

WFP/Niema Abdelmageed



Cash assistance and social benefits in Ukraine

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

Since April 2022, WFP has provided cash transfers to people displaced and affected by the war, helping them meet their basic needs while supporting Ukraine's economic recovery. WFP also bolstered government safety nets in close collaboration with the Ministry of Social Policy (MoSP).

IN NUMBERS

US\$ 815M

distributed by WFP since April 2022



2,500 UAH 10,800
people targeted for rapid response cash assistance (one-off for 3 months)

271,000 UAH 1,200
people targeted for a transition to market-based assistance (monthly)

316,000 ~UAH 685
people targeted for complementary cash transfers (monthly)

OUR APPROACH



Rapid Response cash assistance

People experiencing direct shocks linked to the war, such as sudden displacement, receive a one-off multipurpose cash transfer to cover their needs for three months (UAH 10,800 - US\$260).

~2,500 people targeted per month



Market-based assistance

In areas where WFP previously distributed food assistance and where markets are recovering, WFP is now providing a monthly cash transfer of UAH 1,200 (US\$28) to vulnerable families to help them buy food directly in the local markets.

~271,000 people targeted per month



Complementary cash transfers

WFP provides monthly cash transfers to pensioners and people with disabilities who receive less than UAH 3,250 (US\$78) per month from the State, complementing their payment for at least four consecutive months. The payment from WFP is around UAH 685 (US\$16) on average.

~316,000 people targeted per month

COLLABORATION WITH THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL POLICY

Ukraine has an extensive social protection system, consistently providing government benefits to vulnerable groups. Since the beginning of the full-scale war, minimum pensions struggled to meet increased needs. In this context, WFP launched a cash assistance programme in August 2023 in partnership with the Ministry of Social Policy and the Pension Fund of Ukraine to assist pensioners (both old-age pensioners and people on disability pensions) in areas most affected by the war.

Each eligible pensioner receives the difference between their governmental benefits and 3,250 UAH (US\$78). The program aims to ensure that the most vulnerable pensioners can maintain basic living standards by providing cash transfers complementary to their government pensions.

In 2025, the programme sent almost US\$35 million to pensioners and people with disabilities in war-affected areas.

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

To ensure efficiency and equitable outcomes, and avoid unintended assistance overlaps (deduplication), WFP coordinates its multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) with more than 60 humanitarian partners in Ukraine through Building Blocks, a decentralised blockchain-based platform provided by WFP as a service.

The Food Security and Livelihoods cluster (FSL) also started the deduplication process, both across food assistance programmes (In-Kind and Cash for Food) and between food assistance and Rapid Response cash assistance. This is the world's first-ever cross-category and intersectoral deduplication.

DIGITAL FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Through a contract with a Ukrainian bank, WFP can transfer cash directly into our beneficiaries' accounts, making our assistance as flexible and easy to receive as possible. For those who do not have a bank account, WFP transfers funds through the Ukrainian postal service.

In June 2025, 90% of cash recipients – around 515,000 people – received assistance directly in their bank accounts. So far in 2025, WFP transferred US\$92 million to individuals' accounts, with 60% of these accounts belonging to women. Nearly US\$55 million was sent specifically to women's accounts in Ukraine.

IMPROVED EFFICIENCY

As of June 2025, WFP Ukraine saved over US\$3 million in transfer fees by switching from using a money transfer operator to directly transferring funds to people's accounts. By directly contracting a national postal service provider to deliver cash to the most vulnerable beneficiaries, WFP Ukraine saved US\$40,000.

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.

“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 Koshenko
Deputy Minister of Social Policy