

# TEMPORARY SPECIAL COMMISSION

## on the protection of property and non-property rights of internally displaced persons and other persons affected by the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine

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April 10, 2024

### DECISION

#### **On the current status of assistance payments for internally displaced persons**

Assistance for the accommodation of internally displaced persons is provided by the Procedure for Providing Assistance for the Accommodation of Internally Displaced Persons, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated March 20, 2022, No. 332.

Such assistance is paid monthly to internally displaced persons in the following amounts: for persons with disabilities and children – 3000 UAH, for other individuals – 2000 UAH.

According to the decision of the Temporary Special Commission of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on the Protection of Property and Non-Property Rights of Internally Displaced and Other Persons Affected by the Armed Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine (hereinafter – the Commission) dated January 11, 2024, it was emphasized that the changes made by the Government to Resolution No. 332 create a threat of depriving approximately 2 million internally displaced persons of the right to receive such payments.

In this regard, it was proposed to urgently amend Cabinet Resolution No. 332 regarding the automatic extension (retention) of payments for the majority of internally displaced persons who received this assistance in 2023.

However, in March 2024, there was a sharp decrease – by 1.8 million – in the number of internally displaced persons who received accommodation assistance payments, namely from 2.5 million recipients in January-February 2024 to 716 thousand recipients in March 2024.

This was caused by the Cabinet of Ministers' approach to automatically extending the payment of accommodation assistance for another 6 months from March 1, 2024, only for certain categories of internally displaced persons, namely for pensioners whose pension as of January 1, 2024, does not exceed 9,444 UAH (4 subsistence minimums for persons with disabilities), persons with disabilities of the I or II group, children with disabilities under 18 years of age, seriously ill children, orphans, and children deprived of parental care, including those up to 23 years of age, as well as foster parents and adoptive parents. All other categories of internally

displaced persons were suggested to apply to the relevant authorities with a new application for the extension of payments for another 6 months.

The conditions for extending payments for an additional 6 months included not exceeding the income of families of 9,444 UAH per person, having children under 14 years old who are unable to attend educational institutions or study in a hybrid format (offline and online), which prevents parents from working. The right to continue receiving payments also applied to families of internally displaced persons with children under 14 years old residing in areas of active or potential hostilities, or in conditionally safe regions of Ukraine, where there is no opportunity to send a child to kindergartens, and schooling takes place online.

Assistance was also to be extended to families where one family member cares for a person with a disability of the I group, a child with a disability under 18 years of age, or a seriously ill child. In addition, assistance was to be extended to arriving unaccompanied minors and pregnant women starting from the 30th week of pregnancy.

As a result, according to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, in March, 535 thousand internally displaced persons – primarily persons with disabilities of the I and II groups, as well as pensioners whose pension does not exceed 9,444 UAH, received an automatic extension of assistance payments for internally displaced persons. As of April 1, 2024, another 196.1 thousand families applied to social protection authorities for the extension of assistance payments. Of these, during March, the authorities processed and appointed payments to 98 thousand families (individual accounts), totaling 181 thousand individuals. Currently, the acceptance of applications and the appointment of payments is ongoing.

The Ministry of Social Policy emphasizes that the current mechanism for appointing payments to internally displaced persons combines support for those in need with tools to encourage internally displaced persons of working age to find employment. By the end of 2023, only 40% of working-age internally displaced persons who received payments were employed. 60% of internally displaced persons were not officially employed and did not have their sources of income. If last year, an average of about 4 thousand internally displaced persons applied to employment centers each month from January to March, this year their number increased: in February – up to 11 thousand, and in March – up to 15 thousand. Thus, the number of applications increased by 4 times.

The Ministry of Finance of Ukraine has reported that the payment of accommodation assistance to internally displaced persons is made from and within the limits of funds provided by the budget program under the Classification of the Budget Expenditure Codes 2501530 "Social Protection of Citizens who Have Encountered Difficult Life Circumstances", the main administrator of budget funds of which is the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine.

Of the total expenditures under this budget program for the payment of accommodation assistance to internally displaced persons in 2024, it is planned to allocate 57.6 billion UAH, of which in January-March, 13.4 billion UAH were allocated (*including in January 2024 – 5.882 billion UAH, in February 2024 – 5.843 billion UAH, in March 2024 – 1.643 billion UAH*).

Thus, if the number of internally displaced persons receiving accommodation assistance remains at the level of March 2024, the annual amount of expenditures for these purposes will be 28.2 billion UAH, or 29.4 billion UAH less than already budgeted in the State Budget of Ukraine for 2024, which is unacceptable.

At the same time, the amount of funds provided for in the State Budget of Ukraine for 2024 for the payment of accommodation assistance to internally displaced persons (57.6 billion UAH) is about 18 billion UAH less than was budgeted for these purposes in the State Budget of Ukraine for 2023 – after making relevant changes to the budget during 2023.

Furthermore, the Commission notes an extremely negative trend of decreasing the number of recipients of housing assistance for IDPs while the actual number of internally displaced persons increases due to the worsening security situation in the east and south of Ukraine. This trend sharply contradicts the statement made by the President of Ukraine on December 19, 2023, regarding the preservation of assistance payments to IDPs.

The Commission also draws attention to isolated cases of discontinuation of housing assistance payments to internally displaced persons who are entitled to automatic renewal of these payments, as well as insufficient informational and explanatory work to inform IDPs about their rights, including the right to receive housing assistance, and methods of realizing and protecting these rights.

As a result of considering this issue, the Commission has **d e c i d e d**:

1. To emphasize the categorical unacceptability of the rapid, nearly fourfold decrease in the number of internally displaced persons receiving housing assistance, and the reduction of assistance volume in 2024 by 22.3% due to unjustified and controversial decisions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine to amend the Procedure for Providing Housing Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons, approved by Cabinet Resolution No. 332 of March 20, 2022, as well as the inadmissibility of plans to deprive millions of IDPs of these payments, which blatantly contradicts the statement by the President of Ukraine on December 19, 2023, regarding the preservation of assistance payments to internally displaced persons.

2. To propose to the Prime Minister of Ukraine to take measures for the immediate restoration of housing assistance payments to internally displaced persons deprived of these payments in March 2024 by adopting a decision on the automatic extension of the right to receive such housing assistance for all those who received it in February 2024, as well as to ensure the expansion of the functionality of the Unified Information Database on Internally Displaced Persons by integrating it with other databases and state registers containing information about internally displaced persons, improving the software of this Unified Information Database, creating an electronic cabinet for internally displaced persons to track their needs, providing access to it for all entities responsible for forming and implementing state policies on internally displaced persons, as well as filling this Unified Information Database with all

necessary data (indicators) affecting the right of internally displaced persons to receive housing assistance and the automatic renewal of their payments without the need for personal application to state authorities.

3. To request the President of Ukraine to hold a separate meeting on the current problems of internally displaced persons in Ukraine and ways to address them.

4. To recognize the expediency of holding a separate meeting of the Commission with the invitation of Ukraine's international partners to find ways to coordinate actions regarding financial payments to internally displaced persons, primarily through the provision of multi-purpose financial assistance to internally displaced persons and persons affected by armed aggression, as well as housing assistance payments, which will contribute to the coverage of a wide range of persons and increase the categories of internally displaced persons who have the right and need to receive such assistance.

5. To resend appeals to the Presidium of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and the head of the parliamentary faction "Servant of the People" with a demand for urgent inclusion in the agenda of the nearest plenary session of the bill reg. No. 10382, which establishes clear and understandable grounds for non-appointment or termination of payments.

6. To propose to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine to consider the possibility of systematizing and digitizing data on financial and humanitarian assistance received by internally displaced persons, including considering the possibility of making relevant changes to the Procedure for Creating, Maintaining, and Accessing Information in the Unified Information Database on Internally Displaced Persons, approved by Cabinet Resolution No. 646 of September 22, 2016.

7. To appeal to the Prime Minister of Ukraine to take measures to approve criteria for assessing the satisfaction of the needs of internally displaced persons and the degree of their integration into new communities.

8. To request the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine to provide information on the number of internally displaced persons who were mistakenly not paid housing assistance in March 2024, although they met the conditions for automatic renewal of payments stipulated by Cabinet Resolution No. 332 of March 20, 2022, to determine the reasons for such system failure and the responsible officials for this situation, as well as to take measures to restore these payments to the corresponding internally displaced persons.

9. To propose to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine to take measures to strengthen informational and explanatory work among internally displaced persons about their rights, including the right to receive housing assistance, and methods of realizing these rights.

10. The decision of the Commission is to be sent to the President of Ukraine, the Prime Minister of Ukraine, as well as to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine and the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine.



**Chairman of the Commission**



**P. Frolov**



**Secretary of the Commission**

**S. Velmozhnyi**

