

Building Blocks Ukraine Unintended Assistance Overlap Prevention Report

31 August 2022

Multiple organizations are assisting the affected population as part of the 2022 Ukraine humanitarian response. The predominant form of relief has been Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA). The Ukraine Cash Working Group (CWG) has recommended that humanitarian organizations assist each eligible person with UAH 2,220 per month. In addition, the assisting organizations wish to prevent unintended assistance overlap and allocate the limited collective resources as equitably as possible. Accordingly, the CWG has recommended Building Blocks (BB)¹ for assistance coordination in Ukraine.

Between 1 May and 31 August 2022, **18 humanitarian organizations*** used BB to flag potential unintended assistance overlap in UAH 10.5 billion (USD EQV 337 million) of assistance to 1 million unique households before confirming payment instructions with financial service providers. As a result, BB helped prevent **UAH 1.2 billion (USD EQV 35 million)** of unintended assistance overlap, translating to an **additional 185 thousand possible transfers** thanks to the inter-organizational collaboration effort.

Note: Please see the “Calculation Methodology” section on how the figures were derived.

*Organizations coordinating assistance on BB as of 31 August 2022:

1. Action Against Hunger
2. Adventist Development and Relief Agency
3. Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
4. Caritas
5. Dorcas
6. Estonian Refugee Council
7. Hungarian Interchurch Aid
8. International Organization for Migration
9. Joint Emergency Response Ukraine (a consortium comprised of Concern Worldwide, Cooperazione e Sviluppo, and Welthungerhilfe)
10. MEDAIR
11. Mercy Corps
12. Norwegian Refugee Council
13. People In Need
14. Solidarités International
15. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
16. United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund
17. World Food Programme
18. ZOA

¹ Building Blocks (BB) is a neutral humanitarian blockchain network 100% equally owned, operated, and governed by its members. However, due to the emergency nature of the 2022 Ukraine response and shortage of time, BB is being offered as a free service to the assisting humanitarian organizations with direct support from the World Food Programme (WFP). In the long run, if the participating organizations see the value in BB, they can become full members, set up their own infrastructure, and run their operations on BB in a context/country/use case-independent manner. For more information on BB, please write to global.buildingblocks@wfp.org or visit <https://www.wfp.org/building-blocks>.

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Calculation Methodology

1. If organizations have already distributed assistance before using BB, they first load their past (historical) assistance data to BB before loading yet-to-be-distributed assistance to which they wish to apply UAOP. Even though we cannot retroactively apply unintended assistance overlap prevention to previously distributed assistance, the historical data enables us to compare it to future, yet-to-distribute assistance, for UAOP purposes.
2. Some organizations discovered issues with their assistance data after loading it to BB. For example, some organizations had forgotten to multiply the MPCA amount (i.e., UAH 2,220 per person per month) by the assistance period (e.g., three months), while other organizations had loaded the same assistance file more than once. The first example would lead to under-reporting assistance, and the second example to over-reporting prevented unintended assistance overlap. Accordingly, we performed a row-by-row analysis of 1.7 million records on BB. We then sent a customized report, including flags for potential data issues, to each of the 18 participating organizations for their review. This report accounts for the feedback received.
3. The USD equivalent (USD EQV) figures are calculated based on the average of the open and close UAH/USD FX rates² on the day (or the nearest previous day if no FX rates were published on that day) each assistance file was uploaded to BB. If the data related to past (historical) assistance provided before each organization started using BB, we used the FX rate on the start day of each assistance period.
4. The number of extra transfers possible is calculated by dividing the UAH 1,228,912,080 of unintended assistance prevented by UAH 6,660 (based on CWG's guidance of assisting with UAH 2,220 per person per month for three months).
5. We excluded all instances where an organization had performed UAOP against itself.
6. We excluded all assistance initially loaded to and subsequently removed from BB.
7. The detailed results are as follows:

| | Unique Households Uploaded | Assistance Uploaded | Unique Households Assisted | Assistance Provided | Unique Households Prevented | Assistance Prevented |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|
| Before Coordination | 272,708 | UAH 5,560,786,980 (USD EQV 188,537,501) | 272,708 | UAH 5,560,786,980 (USD EQV 188,537,501) | - | - |
| With Coordination | 1,124,073 | UAH 10,514,612,640 (USD EQV 337,434,795) | 1,094,647 | UAH 9,285,700,560 (USD EQV 302,390,638) | 78,623 | UAH 1,228,912,080 (USD EQV 35,044,157) |
| Total | 1,361,753 | UAH 16,075,399,620 (USD EQV 525,972,296) | 1,276,333 | UAH 14,846,487,540 (USD EQV 490,928,139) | 78,623 | UAH 1,228,912,080 (USD EQV 35,044,157) |

- Before Coordination: Data related to assistance distributed before BB's use.
- With Coordination: Data related to assistance checked by BB for potential unintended assistance overlap.
- Unique Households Uploaded: Unique households assisted before coordination.
- Assistance Uploaded: Assistance loaded to BB to determine potential unintended assistance overlap.
- Unique Households Assisted: Unique households assisted with coordination.
- Assistance Provided: Assistance provided through coordination.
- Unique Households Prevented: Unique households to which overlapped assistance was prevented.
- Assistance Prevented: Unintended assistance overlap prevented through coordination.

² Obtained from <https://finance.yahoo.com/quote/UAH=X>.