



HUNGARY

March – December 2022 Overview

As of end December 2022, the number of border crossings from Ukraine reported by the Hungarian Border Police totaled over 3.9 million, with 2 million crossings directly from Ukraine and 1.9 million crossings through the Romanian border. While the vast majority chose to move onward, some **33,200 individuals have registered for temporary protection** in Hungary.

The Government, including **municipalities, local host communities and humanitarian actors, in particular UN, charities, local NGOs, and refugee-led organizations**, were engaged in the response from the beginning, rapidly scaling-up reception capacity to meet the immediate needs of those arriving at border entry and registration points.

In 2022, RRP partners focused their efforts on ensuring a safe and protective environment for vulnerable refugees and their families, in close cooperation with the Hungarian Government, ensuring **equitable access to basic assistance and protection of all refugee women, girls, men, boys and persons with specific needs, including Roma refugees**.

KEY FIGURES*

7.9 M



Refugees who have fled Ukraine since 24 February (as of December 2022)

3.8 M



Total refugees who have entered Hungary (as of December 2022)

33,272



Temporary Protection applications have been submitted

78%



Of refugees are women and children

59,000



Individuals supported in accessing protection and documentation

REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN (RRP) FOR THE UKRAINE SITUATION**

USD 1.79 B



Overall financial requirements (Regional)

USD 1.3 B



Overall Funding received (Regional)

73%



Percent funded (Regional)

USD 75.3 M



Financial requirements for the Hungary response

21



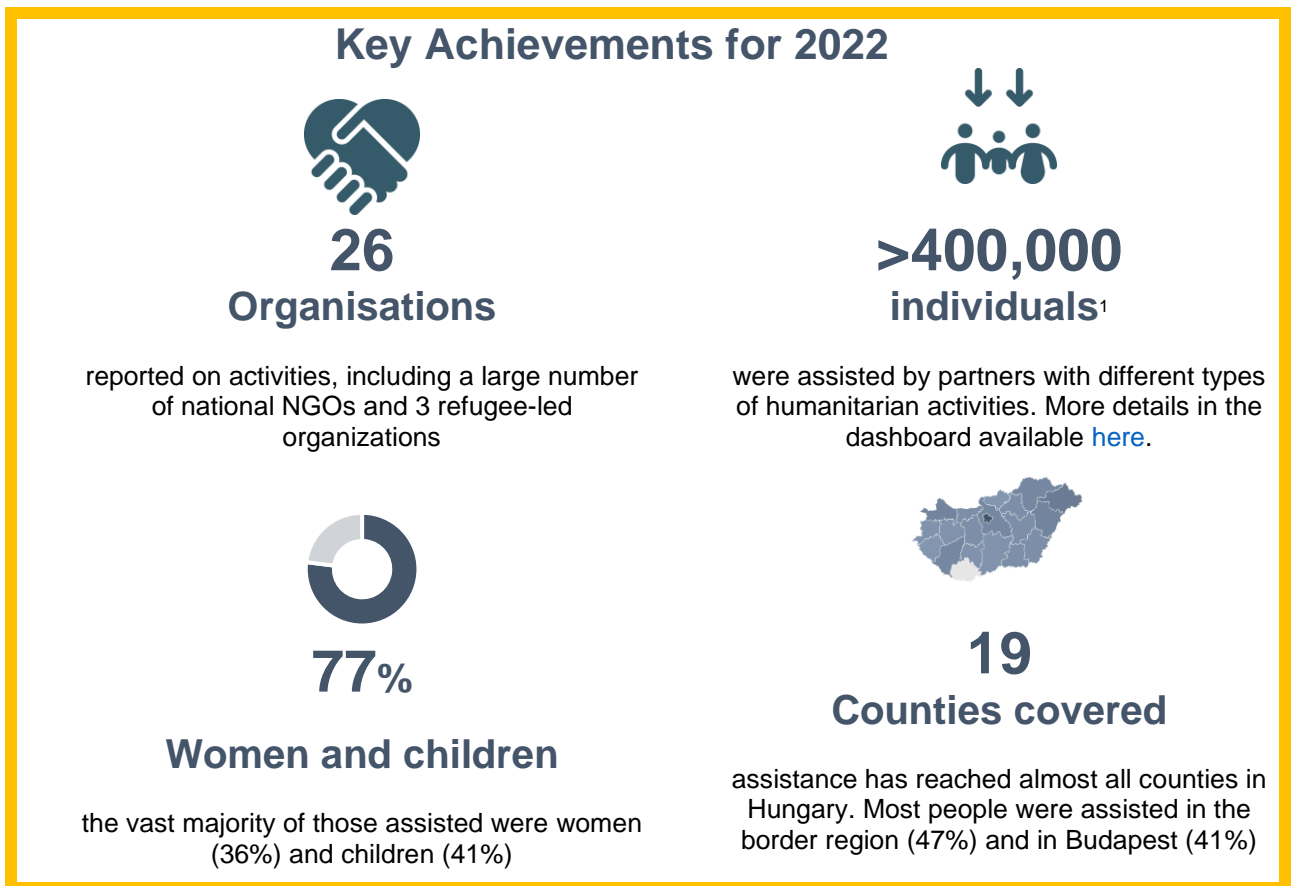
Partners involved in the Hungary response

*See the [Operational Data Portal for the Ukraine Refugee Situation](#) and the [Hungary portal page](#) for more details on refugee population figures and information resources. **See the [Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan](#) for a breakdown of sectoral response priorities and requirements and the [Refugee Funding Tracker](#) for RRP funding information.

Operational context

In 2022, multistakeholder partnerships among humanitarian actors were quickly established and functional within the context of the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) soon after the onset of the war in Ukraine, including NGOs, charities and faith-based organizations, civil society, refugee-led organizations, associations run by the Ukrainian diaspora and UN Agencies; over 70 different organizations coordinated interventions. Partners in Hungary supported existing government efforts through multisectoral humanitarian responses that reinforced reception standards, strengthened the national protection systems and their workforce, built the capacity of frontline professionals, and improved information-sharing.

Under the RCF umbrella, a sub-coordination structure was established among actors as part of the response, with a focus on protection and basic needs and protection, including gender-based violence (GBV), child protection (CP), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), education, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). Co-chairing of key working groups was also launched in 2022 and saw the participation of local NGOs (Trauma Center for the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Working Group, Next Steps for the Basic Needs Working Group) and women-led organizations (Voice for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Task Force) and UNICEF (for the Child Protection and the Education Working Groups).



¹ Including refugees estimated to be in transit. More detailed achievements can be found in the dashboard here [Document - Hungary: RCF - 2022 Achievements \(unhcr.org\)](#).



PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

- **In 2022, 17 Protection partners reached over 68,000 individuals** with protection services including community awareness raising, integrated protection case management and protection assistance, identification of refugees at risk and referral to services, counseling on benefits and entitlements of temporary protection status, cash for protection, legal assistance, and awareness.
- Child Protection actors also strengthened the links with the relevant focal points of the Ministry of Interior and the Budapest Legal Guardianship Authority. A workshop on Anti-Trafficking and related risks of trafficking for minor refugees was organized by UNHCR/IOM.
- **Accountability to the Affected Population was strengthened** in the response through various 2-way information exchange channels developed and supported by protection actors with the active participation of refugee-led organizations. Leaflets on available services and feedback mechanisms were produced by partners.
- The Budapest Helps! Community Center was opened in collaboration with the Municipality of Budapest, IOM and UNHCR. The center provided over **2,400 refugees with access to information, legal assistance, and various social services** since its opening in September.
- Over **29,000 refugees visited Hungary UNHCR Help page** which contains specific information on temporary protection status and refugee rights.
- **474 participants** among humanitarian staff, government staff and host community **were trained on GBV prevention, response and risk mitigation.**
- Almost **2,800 refugees received information related to GBV, PSEA and trafficking.**
- A **GBV mapping was conducted with over 20 actors providing multi-sectoral services** (comprising of MHPSS, health, legal, safety and others)
- Almost **2,560 children were provided with child protection services, while 219 among humanitarian workers, refugees and government staff received training on child protection and children's rights.**

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Need for improved service mapping to support protection referrals in different locations in Hungary. Challenges for individuals to access rights and services in Hungary have become more visible over time due to inconsistent procedures, lack of awareness, and or discriminatory practices of some service providers.
- Sensitivities around GBV that led to a lack of common understanding on the terminology and concepts linked to GBV, and the absence of a clear national system.
- Need for tailored support in access to services for specific needs for the Roma community.
- Inconsistent application of best interest of the child, need to enhance a common understanding, as well as promoting existing tools and need for more substantial exchange and collaboration with the national CP system, in particular around the appointment of legal guardianship for unaccompanied children from Ukraine.
- Vicarious trauma and burnout of humanitarian staff of organizations deployed in the field from the early stages of displacement from Ukraine into Hungary should be taken into consideration and psychosocial support should be made available for staff as well.
- The level and the quality of assistance offered to refugees varies significantly across the various shelters, and there is need for more translators in many locations.

Partner Spotlight

<p>Hungarian Helsinki Committee (HHC): In 2022, the HHC provided free-of-charge information and legal assistance to asylum-seekers and refugees in Hungary through multiple channels (in person, via phone, email, and social media). HHC developed updated information leaflets in 4 languages (Russian, Ukrainian, English, and Hungarian) for different target groups including third-country nationals and Hungarian-Ukrainian dual citizens. HHC published an information note for legal professionals to support the delivery of legal information to refugees. HHC carried out 75 monitoring visits country-wide to helping points and shelters where those fleeing Ukraine were accommodated and held 39 training sessions for attorneys, civil society organizations, volunteers, and in schools in 2022.</p>	<p>EMMA / PATENT: After intensive mapping and network building, EMMA launched and coordinated sexual reproductive health rights (SRHR) services in April/May, which include reliable referral pathways for survivors and refugees in need of healthcare and psychosocial help, medical support, and reproductive care services, online/offline information campaigns in four languages (English, Ukrainian, Russian, Hungarian), GBV-response guidelines for professionals and volunteers and distribution of sanitary products. Access to SRHR services was ensured, particularly for women of the Roma community from Ukraine. Emma also worked through a network of 20 motivated female volunteers to accompany women to medical appointments, including private clinics, large-scale distribution (over 800 families). In 2022, EMMA arranged up to 40 direct services per month and 8 PSEA-related consultancies with local NGOs.</p>
<p>Terre Des Hommes (Tdh CH): Since April 2022, Tdh CH in Hungary has been cooperating with the Budapest Municipality and the Budapest Methodological Center and Institutions to provide child protection services to refugees arriving from Ukraine and accommodated in municipality shelters. Among the services provided: case management and counselling, support in school enrollment, trainings for refugees and humanitarians, mental health and psychosocial support, non-formal and after school programs and recreational activities. Tdh CH worked through multidisciplinary mobile and fixed teams in 7 locations in Hungary of over 30 humanitarian staff, who reached 969 refugees (55% children, mainly 5–11-year-olds); 9 psychology experts were deployed, providing 1053 MHPSS consultations (877 individual, 176 group session).</p>	<p>Budapest Pride: Budapest Pride focused on the assistance to LGBTIQ refugees, by providing over 70 safe hosts for refugees, short and mid-term transport and other housing support for LGBTIQ refugees, employment support, connection to LGBTIQ refugee organizations in the country of their final destination, free health support and referrals, hygiene items, and basic needs support (food, medicine, supplies) for Ukrainian LGBTIQ organizations. Budapest Pride also organized community events to link the communities, e.g., the "Queer Market" in Szeszgyár, where local and Ukrainian vendors could sell their hand-made products and services, enjoy free meals and music and get free HIV & STI testing. Locals could use this opportunity to support Ukrainian refugees living in Budapest directly.</p>



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

- In 2022, over **2,000 refugee children were supported in accessing the national education system; almost 7,000 children benefitted from non-formal education activities**, such as catch-up classes, summer camp, language courses for children and youth, and support classes; over 3,100 humanitarian and government workers and members of civil society on access to education for refugees.
- The Education Working Group expanded and enhanced coordination with existing national education networks, mapping and linking of national and international stakeholders working on educational topics for



Recreational activities run by Menedek provide a welcome respite for Ukrainian children ©Menedek

refugees. The Working Group also exchanged publicly available information and evidence including enrollment figures with other stakeholders.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The absence of consolidated data on access to education and a breakdown by type of school and location.
- Despite children having the obligation to attend school, the structural support provided to children is not sufficient to acquire the needed language level to participate in the exams.
- There is a need for increased awareness raising on the importance of school enrollment, as an obligation as per national legislation, in particular for children who were not attending school in Ukraine and those with parents with limited literacy.



BASIC NEEDS, INCLUDING FOOD SECURITY, CBI, ACCOMMODATION

Achievements and Impact

- In 2022, 20 partners coordinated their interventions through the Basic Needs Working Group. **Over 309,000 individuals were reached with assistance for basic needs by 20 partners, including 178,000 people who received in-kind food assistance, 77,000 who received in-kind assistance for basic needs, 30,000 who received cash assistance and 24,000 who received accommodation support.**
- The Basic Needs Working Group organized thematic workshops on housing, accommodation, and cash-based interventions as part of thematic information-sharing and to spread good sectoral practices. Over 10 organizations participated in winterization activities, including accommodation upgrades, distribution of winter clothing items and other NFI, and voucher distribution.
- A joint collaboration pilot on comprehensive support for particularly vulnerable families was set up in Debrecen between the Municipality, NGO Dorcas, UNICEF and UNHCR, including access to accommodation and basic needs support.



Beregsurány relief point operated by the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta. ©Maltai

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- A serious challenge is the discrepancy between the long-term needs of refugees and the ability of organizations to provide services beyond an initial response (1-3 months). The lack of longer-term solutions (e.g., sustainable supported housing), particularly for Roma refugee families, remains one of the most critical issues to address.
- Despite the 13 collective accommodation facilities supported by partners with maintenance and equipment in 2022, reception conditions in collective shelters vary across locations, with some facilities better equipped to receive refugees, in particular vulnerable individuals, and families. The importance of Ukrainian speaking staff in the accommodation has been raised by refugees during consultations.

Partner Spotlight

<p>Budapest Methodological Social Center (BMSZKI) and Budapest Municipality: BMSZKI worked jointly with the Budapest Municipality to provide short to medium term accommodation to refugees in Budapest. In 2022, 1,530 refugees spent a total of 88,823 guest nights at the six shelters maintained by the Municipality. The city provided more than 260,000 meals and opened two information centers in cooperation with IOM and UNHCR. The Municipality also made Budapest’s public transport network available free of charge for refugees from Ukraine.</p>	<p>Migration Aid (MA): MA has operated two hostels for refugees since March 2022. The Madridi Street Refugee Shelter provided accommodation to more than 10,000 refugees who spent more than 30,000 nights in the accommodation. The Győr refugee shelter provided long-term accommodation for 70 Ukrainian refugees for 10 months. Within the framework of Learning Without Borders (LWB) in Budapest, MA provided daycare and organized summer camps with the help of 12 native Ukrainian-speaking teachers who were also refugees. More than 180 children have visited the camps since May. Over 3,000 volunteers helped support these activities.</p>
<p>Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta (Máltai): Máltai maintained uninterrupted humanitarian readiness at the border crossing in Beregsurány which included a Blue Dot funded by UNHCR. In 2022, 6,195 individuals received cash assistance for basic needs in the form of pre-paid ATMs cards for a total value of 49,560,000 HUF (\$137,000). Groceries were distributed to 70,384 individuals and 12,478 people received prepared meals at border, reception and transit sites. NFIs were distributed to 26,245 refugees, including 19,670 people who received hygiene kits. 5,260 refugees were provided with accommodation in collective sites. In terms of healthcare, 616 individuals received assistance with accessing healthcare and 735 individuals were provided with healthcare (primary, secondary. Overall, 517 consultations were provided through specialized MHPSS services and 18,758 consultations through basic counseling. Legal assistance was provided to 488 individuals.</p>	<p>Hungarian Evangelical Fellowship (MET) and Oltalom Charity Society (OKE): MET and OKE jointly provided hundreds of refugee families with accommodation, food, clothing, and health care services at the MET/Oltalom Headquarters in Budapest and outside of Budapest, temporarily accommodating Ukrainian refugee families in eight different facilities and providing three meals a day, clothing, medicine, and washing facilities. Refugees were also supported in accessing the labor market in Hungary. Refugee children were supported in their integration into nurseries, kindergartens, and schools, and catch-up schools were opened during summer. Once integrated into schools, children received additional afternoon tuition and, when needed, support from a psychologist.</p>
<p>HunHelp: HunHelp is a women-led, migrant and refugee-led, Ukrainian and Russian-speaking grassroots volunteer movement focusing on fundraising and distributing food vouchers to refugee families in need outside of Budapest and across the country. By sending vouchers to refugees in need, HunHelp managed to reach refugees with vouchers where there was little support from other organizations. Over 2,000 private individuals and organizations donated to the HunHelp GoFundMe page, including feminist organizations outside of Hungary.</p>	<p>Next Step Hungary Association is a refugee-led NGO providing practical, cost-effective interventions to support the integration of refugees and third-country nationals in Hungary. In 2022 they reached over 10,000 refugees with food distributions, hygiene kits, and other items distribution of language courses, activities for children, and integration support into the local labour market.</p>

Utcáról Lakásba Egyesület (ULE) - From Street to Homes: In 2022, ULE supported 332 refugees with either rental subsidies or social services, with a focus on medium- and long-term housing opportunities beyond short-term reception options. ULE social workers helped refugees with finding employment in Hungary, enrolling children in schools and kindergartens, and accessing healthcare.

CARITAS: From the first influx of refugees in February 2022, Caritas provided emergency shelter, short term accommodation, rental assistance, helping points at Barabás village close to the Ukrainian border and Budapest, voucher support, case management support and psychosocial support activities.



LIVELIHOODS AND INCLUSION

Achievements and Impact



©Romaversitas - Young researchers at Romaversitas's conference in Budapest presenting the survey on the inclusion of Roma refugees in Hungary.

- Partners increased preparations in the second part of 2022 for specific livelihoods and inclusion activities, such as employment and social inclusion programs and language teaching, as support provision shifted from emergency assistance towards inclusion. Most activities have thus just started in 2022 and will have more impact in 2023.

- Several partners offered much needed Hungarian and English language courses to refugees such as Next Step, the Carpathian Foundation of Hungary, Unity and Devai Inn, as language skills remain a barrier to entering the workforce in Hungary. Without the knowledge of Hungarian or English only lower paid blue collar or hospitality jobs are available for refugees.

- Counseling on employment and accessing the labor market was provided by Next Step, Budapest Pride, Menedék Association and Devai Inn. This

supported refugees to identify employment offers and enter the labour market.

- Social cohesion strengthening community events including various groups of the refugees and the host community were held by several organizations including Next Step, Budapest Pride, the Carpathian Foundation of Hungary, Romaversitas, Devai Inn, United Way and the refugee-led organization, Unity.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a growing need for all aspects of social inclusion, especially to address barriers to employment and ensuring long-term and affordable housing.
- There is a still increasing need for more Hungarian and English language classes, literacy training and vocational courses for adults, and the acceptance/equivalency provision of professional and academic certificates and degrees from Ukraine.
- As a consequence of the general housing crisis (lack of affordable rental / social housing, lack of legal safeguards for tenants, overall bad housing conditions, soaring energy prices) coupled with lack of trust in the liquidity of Ukrainian refugees means that there are very scarce affordable, long-term housing opportunities for refugees.
- There continue to be several barriers to accessing safe and dignified employment, which need to be addressed, such as providing more language courses, flexible day care for children, and affordable accommodation in the proximity of employment opportunities. The risk of labor exploitation, especially through informal job offers, remains high. The discrimination of Roma refugees is also significant in terms of access to employment and housing.
- Overall, the general difficulties of the socio-economic situation in Hungary adversely impacts refugee communities and their prospects for integration.

Partner Spotlight

<p>Carpathian Foundation – Hungary (CFHU): CFHU provided support through social workers and assistants to up to 1,000 refugees in Heves, Hajdú-Bihar and Szabolcs-Szatmár Bereg counties, in areas not covered by other humanitarian actors. CFHU worked on the inclusion of refugees, in particular Roma refugees, by helping children to enroll into Hungarian schools and kindergartens, and for adults to obtain employment. In addition, language courses were organized for adults. Through small grants, the organization supported 12 community-building projects with interventions ranging from medical assistance to humanitarian aid, support approximately 10,000 individuals. CFHU also provided in-kind donations to up to 15,000 refugees from Ukraine.</p>	<p>Romaversitas: Romaversitas focuses on the inclusion of Roma refugees in Hungary. They carried out a situational analysis, community-based outreach campaigns through 6 Roma university students to assess the location and needs of over 160 Roma refugee families and engaged with more than 50 civil society organizations and charities visiting and providing support and information (available assistance, status regularization, and school enrollment) to Roma refugee families. By promoting and upscaling good practices, the organization engaged Roma expertise in delivering educational services to the affected group of children, e.g., school staff and peer sensitization, parental involvement, catch-up educational services, peer mentoring, and integration to the local Roma community. In 2022, Romaversitas organized three capacity-building events engaging Roma experts for state and non-state stakeholders, shelter managers, Ministry officials, and civil society representatives, to address school enrollment constraints for Roma children and implicit biases, as well as power relationships between social workers and refugees.</p>
<p>Dévai Fogadó (Mandak House): The organization set up a new community center in Budapest, deploying refugees from Ukraine in their activities, for a more sustainable response. The organization supports refugees and migrants in their integration process in Hungary with social work, housing services, community programs and language courses.</p>	<p>UNITY: Unity is a refugee-led organization in Hungary, working with over 150 refugee families. Its team grew from 15 to 50 members since the influx of Ukrainian refugees to Hungary; all new members are refugees engaged in the response for their community. Unity is active in community consultation and outreach, collecting feedback from refugees on their needs and assistance received (google forms, questionnaires, in-person, roundtables). Unity also provides legal consultation and information for refugees, Q&A sessions on services and rights, and offers psychological support (group and individual). Unity also offered language courses (Hungarian and English) for adults.</p>
<p>United Way: Within the framework of the #UnitedForUkraine initiative, United Way focused on supporting civil society and community partners in Hungary, including grassroots organizations across the country engaged in the response for Ukrainian refugees, from small, grassroots organizations to larger NGOs, lacking resources for projects targeting refugees. United Way supported 30 community partners, with financial and professional help, platforms for learning and development, including best practice sharing, peer-support groups and capacity development to support the delivery of assistance to over 10,000 refugees, from food, accommodation, mental health support, educational support and administrative and employment services. Services also targeted refugees with special needs, including children and youth with disability, children requiring special early childhood development, or young athletes.</p>	



MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

Achievements and Impact

- 13 MHPSS actors, coordinated through the MHPSS Task Force, provided over **21,000 individual and group counseling sessions to almost 24,700 refugees; 4,675 refugees were reached through MHPSS awareness campaigns.**
- The MHPSS Task Force established collaboration with the Primary Health Care Planning and Development Department under the Ministry of Interior and North-Central Buda Centre of Saint John Hospital to coordinate MHPSS response with national authorities.
- 3 Rapid MHPSS Service Mappings were conducted to identify available services, service gaps, and coordinate referrals.
- 5 IASC/WHO MHPSS Guidelines into Hungarian language.
- A Hungarian MHPSS Open Forum event was organized to bring national and international MHPSS actors together for better-coordinated response



Connect to Recharge - an event promoting mental well-being among refugees and promoting mental health services available at Traumacenter. ©Traumacenter

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Language barriers and lack of trained interpreters for MHPSS services
- Lack of child psychiatrists/psychologists in the field for children coming from Ukraine
- Major focus on biomedical/western approach rather than community-based/resilience approach in MHPSS response

Partner Spotlight

Trauma Center (TC): from the first escalation of the crisis, TC was able to adapt its trauma-informed mental health services to the refugee population (individual counseling, groups interventions) in 4 temporary shelters in Budapest, in partnership with Terres des Hommes. TC developed a trauma-informed curriculum for educational actors and regularly provided supervision for mental health workers as well as other frontline workers. In April TC became co-chair of the Inter-agency MHPSS Task Force contributing to reaching out to local MHPSS actors and create the link between the expertise of Hungarian and international MHPSS actors. As co-chair, TC contributed to the organization of the Open Forum for local actors in December 2022.

EMDR Association: EMDR stands for Eye movement desensitization and reprocessing. It is a mental health treatment technique, which involves moving the eyes in a specific way while you process traumatic memories, to help the healing process. EMDR set up a crisis group of MHPSS professionals with 24 active members available for MHPSS support. EMDR also developed flyers and information materials on the services provided.

MedSpot: Medicine on the Spot provided specialized psychological and medical support at Beregsurány border point for arriving refugees through doctors, psychologists and other health workers.

Cordelia: Cordelia provided personal bio-psycho-social support in different locations in Hungary, jointly with complex mental health support for refugees on a weekly or bi-weekly basis in Budapest, Eger, Fót, Fonyód, Fülöpösdaróc, Győr, Szabadszállás, Szolnok, Miskolc. Cordelia assisted over 250 refugees in 2022. As a major impact, non-verbal therapy proved to be highly effective as a counselling approach.

Working in partnership

The Refugee Response Plan highlights the needs of 21 partners working in Hungary: Budapest Methodological Social Center | Caritas Hungarica | Cooperazione e Sviluppo | Evangélikus Diakónia | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations | Hungarian Baptist Aid | Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta | Hungarian Civil Liberties Union | Hungarian Interchurch Aid | Hungarian Red Cross | Hungarian Reformed Church Aid | International Organization for Migration | Jesuit Refugee Service | Migration Aid | Oltalom Charity Society | Trauma Center | United Nations Children's Fund | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees | United Nations Population Fund | World Health Organization

In addition, the Refugee Coordination Forum includes over 70 civil society organizations, national and international NGOs, refugee-led organizations, Red Cross societies, UN Agencies, charities other faith-based organizations, private companies, donors, and Municipalities, all directly engaged in the response.

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LINKS: [REGIONAL DATA PORTAL – HUNGARY PORTAL – UKRAINE SITUATION RRP – REFUGEE FUNDING TRACKER](#)



Saturday art and educational activities for Ukrainian refugee families © Unity