

KEY FIGURES



UNHCR supported with Cash assistance refugees with vulnerabilities in Slovakia in 2023



More than 16,000 people benefited from Cash for Protection assistance



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



67% of the refugees supported were females



25% of the supported refugees were single parents



16% of refugees are assisted elders

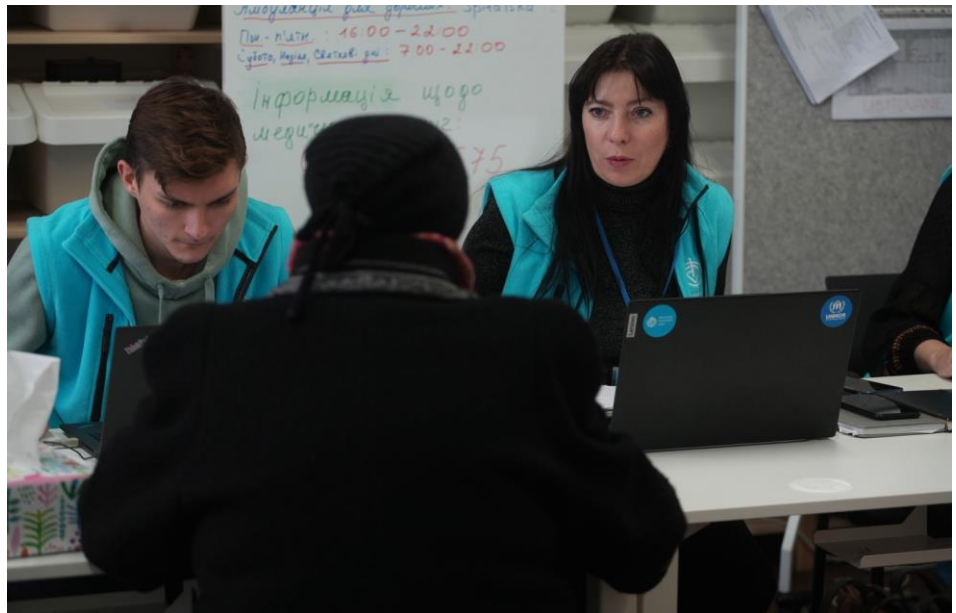


96% of PDM* respondents reported being satisfied by the targeting approach of the Cash for people with vulnerabilities



Groups

Adult	Child	Top-up
80 €	60 €	80 - 300 €



Nitra, Slovakia. Refugees from Ukraine registering with UNHCR. © UNHCR/Zsolt Balla

UNHCR-UNICEF supported refugees with vulnerabilities in Slovakia in 2023 (Cash for Protection)

UNHCR and UNICEF agreed in 2023 to continue their support to Ukrainian refugees, stateless persons and third country nationals affected by the war in Ukraine, as well as other other refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons in Slovakia with the cash assistance programme for refugees with vulnerabilities ([Cash for Protection](#)). The cash programme was designed to cover up to three-months period, with the aim to minimize protection risks, reduce negative coping mechanism and support basic needs.

Who was eligible for Cash for Protection in 2023?

[Cash for Protection](#) was provided only to individuals and families in a situation of vulnerability. Only those who fulfilled the specified criteria were considered for the cash programme.

The main vulnerabilities for eligibility were:

- Individuals at the age of 60 and above
- Single parents or caregivers
- Persons with serious medical condition or disability
- Single pregnant women

Additional element considered, was the economic vulnerability of the individuals and families applied.

What was the support eligible refugees received?

Transfer values were aligned with the Government's programme on material needs payments to Slovak citizens, following a simplified scale that specifies a single cash amount for each beneficiary based on age and with a supplementary amount (top-up) per vulnerability criteria.

What was the link between Cash for Protection and the The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic cash programme?

Cash for Protection programme was aligned with the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic social programme and individuals and families who were considered vulnerable by the Slovak Labour Office [Úrad práce] to provide complementary financial support. Also, the programme assisted newly arrived vulnerable individuals and families falling under the eligibility criteria as an initial safety net until inclusion into the MoLSAF social programme. Each case was assessed on its merits and UNHCR made the final decision based on the outcome of an in-person interview.

How was the Cash for Protection assistance provided?

1. At a first step, refugees had to make an appointment on-line by visiting [UNHCR Slovakia Help site](#) and wait to receive an SMS confirming their appointment date and location.
2. Following the SMS they should visit the indicated location and provide all the needed documents during their enrolment appointment with UNHCR. UNHCR and Partner's staff provided information to potential beneficiaries and any other support they needed through referrals. In addition, it aimed to ensure that beneficiaries of cash support are also linked to additional services they may need and included in the national social protection system.
3. Biometrics were captured and biodata recorded during the registration process to ensure no duplication of assistance in Slovakia or other countries of the Ukrainian Emergency.
4. Refugees 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.
5. Following the interview, if the review process showed that the case met the eligibility criteria, an SMS was sent to confirm the eligibility. If the case did not meet the criteria, an SMS was sent to inform the decision.
6. 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 Cash for Protection, in order to support The [Ministry of Labor Office and Family Affairs](#) in Slovakia. Our national NGO Partners included [People in Need Slovakia](#), [Slovak Humanitarian Council](#), [Human Right League](#), [Mareena](#), [SME SPOLU](#). Private sector partners included Western Union, a Financial Service Provider.

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