

HUNGARY

7 June 2022

Since the war in Ukraine began on 24 February 2022, over **1,312,550** refugees have arrived to Hungary directly from Ukraine or via third countries, the majority women and children (some 70 per cent), as well as older people and those with disabilities. Many are in need of urgent medical care, including persons with chronic illnesses and those with mental and physical disabilities.

To ensure a favourable protection environment, UNHCR is supporting government-led efforts through a multisectoral response focusing on **protection, reception and accommodation, and material assistance** for most vulnerable groups, including those with specific needs.

UNHCR and partners are present at border crossing points, help / information points as well as in urban areas to **provide information on rights and available services, identify vulnerable refugees and refer them to relevant services, and to monitor and reinforce reception conditions**, while ensuring basic needs are met.

ARRIVALS TO HUNGARY since 24 Feb 2022

1,312,550 total arrivals to Hungary (as of 6 June)

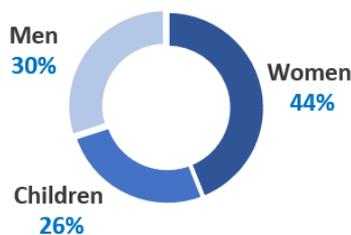
725,600 arriving directly from Ukraine

586,950 arriving via Romania

24,231 applications for temporary protection in Hungary (as of 3 June)

16,188 positive decisions taken

Age/Gender Breakdown of Arrivals



On 28 May, UNHCR organized two events along with Clowns Without Borders for Ukrainian refugee children in Budapest, providing a much-needed outlet for recreational games and social activities. ©UNHCR

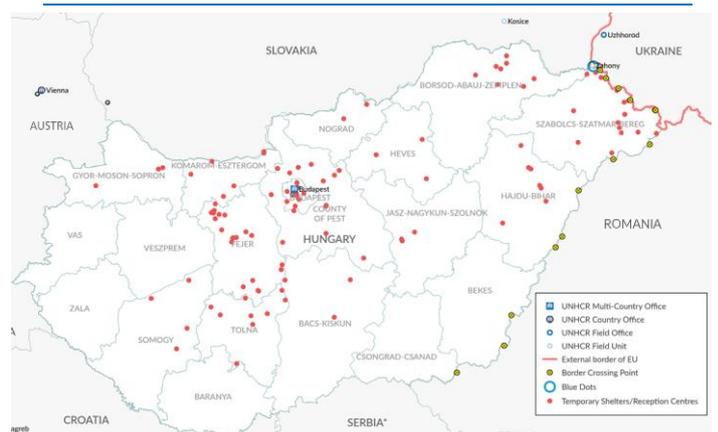
UNHCR PRESENCE IN HUNGARY

STAFF:

- **80** Total staff
 - **42** Staff based in Hungary
 - **38** Staff on emergency deployment / mission

OFFICES:

- **1** UNHCR Representation for Central Europe located in Budapest



Operational Context

Since 24 February 2022, Hungary has observed the **rapid influx of refugees arriving** from Ukraine (over 1,312,550 arrivals as of 6 June 2022). The majority of refugees are **women and children**, as well as **older people**. Many have urgent protection needs and underlying vulnerabilities, including **persons with disabilities**. A high proportion of arrivals are also being recorded at Hungary's border with Romania, where some 586,950 people from Ukraine have transited. While many move on to other European countries, over 24,231 individuals have applied for temporary protection status in Hungary (as of 3 June). To respond to the scale, pace and complexity of the situation, UNHCR has declared Hungary a **Level 3 Emergency**, the highest possible designation.

National authorities continue to work to meet the immediate needs of those arriving, including access to **healthcare, education, temporary accommodation**, and **provision of core relief items** along border crossing and registration points. Help points have been established to provide information and assistance to those arriving to Hungary. Shelters and reception centres have been identified, where refugees arriving from Ukraine are referred to short-term accommodation in government-run facilities or with volunteer networks. Local authorities and humanitarian actors are present at border crossing points and in urban areas, and are closely coordinating to provide assistance including advice on **temporary housing, transportation, legal and social counselling**, and other services.

While authorities and local communities have extended a welcoming stance to those fleeing Ukraine, the high number of arrivals has strained existing capacities, making information provision and **identification of vulnerable profiles** more challenging. UNHCR and partners are continuing to reinforce **communication and legal counselling** to ensure those arriving remain fully informed about procedures for applying for temporary protection, as well as associated rights and services. Additionally, UNHCR is working with local counterparts to improve screening and identification of those with **specific vulnerabilities**, notably older people and persons with limited mobility or physical impairments, while identification and referral of **unaccompanied and separated children (UASC)** continues to be prioritized. As certain **minority groups** arriving to Hungary have reported discrimination when attempting to access humanitarian assistance and support—notably Roma individuals, who have experienced difficulty in accessing basic assistance including food and transportation—further sensitization and capacity-building is being undertaken by UNHCR to address discriminatory practices and ensure equal access to rights and services.

Protection from sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) remains a critical priority, particularly for women at risk. Ensuring that people of concern understand their rights, can access assistance, and can communicate any risks or report instances of sexual abuse and exploitation to humanitarian actors is crucial. Further capacity is needed to prevent the threat of illegal activity along border crossing points, including **trafficking and exploitation** – particularly given the arriving population is mainly comprised of women and children.



On 3 May, UNHCR donated mobility equipment to the Mayor of Záhony, László Helmecki, for use by the municipality and partners to support Persons With Specific Needs (PWSN) arriving at Záhony border crossing. Many arrivals include older people and those with mobility issues, who require assistance as they seek information and access to services at info and help points after arriving to Hungary from Ukraine. © UNHCR

Working with Partners

UNHCR's Representation for Central Europe in Budapest covers activities in [the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia,](#) and [Slovenia](#). UNHCR has been present in Hungary since 1989.

UNHCR works in close coordination with Hungarian Government counterparts to enable refugees and asylum-seekers to [enjoy essential rights and access basic services](#). UNHCR maintains positive collaboration with state entities including local and municipal authorities, UN agencies, NGOs, humanitarian partners, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders to provide assistance to those seeking protection.

As part of the Ukraine Situation response, UNHCR leads and coordinates the implementation of the [Refugee Response Plan \(RRP\)](#) in line with the [Refugee Coordination Model \(RCM\)](#) and in close collaboration and consultation with relevant government counterparts, and with the support of inter-agency partners and other stakeholders. UNHCR also leads the [Refugee Coordination Forum \(RCF\)](#) at country-level in Hungary to ensure harmonized response within existing government structures and among inter-agency partners, NGOs, volunteers and other stakeholders, with associated [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.

UNHCR works closely with members of the Hungarian Charity Council, notably: [Caritas Hungary, Hungarian Baptist Aid, Hungarian Maltese Charity Service, Hungarian Interchurch Aid, Hungarian Red Cross, and Hungarian Reformed Church Aid](#). UNHCR is also in the process of expanding its partnerships in Hungary to ensure availability of comprehensive assistance and services to people seeking protection, including those with specific needs. UNHCR's current partners in Hungary include:

- [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 shelter.
- [Hungarian Helsinki Committee](#) – offers assistance and legal support to refugees, including those in detention.
- [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.
- [Menedék](#) – offers counselling, language courses and social, educational and cultural programs supporting refugees and migrants in Hungary, in addition to job and housing assistance.
- [Migration Aid](#) – delivers assistance targeting the physical, medical and emotional needs of refugees, including both temporary and long-term housing, social counselling, access to employment, education and learning support programs, as well as access to meals/food items.
- [NANE](#) – provides capacity-building for frontline staff and volunteers—notably interpreters and health staff—as well as development and circulation of information materials focusing on GBV and prevention.
- [Next Step](#) – supports community-building, skills development, and empowerment of refugees in Hungary.
- [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.

UNHCR Response

Protection

- UNHCR and partners are present at border crossing points, help / info points as well as in urban areas where refugees are arriving. In addition to providing [information on available rights and services](#), UNHCR is working to [reinforce reception conditions](#) by strengthening local capacities in Hungary and monitoring arrivals to ensure access to rights and services on a non-discriminatory basis, including for third-country nationals, while identifying vulnerable individuals for [referral to specialized services](#). UNHCR and partners are supporting authorities in scaling up of [accommodation capacity](#), including for temporary shelter to accommodate those with both immediate and longer-term needs.

- UNHCR is continuing the rollout of **Blue Dot** locations in Hungary to strengthen information provision, two-way communication, social and legal counselling, and referrals for people with specific needs, while serving as a safe space for women and children recently arriving from Ukraine. The first Blue Dot was launched in early April in Záhony near the border with Ukraine, with further locations planned for other areas where refugees are arriving. In addition to providing information on temporary protection, Blue Dots hubs are **identifying those with vulnerabilities**—including people with specific needs, those with disabilities, and UASC—for **referral to specialized services**.
- UNHCR is currently undertaking **site-mapping and profiling** to better track active / inactive accommodation sites, to monitor which entities are delivering specific services at each site, and to better understand the needs of refugees. To accomplish this, dedicated site-mapping and site-profiling tools have been launched by UNHCR and partners to track and analyze the needs of those arriving. Additionally, UNHCR is working to determine where the highest concentration of refugees staying in private accommodation are located—both within Budapest and in other parts of the country—and is working with private sector companies to better understand where refugees are predominantly staying.
- UNHCR and partner Hungarian Helsinki Committee (HHC) are also working to **expand transportation capacities** for persons seeking to travel from accommodation facilities to the offices of the National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing (NDGAP) in order to apply for temporary protection and access relevant services.
- On 9 May, UNHCR finalized and shared a set of **GBV Referral Pathways** for Hungary to connect survivors to appropriate, quality, lifesaving multisectoral services in a timely, safe and confidential manner and in accordance with their needs and preferences. The Pathways were developed based on recent mapping and assessment of available services and capacity conducted by UNHCR and partners beginning in early April.
- As part of its Child Protection response, UNHCR is supporting **access to education** to ensure continuous learning for refugee children arriving to Hungary, by reinforcing existing refugee-led initiatives and providing valuable education support. On 16 May, UNHCR delivered equipment (laptops, printer, laminator, projector and other items) to an informal primary school operated by NGO Unity, to help Ukrainian teachers with their lessons for the remaining school year as well as for catch-up classes during the summer months (*see below image*). UNHCR continues to procure laptops/tablets, furniture and other basic items for kindergartens and primary schools in Budapest to help ensure a positive learning environment for young refugee children.



UNHCR is supporting access to education for refugee children arriving to Hungary from Ukraine. Throughout May 2022, UNHCR delivered school equipment including laptops, printers and projectors to help foster a positive learning environment for refugee children and ensure continuous learning. © UNHCR

Communication and Provision of Information

- In the context of the high flow of arrivals into Hungary from Ukraine, **provision of information** remains key to ensuring refugees can access key services, make decisions, and undertake planning in relation to their displacement. UNHCR and partners are working to ensure those arriving from Ukraine have access to information through preferred channels, feedback mechanisms, community networks, and are able to actively participate in all stages of the response.
- UNHCR's **Help Page** for Hungary provides refugees with information on Temporary Protection procedures, key contacts and addresses, and referral information for specialized services, including family reunification and legal/social counselling. Links to dedicated information videos in English, Hungarian, Ukrainian and Russian

language provide general information on temporary protection and associated services available in Hungary. Additional communication channels include an SMS line and a dedicated email to respond to queries, and to allow individuals to provide feedback and share any complaints.

- UNHCR is preparing to launch an interactive [WhatsApp chatbot](#) to provide direct real-time support to refugees seeking information and assistance, as well as automated answers to the most commonly posed questions and referral information to relevant partners and services. This communication channel is designed to complement existing information and support provided by the inter-agency chatbot managed by WFP in Ukraine.

Training and Capacity-Building

- [Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse \(PSEA\)](#) and prevention of [gender-based violence \(GBV\)](#) is being prioritized through reinforced inter-agency networks and PSEA mechanisms and systems, including referrals, at the national level. In this regard, UNHCR is conducting regular trainings for humanitarian partners, volunteers and local counterparts focusing on PSEA and core humanitarian principles, and recently developed a Code of Conduct and system for screening and background checks among humanitarian actors present along border crossings and at reception points.
- Since 24 February, some 1,400 individuals have been reached through [capacity development trainings](#) and initiatives by UNHCR and partners on topics including child protection, GBV, PSEA, the legal framework for temporary protection in Hungary and access to associated rights and services. Between 4 April – 12 May, UNHCR trained over 100 partner staff, NGOs, and volunteers on PSEA core principles and standards to enhance the capacities of all service-providers working with refugees in Budapest and at Záhony (*see below image*). During this period, partner Cordelia delivered dedicated trainings on GBV and Psychological First Aid (PFA) for 20 volunteers, while partners Hungarian Helsinki Committee and Menedék undertook trainings for volunteers, municipality staff, and NGO partners in areas including child protection, social welfare, and general legal entitlements under temporary protection.



(Above Left): During May, UNHCR conducted PSEA trainings for some 50 humanitarian staff, volunteers, and RCF members as part of the “HUR Hungary” volunteer campaign; all were trained on PSEA and Core Humanitarian standards, and signed a model Code of Conduct developed by UNHCR.

(Above Right): On 29 April, UNHCR undertook a training of trainers at Záhony to inform on the legal framework in Hungary for refugees arriving from Ukraine, including temporary protection and associated rights. The trainings also provided an opportunity for humanitarian actors and volunteers present at the border to provide feedback and share advice regarding best practices. © UNHCR

Supply

- UNHCR is rapidly mobilizing and enhancing supply chains in the region, including procurement of goods and services to support field operations in Hungary, Ukraine, and in neighbouring countries.
- In March 2022, UNHCR launched a temporary [warehouse](#) in eastern Hungary to facilitate [delivery of core relief items](#) (CRIs) to Ukraine, including 21,312 thermal blankets, 14,800 jerry cans, 2,467 kitchen sets, 2,448 solar lamps and 2,300 plastic sheets. A second warehouse location was established in Budapest to provide additional stockpiles for Ukraine and other operations in the region.
- On 30 May, UNHCR in coordination with The Foundation of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church and NGOs Lexis and Unity began distributing hygiene kits to refugees recently arriving from Ukraine to Hungary. Some 3,000 individuals are targeted between 30 May – 8 June, with over 1,900 kits distributed to 681 families as of 6 June.



UNHCR and partners are present at Záhony train station and other border crossing points where refugees from Ukraine are arriving to Hungary, as well as in urban areas. © UNHCR

Special Thanks to Donors

UNHCR is grateful to the donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions to the Ukraine situation. Unearmarked contributions provide UNHCR with vital flexibility in determining how best to protect and assist persons of concern who are in the greatest need or at the greatest risk.

Donors of USD 10 million or more are (as of 7 June 2022):

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* Financial information covers countries under UNHCR's Representation for Central Europe (Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia), in addition to Belarus and Republic of Moldova.

For more information, please visit the [Global Focus page for the Ukraine Situation](#).

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Links

For further information, please visit the [Ukraine Situation Operational Data Portal](#)

[UNHCR Central Europe](#) • [UNHCR Hungary](#) • [UNHCR Hungary Country Website](#) • [UNHCR Ukraine Emergency Appeal](#)

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