



INTERAGENCY UPDATE

Contributions and Achievements of the RR for Hungary January – June 2024

Highlights.

Since the outbreak of the war, over 60,000 Ukrainian refugees have been recorded in Hungary. More detailed information is available on the [Operational Data Portal for the Ukraine Refugee Situation](#). Of these, 35,500 have Temporary Protection status (TP), over 22,000 hold residency permits, and the rest have tolerated status. New TP applications average 500 per month in 2024, slightly down from the numbers registered in 2023. Most TP holders are children (44%) and women (42%). In February 2024, Temporary Protection status was extended by law in Hungary until 4 March 2025.

The 2024 Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for Hungary involves 31 partners and a 42.2 million USD appeal. With 23% of the funding secured by mid-2024, partners have already supported nearly 34,000 refugees, focusing on socio-economic inclusion, assistance for vulnerable households, and mitigation of protection risks. Programs are implemented nationwide, especially in Budapest, Pest, and near the Ukrainian border, assisting both in-country and transiting refugees. Partners have also extended inclusion services to the host community as part of peaceful coexistence interventions.

In June, the Hungarian Government announced ([here](#)) that starting in August, subsidized accommodation will be limited to TP holders from "war-affected areas" in Ukraine, determined monthly by the Government Commissioner (currently [13 oblasts](#)). Preliminary assessments indicate that 80% of refugee residents in over 150 shelters would lose eligibility. Requests for exceptions submitted by July will be considered individually. With 61% of refugee households in Hungary relying on rental aid, this change is likely to influence the focus of RRP partners for the second half of the year.

Regional RRP

Hungary RRP*

USD 1.1 B		USD 42.2 M		31
Overall financial requirements	Overall percent funded	Hungary financial requirements	Hungary percent funded	Partners appealed for Hungary
2 M	32%	85.000	40%	21
Overall population targeted	Overall population reached	Refugees targeted in Hungary	Refugees reached in Hungary	Partners reporting for Hungary

Contributions.

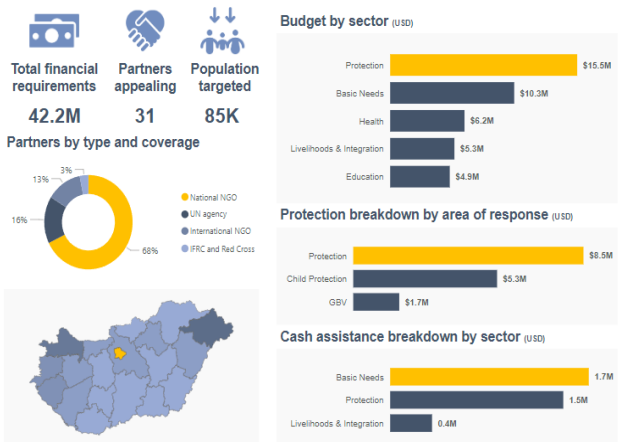
This report was compiled with the contributions of working groups and the following reporting organizations: Carpathian Foundation | Cordelia | Dévai Fogadó | Dorcas Ministries | From Street to Homes Association (ULE) | Hungarian Baptist Aid | Hungarian Helsinki Committee | Hungarian Interchurch Aid | Hungarian Red Cross | LITERA Association | Menedék Hungarian Association for Migrants | Migration Aid | Next Step Hungary Association | Parasolka | Terre des Hommes - Switzerland | Ukrainian Association UNITY | United Nations Children's Fund | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees | International Organization for Migration | Ukrainian House of Traditions | United Way Hungary Foundation.

* See the [Quarterly Interagency Regional Snapshot](#) for more details.

General Coordination Updates.

RRP for Hungary. The 2024 RRP for Hungary brings together 31 partners, including 21 local organizations (including 6 refugee-led organizations, 5 faith-based organizations, the National Red Cross), 4 international NGOs, and 5 UN agencies (see [detailed dashboard](#)). The total appeal of 42.2 M USD is currently 23% funded. Maintaining adequate and timely funding availability for partners in Hungary is crucial to ensuring the continuity of inclusion and protection programming, access to decent employment opportunities, and the provision of basic services for vulnerable refugees. Funding is also important for localization and support for national and refugee-led organizations and to maintain emergency response infrastructure, border presence, and contingency capacity, given the ongoing conflict situation in Ukraine.

Hungary: Regional Refugee Response Plan 2024 / Overview



Coordination. The RRP response in Hungary is coordinated through the [Refugee Coordination Forum](#), three working groups ([Protection](#), [Inclusion](#), and [Basic Needs](#)), as well as the [PSEA Resource Hub](#). Over 70 stakeholders, including humanitarian organizations, civil society, UN agencies, government departments, donors, and representatives of the EU and international bodies, attend the coordination meetings. This structure fosters interagency collaboration in developing joint response strategies, the sharing of expertise, and the coordination of operational responses. It ensures efficient targeting of refugees, addressing both immediate needs like cash and shelter, and long-term needs such as education, employment, and social integration.

Age, Gender, and Diversity. In 2024, coordination efforts around cross-cutting issues and refugee priorities have focused on mainstreaming age, gender, and diversity principles across the response, with a focus on older refugees, dual nationals fleeing the conflict in Ukraine, and refugee youth. This complements advocacy and recommendation notes issued in 2023 for Romani refugees and refugees with disabilities.

Older Refugees [EN]	Dual Nationals [EN] [HU]	Refugee Youth [EN]
Romani Refugees [EN] [HU]	Refugees with Disabilities [EN] [HU]	Access to Education [EN]

In 2024, partners supported 2,640 Romani refugees, over 1,400 refugees with disabilities, and over 2,000 older refugees (60+ years of age). Support included the distribution of food and non-food items, cash and food vouchers, provision of short and long-term accommodation, job placement and vocational training, language courses, protection case management, and awareness about refugee rights and services.

Joint information campaign for refugees. Based on the information needs identified by refugees and several important legislative changes introduced in 2024, RRP partners have launched joint information and awareness-raising campaigns nationwide. The campaigns included in-person events, online activities, and social media outreach. Common messages were developed on the following topics:

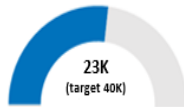
TP Status [EN] [HU] [UA]	School Registration Information for Refugee Parents [EN] [HU] [UA]
Back to School Campaign 2024/25 [EN] [HU] [UA]	Q&A on Changes in Subsidized Accommodation [EN] [HU] [UA]

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). The PSEA Resource Hub organized quarterly interagency Learning Corners promoting more advanced knowledge and skills on safeguarding, and the use of contextualized materials such as the “Kateryna” PSEA training video for the Ukraine refugee response ([EN](#), [HU](#), [UA](#)).



Protection.

of Individuals who have been supported accessing protection services



of children provided with child protection services



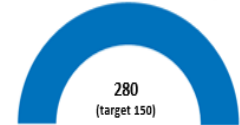
of participants trained on child protection and children's right



of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes



of trained humanitarian response actors and government personnel on GBV Knowledge on Prevention, Response, and Risk Mitigation Measures



Achievements and Impact. Protection partners operate in 18 out of the 20 counties in Hungary, with a focus on Budapest and areas near the Ukrainian border. They provide protection assistance to strengthen access to rights for both in-country and transiting refugees, and reached nearly 23,000 individuals with protection services, nearly 6,000 with GBV specialized programs, and over 3,000 with child protection services in the first half of the year.



UNHCR organized workshops for the Hungarian Border Guard Police at the border crossing points between Hungary and Ukraine on the identification of unaccompanied children, refugees with special needs, and communication with refugees.



Refugee children from Ukraine attend animal-assisted session through the UNICEF-supported "School to Success" program with Dorcas Ministries, using therapy dogs to boost wellbeing and support integration.



Terre des Hommes organized recreational workshops for refugee children during a local festival in Budapest, where children could try 3D printing, the spinner mixer, create plastic logos and play with puzzles and board games.



Kek Vonali developed a [Child Helpline](#) with a comprehensive methodology and practical toolkit on the prevention of GBV (including SEA), child neglect and abuse. This initiative aims to strengthen the capacity

of frontline workers with essential knowledge and tools to identify, avert, and handle incidents.

Case management

Updated service mapping and interagency referral pathways for child protection and GBV resulted in improved and timely referrals nationwide. 1,100 refugees received protection case management, and an additional 500 refugees, including nearly 300 children, received specialized child protection and GBV services.

Outreach and information sharing

Harmonized community messages raised awareness about significant legislative changes affecting TP status and subsidies. Nearly 37,000 refugees were informed about their status, their rights, and available services, and 11,000 refugees received information on child protection and children's rights.

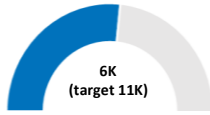
Capacity building

RRP partners trained over 300 humanitarian staff, volunteers, and government agencies in Budapest and border areas on legal and child protection.



Socio-Economic Inclusion.

of children participating in non-formal education programmes in the host countries



of people who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions



of refugees reached through individual counselling sessions or health education with information on health topics, available services and how to access health care



of focused and specialized services MHPSS consultations provided



Achievements and Impact. Inclusion partners operate in 19 out of the 20 counties across Hungary through projects to strengthen access to education, employment, health and mental health, and safe accommodation for in-country refugees.

Housing

Over 3,400 refugees received mid- to long-term housing, and nearly 500 households received housing information. Following the recent changes in subsidized accommodation, partners monitored 150 shelters and highlighted protection concerns.

Education

According to government data, [5,014 Ukrainian children were enrolled in 1,525 Hungarian schools](#) for the 2023/24 school year. Many were enrolled online in Ukrainian schools. To support refugee children's education, partners offered catch-up and education support classes to nearly 3,200 children and recreational services to over 5,000. They also launched a back-to-school campaign for 2024/25 academic year.



School-aged refugee children from Ukraine are attending Hungarian language classes at the UNICEF-supported Child and Family Support Hub of the Hungarian Reformed Church Aid. Language classes for

children and adults are essential to support the inclusion of refugees in Hungary.

Employment

Interventions targeted removing common barriers, such as lack of decent work opportunities, language, and skill mismatches. RRP supported over 4,000 refugees in employment and skill development and provided language training to 1,350 adults.



IOM ensures in-person and phone translation services for Ukrainian and third-country national refugees. "The interpreter was there during my second pregnancy, offering interpretation at medical

appointments. He knows our story and has been crucial in helping us navigate this entirely new environment, even at the dentist," Veronika, a refugee woman from Ukraine, said.

Health and MHPSS

Nearly 6,000 refugees received focused Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), and nearly 3,200 benefitted from community and family support. Partners reached over 1,000 refugees through health counseling and health-related information. Advocacy is ongoing to overcome technical and administrative barriers to accessing the national health system for refugees, simplify the insurance process, and issue TAJ (*társadalombiztosítási azonosító jel*) and technical cards.



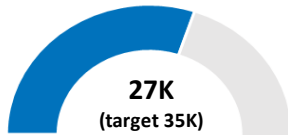
A job fair for refugees was held at Devai Inn in Budapest, organized by UNHCR and partners. Over 200 attendees connected with 19 exhibitors, including 12 companies and labor agencies. Around 100 refugees were

registered for jobs at the event. Four NGOs, two municipalities, and the local government office provided information on labor regulations.



Basic Needs.

of individuals who received assistance for basic needs



Achievements and Impact. 10 partners were active across all counties in Hungary, providing food and non-food items, cash and voucher assistance, and emergency short-term accommodation (≤ 30 days) for new arrivals and refugees in need. While response programs are consolidating as part of inclusion efforts, it is crucial to maintain reception assistance for new arrivals and preparedness to support government efforts in case of new emergencies and mass arrivals from Ukraine.

Food and non-food items

Nearly 20,000 refugees received essential non-food items such as clothes, blankets, and kitchen sets, including those distributed through the 2023/24 winterization programs. Additionally, over 16,000 refugees were provided with food assistance, including prepared meals at refugee centres and at the border, as well as grocery distributions for families already in Hungary.

Cash and Voucher assistance

Over 7,800 vulnerable refugees, many of whom faced significant barriers to work, were supported through cash interventions. Assistance types included multipurpose cash, winterization cash, vouchers, and unconditional cash for vulnerable groups. Post-distribution monitoring highlighted the importance of cash for covering food, accommodation, clothing, education, and health-related expenses. It also reduced reliance on negative coping mechanisms, such as opting for less nutritious food and borrowing money. Cash assistance interventions were complemented by coordination and de-duplication efforts and mainstreaming of protection principles.

Emergency housing

Over 4,800 refugees received short-term emergency accommodation by RRP partners for less than 30 days, mostly in Budapest, where most new arrivals by train from the border are housed. Starting in August, subsidized accommodation will not be available to new arrivals from non-war-affected areas of Ukraine. Vulnerable categories from war-affected zones are, however, still eligible for support while applying for TP and after TP is granted. Assistance can be requested through the government client center of Kormanyablak, at Nyugati train station in Budapest.

Looking Forward. Planning for the next RRP began in June with the Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS), which consulted over 800 refugees on needs and protection risks. Focus group discussions are ongoing to integrate the survey results. Workshops in September will convene partners and civil society to discuss assistance levels and priorities, and adjust the response strategy. In October, the RRP partner list and funding requests will be updated. The next interagency update, to be released in early 2025, will collect contributions and achievements for the remainder of the year.

Contacts and Links.

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Click on the links to access relevant material of the different coordination bodies:

Refugee Coordination Forum	Protection Working Group
Inclusion Working Group	Basic Needs Working Group
Psea Resource Hub	

[Regional data portal](#) – [Hungary Portal](#) – [Ukraine Situation RRP](#) – [Refugee Funding Tracker](#) – [Service Mapping for Hungary](#).