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 services in need with cash securely and quickly. Families can purchase goods and services from local businesses. Importantly, cash assistance respects the dignity of choice and independence of displaced and war-affected people, providing a sense of normality and ownership, allowing them to decide what they need most. UNHCR also provides cash assistance for shelter repairs and rental support to ensure access to sustainable housing options.

Who is eligible?

MPC 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 2022, 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.

As part of the high-level Steering Committee chaired by MoSP, UNHCR is also providing support at policy and technical level for the Pereshch Initiative which aims to guide the transition of the humanitarian MPC to an inclusive shock-responsive social protection system. UNHCR provides technical assistance through the secondment of a Senior Social Protection Officer to the Technical Assistance Facility, responsible for formulating recommendations and guidance for, as well as operationalizing the decisions of, the Committee.

With the Ministry of Regional Development (MoRD), UNHCR supported families hosting IDPs under the Prykhystok programme and provided one-off cash support in 2022 to 39,773 households hosting IDPs to help meet additional expenses incurred.
### Cash assistance modalities****

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cash assistance</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Outcome</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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash for rent</td>
<td>US$2,000 per household</td>
<td>3,945 people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash for repairs</td>
<td>Up to US$4,500 per household (HH) depending on shelter damage</td>
<td>2,395 HHs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**** Cash for rent and cash for repairs are not included in the MPC target. They are included in UNHCR’s shelter programme and are mentioned here to highlight the different cash assistance modalities.

### Where are we supporting?

As the war has evolved, needs and thus priorities have changed overtime, UNHCR has adjusted the location of its enrolment. UNHCR currently maintains active enrolment in 17 oblasts through centres and/or mobile teams in Cherkaska, Chernihivska, Dnipropetrovska, Kharkivska, Khersonska, Khmelnytska, Kirovohradska, Kyivska, Lvivska, Mykolaiavska, Odeska, Poltavska, Sumska, Vinnytska, Zaporizka, and Zhytomyrska oblasts, and a newly established centre in Donetsk oblast.

### Multi-service protection centres

Since June 2022, 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 are enrolled in UNHCR’s registration system (ProGres). Protection services and referrals on the spot is offered to all IDPs and war-affected people who approach the centres. UNHCR partners also operate mobile teams that enable us to reach vulnerable people and families who are unable to come to the enrolment centres or who live in remote and/or rural areas.

### 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.

### 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 bank accounts, Western Union, UkrPoshta or Stellar Vibrant wallet. The wallet is a pioneer integrated blockchain payment solution powered by Stellar network to reach people in need with speed and agility.
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.