

Guidance Note

Cash-based support for most vulnerable refugees from Ukraine in Poland for the winter season 2023/2024

29/09/2023

Background

Cash-based support for most vulnerable refugees from Ukraine, in short Cash for winterization (CfWin) is part of the Inter-Agency winterization planning under the Refugee Response Plan 2023. The aim of cash-based support is to assist those conflict-affected households who fled the conflict in Ukraine and are currently in Poland to cover their additional basic needs associated with winter/seasonal items and additional utility costs (fuel, heating).

Transfer value

Based on discussion and agreement between Cash actors planning to implement Cash for winterization in the winter of 2023/24 in the Cash Working Group meeting held on 20 September, the recommended transfer value remains at the same level as during the previous winter, that is 1000 PLN per person, to a maximum of 3000 PLN per household.

It is recommended to pay the total amount in one off lump-sum transfer. The transfer value will encompass the additional needs for the winter season and is anticipated to be distributed within the year 2023, from October to December, as a one-off assistance. It is recommended to distribute the funds at the beginning of the winter season to allow beneficiaries to better prepare for the coming winter. However, organizations have the flexibility to provide assistance between January and March 2024 based on their operational circumstances.

Targeting and eligibility criteria

It is recommended to identify the most vulnerable refugees based on the "[Poland Vulnerability and Targeting Framework](#)", prioritizing HHs with intersectional vulnerabilities based on the categories below:

- Older Persons
- Separated children
- Persons with disabilities
- Caretakers of persons with disabilities
- People with serious medical conditions or chronic disease
- People at risk of eviction/homelessness (including in collective shelters)
- Refugees without legal status, as well as undocumented persons
- Pregnant & lactating women
- Single parents excluded from labour market due to caretaking obligations

Additionally, newly arrived households should be considered a priority.

Partners may identify beneficiaries of winter cash support from their existing caseloads or through a separate enrolment process.

Deduplication

To ensure efficient use of limited funds for cash for winterization, RAIS-based deduplication system will be used. A separate bundle for Cash for Winterization 2023/24 will be created and partners implementing this activity will be asked to report accordingly. The assumption is not to provide multiple cash for winterization grants to the same household more than once in the winter of 2023/24. However, the household may be a recipient of MPCA grant in addition to CfWin at the same time or may have completed their MPCA assistance cycle shortly before receiving CfWin.

Coordination

Partners are to submit details of their planned and implemented activities to the [2023/2024 Winterization Matrix](#) and [Cash assistance 5W](#) as well as report their completed activities in Activity Info database.