UNHCR
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

UNHCR Bulgaria - Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) and Winterization in 2024

UNHCR Bulgaria's Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) program aims to provide financial support to vulnerable refugee households in Bulgaria, helping them meet their basic needs and enhance their self-reliance, with a particular focus on the winter months. This programme targets elderly people, households with higher dependency ratios and specific needs.

Programme Details

- **Target Population**: The program will target approximately 3,000 households from the 2022-2023 caseload, focusing on those with high dependency ratios and specific needs. This includes:
    - Ukrainian nationals, third-country nationals and stateless persons who have fled Ukraine on or after 24 February 2022 and are registered for Temporary Protection;
    - Persons with International Protection status in Bulgaria.
- **Transfer Amounts**: A one-time cash transfer of 900 BGN will be provided to eligible households. This amount combines 400 BGN for basic MPCA support and 500 BGN for winterization assistance, addressing the increased needs during the colder months. The amount is fixed for all families regardless of family size.
- **Duration**: The payment distribution is planned for November and December, ensuring timely assistance before the peak winter season.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Households with a dependency ratio greater than 1.2;[1]

2. Households with at least one specific need;[2]

3. Households solely consisting of a single elderly person (aged 60 or over).

Communication

For further information on the MPCA programme, please contact Gokalp Arslan (arslanm@unhcr.org) or Sara Abu Al Ardat (abualard@unhcr.org).

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[1] To calculate the dependency ratio, the total number of dependents (children, elderly, and dependent adults) is added up and then divided by the total number of self-sufficient adults.

- Dependents include children, elderly individuals (aged 60+), and adults aged 18-59 who have specific needs, such as disabilities or chronic illnesses.
- Self-sufficient members are adults aged 18-59 without any specific needs who are capable of supporting themselves.

[2] Households with at least one specific need previously registered in ProGres (UNHCR's database) and assisted during the 2022-2023 period will be reassessed to verify any ongoing vulnerabilities. This will include cases who appeal to UNHCR through UNHCR's appeal mechanisms.