

## Frequently Asked Questions – FAQ

### Transition of Material Needs Assistance to Ministry of Labour Social Affairs and Family

1. I have been receiving assistance from UNHCR and UNICEF in the last months. What do I need to do to ensure that the Government will provide me with the material needs assistance in October?

Refugees [odidenc] from Ukraine will receive an SMS message in Slovak and English from the Central Office of Labor, Social Affairs and Family with a recommended date for visiting the Labor Office [urad prace] in their place of residence. If you are unable to visit the Labor Office at the specified date, it is possible to do so until the end of September (refugees to whom the Labor Office has already paid the allowance in material need in March, April or May can visit the Labor Office until 7 October 2022).

If refugees [odidenc] from Ukraine do not receive an SMS message (e.g. due to missing data or a change of a telephone number) and are interested in receiving the benefit in material need, they can visit the respective Labor Office [urad prace] at any time until 30 September (refugees who have already been receiving the benefit in material need in March, April or May from the Labor Offices can visit the office until 7 October 2022). If refugees did not approach the Office of Labor by 7 October, they should do so as soon as possible and will be included in the next payment cycle.

2. Where are the Labor Offices (urad prace) located?

Please visit the Government's official website to find all Labor Offices locations. [www.upsvr.gov.sk/](http://www.upsvr.gov.sk/)

3. Who can apply for the material needs programme by the Government of Slovakia (Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family)?

Anyone in need of material needs can apply for assistance. According to § 2 par. 1 of Act no. 417/2013 (Act on Assistance in Material Need material emergency is a situation where the income of household members does not reach the minimum subsistence amount, and household members cannot secure or increase revenue through their own work.

The material need is a status when the income of the household members isn't achieving the sums of minimum living, and members of the household couldn't or aren't able to secure or raise their income on their own. Minimum living conditions for the purpose of this law are one hot meal per day, clothing, and shelter.

A household is entitled to assistance in material need if the income of its members does not reach the amount of entitlements provided by the Law on Assistance in Material Need. For the exact amounts, please see answer to question 5 below.

#### 4. Will anyone be excluded from the Materials needs programme?

All those who meet the conditions for entitlement to assistance in material need under the Law on Assistance in Material Need will be provided with assistance.

Entitlement to assistance in material need may cease for the following reasons: due to a change in the income situation of the household; because a household member has been employed, and the income exceeds the amount of entitlements intended for the household within the meaning of the law; due to the abandonment of the territory of the Slovak Republic.

#### 5. What is the assistance the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family provides?

Assistance in material needs is intended to ensure basic living conditions. The amount of aid in material needs shall be determined as the difference between the amount of entitlements and the income of individual household members.

ALLOWANCE IN MATERIAL NEED:	
- <b>individual</b>	<b>68,80 €</b>
- individual with one child or maximum of four children	130,90 €
- individual with more than four children	191,20 €
- couple without children	119,60 €
- couple with a child or maximum to four children	179,00 €
- couple with more than four children	241,30 €

Additional contributions such as a protection allowance, an activation allowance, a dependent child allowance and a housing allowance can also be provided.

#### Definitions:

- The protection allowance is intended to ensure the personal expenses of a household member who does not have the opportunity to secure an income or increase his income through his own work, such as early retirement, disability, and single parents taking full care of children below 31 weeks of age.
- The activation allowance is intended to support the acquisition, maintenance, deepening or increase of knowledge, professional skills, practical experience, and work habits to increase employment in the labour market.
- The allowance for a dependent child is intended to support the upbringing, education and overall development of a child in the household who properly fulfils compulsory school attendance.
- The housing allowance is intended for partial payment of housing-related costs.

## 6. Can third-country nationals or asylum seekers affected by the conflict in Ukraine apply for the material needs benefit?

Yes, third-country nationals can claim a benefit in material needs. According to § 1 par. 2 of the Act on Assistance in Material Need, this Act applies to a Slovak with permanent residence and a foreigner residing in the territory of the Slovak Republic in line with a concerned regulation or an international treaty by which the Slovak Republic is bound.

A person with special protection is defined as a person who has been granted temporary refuge or who, in the context of a crisis, has applied for asylum or subsidiary protection and is therefore entitled to assistance in material need.

## 7. How will the cash benefit be conditioned by completing the 32 hours of volunteer work? What are the selection rules?

Assistance in material needs is provided to displaced persons from Ukraine to the same extent and under the same conditions as citizens of the Slovak Republic. The obligation to carry out activities will also apply to displaced persons from Ukraine who are provided with assistance in material need under the Law on Assistance in Material Need.

The provision of assistance in material need is conditional on participation in activities if they are offered in connection with the application of § 10 par. 3 of Act no. 417/2013. It assumes that the recipient of a benefit in material need will carry out an activity of 32 hours, either in the form of minor municipal services, volunteering under special legislation or preventing an emergency during the declaration of such a situation and in the aftermath of it. If the recipient of a benefit in material need does not comply with this legal presumption, the benefit is reduced further by EUR 68.80 for each adult member of the household who does not participate in the activity offered.

Some groups of people are exempt from gainful employment, e.g. pensioners, single parents, pregnant women, and persons caring for a child under 3 years of age. This procedure shall apply from the month following that in which the assistance in material need was first granted. Those who do not receive an offer will not be obliged to operate for at least 32 hours a month. It depends on the needs of the municipalities.

The Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family have to provide an offer to the recipient of assistance in material need. However, if the Office has not offered the recipient an activity, the assistance in material needs will continue.

## 8. Will MoLSAF issue confirmation for schools that the parent receives benefits to receive free lunches at school?

Food subsidies are provided by Labour, Social Affairs and Family Offices to schools. If necessary, the certificate will be issued by the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family.

9. What is the purpose of the affidavit (a written statement) claiming non-application of tax benefits?

The affidavit (a written statement) regarding the non-application of tax exemption serves as a basis for the entitlement to a meal subsidy. It is submitted twice a year to the school's representative, applying for a meal subsidy.

10. Will legal guardians of unrelated children receive material needs assistance?

The legal representatives of unrelated children or the court-appointed guardians can request material needs support from the Labour Office.

11. Where can I find more information on the transfer value that my family will receive and eligibility for the Materials Needs benefit by the Government of Slovakia?

Information on entitlement to assistance in material needs is published on the website Material Need > ÚPSVaR (gov.sk), [www.upsvr.gov.sk/](http://www.upsvr.gov.sk/).

12. How long can Ukrainian families receive assistance from the Government?

The provision of assistance in material need is not limited to time but from the fact that the person must be in a state of material need.

13. Can an employed person whose salary is lower than the minimum salary also get assistance?

Assistance in material needs may also be obtained by an employed person whose salary is less than the amount of entitlement to assistance in material needs.

The amount of assistance in material needs shall be determined as the difference between the total entitlements and a household member's income and shall be granted in a single amount.

14. Why were the data from UNHCR on beneficiaries of cash benefits not transferred to MoLSAF?

UNHCR has been transferring data to MoLSAF since the beginning of the cash programme in May 2022. UPVSR uses the data transferred by UNHCR to prepopulate the material needs application form in their system.

15. What will happen with the UNICEF & IOM Carer's Grant for adults and children with special needs such as disability or medical conditions?

UNICEF and IOM will continue paying for the Carer's Grant until 15 November 2022 for families registered and recorded for special needs with UNHCR until 15 September. New cases should report directly to the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family.

## 16. What if I'm registered with IFRC and Red Cross? When do I need to approach the Office of Labour?

The Red Cross emergency cash assistance program was set for 5 months. By receiving the fifth payment, you will graduate from the program and will be informed accordingly via SMS. After the suspension of the Red Cross program, you have the opportunity to apply for the Benefit in Material Need from the Labor Office. This allowance is not intended for everyone, the state has defined its own criteria & conditions. Please note that you can register at the Labor Office only after receiving an SMS sent by the Red Cross after the suspension of our program. Please follow the instructions contained in the SMS message only and do not go to the Labor Office before. If you visit the Labor Office before receiving the message - you will not be served. We would like to point out that while the Red Cross pays benefits for a current month in the same month (September benefit in September, October benefit in October, etc.), the Labor Office pays benefits for a current month only in the following month (i.e. the September benefit in October, October benefit in November, etc.). As part of the transition from the Red Cross to the Labor Office, applicants will thus experience a one-month period without income. Unfortunately, we cannot influence the payment schedule of the state benefit. Please be aware of this inconsistency and if possible, prepare for the situation appropriately. In case of questions, please contact Red Cross at **00 421 910 910 116** or send an email to [ukrajina@redcross.sk](mailto:ukrajina@redcross.sk)