



Cash assistance and social benefits in Ukraine

WFP IS ONE OF THE LARGEST ACTORS DISTRIBUTING CASH ASSISTANCE TO THE MOST VULNERABLE IN UKRAINE.

WFP has been working closely with the Ministry of Social Policy (MoSP) since April 2022 to provide cash transfers to people displaced and affected by the war, helping them meet their basic needs while also supporting Ukraine's economic recovery.

IN NUMBERS

US\$550M 

distributed by WFP since April 2022

2023 →

730,000 ●

People targeted for emergency cash assistance (January 2023)

UAH 2,220

2024

27,500 ● **UAH 3,600**

people targeted for emergency cash assistance (monthly)

200,000 ● **UAH 1,500**

people targeted for a transition to market-based assistance

700,000+ ● **~UAH 850**

people targeted for complementary cash transfers

OUR APPROACH



Emergency cash assistance

People experiencing direct shocks linked to the war, such as sudden displacement, receive at least three months of multipurpose cash transfers (UAH 3,600 - US\$97 per month)

~27,500 people targeted per month



Market-based assistance

In locations where WFP distributed food assistance before, but where markets are recovering, WFP is providing a monthly UAH 1,500 (US\$40) cash transfer for at least four consecutive months, prioritising people who previously received food assistance, while supporting their enrolment in national social benefits programmes.

~200,000 people targeted per month



Complementary cash transfers

For vulnerable people such as pensioners and persons with disabilities, who already receive social benefits from the State, but below the level of UAH 3,250 (US\$86) per month, WFP provides monthly complementary cash transfers to reach this threshold, for at least four consecutive months. The payment from WFP is around UAH 850 (US\$23) on average.

~700,000 people targeted per month

AS WE DISTRIBUTE CASH ASSISTANCE, WE ALSO WORK HAND-IN-HAND WITH THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL POLICY TO ENHANCE THE TARGETING AND ACCESSIBILITY OF INSTITUTIONAL SYSTEMS.

In the initial phase of its cash assistance programme, WFP developed a Memorandum of Understanding with the MoSP to use its “e-dopomoga” digital platform to target vulnerable groups for cash assistance, mostly based on displacement status.

As the war dynamics evolved, WFP chose to target its cash assistance based on more specific vulnerability criteria, which highlighted a number of limitations in the national database.

WFP and the MoSP thus agreed to work hand-in-hand to design and integrate new modules within the national social protection system, contributing to the development of the **Unified Information System of the Social Sphere (UISSS)**.

“Our cooperation with WFP is very important - considering the limited resources of the State budget, this partnership makes it possible to continue digitalising social services and increase their accessibility for citizens, such by automating and centralising processes.”

Kostyantyn Koshelenko
Deputy Minister of Social Policy

“Our work with the UISSS makes it easier for people to receive vital aid from both the Government and international organisations at a time when they need it most. While we are in the country to provide emergency aid, we are also working to restore and strengthen systems that will remain and support Ukrainians in the long term.”

Marianne Ward, WFP Country Director a.i.

EXAMPLES OF IMPROVED EFFICIENCY:

UISSS as a one-stop shop for social benefits

Thanks to improvements to the UISSS supported by WFP, citizens can submit applications for four different types of social benefits through the DIIA app, which connects directly to the UISSS: assistance for single mothers, for adoption, for children with serious illnesses, and persons with long term disabilities. Previously, families would have needed to visit different state authorities and submit multiple sets of paperwork to apply for these social benefits.

UISSS and response to the Kakhovka disaster

On 19 June, the Government approved a resolution developed by the MoSP, guaranteeing that each person affected by the Kakhovka dam disaster in Kherson and Mykolaiv oblasts would receive UAH 5,000 from the State budget's reserve fund. Over UAH 564 million were allocated for one-time financial aid. The UISSS helped deliver this assistance quickly and effectively by integrating and connecting requests, eligibility verifications, and payment lists.

REACHING INTENDED BENEFICIARIES AND PROTECTING DATA PRIVACY

WFP is the leading provider of humanitarian cash-based transfers worldwide, with extensive experience in conflict settings. WFP has put robust systems in place that allow it to verify that the right people have received the right amount of cash. A dedicated Data Assurance Team in Rome HQ is on hand to help each country office ensure that their systems are secure, accountable and protect beneficiary data. WFP's cash assistance in Ukraine is distributed directly to targeted families through money transfer providers and banks without other intermediaries.

COORDINATION

WFP coordinates cash transfers with 50 humanitarian partners through Building Blocks, a decentralised blockchain system, to avoid unintended overlaps.

WFP'S EXIT STRATEGY

When the situation stabilises in Ukraine and when the national social protection system is well equipped with the necessary financial and technical resources, recipients of WFP complementary cash assistance will be fully integrated into the national system.