

# CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS IN 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* programme. On 22 February, the Government began to welcome refugees from Ukraine into this program as well: the first payments to refugees were on 15 April, to be followed by a second round on 15 May. To mitigate costs and help manage the scale of enrolment, MoLSAF requested international support with transitional cash aid to the approximately 20,000 refugee families already enrolled in addition to future refugee enrollees – for an initial period of 3 months – as well as international support with enrolling refugees into the system from 15 May until 15 August. UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM and IFRC answered this call and, in close coordination with these other agencies, UNHCR will soon finalize with the Government a Memorandum of Understanding and Data-Sharing Agreement to enrol and support refugee as of 15 May 2022 on an emergency basis.

## Duration of Assistance and Transfer Values

### Duration and Transfer Values

UNHCR and other actors will provide an initial 3 months of cash assistance through a financial service provider. A review will be conducted after 3 months to define needs and support moving forward. Transfer values align with the Government's *Material Needs* payments to Slovak citizens, on a simplified scale that specifies a single cash amount for each recipient based on their age:

Group		
Adult	Child <3	Child 3-18
• 80 Euros	• 160 Euros	• 60 Euros



## Communications

The MoLSAF and UNHCR co-chair the Cash Working Group, whose members agree that a joint communications strategy for CBI is important to this program's success, for both refugees and communities alike, and particularly as regards transparency and social cohesion. Strategic messaging for all stakeholders as well as flyers with information on the programme, including on enrolment, will be developed and distributed.



## Enrolment Using PRIMES

The Government's eligibility criteria for this program requires refugees from Ukraine to register for Temporary Protection (TP) status, apply for social assistance, and confirm that they are not receiving an income. In addition, UNHCR will also enrol extremely vulnerable refugees who are not eligible for TP status, including Third Country Nationals, and assist them in collaboration with UNICEF, IOM, and IFRC. Starting 15 May, UNHCR will work alongside MoLSAF to begin enrolling both groups using PRIMES at the current five registration centres in Bratislava, Nitra, Žilina, Humenné and Michalovce. TP status holders will be enrolled directly after they apply for TP with the police, and vulnerable non-TP-status holders will be referred by other agencies and community organizations via an appointments system.

UNHCR's enrolment process will collect basic biometric data and protection information of each individual applicant, and an initial eligibility questionnaire will help ensure appropriate screening. TP status holders who have not already applied for *Material Needs* program, as well as vulnerable non-TP-status holders, will be able to book an enrolment appointment online for one of the registration centres. UNHCR will also provide lists of beneficiaries in accordance with the data-sharing agreements and protocols, to IOM and UNICEF for their payment of Material Needs cash support.

UNHCR and UNICEF will use the *CashAssist* corporate tool for cash distribution, which allows for cross-checking assistance given by IFRC and IOM to avoid duplicative transfers.

