

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. The assistance was exceptionally extended for one additional month until 15 September following MoLSAF request. UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM and IFRC answered this call and, in close coordination with these other agencies, UNHCR signed on 27 April 2022 a Memorandum of Understanding and Data-Sharing Agreement with MoLSAF to enrol and support refugee with emergency cash assistance. An Interagency Plan was also signed between UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM and IFRC on coordination of delivery of assistance.

Duration of Assistance and Transfer Values

Duration and Transfer Values

UNHCR and other actors provided 4 months of cash assistance through two financial service provider (Bank Transfer and Western Union). A review was conducted after 3 months to define needs and support moving forward. Transfer values aligned 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, were developed and distributed. Information on Complaint and Feedback Mechanism was also developed and distributed.



Enrolment Using PRIMES

The eligibility criteria for this program aims at those who fled Ukraine on or after 24 February 2022 due to the conflict and who are Temporary Protection holders or asylum-seekers in Slovakia. 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.

Starting 15 May, UNHCR worked alongside MoLSAF to begin enrolling both groups using PRIMES at the 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.

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 and Asylum Seekers who have not already applied for *Material Needs* program 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 to avoid duplicative transfers.