

CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS | SLOVAKIA

Overview

The Government of Slovakia's Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, and Family (MoLSAF) provides social aid in the form of cash transfers to vulnerable Slovak households via their *Material Needs* program. The Government began to welcome refugees from Ukraine into this program as well, effective from February 2022.

To mitigate costs and help manage the scale of enrolment, MoLSAF requested international support through the inter-agency Cash Working Group with transitional cash aid. UNHCR in 2022 targeted a total of 34.500 refugees (representing 60% of the 57.500 registered individuals) in the initial emergency phase. In 2023, UNHCR continued to further complement the government-led efforts and address needs in social protection systems in Slovakia through targeted Cash assistance to 21.000 vulnerable individuals that, due to their protection profile, required additional support to meet their basic needs, with USD 6 million. In addition, the [Cash for Protection programme implemented as a protection intervention to respond to specific protection situations or profiles](#), help reduce refugees' reliance on negative coping mechanisms and achieve further protection outcomes.

In 2024, UNHCR introduced the [new Cash Assistance programme for refugees with vulnerabilities in Slovakia](#). This is a joint project with UNICEF. UNHCR targets individuals and families with very specific vulnerabilities and economic disadvantages, with the aim to assist persons with disabilities, older persons and persons with serious medical conditions who are not being assisted by the National Social Protection System. Priority will be given to vulnerable new arrivals, as well as those persons with multiple vulnerabilities, while at the same time efforts will continue for strengthening the referral pathways among the Partners.

Duration of Assistance and Transfer values

In 2024, UNHCR, in collaboration with UNICEF will support Refugees/ Temporary Protection holders ("odidenec"), Asylum Seekers and Stateless persons in Slovakia with the aim to continue to complement ongoing government-led efforts and to cover current gaps in social protection systems. With a focus on individuals who are considered extremely vulnerable, the 2024 Cash Programme will be implemented to respond to specific protection situations based on partner vulnerability assessment aiming to reduce refugees' reliance on negative coping mechanisms and achieve further protection outcomes. [Transfer values](#) align with the Government's programme on material needs payments to Slovak citizens, following a simplified scale that calculates the provided cash assistance in 2024.

Eligibility Criteria

On 16 May, the new "Cash Assistance for Refugees with Vulnerabilities in Slovakia 2024" programme was officially announced as a joint project of UNHCR and UNICEF. UNHCR targets individuals and families, while at the same time UNICEF targets families with children, with very specific vulnerabilities and economic disadvantages, with the aim to assist in particular persons with disabilities, older persons and persons with serious medical conditions who are not being assisted by the National Social Protection System. Eligible are those individuals and families who arrived in the Slovak Republic after 01 January 2024 and are economically disadvantaged, not being assisted by the Slovak Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (Úrad práce) and fulfilling one or more of the eligibility criteria below:

- Single parent or a caregiver with 2 or more children; OR
- Family with 3 or more children; OR
- Single parent or family with at least one child below 3 years old; OR
- Child in the family that is considered a person with a disability; OR
- 60 years old and above without a working adult family member; OR
- Person with a serious medical condition.

Each case is being assessed on its merits and UNHCR makes the final decision based on the outcome of an in-person interview. For more information please see the [Cash Assistance 2024](#) in UNCHR Help site