



Supporting the Basic Needs of Children and Families

in Conflict-Affected Areas with Humanitarian Cash Transfers

Post-distribution monitoring of humanitarian cash transfers in frontline areas in Q4 2023

UNICEF's humanitarian cash transfer programme in 2023 has focused on providing cash assistance to households with children in de-occupied and frontline areas in the East and South of Ukraine. Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) of cash transfers provided in frontline areas was conducted for a sample of 300 households in October and November 2023 through (in-person) household visits, and the key findings of the PDM are included below.



Household size

On average, each household has 3.7 household members (19 % girls; 21 % boys; 37 % women; 23 % men).



Persons with disabilities

One-third of respondents (34 %) reported that they have at least one person with disabilities in the household (10 % have a child with disabilities; 29 % have an adult with disabilities).



Beneficiary verification

97 % of the beneficiary households were able to provide a valid birth certificate of the children in the HH.



Around one-fifth of beneficiaries had moved

An estimated 21.8 % of beneficiaries in the sample had moved places between the time of registration and the PDM, mostly from Derhachivksa and Vilkhivska (in Kharkiv) and Marhanetska (in Dnipro), which are areas that experience(d) frequent shelling, (mandatory) evacuation and displacement.



Use of cash assistance

Beneficiaries mainly used the cash assistance on food (83 %), clothing (79 %), educational materials (61 %), hygiene items (57 %), utilities (50 %), medication (46 %) and NFIs (40 %).



Use of cash support on children

98 % of the beneficiaries indicated that they used (at least part of) the cash on children's related expenditures.



Support for children

More than nine out of 10 respondents indicated that the cash assistance allowed their household to access goods and services for their children that they otherwise would not have been able to access.



Government support

82 % of beneficiaries reported receiving 'social benefits or cash assistance from the Government' (contributory and non-contributory social protection), with 49 % receiving pension, followed by 39 % for housing assistance for IDPs, 19 % for cash for children in custody/guardianship, 11 % each for maternity cash assistance and cash for single parents.



Access to social services

56 % of beneficiaries indicated that they have been able to either 'fully' (40 %) or 'partially' (16 %) access social services when needed.



UNICEF Hotline

Almost two-thirds of beneficiaries (65 %) reported that they were aware of UNICEF's hotline, and 13 % of these had either provided feedback or reported a complaint to the hotline.



Satisfaction with cash transfer amount

Almost everyone (98 %) was satisfied with the cash transfer amount that they received.



Treated with respect during registration

Almost all (99.3 %) reported that they were treated with respect during the registration (which was conducted by implementing partners and local authorities in coordination with the UNICEF Dnipro field office).



Preferred modality of support

99.7 % indicated that they were satisfied with 'cash assistance' as their preferred modality of assistance.



Conflict

43 % of the households were residing in areas of armed conflict and where conflict was ongoing, 31 % of households were affected by sudden shelling, and 23 % of household were returnees.



Health

Almost four out of 10 beneficiaries reported that the household had to either delay or not seek healthcare when needed due to financial constraints.



Education

While all of the households reported that the school-aged children in their HH were able to access education, they were accessing education either 'fully online' (96 %), while 2 % each were attending either 'fully in-person' or through 'hybrid approach'.



Consumption-based coping strategies

The most frequently employed coping strategy was relying on less preferred/expensive food (55 % said every day), followed by reduction in quantities of food consumed by adults (15 % every day).



Empowerment

99 % of the respondents indicated that the cash assistance had a positive effect in terms of empowerment to some extent, however half reported 'partially' (48 %), followed by 33 % 'mostly' and 19 % 'fully' (90 % of respondents were female).



Livelihoods

48 % of households had at least one formal income-generating activity, while 23 % had an informal/seasonal income-generating activity.



Basic needs:

1. Almost eight out of 10 beneficiaries reported that they were able to meet at least half of the basic needs of the household in the 30 days prior to the survey (78 %).
2. Almost two-thirds of respondents indicated that their household does not

have enough money to cover its basic needs for the next month (65 %).

3. For 75 % of households, the cash assistance only helped to support the basic needs of the family for up to 4 weeks.

2023 Humanitarian Cash Transfer Programme

The UNICEF Ukraine humanitarian cash transfer programme in 2023 provided multi-purpose cash assistance to households with children in de-occupied and frontline areas to help meet their basic needs. Each household received assistance for three months, and up to five individuals were supported per household (except for foster families or family-types homes, where up to 15 individuals were supported). The transfer value provided in 2023 was

2,220 UAH (equivalent to 60 USD) per individual per month, which equated to 6,660 UAH for three months of support (180 USD), in line with the recommended transfer values from the Cash Working Group (which increased to 3,600 UAH per person/month in late 2023). In total, UNICEF provided cash assistance to 62,000 households in 2023, covering 220,000 people, including 113,000 children.



61,869
households



220,181
individuals



112,893
children



45 million
USD

Working with the Ministry of Social Policy and Government Systems on Cash Transfers

In addition to providing humanitarian cash transfers to households with children in de-occupied and frontline areas in 2023, UNICEF also worked with the Ministry of Social Policy to provide cash assistance to vulnerable families with children.

- **Cash for Winterization Assistance:** in December 2023, UNICEF provided winterization cash support to 4,765 families (20,410 individuals; 14,579 children) in areas classified as 'cold spots' in the regions of Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia and Kharkiv. The beneficiaries were low-income families with three or more children or at least one child with disabilities. All beneficiaries were identified relying on existing Ministry of Social Policy registries. The

UNICEF winterization assistance complemented Government social assistance that these beneficiaries were already receiving. A Government decree was drafted jointly by the Ministry and UNICEF and approved by the Parliament and Prime Minister of Ukraine, allowing beneficiary data to be shared with UNICEF to enable these transfers.

- **eDopomoga:** is a government platform where Ukrainian citizens affected by the war could register for assistance (during 2022). In 2023, UNICEF provided cash assistance to 9,711 families with children with disabilities that had previously registered on the eDopomoga platform.

In 2023, the humanitarian cash transfer programme was supported with funding provided by the European Union, the governments of Germany, Norway and Portugal, and the UNICEF family of National Committees.

In 2024, as part of its Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC), UNICEF is appealing for 68 million USD to support 39,985 households with humanitarian cash transfers, and will continue to prioritize frontline areas in the East and South of Ukraine.