

The accuracy of this data can be highly questionable, as participation in the collection of reports is voluntary for organizations and does not require cross-checking at this stage. Practice shows that in the first phase of the provision of assistance, no more than 60% of the assistance provided is subject to reporting.

In any case, we are talking about tens of millions of beneficiaries, that is, a large-scale process with a number of social and economic consequences.

What is the amount of assistance.

The initial efforts of humanitarian organizations were based on their own capabilities and goals, as such, a centralized program of humanitarian efforts, called the Multipurpose Humanitarian Cash Assistance, began its work in May 2022, after which the amount of such assistance was unified and equaled 2220 UAH per person per month. This calculation was tied to the subsistence minimum in Ukraine, data for May 2022¹. At the time of writing - August 2023 - the size has not been revised, although discussions about this are underway at the level of the Cash Working Group².

Is it possible for everyone to get help.

In general, the approach determines that the majority of the population of Ukraine in the period of ongoing hostilities requires assistance. For example, based on the humanitarian work plan developed by the consolidated international community for 2023, a gradation is applied: the affected population (21.3 million), those requiring assistance (17.6 million), as well as those who are nominated to provide assistance (11.1 million)³. In addition, this number is constantly changing upwards as a result of the massive missile attacks that Russia has been actively using since October 2022, attacking infrastructure and civilian targets.

However, despite the really large amount of humanitarian assistance, it is not possible to provide it to everyone.

Therefore, on the basis of the developed common understanding of those who are included in the circle of recipients of international humanitarian assistance, organizations are trying to proceed from approaches⁴:

- division of sub-target groups (profile organizations work in the field of their expertise, providing assistance to groups that are clear to them),
- division of the geography of assistance,
- and avoiding duplication of such efforts.

In particular, to prevent duplication, humanitarian work participants use the Buildingblocks block deduplication system⁵, which allows you to find out whether assistance has already been received by a potential recipient or not.

It is noteworthy that the system is designed with all confidentiality requirements and contains only the beneficiary's identification tax number in the form of links (the number of the main participant (beneficiary) and the numbers of members of his/her household), the amount, the period and the paying organization.

However, this system has a number of often critical limitations.

As well as general participation in the consolidating effort, participation in this system is voluntary for the humanitarian organization, and also requires the accuracy,

¹<https://www.msp.gov.ua/files/monitoring/01.2022.pdf>

²<https://response.reliefweb.int/ukraine/cash-working-group-cwg>

³https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/ukraine-humanitarian-response-plan-february-2023-enuk?_gl=1*146o2gl*_ga*NDczMjYzMTgzLjE2NTk3MDc5MTY.*_ga_E60ZNX2F68*MTY3NjQ1MjYyNC4xNC4wLjE2NzY0NTI_2MjQuNjAuMC4w

⁴https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/cash_programmes_table.pdf

⁵<https://buildingblocks.ukr.wfp.org/>

accuracy and qualifications of the person uploading the data. In practice, mistakes happen.

In addition, this system of checking for duplicates is blind to citizens without an identification tax number, and its presence in Ukraine is not mandatory and may not be available.

- in children under 14 years old,
- religious beliefs as a result of a personal refusal of such a number.

And yet it is worth noting that, if desired, a citizen of Ukraine can have such a number from birth.

In addition, the consolidation of efforts can often play the opposite role and itself provoke duplicate efforts: for example, the definition of a common framework for all members of the Cash Working Group stimulates general attention to the same segments of the population in the same territorial places.

This significantly reduces the effectiveness of humanitarian work, making it pinpoint and devoid of strategic vision.¹ So, since the beginning of work on the consolidated framework since May 2023, the percentage of refusals due to duplication of humanitarian efforts has been increasing, medianly approaching above 40% for most participants.

For example, before the introduction of such a campaign, the percentages could range from 7 to 35, depending on the regions and target groups.

As for the registration for assistance itself, it can be carried out in different ways.

For humanitarian organizations that have become partners of the Diya Digital Platform, the process can be organized with high accuracy and data verification².

However, such an opportunity for humanitarian organizations is not permanent.³, but is optional: registration is launched in waves and is valid for several months.

Since potential participants in assistance programs provide data about themselves that has already been verified by the national operator, the data provided is accurate and up-to-date.

The humanitarian partner can transfer his selection criteria to the state and make a payment according to the sample made within the available amount of assistance, while the humanitarian partner will not have access to the common data system - only the results of the payment and data verifying the selection.

This is quite handy for mass payouts, for programs that may not focus their targets on specific stories and criteria. An active participant in such a program, for example, may be the UN, whose program of assistance to refugees and migrants fully meets the criteria.

In addition to the advantages, this system also has a number of disadvantages:

- if the humanitarian program has specific targets,
- donor requirements and standards require an assessment of the selection process for program participants,

- fixation of human history is required -
- all of these criteria cannot be met.

In addition, in this case, the name of the program and the donor organization may be lost, since in fact people will receive assistance similar to state social

¹https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/multi-purpose-cash-assistance-targeting-framework-may-2023?_gl=1*1852l2d*_ga*MTU3ODkxMTY1NS4xNjUwNjA4OTU0*_ga_E60ZNX2F68*MTY4NTYzMDQ5Ni4yMDQuMS4xNjg1NjMxODk3LjU1LjAuMA..

²<https://bf.dii.gov.ua/articles/yak-podaty-dokumenty-na-dopomohu-instruktsiia>

³<https://aid.edopomoga.gov.ua/>

assistance and it will come with a high probability (by default when registering in the Diya system) to Edopomogu¹- this is a state bank card of citizens of Ukraine.

For these and a number of other reasons, other methods of registering for assistance are common.

The most popular can be divided into several types:

- according to the type of organization performing the registration,
- according to the type of registration process.

Organizations that perform registration can be:

- organization itself is the operator of the issuance of assistance. That is, the organization that carried out the registration of the participant will carry out the selection and payment;

- organization that performs the registration is a local partner of the operator, which in fact means that one of the organizations of the civil sector of Ukraine can register, and the selection and payment will be made by another, the operator of funds.

It is noteworthy that with the development and distribution of assistance, not only international, but also local organizations become operators of payments.

According to the registration process itself, we can distinguish:

- self-registration,
- contact registration.

During self-registration, a potential recipient of assistance independently enters the necessary information by filling out one of the forms - this can be a form on a website (for example, UNICEF) or a bot in a messenger (for example, NRC).

With contact registration, an interview is conducted and data is entered using the registrar, this can happen both in person and by video or voice calls.

The registration form is usually built according to the principles of the GDPR, that is, the form may contain questions, the answers to which affect decision-making.

Information, as a rule, is stored on remote servers, meeting the requirements of national legislation and the GDPR, the retention periods can also most often be determined by the presence of several conditions: the need for assistance and the ability to provide it. Subject to all rules, a potential participant in the program must give informed consent to the storage of their data by the operator of assistance and this data must be deleted as soon as one of the indicated conditions is exhausted. In addition, a potential participant in the program can always revoke his permission, which will lead to the deletion of his data.

However, it is worth noting that upon the fact of making a payment, the data may not actually be completely deleted: that is, the participant's personal data will be deleted, and the fact of payment will already be the financial information of the payer and this information (which usually contains the tax number of the recipient of the payment and his bank details) is not subject to deletion and can be entered into the system of deduplication of general humanitarian efforts, which must also be reported to the participant during registration.

Given the situation in the country, the population is actively trying to get help and this right, of course, is inalienable. That is, potential participants can register an unlimited number of times with an unlimited number of organizations. This can be slightly adjusted in the case of using a single registration in the Diya system, but still, the presence of a registration in the Diya system does not reduce the activity of potential program participants in making multiple registrations.

¹<https://bf.diia.gov.ua/articles/shcho-take-proiekt-iedopomoha#section389>

This fact is a real challenge for the data management system, as it requires a high-quality semantic and technical approach to data deduplication: what is towards what and for what reasons is a double.

The registration form itself for various assistance providers may differ from another for a similar organization. It depends on the conditions and targeting of the program.

However, the consolidation of humanitarian efforts at the level of the Cash Working Group at the time of May 2023 issued, in addition to recommendations on targeting, recommendations on the registration tool.

In addition, general, relatively speaking, minimum standards have already been developed for working in the monitoring and evaluation complex to support multi-purpose cash assistance - these are post-distribution monitoring questionnaires and other tools for regular use.

These packages¹ are basic and minimal, contain a minimum of indicators, only three of which are strongly recommended as mandatory for everyone. These basic tools are, of course, adapted by organizations to the information needs of their programs and reports through collaboration with various donors.

The described conditions are the reasons for a number of problematic clots in the course of the provision of multipurpose cash assistance in Ukraine.

1. A programmatic approach to targeting participants, the amount and regularity of payments,

2. Communication with the affected population to systematically inform about programs, opportunities and limitations,

3. Approaches to working with registered databases, their cleaning and deduplication - logical, technical and cross-checks between organizations.

These problems are, relatively speaking, problems of the first order, which rests on the formation of a humanitarian presence and the institutionalization of efforts in terms of communication in key areas:

- with the affected population,
- with government partners,
- within sectoral humanitarian efforts,
- with donors.

If there is significant systemic progress in these areas among key humanitarian organizations, we can expect to enter a new stage, which, as we wrote earlier², will be the beginning of a new era of humanitarian politics.

¹<https://response.reliefweb.int/ukraine/2023-hrp-monitoring-guidance>

² [https://archive.journal-grail.science/index.php/2710-3056/issue/view/08/04/2023/18\(p.268\)](https://archive.journal-grail.science/index.php/2710-3056/issue/view/08/04/2023/18(p.268))
