

INDIVIDUAL PROTECTION ASSISTANCE

February 2020



Olena and little Daryna* had to rebuild their lives from scratch after their family's house, in the town of Zolote, was damaged by shelling in February 2019. Having witnessed the hardships of war, 3-year-old Daryna became psychologically traumatized and stopped talking. For a while, the family lived with relatives and later moved to social housing provided by the local administration. With support by UNHCR and its NGO partner Proliska, the family was provided with psychosocial assistance and Individual Protection Assistance (IPA) cash. This was used to access medical examination for Daryna as well as to purchase a bed to sleep on, a small oven, a kettle, and warm clothes to protect them from the freezing winter of Ukraine. Thanks to the support the family received, Daryna is now ready to attend the local kindergarten while her father has already found a job as a miner which allows him to provide for his family. Photo by Proliska.*

As part of its [wider protection response](#), UNHCR provides [Individual Protection Assistance \(IPA\)](#) to the most vulnerable among the displaced and other conflict-affected persons in eastern Ukraine. The IPA programme provides a one-time cash or non-cash assistance to persons [with specific protection needs](#) in order to prevent their exposure to further risks. Potential beneficiaries are identified, either by UNHCR or NGO partners, during case management or protection monitoring missions to the field. IPA is also used to complement other UNHCR protection activities such as shelter, Peaceful Coexistence projects, Community Support Initiatives, protection counselling, legal assistance and/or advocacy on individual cases/issues at the local level. UNHCR and its partners verify the vulnerability criteria and identify the needs through home visits. Then, through a multifunctional team, they decide, on a case-by-case basis, how recipients can be supported with IPA cash. Beneficiaries are identified through an [age, gender and diversity lens](#) which ensures that all groups of conflict-affected persons can access this assistance. [IPA programme empowers](#) recipients, as it provides an opportunity for them to decide how they will address their protection needs. In Ukraine, [cash and in-kind assistance](#) has been considered by aid recipients as being a more dignified method of providing humanitarian assistance. It also supports displaced and conflict-affected persons in finding longer-term solutions.

AGE, GENDER AND DIVERSITY BENEFICIARY SELECTION

Categories of persons identified for IPA assistance includes internally displaced persons and other conflict-affected persons living near the 'contact line' in government-controlled and non-government controlled areas. UNHCR provides IPA according to [four broad categories of vulnerability criteria](#) below.

LEGAL AND
PHYSICAL
PROTECTION NEEDS

SERIOUS MEDICAL
CONDITIONS
AND/OR DISABILITY

SPECIFIC NEEDS
BASED ON AGE

SEXUAL, GENDER-
BASED VIOLENCE
(SGBV)



IPA Cash

2,091

Persons received

'cash for protection' in 2019



75%
Female



25%
Male

Since 2014, UNHCR has offered cash solutions for the protection needs of internally and other conflict-affected persons living in eastern and other regions of Ukraine. Until 2017, UNHCR implemented a [multi-purpose stabilisation grant \(MPSG\)](#). From 2017 onwards, UNHCR launched its [Individual Protection Assistance programme](#) in the form of cash to support UNHCR and its NGO partner's protection case management and social accompaniment. This format also complements other protection activities by UNHCR and other protection actors. In 2019, UNHCR supported [2,091 persons](#) (61% were over 60 years old), [living along the 'contact line' in government-controlled areas](#), with one-time [cash assistance of UAH 6,000 \(USD 210\) per person](#) in order to address their protection needs. This amount has been increased in comparison to previous years, when it was UAH 4,000 per person, based upon the recommendations of the aid agencies who are members of [Ukraine Cash Working Group](#). This represents the minimum subsistence level of approximately UAH 1,000/person/month for up to six months. The cash grants are delivered through the [Ukrainian postal service Ukrposhta](#), allowing those residing in remote locations and with limited mobility to receive payments at home. Provision of IPA through cash is currently limited to the GCA, due to the lack of a banking system in non-government controlled areas.

Individual Protection Assistance Impact

Oleksii*, 44, and his family were forced to flee their hometown of Irmino in Luhansk oblast and settled in Zolote. This year, Oleksii's wife and mother to his five children, passed away. Thanks to social support provided by UNHCR and its NGO partner Proliska, Oleksii was able to access his civil documentation. This enabled him to claim and receive social benefits that are reserved for single-parents, according to Ukrainian laws. Furthermore, the family was able to obtain their "IDP certificates", which allowed them to access additional social payments thanks to the IPA cash programme. The IPA cash assistance also allowed the family to buy a [washing machine](#), an [electrical oven](#), and a [bed for his teenage daughter](#). *Photo by Proliska.*



Ivan*, 64, lost his home in Pervomayskyi, Donetsk oblast when it was destroyed by shelling. Ivan was injured during the incident and was taken to a hospital in Lysychansk where he remained hospitalized for a few months. Ivan also suffered from a heart attack and almost lost his vision. UNHCR through its NGO partner Proliska provided him with [cash assistance for medical examination](#). This allowed him to confirm his disability and IDP status. Finally, UNHCR and Proliska facilitated the process of renting an apartment for Ivan and his elderly mother in Popasna, where he now lives. *Photo by Proliska.*



Antonina*, 92, experienced a severe degradation in her health, resulting from conflict related stress and lack of medical facilities, after five years of conflict. She lives by herself in Stanytsia Luhanska near the 'contact line.' Her children moved abroad before the conflict and have not been able to return. In recent months, Antonina went through a surgery and has since lost her mobility and the ability to leave her house. She has been taken care of by neighbours and volunteers who provide her with support. Thanks to UNHCR's 'cash for protection' assistance, Antonina was able to buy a [wheelchair and a walker](#), which has made her more autonomous. She is now able to leave her house by herself and [access her pensions, alongside other social services](#). *Photo by Proliska.*



*Please note that the names of persons who appear in this report have been changed for their protection.

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