

Slovakia

Report on Cash for Protection in 2024



A Ukrainian refugee purchases essential medication at a local pharmacy, utilizing the cash assistance provided through Cash for Protection program.
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On 16 May 2024, UNHCR and UNICEF, launched a new joint cash assistance program aimed at supporting refugees with vulnerabilities in Slovakia with the aim to continue complementing the ongoing government-led efforts and to cover gaps in social protection systems. This initiative targeted refugees, Temporary Protection holders (“odidenc”), asylum-seekers, and stateless persons in Slovakia, who met a specific [eligibility criteria](#) to be considered particularly vulnerable. The objectives of the cash assistance were:

1. To mitigate individual protection risks.
2. To support the basic needs of vulnerable individuals and families.

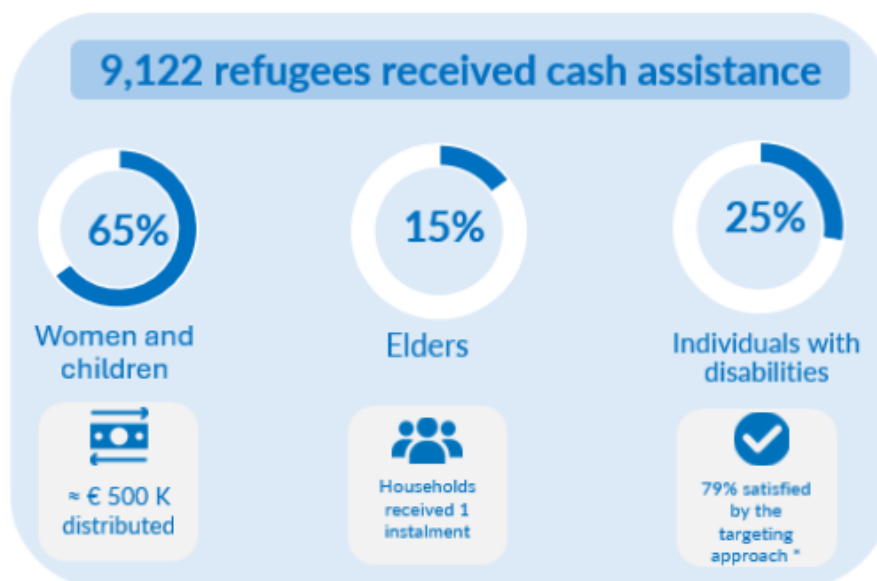
With a focus on newly arrived extremely vulnerable individuals as of 1 January 2024, the joint cash assistance program was implemented to respond to specific protection situations based on partner vulnerability assessment. The assistance aimed to reduce refugees’ reliance on negative coping mechanisms and achieve

further protection outcomes. Each case was assessed on its merits and UNHCR made a final decision based on an in-person interview and the review of the supporting documents provided. The Cash Working Group has played a pivotal role as an information hub, facilitating the implementation of the cash assistance program. This has been achieved through close cooperation with the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family.

The CBI eligibility criteria revised with a data-driven scoring system, utilizing the **vulnerability analysis** to meet basic needs using Slovakia 2023 MSNA data, and 2023 qualitative and quantitative analysis of community consultation. Households grouped according to levels of vulnerability to meet their basic needs, based on a measure of vulnerability calculated on a composite score of three variables from the data set.

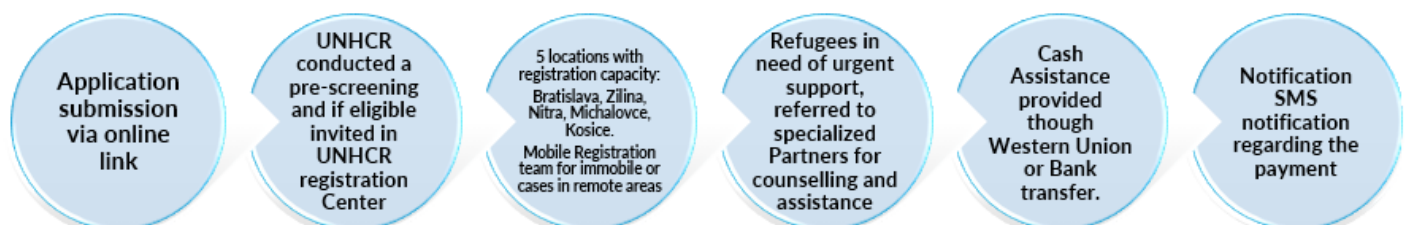
Economic capacity
Negative coping
Food consumption

Summary of Cash Assistance Impact



*Post Distribution Monitoring Survey on Cash Assistance 2024

Step-by-step process



Partners

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

Next steps

UNHCR and the inter-agency Cash Working Group (CWG) members continue jointly the efforts to support refugees, Temporary Protection holders, asylum-seekers and stateless persons in Slovakia. With lessons learnt from 2024, UNHCR will continue the support through a new cash assistance program in 2025, and additionally will aim to ensure that beneficiaries of cash assistance are also linked to additional services they may need and included in the national social protection system.

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