

Thematic Legislative Update

IDPs' subsistence allowance

Background Overview

On 11 July 2023, the Government of Ukraine introduced modifications pertaining to the [subsistence allowance](#)¹ provided to IDPs through the adoption of [Resolution #709](#) with further adjustments introduced through [Resolution #789](#) adopted on 31 July 2023. This allowance is a state financial benefit provided to ensure social support for IDPs from vulnerable categories and to stimulate the employment of those IDPs of working age. It is paid monthly and amounts to 3000 UAH for children and persons with disabilities and 2000 UAH for all other IDPs.

According to [Minreintegration](#), Ukraine now has nearly 5 million registered IDPs, with 2.6 million receiving subsistence allowance. Last year, 57 billion UAH were disbursed, and a total of 72 billion UAH was the estimated amount for 2023.

Eligibility criteria²

The Resolution outlines the following eligibility criteria for receiving assistance³:

- Displacement (including secondary displacement) from the [territories affected by hostilities](#);⁴
- The housing of the applicant was damaged or destroyed due to hostilities,⁵ with related information recorded in the State Register of Damaged and Destroyed Property. However, if a person registered their place of residence ("propyska") after the destruction (or damage) of their housing, allowances will not be provided;
- Children born to IDP parents.

If a person meets the criteria and does not fall under the exclusion criteria (*see below*), they will receive the subsistence allowance.

Exclusion criteria

Exclusion criteria foreseen in the Resolution can be divided into two groups:

(i) Particular circumstances, which include the following categories of people who:

- Have been abroad for more than 30 days in a row or 60 days cumulative (except individuals who are travelling for work, receiving medical treatment, pursuing education or participating in an internship);
- Are serving a sentence in a detention facility;
- Have been convicted of collaborationism;
- Are returnees.⁶

¹ Previous UNHCR Legislative Updates referred to this allowance as the "IDP housing assistance". The revised translation used here ("IDP subsistence allowance") is more accurate and faithful to the official name of the allocation in Ukrainian (допомога на проживання). UNHCR will use this revised translation consistently from now on.

² Relates to IDPs who are already receiving assistance and those who will apply for the assistance for the first time.

³ To receive the assistance an applicant should fall under at least one of these criteria

⁴ The assistance will be terminated for people in the month that follows the month when their hromada was excluded from the list.

⁵ If people restore/repair housing with their own money or with the support of humanitarian actors, as well as the provision of temporary housing for IDPs it will lead to the termination of the IDP subsistence allowance

⁶ The term "Returnees" here refers to IDPs who voluntarily returned to their initial place of residence but does not include Ukrainian refugees who returned to Ukraine from abroad and returned to a location different from their initial places of residence.

(ii) Financial criteria,⁷ which include the following categories of people who:

- Have purchased a vehicle manufactured within the past 5 years;
- Have purchased a land plot, an apartment, standalone housing (except those on territories affected by hostilities), other types of immovable property, securities and other financial instruments, virtual assets or purchased any services (excluding payments for medical, education services, restoration works for destroyed/damaged housing, and utilities) worth over 100,000 UAH;
- Have purchased foreign currency or bank metals for a total amount exceeding 100,000 UAH, except currencies acquired to pay for education or medical services;
- Have a bank deposit or state obligation for a total amount exceeding 100,000 UAH;
- Have housing with an area of more than 13,65 m² /per family member on the territory that is currently under the control of the Government of Ukraine;
- Reside in care institutions or educational facilities where their needs are fully covered by the state.

Decisions on the termination of or exclusion from the allowance can be contested with the National Social Service (NSS) or challenged in court.

Prolongation of the support to currently assisted IDPs

From 1 August 2023, the subsistence allowance will be automatically **extended for another 6 months** for those IDPs currently receiving it, except for people who fall under the exclusion criteria.

New modalities for payment

Starting from 1 August 2023, IDPs who apply for assistance and meet the eligibility criteria will be granted the allocation for a duration of 6 months. The funds will be paid directly to each individual, except for persons with restrictions on their legal capacity and children, who will receive payments through their legal representative (parent/guardian/caretaker). However, for beneficiaries who apply from 1 November 2023, the assistance will be provided to the entire family, with monthly payments made in a single transfer to a family representative. Applications submitted from November 2023 will have to be submitted by one family member (designated representative).

Extension of assistance for another 6 months

After the payment period of 6 months, the assistance will be prolonged for another 6 months for:

- Families with persons with disabilities, children under the age of 6, three and more children under the age of 18, students pursuing full-time or dual-form education in general secondary, vocational, and higher education institutions without being accommodated in dormitories;
- Families, with member(s) providing social services and receiving compensation for those services;
- Families with income not exceeding 8.372 UAH per family member;
- Minor children who arrived without parents or legal representatives and are registered as IDPs;
- Beneficiaries of the allowance who have tried to become financially self-reliant (people who got a job, registered as unemployed, started a business, or got help for their own business or education), but whose income did not exceed 6.279 UAH during the last six months of the allowance;
- Beneficiaries of the allowance who are unable to work (including pensioners) and whose pension does not exceed 6.279 UAH.

⁷ These criteria are applied differently to IDPs who are already receiving assistance and those who will only apply for assistance for the first time. In regard to those who are already assisted, these criteria will serve as grounds to terminate assistance after the verification procedure; however, if the person is applying for the first time for the subsistence allowance, "substantial" expenses (excluding financial criteria) made by them 3 months prior to the application will constitute grounds to exclude the person from the list of eligible recipients.

The allowance is granted for a maximum period of **12 months**. Upon the termination of the social benefit, the Resolution provides that IDPs in difficult life circumstances can apply for social services in line with standard procedures.

Application procedure

Applications can be submitted either in person or online via the “Diia” portal. The application should also contain the list of family members who are expected to receive the allowance.

A decision on whether to provide assistance must be made within 15 business days. Applications for minor children can be submitted by (i) a relative, (ii) a person authorised by the child’s parents to accompany the child, (iii) a person who is responsible for a child deprived of parental care.

Applications for persons with restrictions on their legal capacity can be submitted by (i) a legal representative, guardian, or caretaker, (ii) a representative of the Guardianship and Custody Service in cases where the person does not have a legal representative or has been separated from them.

Verification⁸ process

When deciding upon the initial allocation or its extension, the Ministry of Social Policy cooperates with the Ministry of Finance to carry out a verification process. This involves a series of actions designed to collect and verify accurate information about a beneficiary’s financial status and other relevant circumstances.

Confirmation of the place of IDP registration and identification

The Resolution foresees the confirmation of the actual residence of IDPs in the place where they are registered as IDPs. Discrepancies between the place of residence and the place of IDP registration can lead to the termination of the assistance. From 1 August 2023, the territorial bodies of the NSS and Departments of Social Protection (DoSP) are responsible for the confirmation process.

The procedure foresees a planned visit of the representatives of NSS or DoSP to the home which the beneficiary indicated in his or her IDP certificate. The confirmation procedure should be completed within 10 days after the authorities’ decision to initiate it. People subject to the procedure should be notified at least two days in advance, either by phone or through any other means that can be tracked to evidence the contact.

During the communication, if the IDP informs the SPSD about their absence, the visit can be postponed for up to 2 weeks. If during the authorities’ visit, the IDP was not present at the place of IDP registration, the representatives of the authorities compile the Act envisaging the IDP has failed the procedure (was absent during the visit), however, if the beneficiary has a reasonable excuse for being absent, he/she has 30 days to visit DoSP and provide documents that justify their absence for the reinstatement of the allowance.

The Social Protection Service can temporarily suspend the payments until the beneficiary undergoes the procedure of identification. The procedure foresees a visit of the beneficiary to the DoSP with the ID documents to confirm the eligibility status. In this case, authorities inform the recipient via mail/postal service/phone of the necessity that he or she should visit the DoSP within 30 days.

CONTACTS

E-MAIL: UKRKI@UNHCR.ORG, TEL: +38 044 288-9710

LINKS

UNHCR Ukraine: www.unhcr.org.ua/en - Twitter: www.twitter.com/UNHCRUkraine

Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNHCRKyiv - Instagram: www.instagram.com/unhcr_ukraine

⁸ Verification is an internal process where the Ministry of Finance collects and checks data contained in registers and then provides the Ministry of Social Policy with suggestions determining the eligibility of recipients.