


SLOVAKIA


20 December 2022


KEY FIGURES

 **Over 50,000** refugees from Ukraine enrolled for cash assistance in Slovakia

 **To 34,064** people UNHCR Cash was transferred

 **5 enrolment centres** in Bratislava, Zilina, Nitra, Michalovce & Kosice

 **88%** of the refugees enrolled are women (51%) and children (37%)

 **11%** of the refugees enrolled are **older people**

 **72%** of PDM¹ respondents reported having **improved their living conditions**

¹ Post Distribution Monitoring Survey



UNHCR Staff and Partner Staff with Ukrainians seeking registration

Why cash?

UNHCR, UNICEF and the Red Cross supported the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (MoLSAF) to provide short-term emergency cash assistance from May to September to meet the material needs of people who had to flee Ukraine due to the conflict. This was limited assistance to help people with initial needs and transition to their stay in Slovakia. It was implemented in close coordination with the programmes of other members of the Cash Working Group (CWG), which is co-chaired by UNHCR and the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family. Cash transfers make people in need less likely to resort to harmful coping strategies, such as survival sex, child labour, family separation or forced marriage. They also directly benefit the local economy and can contribute to peaceful coexistence with host communities. The programme is designed to serve as a transitional emergency safety net until refugees are included into national welfare systems.

Who was eligible for this emergency Cash Assistance provided by humanitarian agencies in support of the MoLSAF programme?

People who fled Ukraine on or after 24 February 2022 due to the conflict and who are Temporary Protection holders or asylum seekers are eligible for cash assistance. They can be Ukrainian nationals, nationals of other countries who were residing in Ukraine, or stateless persons. Only one family member needs to have left Ukraine on or after 24 February to be eligible. If a person was enrolled to receive cash assistance from one organization, they are not able to sign up and receive emergency cash assistance from another organization. All agencies provided the same amount of cash assistance.

What was the support refugees got?

The provided amount was calculated based on the number of family members and their ages.

- Children < 3 years: 160 Euros
- Children 3-18 years: 60 Euros
- Adults: 80 Euros

For families with a member with a severe disability, it was possible to receive additional cash assistance based on an assessment. UNHCR and Red Cross referred these families to UNICEF and IOM who conducted assessments and provided support based on that. The amount provided is 508 Euros to persons with disabilities and their caregivers.

What is the link between cash assistance and protection?

UNHCR's cash assistance programme in Slovakia is an opportunity to reach refugees, particularly those with specific needs, and offer them additional support and protection services, like counselling, psychosocial first aid and referrals to other national services. Through Blue Dot in Slovakia, UNHCR managed to create a safe space for Protection with 3 Blue Dot Support Hubs in Bratislava, Michalovce and Kosice where UNHCR and partner organizations provide support to refugees with information and a range of services such as legal aid, cash assistance and disability support.

Refugees with Specific Needs
Around 5,000 individuals with one or more specific needs have been identified. The majority (30%) are persons with disabilities or medical conditions.

How did that work?

1. Refugees requested an appointment online, via help.unhcr.org/Slovakia or through our joint UNHCR-UNICEF Helpline in Slovakia, or by scanning the UNHCR QR code disseminated in all hubs across Slovakia or by sending an e-mail to UNHCR CBI mailbox svkbrccash@unhcr.org
2. They received an appointment via SMS to visit the closest UNHCR registration center, according to the location indicated in their appointment request.
3. At UNHCR Registration Centers (<https://help.unhcr.org/slovakia/cash-assistance/centre-locations/>), refugees needed to show evidence that they fled Ukraine on or after 24 February, and UNHCR and partner's staff helped them with their enrolment and any other support they needed through referrals.
4. Biometrics were captured and biodata recorded during the registration process to ensure there is no duplication of assistance, internally in Slovakia or externally with other countries of the Ukrainian Emergency.
5. If refugees have specific needs (e.g. older people or separated children) or otherwise in need of support, they are referred for further counselling to the Partners in the Centres that are operating as well, where they can access psychosocial aid, safe spaces and other services.
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 can 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 are our partners?

UNHCR, along with inter-agency operational partners **UNICEF, IOM and IFRC/Red Cross**, are supporting the **Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family** to provide short-term emergency cash assistance to people who have had to flee Ukraine due to the conflict, and cash for children or adults with disability. Our NGO partners include **People in Need, Slovak Humanitarian Council, Human Right League, Mareena, SME SPOLU**. Private sector partners include Western Union, a financial service provider.

What is next?

UNHCR CBI and CWG members have started the transition of the cash programme for basic needs and carer's grant disability support to MoLSAF. It is expected to be concluded by the end of 2022. Additional winterization support will be provided in December 2022 and January 2023.

For more information please contact:

Russell Fraser – External Relations Officer < fraser@unhcr.org >
help.unhcr.org/Slovakia / [Situation Ukraine Refugee Situation \(unhcr.org\)](https://www.unhcr.org/Situation-Ukraine-Refugee-Situation)