting the local economy. Importantly, cash assistance respects the dignity of choice and independence of displaced and war-affected people, providing a sense of normalcy and ownership, allowing them to decide what they need most.

**Who is eligible?**

Cash assistance is targeted based on vulnerability and an individual must meet one or more of the following vulnerability criteria: a) single-headed households with at least one minor child or family member above the age of 55; b) older people (over 55 years of age) heading households; c) households with one or more people with specific needs; and/or d) foster families caring for unaccompanied and separated children. Eligible people should also meet the socio-economic criteria of earning less than UAH 5,400 per person (family member) per month. UNHCR uses Building Blocks, a neutral humanitarian blockchain network, to ensure de-duplication of cash assistance provided by other organizations.

**Working with the Government**

UNHCR works closely with the Ministry of Social Policy (MoSP) and the Ministry of Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories (MinRein) to ensure complementarity. With the MoSP, and in-line with a Cabinet decision and an MoU concluded on 19 April, UNHCR receives referrals of registered IDPs and other war-affected people with specific vulnerabilities. Under this arrangement, in 2022, UNHCR successfully assisted 344,733 vulnerable people referred by the MoSP with cash assistance. This included 207,952 people who received winter cash assistance and 19,910 individuals in vulnerable situations from Khersonska oblast. Reaching communities in areas where the Ukrainian Government regained control with cash assistance is a key priority. In January 2023, UNHCR received new referrals from MoSP in Kherson to support 17,117 individuals. Following the de-duplication exercise, UNHCR processed payments to 11,620 individuals.

With the Ministry for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development of Ukraine, UNHCR supported families hosting IDPs under the Prykhystok programme and received lists of host families in late August. As agreed with the Ministry, UNHCR provided one-off cash support to 39,773 households hosting IDPs to help meet additional expenses incurred.

**Effectiveness and quality**

To assess the effectiveness and quality of its cash assistance, UNHCR commissioned a post-distribution monitoring (PDM) exercise in June 2022, to gain insight into the experience of recipients as well as the utilization of the cash assistance. A second PDM exercise was completed in December 2022. Data collection was carried out by a third party, Mindset, in November and December 2022, employing a quantitative methodology. A third PDM is planned for June 2023.
Where are we supporting?

As the war has evolved, needs and thus priorities have changed overtime, UNHCR has adjusted the location of its enrolment. Initially, focus was on the western oblasts hosting large numbers of IDPs, while UNHCR is since June prioritizing oblasts in the centre, south and east of the country. UNHCR currently maintains active enrolment in 17 oblasts through centres and/or mobile teams in Cherkaska, Chernihivska, Dnipropetrovska, Kharkivska, Khersonska, Khmelnytska, Kirovohradska, Kyivska, Lvivska, Mykolayivska, Odeska, Poltavska, Sumksa, Vinnytska, Zaporizka, Zakarpatska and Zhytomyr ska oblasts.

Multi-service protection centres

Since June, UNHCR has also transformed its cash enrolment centres into multi-service protection centres (“one-stop-shops”), where people can access a range of services, including legal aid, psychosocial support, counselling on accommodation, and other services and assistance programmes. All IDPs and war-affected people accessing the centres are interviewed to assess eligibility and those who are found eligible have their data that is required for the payment delivery recorded in UNHCR’s registration system (ProGres). Protection services and referrals on the spot are offered to all IDPs and war-affected people who approach the centres. UNHCR partners also operate mobile teams that enable reach to vulnerable people and families who are unable to come to the enrolment centres or who live in remote and/or rural areas.

How does it work?

1. IDPs and war-affected people can request an appointment at a multi-service protection centre or, pursuant to the MoSP-UNHCR MoU, are referred to UNHCR by the MoSP. Mobile enrolment is conducted to reach IDPs and war-affected people residing far from urban centres or with limited mobility.
2. At the centres, IDPs and war-affected people receive detailed information on the cash programme, targeting criteria, amount, and process, as well as the UNHCR hotline number (0800307711) to seek support.
3. To ensure only vulnerable IDPs and war-affected people receive cash support, only individuals who meet the vulnerability criteria, assessed through an individual interview by partner staff, are enrolled.
4. Eligible IDPs and war-affected people are enrolled by enumerators directly into UNHCR’s secured registration software (proGres), based on a limited number of data fields required for the purpose of administering the cash payment.
5. Tax ID numbers of all enrolled adults are collected as a unique identifier to ensure there is no duplication.
6. Payments are prepared and transferred through Rapyd to either bank accounts or Western Union for recipients. The Stellar Network was piloted in December 2022 and a total of 20 people received their assistance through the digital wallet.
7. Recipients receive an SMS when the assistance has been transferred to their bank account. The SMS also contains the hotline number in case of need.

### Cash assistance formats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cash assistance formats</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Government referrals received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular MPC assistance</td>
<td>UAH 2,220 per person per month for three months.</td>
<td>800,000 people (2023 target)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPC + Winter cash assistance (enrolled in 2022, paid in 2022 or 2023)</td>
<td>Eligible IDPs, returnees or other war-affected people enrolled as of 1 September until end of December 2022 received regular MPC assistance for three months plus a top-up for additional three months. Total amount of UAH 6,660 to cover basic needs during the winter.</td>
<td>336,966 people (2022 target)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) Key Findings:

- The cash assistance provided 70% of all respondents with the ability to cover half or more of their priority needs.
- The majority of all respondents reported that the cash assistance reduced the financial burden on their households (92%), reduced their feeling of stress (84%), and improved their living conditions (87%).
- Overall, the top five expenditures reported by respondents were food (79%), health costs (35%), clothes and shoes (35%), utilities and bills (31%), and rent (25%).
- Most beneficiaries (92%) did not need any help to withdraw or spend the cash assistance.
- Among respondents who received cash for hosting IDPs under the Prykhystok programme, 73% said that the financial burden on their household had reduced with 16% experiencing a significant decrease.

Source: UNHCR Ukraine Multi-purpose cash assistance December 2022 Post-Distribution Monitoring Report, commissioned by UNHCR Ukraine.

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**Working with Partners**

Enrolment to the cash programme is conducted by UNHCR local NGO partner Right to Protection.

Counselling lines and Q&A have been developed to guide enumerators and hotline operators in the communication with IDPs before, during, and after enrolment. Information is provided by Donbas SOS via the hotline.

UNHCR actively participates in the Ukraine Cash Working Group (CWG) and is leading the Task Team on De-duplication and Registration. In addition, UNHCR coordinates closely with actors such as ACTED, FAO, ICRC, IOM, NRC, UNICEF and WFP.