

Inter-Agency Coordination Forum Meeting (RCF) - Hungary Ukraine Emergency Situation - 2 June 2023

AGENDA:

1. **Introduction and Operational updates**
2. **Part 1 Local landscape of inclusion of Refugees with disability in Hungary**
 - **Needs and Vulnerabilities of Refugees w disability in Hungary**
 - **Response strategies on accessibility - Hungary**
 - National Disability Program by Farago Andrea, Disability Officer, Disability Department/Ministry of Interior]
 - Disability advisors network at county level by József Petrus/Family Support Service at Nyíregyháza Municipality
 - **Discussion**
3. **Part 2: Recommendations for Mainstreaming Inclusion in the Refugee Response**
 - **Presentation of key lessons learned and recommendations**
 - **Introduction of 5 organizations of persons with disability (5 min each):**
 - MVGYOSZ: accessibility and universal design in time of crises
 - MEOSZ: physical accessibility – Melinda Faragó
 - ÉFOÉSZ: Easy-to-Read information – Anna Rosner
 - SVOE: special need for blind and hearing impairment – Vera Babinszki
 - **Discussion**
4. **Any Other Business (AoB)**

PARTICIPANTS:

47 participants; ENG/HUN translation available.

CO-CHAIR:

Mr. Csaba Prohászka, Disability Department/Ministry of Interior

OPERATIONAL UPDATES:

- The RCF [Service Mapping](#) of humanitarian services available for refugees in Hungary has been finalized and uploaded to the data portal. Partners are invited to consult the mapping and update the information as needed; edits can be made any time through ActivityInfo with the given credentials; for any issue, partners can contact hunbuim@unhcr.org).
- Monitoring Framework: [Q1 report](#) + [IA updates](#) have been finalized, shared, and uploaded on the data portal. Q2 report foreseen for mid-July 2023, reminder will be shared with partners.
- The revision of the contingency plan was completed in May 2023. The update focused on two main areas: contextual update to extend the period covered and providing the partners the opportunity to update their current and upscaling capacities. The basic assumptions and overall structure were not modified (with plans for a more comprehensive review in September). The overall cost of the contingency plan has been slightly reduced due to the reduced capacity of partners to scale up within the required timeframe. In terms of current and predicted capacity the main and only substantial change relates to the availability of short-term housing options to complement government-provided housing. Protection and cash/NFI capacity remains relatively stable.
- Multi-Sector Needs Assessment: the MSNA questionnaire is being finalized at the Regional level, with the country inputs; the data collection is planned for Mid June, assigned to an external research company; the training of approx. 20 enumerators is planned for June 9; data cleaning (July); preliminary results (early Aug.; analysis + final report (Sep). The 2023 MSNA is coordinated by the Regional office, in order to compile a regional overview of refugees' needs, while the implementation is at the country level (10 countries will be conducting MSNA in 2023).

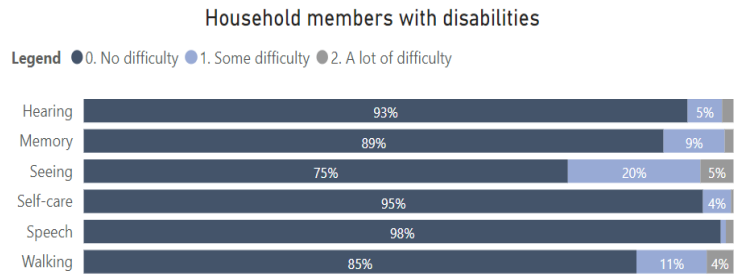
PART 1

1.1 Needs and Vulnerabilities of Refugees with Disabilities in Hungary (UNHCR)

Local landscape of inclusion of refugees with disability in Hungary

According to [UNHCR Protection Analysis #2](#) (April 2023; Poland, Slovakia, Moldova, Romania, Hungary), refugee households with individuals having specific needs face socio-economic vulnerability and increased protection risks. Extended displacement increases the vulnerability of refugees with disabilities, impacting their resilience and resources to cope during the displacement and exposing them to further protection risks. Lack of systematic identification procedures in host countries also hinders their access to rights under the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD). 22 % of the respondents reported at least one household member with a disability; 39 % reported difficulties accessing healthcare, predominantly due to long waiting times. Refugees with disabilities are less likely to have access to long-term housing and available accommodation is often not adapted to the needs of persons with disabilities. In addition, according to the Hungary [Multi-Sector Needs Assessment 2022](#), interviewed refugees reported

different levels of mobility and sensorial difficulties as per chart inserted. For households with one or more members with a disability, in Hungary the need for medicines was higher (fourth place) compared to other refugee households. Disability, older age or serious medical conditions were also mentioned by respondents as the third most common reason for family separation from Ukraine, which affects more than half of the households interviewed.



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1.2 Response strategies on accessibility – Hungary

Farago Andrea
Disability Officer,
Disability
Department /
Ministry of
Interior

National Disability Program and Accessibility. Hungarian legal background and key legislative acts:

- Act XXVI of 1998, § 4, defining accessibility as multidimensional: information, services, and infrastructure
- Act XXVI of 1998 on the rights of persons with disabilities and on ensuring their equal opportunities
- Act XCII of 2007 on the promulgation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities + the related Optional Protocol Parliament No. 15/2015 (IV.7.) with the decisions of the National Disability Programme and related action plans.
- Hungarian Ministry of Interior/Department of Disability ([Program](#); [Action Plan](#)).

Reasonable accommodation" means, according to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, "necessary and appropriate modifications and alterations which do not impose a disproportionate and unreasonable burden and, where appropriate, are necessary to ensure the enjoyment and exercise of the fundamental human rights and freedoms of the person with disabilities on an equal basis for all. It is important to plan for proper financing of inclusion activities.

In terms of support of refugees with disabilities, it is important to engage with advocacy organizations and federations representing people with disability (more information on the [Egységes Fogvatékosügyi Információs Portál EFIPTAL](#)) or contact the disability advisors, available at the county level (their contacts are available on the websites of the county family and child welfare services; see below for more information).

József Petrus
Family Support
Service at
Nyíregyháza
Municipality

Disability advisors’ network at county level. The presentation introduced the free Disability Counselling service, which aims to assist persons with disabilities, their relatives, and professionals working with them. Launched on April 1, 2018 in 22 locations nationwide, since January 1, 2022, the service has been integrated into Family and Child Welfare Centers, providing a one-stop shop for disability-related issues. The service is available to persons with disabilities, relatives, professionals, and interested parties, as well as institutions, organizations, and employers. The Disability Counselling Service can be accessed at the county level through the Family and Child Welfare Centers, with consultants also available in Szentes and

Sopron. Highly qualified Disability Counsellors offer assistance in person at 22 locations, as well as through phone and electronic channels (e-mail, Messenger, Facebook, etc.). They provide various forms of support, including administrative assistance with benefits (cash and in-kind), guidance on accessing social services, counseling on education and training for persons with disabilities (adults/children), employment-related mediation, information on accessibility, cultural and leisure opportunities, and addressing other disability-related problems.

To access the service, individuals can visit the Family and Child Welfare Centers or use the contact details provided on the efiportal.hu page. The services are available during working hours, based on the opening and reception hours of each center. Personal meetings require prior appointments. If anyone has disability-related questions or problems, they are encouraged to reach out to the Disability Counselling Service for assistance or Petrus József, Fogytékosságügyi tanácsadó, 30-371-8865, petrus.jozsef@nycsgyk.hu.

Discussion. The Validity Foundation discussed the recommendations released by the CRPD Committee last year, emphasizing the importance of website accessibility and product accessibility. The implementation of these recommendations would benefit both Hungarians and Ukrainians. Regarding reasonable accommodation, it was highlighted that discussions should be held with individuals and adjusted to meet their specific needs. Accessibility is an *ex ante* obligation that must be ensured in advance.

MEOSZ, a Hungarian organization of persons with disabilities, identified the lack of access to financial services as a significant legal challenge for refugees, including those with disabilities. While this issue affects all refugees but poses particular difficulties for people with disabilities. Additionally, there is a shortage of accessible accommodations, including shelters and institutions.

The MOI Department of Disability mentioned the lack of specific information regarding challenges and questions. The Autisták Országos Szövetsége, for example, reported not having refugee clients, possibly due to identification issues.

PART 2

Presentation of key lessons learned and recommendations.

Recommendations for Mainstreaming Inclusion in the RRP

Key recommendations, insights, and selected tools and resource material were gathered from various sources, such as Hungarian organizations of persons with disabilities, the Disability Department of the Hungarian Ministry of Interior, UNHCR inclusion experts, working groups, and other stakeholders, as well as monitoring activities with refugees conducted by partners of the Refugee Coordination Forum in 2022 and 2023. The recommendations were presented around 4 key topics (see **PPT** for more details and also the **Recommendation Note** here):

- Accessibility
- Partnership with organizations of persons with disability
- Organizational culture
- Data collection

Introduction of 5 organizations of persons with disability: 5 organizations presented their interventions and shared their own contacts:

[ÉFOÉSZ](#), Hungarian Association for Persons with Intellectual Disability (Anna Rosner)

[MEOSZ](#), National Federation of Associations of People with Physical Disabilities (Melinda Faragó)

[MVGYOSZ](#), Hungarian Federation of the Blind and Partially Sighted

[SINOSZ](#), Hungarian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

[SVOE](#), Hungarian Deafblind Association (Vera Babinszki)

Other organizations did not present but are included in the note as ODP: [APHASIA](#), Aphasia Association – Hungary,

[KAOSZ](#), National Association of Autistic People – Hungary

Discussion

During the presentation, the Validity Foundation highlighted its ability to provide legal support for refugees with disabilities. Also, it was suggested that reasonable accommodation and accessibility should be treated as separate topics, as they have distinct considerations. The foundation sent additional resources and documents via email that they recommended including in the discussion. It was emphasized that people with disabilities should be involved in all phases of data collection, from planning to analysis, to ensure their perspectives are properly represented. The Washington Group questionnaire, which targets children, was deemed inadequate as it focuses solely on impairments and does not consider the support needed based on individual circumstances. This questionnaire was seen as being rooted in a medical approach rather than a human rights approach.

MEOSZ suggested considering the furniture and internal design of accommodations and institutions when addressing accessibility concerns. Public transportation options should also be taken into consideration to ensure accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

It was agreed that a recommendation note will be finalized and shared with RCF partners with the aim of reconvening an RCF on inclusion in Q3 or 4 2023 to identify progresses in the implementation of the note.