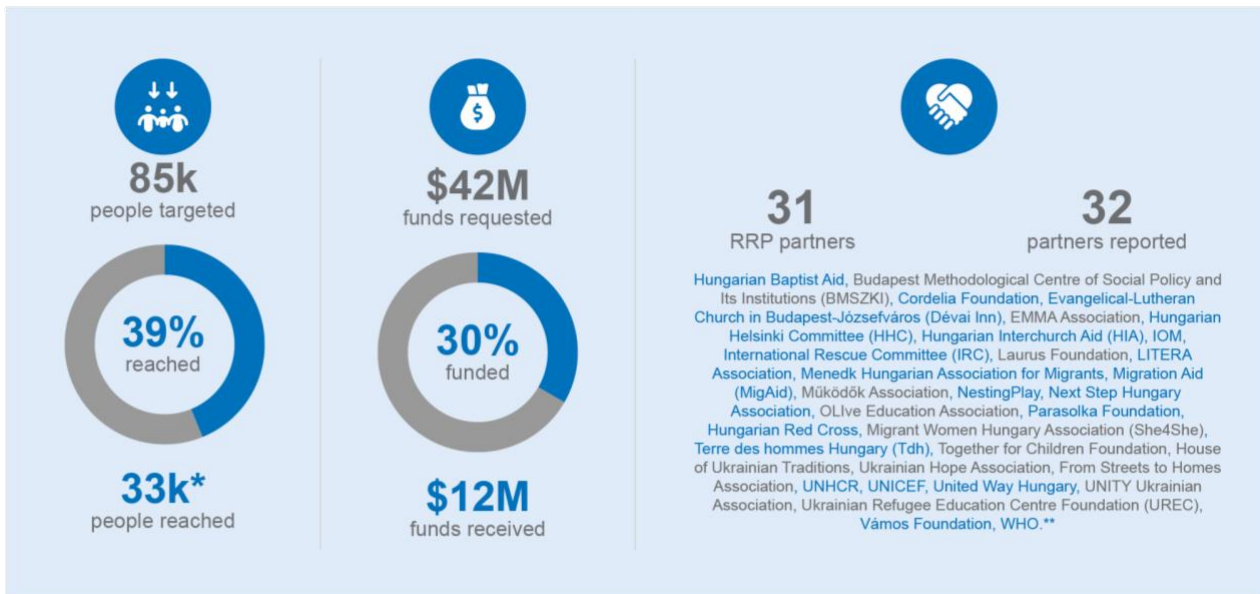


HUNGARY



*The number of individuals reached is an estimate based on the highest number of individuals reached per activity, per sector and/or per region, to avoid double counting.

**In black are partners that reported activities but did not appeal in the RRP.

Progress against the strategic objectives

Between January and December 2024, 31 organizations, including refugee-led groups, national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as United Nations Agencies, provided support to around 33,000 refugees across Hungary. Out of this, more than 10,000 refugees received support in Budapest and almost the same number in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county, the region nearest to the Ukrainian border.

With 71 per cent of refugees in Hungary displaced for more than two years,¹¹ their needs have evolved, and the focus of programmes evolved from basic needs toward socio-economic inclusion. Based on the appeal budget, the share of activities addressing basic needs declined from 36 in 2022 to 10 per cent in 2024, while support for socio-economic inclusion grew from 9% to 17% over the same period.

RRP partners continued advocacy and collaboration with the government authorities at all levels to strengthen the protective framework for refugees, to ensure access to territory for all those fleeing Ukraine, and access to legal status and fundamental rights, including for marginalized groups. Through protection monitoring, consultations with refugees, information provision and service delivery, they identified and addressed barriers to accessing rights and services in a coordinated manner. Almost 28,000 people were supported accessing protection services, such as specialized

¹¹ [Hungary: Socio-Economic Insights Survey 2024.](#)

services to refugees in vulnerable situations and new arrivals, including 5,400 children, 3,300 older refugees, 2,000 refugees with disabilities, as well as 1,800 Roma refugees.

In addition to the above, partners also delivered specialized services for women and children, including more than 2,200 people receiving case management and referrals for child protection,¹² violence against women, boys and girls¹³, as well as the national referral guidance. RRP partners also provided child protection interventions including recreational, psychosocial and parenting support activities to children, with almost 4,000 children accessing child-friendly spaces and support hubs in 2024. Direct service delivery was complemented by awareness raising campaigns and capacity building for service providers related to the risks of violence against women, boys and girls, child protection and human trafficking, as well as sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), reaching over 1,200 professionals.

To support self-reliance, a key priority to facilitate socio-economic inclusion, RRP partners provided targeted support to enhance access to education and training opportunities, facilitate employment and long-term housing, and to support refugees in accessing services. Partners actively promoted inclusive policies, fostering partnerships between government agencies, local communities and refugee-led organizations, to create an environment where refugees can not only meet their basic needs but also actively contribute to the economic and social fabric of the country. Key activities included language support for adults and children, awareness raising efforts among employers about refugee rights and skills, workshops to prepare refugees for job applications, and job fairs and other events to facilitate job placements. Furthermore, upskilling initiatives enhanced refugees' employability. Through these activities, partners supported more than 3,700 people with accessing employment and skills, 5,000 children and adults with language training, and 11,000 children with catch-up classes and learning support.

Refugees' access to health care services was enhanced by the provision of language support, including accompaniment and communication with health care providers, translation of medical documentation, information sharing and awareness raising among refugees and service providers. Partners also supported efforts to overcome administrative barriers, facilitating over 4,000 consultations with health care professionals for refugees. Mental health needs were recognized as a key priority area, and partners provided capacity building to actors in the refugee response, supporting more than 12,000 refugees with MHPSS services and activities.

Despite a growing focus on inclusion, partners continued to maintain key services at border crossing points, including counselling and orientation for new arrivals who accessed Hungary to seek safety. Across Hungary, partners including refugee-led organizations, also distributed non-food items to refugees in high need. In addition, partners provided multipurpose cash or vouchers to cover basic needs, and support families in highly vulnerable situations, such as those with serious disabilities. Combined with a one-off winter support, economic support and safety grants reached over 6,500 individuals. As part of that, assistance was provided by several partners, specifically to facilitate access to housing for those most in need. Post-distribution monitoring highlighted the importance of economic empowerment as a socio-economic inclusion tool,

¹² [Hungary: Where to Turn if a Refugee Child is at Risk.](#)

¹³ [GBV Referral Pathways Hungary.](#)

particularly for covering food, health care costs, accommodation, clothing, and education-related expenses.

Gaps and consequences of underfunding

In 2024, Hungary extended Temporary Protection until March 2026 in line with EU legislation, a very positive step. Nevertheless, uncertainty regarding longer-term solutions impacts the socio-economic inclusion prospects of refugees, with the need for longer-term solutions remaining a priority, alongside access to social protection schemes.

In terms of sectorial priorities, accessing stable employment remains a challenge for refugees, with many facing limited job opportunities, particularly in prior area of experience, as well as risks of labour exploitation. Refugees who find work, earn 35 per cent less than the national average wage, further exacerbating economic insecurity.¹⁴ To address these issues, employment programmes must be expanded to include further language training, job counselling, and legal assistance to address exploitative employment practices. Support for caregivers and single mothers through flexible work arrangements and alternative care solutions are also essential. Investments should be made in skill recognition and job search support to realize the potential that refugees from Ukraine bring to Hungary.

In relation to socio-economic inclusion, language remains among the primary obstacles affecting employment, education, and access to health care. Expanding language support services is crucial for maximizing opportunities for socio-economic inclusion and strengthening refugee resilience. This includes providing language training in schools and for adults, interpretation in health care settings, and translation of documents and certificates.

Enhancing access to education for refugee children and youth requires addressing persistent language barriers, increasing enrolment in Hungarian schools, and supporting students' mental health and well-being. Expanding targeted language programmes is crucial, particularly among secondary school students who face higher non-enrolment rates. Inclusive educational environments should focus on strengthening anti-discrimination measures and fostering cultural inclusion, while targeted efforts should prioritize access to higher education and bridging programmes that support students beyond secondary school.

Access to healthcare is a persistent challenge for refugees, with over 20 per cent struggling to obtain medical care due to language barriers, long wait times, and administrative hurdles. Mental health requires equal attention, with specialized medical services, such as trauma-informed care and child-focused MHPSS, needed to address the psychological toll of the crisis. Increasing the

¹⁴ [Hungary: Socio-Economic Insights Survey 2024.](#)



The Artemisszió Foundation is conducting educational and community programmes, supported by United Way Hungary. ©Plus You Creative Studio/Flora Mihalik

access to psychosocial support, counselling, and community-based protection services on all levels remains a critical need.

Access to housing has seen further growing needs in 2024, with the discontinuation of state-subsidized accommodation in August 2024 for refugees from areas of Ukraine designated by a government decree as “non-war-affected”.¹⁵ Refugees in Hungary continue to require both accommodation assistance programmes and financial assistance to secure shelter. This could be facilitated by providing access to existing housing programmes and reliable social safety nets. In addition, tailored accommodation programmes supporting refugee access to private accommodation could also provide longer-term security and facilitate social inclusion.

Local communities and various humanitarian organizations, including refugee-led initiatives in Hungary have been actively supporting government efforts to address the above needs. However, with a shrinking funding landscape, the ability of partners to respond remains constrained, in particular as national benefit schemes evolve and new needs emerge. With the Hungary appeal 30 per cent funded, essential programmes face significant resource constraints, hampering the continuity of services. Limited funding has already resulted in several organizations not renewing their targeted projects in Hungary, while others had to scale down significantly. These reductions hinder the ability to transition refugees from immediate assistance to long-term socio-economic stability, leaving many in precarious conditions. To address these gaps, sustained funding is critical, along with the comprehensive inclusion of displaced people into state social safety nets. Ensuring that local and refugee-led initiatives are adequately resourced will not only protect refugees’ rights but also promote their long-term well-being.

¹⁵ Government Decree 104/2022. (III. 12.)

Advocacy message

Given the ongoing war and its lasting impacts, maintaining the rights and assistance granted to temporary protection beneficiaries in Hungary remains essential. Despite potential developments in the hostilities, the challenges faced by many individuals, especially those in vulnerable situations, will persist. Access to affordable and stable housing, employment, education, including language learning, medical care including mental health and psychosocial support, as well as specialized support for those in vulnerable situations remain critical, along with efforts to reduce administrative and practical barriers to accessing these rights. Temporary protection holders continue to remain outside the scope of key legislation such as the Social Act, Family Support Act, Disability Act, and Child Protection Act, limiting their ability to access social protection services. Legislative or administrative measures enabling their inclusion are needed to address these gaps, alongside efforts to build the capacity of service providers to support this group.¹⁶

Partner Spotlight 1: AKSEN Project

The AKSEN Project (Assistance to Kids with Special Educational Needs), is a grassroots initiative established by Ukrainian professionals under the administrative umbrella of the Blue Forest Foundation in Hungary. In 2024, the AKSEN Project provided developmental sessions, individual consultations with medical specialists, and workshops to more than 40 children and their families as part of the Adaptive Children's Sensory-Motor Program to help them navigate Hungary's inclusion system. Additionally, the Summer Rehabilitation "Family Workshop" offered speech therapy, art therapy, logorythmic sessions, and recreational activities in 2023, benefiting over 80 children with special educational needs, and their parents.

AKSEN is the first initiative in Budapest providing structured developmental support in Ukrainian language, ensuring children receive care in their native language. Through expert-led programs and strong community engagement, AKSEN is making a lasting difference in the lives of refugee children and their families.

¹⁶ As highlighted by RRP partners in the [Child Protection Advocacy Note](#) and the [Social Protection Brief](#).

Partner Spotlight 2: Terre des Hommes

As part of the Building Bridges project, Terre des Hommes aims to support the successful inclusion of refugee children. Two Resilience Innovation Facilities (RIF) were established in Budapest and Győr, offering both educational and socio-economic opportunities to children from refugee and host communities. This included workshops, catch-up and language classes, and youth-led initiatives, reaching close to 1,000 children and youth. The project also strengthened the capacities of formal and non-formal service providers to better address the needs of refugee children and youth.

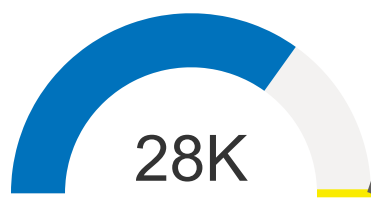
The *Including Children Affected by Migration* (ICAM) methodology, which aims to provide primary and secondary schools with a methodology to support the integration of children affected by migration into the school community, was introduced to 5 schools (3 in Budapest and 2 in Debrecen), and the *Support My Friends* methodology was rolled out in Győr and Debrecen, with children trained as peer supporters.

ACHIEVEMENTS BY SECTOR

PROTECTION

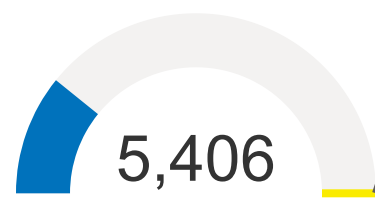
Protection

of Individuals who have been supported accessing protection services

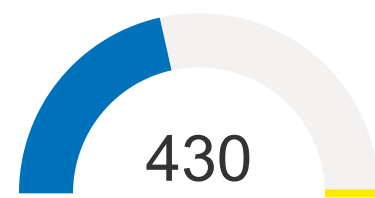


Child Protection

of children provided with child protection services

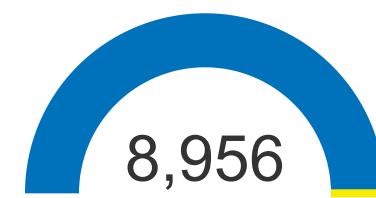


of participants trained on child protection and children's right

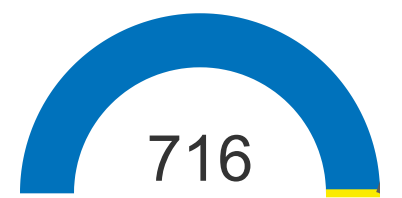


Gender-Based Violence

of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes

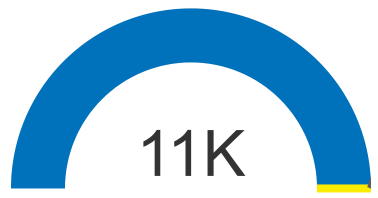


of trained humanitarian response actors and government personnel on GBV Knowledge on Prevention, Response, ...

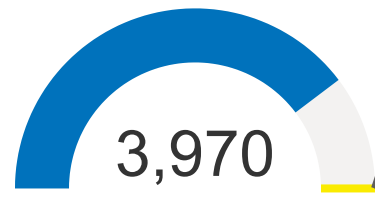


HEALTH & NUTRITION

of focused and specialized services MHPSS consultations provided



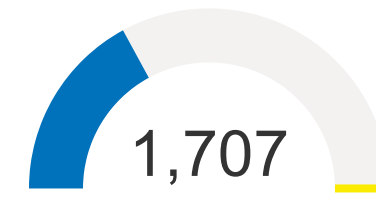
of health consultations provided to refugees



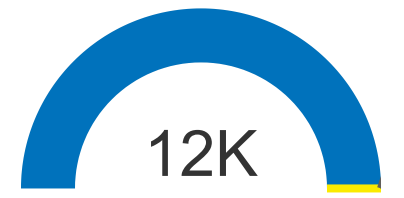
of health care providers trained to provide health services to refugees



of refugees reached through individual counselling sessions or health education with information on health topics, available service...



of individuals participating in MHPSS services and activities

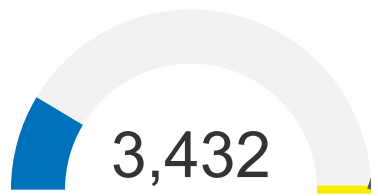


EDUCATION

BASIC NEEDS

LIVELIHOODS & SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION

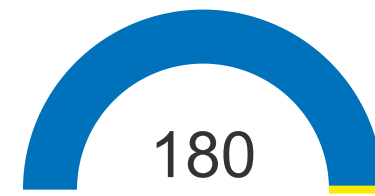
of children enrolled in formal education in host countries (*Government enrollment figure)



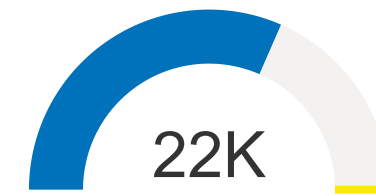
of children participating in non-formal education programmes in the host countries (Avoiding double counting)



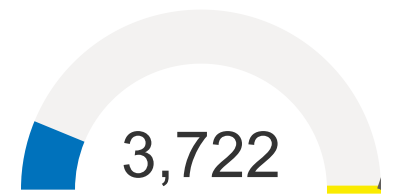
of education personnel trained or receiving support to better respond to the needs of refugee learners



of individuals who received assistance for basic needs

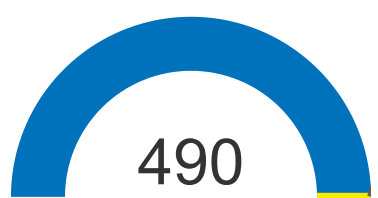


of people who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions



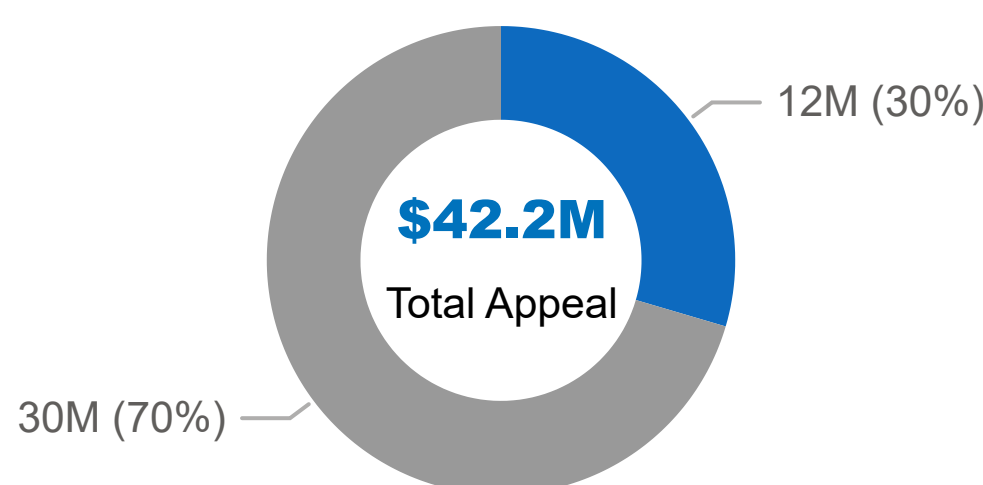
PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

of PSEA network members and partner personnel trained on SEA risk mitigation, prevention and response



Funding required vs Funding received

● Funding received ● Gap



Number of people reached

● People reached ● Remaining

