

Hungary

October 2023

UNHCR has been present in **Hungary since 1989**, working in close coordination with state entities including local and municipal authorities, UN agencies, and NGOs.

UNHCR alongside government counterparts ensures refugees and asylum-seekers secure **essential rights, access to basic services, and legal and protection assistance**.

Directly and through partners, UNHCR provides much-needed assistance to refugees **across a range of basic needs, protection, and inclusion sectors**.

POPULATION OF CONCERN October 2023

59,385 refugees from Ukraine were registered in Hungary (as of 31 October 2023)

39,351 applications for temporary protection in Hungary (as of 30 September 2023)

36,978 positive decisions taken

29 Asylum applications (1 Jan - 31 October 2023)

International Protection provided by Hungary:
(1 Jan – 31 October 2023)

11 Refugee status granted

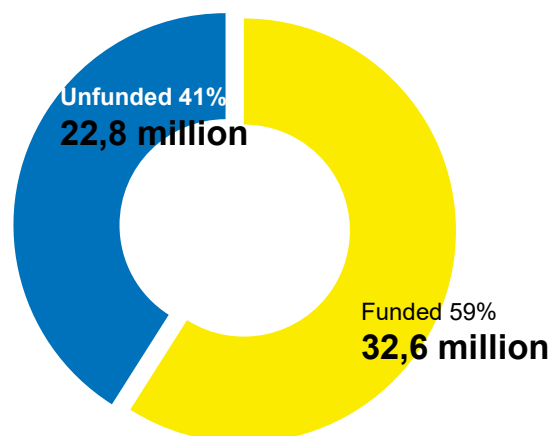
11 Subsidiary Protection

4 Tolerated Stay (1 Jan - 31 October 2023)

FUNDING (AS OF OCTOBER 2023)

USD 55.4 million

Multi-country Office Budget



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

52 Total Staff

17 International Staff

Offices:

1 Multi-country office in Budapest, also supporting national offices in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia.



UNHCR colleagues registering elderly refugees from Ukraine for the winter cash assistance program in the Budapest Helps! Community Center.

Working with Partners

UNHCR works in close coordination with Hungarian Government counterparts to support refugees and asylum-seekers while maintaining positive collaborations with state entities including local and municipal authorities, UN agencies, NGOs, humanitarian partners, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders who are providing assistance to those seeking protection. UNHCR supports the government in systems strengthening that ensures a harmonized response within the existing government structures.

UNHCR has 12 active partnerships with the following organizations:

- **Cordelia Foundation** – provides psycho-social counselling and mental health support (MHPSS) for asylum-seekers, refugees and family members who have experienced trauma and distress.
- **Hungarian Baptist Aid** – delivers humanitarian assistance including counselling and psychological support, in addition to child protection and education assistance, advice with accessing the labour market, and integration support including identifying longer-term shelters.
- **Hungarian Charity of the Order of Malta** - supports with reception conditions logistics, shelters humanitarian assistance, “Blue Dot” information centres and integration services.
- **Hungarian Helsinki Committee** – offers assistance and legal support to refugees, including those in detention.
- **Hungarian Interchurch Aid** – supports refugees facing or at risk of gender-based violence through counselling.
- **Hungarian Red Cross** – provision of dignified services in transitional housing including WASH, first aid and basic healthcare, skills development, community engagement, and restoring family links.
- **Hungarian Reformed Church Aid** – provides counselling as well as food, and humanitarian assistance.
- **Mandak House** – supports reception conditions, humanitarian assistance, social counselling, education/mentoring for children and outreach.
- **Menedék** – offers counselling, language courses and social, educational and cultural programs supporting refugees and migrants in Hungary, in addition to job and housing assistance.
- **Next Step** – supports community-building, skills development, and empowerment of refugees in Hungary.
- **Romaversitas** – strengthening access to education and information provision and provides tailor-made solutions for the integration of Romani refugee children through small- scale education grants to NGOs.
- **ULE Association** – provides advice and support in accessing mid-to-long term accommodation through ‘solidarity housing’ and subsidized rent, in addition to social support and employment counselling.

Main Activities

- UNHCR observes compliance of the national legal framework with international refugee law to allow for access of all refugees, in a non-discriminatory manner, to the asylum system, temporary protections and other solutions. This is further supported through **advocacy, capacity development and strategic litigation**. UNHCR provides legal assistance (**counselling, representation, aid, information provision**) for refugees, asylum-seekers, and stateless persons while contributing to strengthening the national systems for the protection of persons with specific needs and vulnerable persons, including Victims of Trafficking.
- **Provision of information** remains key to ensuring refugees can access key services, make decisions, and actively participate in their service delivery. UNHCR and partners are working to ensure refugees and asylum-seekers have access to information through relevant channels allowing for feedback response mechanisms and participation to be integrated throughout the process. Refugees can access important and up-to-date information on the [UNHCR Help page](#) and [Telegram channel](#).
- UNHCR and partners are actively supporting refugees arriving in Hungary to meet their **basic needs** and access **protection and emergency assistance**, such as receiving psycho-social support, finding short and long-term accommodation, and accessing specialized services while ensuring integration into the social safety net.
- UNHCR focuses on enhancing and scaling up **national protection capacities** providing additional support and technical expertise.
- In collaboration with national authorities, UNHCR works on **ensuring access to protection for stateless people** and supports the authority's in-house quality assurance mechanism for the statelessness determination procedure, along with capacity-building.
- UNHCR also supports inclusion-focused **capacity-building, empowerment, and community events** for refugee communities, in collaboration with partners and refugee-led organizations, focusing on the most vulnerable.
- UNHCR is **identifying those with specific vulnerabilities**—including people with specific needs, those with disabilities, and unaccompanied and separated children — for referral to specialized services in Hungary. Additionally, the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and protection from gender-based violence (GBV) is prioritized through inter-agency networks and PSEA mechanisms and systems.
- UNHCR leads and coordinates the **Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF)** at country level in Hungary. The RCF includes partners from national organizations, refugee-led organizations, UN agencies and other inter-agency partners. Within the framework of the RCF, there are **five working groups** (Protection – including Child Protection and Education, and Basic Needs – including Shelter, Food, and Non-Food Items) and two cross-cutting task forces (PSEA, MHPSS) to effectively coordinate inter-agency partner's response.

External / Donors Relations

With particular thanks to the USA's support to refugees in Hungary.

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2023:

Private donors USA | Private donors Sweden | Private donors Switzerland | Private donors Luxembourg | Private donors Germany | Private donors Netherlands | Private donors Spain | Private donors Canada | Private donors Australia | Private donors Japan | Private donors United Kingdom | Private donors France | Private donors Republic of Korea | Sweden | Norway | Netherlands | Denmark | Germany | Switzerland | Belgium | Ireland | Algeria | Australia | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | France | Iceland | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Thailand | Türkiye | United Kingdom | Uruguay | USA | Private donors

CONTACTS

Juliette Stevenson, Senior External Relations Officer, Hungary

stevensj@unhcr.org, Cell +36 30 719 0013

Jazmin Topuzidu, Communications Associate, Hungary

topuzidu@unhcr.org, Cell +36 30 589 2750

LINKS

For further information, please visit the [UNHCR Central Europe Website](#) and the [UNHCR Hungary Website](#).