

KEY FIGURES



Refugees from Ukraine received **one-time winterization cash assistance** in Slovakia in December 2022 and January 2023



More than **40,000 people** as **beneficiaries** of the winterization assistance



8 enrolment centres in Bratislava, Zilina, Nitra, Michalovce, Kosice, Presov and Poprad



79% of the refugees supported were women



47% of the refugees assisted were **older people**



60% of PDM* respondents reported having **improved their living conditions following the cash assistance**



Slovakia. Refugees from Ukraine registering for UNHCR cash assistance. ©

Support Ukrainian families with one-time assistance for winter needs in 2022

In order to further support Ukrainian families, stateless persons and third country nationals affected by the war in Ukraine, UNHCR and UNICEF in cooperation with the Slovak Government provided a one-time emergency cash transfer for winter expenses, such as blankets, winter clothes and shoes, meals, utilities, etc. in December 2022. Refugees already registered for Temporary Protection (TP) status by the end of 2022 with up-to-date information in UNHCR database were among the direct beneficiaries of the Winter Cash Assistance while new arrivals in early 2023 could also enrol with UNHCR until end-January to receive that support.

Who was eligible for the emergency Winter Cash Assistance provided by humanitarian agencies?

People who fled Ukraine on or after 24 February 2022 due to the conflict and who were already Temporary Protection holders or asylum seekers, at the time of the call for participation in the programme, were eligible for cash assistance including Ukrainian nationals, nationals of other countries who were residing in Ukraine, or stateless persons. For the one-time payment in January 2023, only those who fulfilled the advertised eligibility criteria cumulatively could receive the assistance. All agencies provided the same amount of cash assistance.

What was the support refugees received?

The provided amount was calculated based on the number of family members. It was a one-time payment of 150 EUR per person, with a maximum of 400 EUR per family.

*Winterization Post Distribution Monitoring Survey 2023

What was the link between MPCA and Winterization Cash Assistance?

UNHCR's multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) as well as the winterization program in Slovakia was an opportunity to further support refugees, particularly those with specific needs. Winterization was a complimentary assistance on the top of the MPCA, with the later to have been provided by UNHCR until September 2022. Another important note to take for those two cash programs was the fact that enrolments continued until 20 January 2023, giving the opportunity to more persons in need to be assisted as long they were fulfilling the eligibility criteria.

How was the winterization assistance provided?

1. At a first step, Refugees had to visit **UNHCR Registration Centers** (<https://help.unhcr.org/slovakia/cash-assistance/centre-locations/>) to show evidence that they fled Ukraine on or after 24 February. UNHCR and Partner's staff were providing information to potential beneficiaries starting with their enrolment and any other support they needed through referrals.
2. Biometrics were captured and biodata recorded during the registration process to ensure there was no duplication of assistance provided in Slovakia or in other countries of the Ukrainian Emergency.
3. Refugees with identified specific needs (e.g. older people or separated children) or otherwise in need of urgent support were referred for further counselling to specialized Partners in the Centres for access e.g. to psychosocial aid, safe spaces and other services.
4. Once the payment was processed, those refugees paid via Western Union, received a unique 10-digit code (MTCN code) via SMS, with which they could collect their money at any Post Office in Slovakia within 15 days. Those paid via IBAN can simply collect their money at any time.

Who were our partners?

UNHCR, along with **UNICEF** provided one-time emergency cash assistance for the winter needs, in order to support the **Ministry of Labor Office and Family Affairs in Slovakia**. Our national NGO Partners included **People in Need, Slovak Humanitarian Council, Human Right League, Mareena, SME SPOLU**. Private sector partners included Western Union, a financial service provider.

What is next?

UNHCR Cash-based Interventions (CBI) and the inter-agency Cash Working Group (CWG) members concluded by the end of 2022 the multi-purpose cash programme for basic needs and carer's grant disability support.

With lessons learnt from 2022, UNHCR and UNICEF continue supporting throughout 2023 Ukrainian refugees, stateless persons and third country nationals affected by the war in Ukraine, and other refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons in Slovakia, who are particularly vulnerable. **The 2023 cash assistance programme (Cash for Protection) supports the vulnerable individuals and families to minimize protection risks and address their basic needs. In addition, it aims to ensure that beneficiaries of cash support are also linked to additional services they may need and included in the national social protection system.**

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help.unhcr.org/Slovakia / [Situation Ukraine Refugee Situation \(unhcr.org\)](https://www.unhcr.org/Situation-Ukraine-Refugee-Situation)