

Slovakia

February 2025

UNHCR provides **protection and assistance** to refugees from Ukraine, as well as other forcibly displaced and stateless people who are present in Slovakia.

UNHCR continues to prioritize **socio-economic inclusion** and **self-reliance** by improving refugees' access to employment, education, and social services as well as protection for vulnerable groups and promotes refugee inclusion into local communities.

UNHCR is leading the coordination of the **Refugee Response Plan** (RRP) in support of refugees from Ukraine, supporting government-led efforts and working together with a range of partners.

POPULATION STATISTICS (as of mid-2024)*

Refugees	124,106
Asylum-seekers	123
Stateless people	49

Top three countries of origin*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	132,810	Afghanistan	21
Russian Federation	428	Morocco	13
Afghanistan	398	Ukraine	13

*UNHCR Mid-Year Statistical Report 2024 and UNHCR data finder

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of February 2025, **132,810 refugees from Ukraine** were recorded in Slovakia.

Protection: UNHCR provides **legal counselling** to Temporary Protection (TP) holders and asylum-seekers, ensuring **access to information** and **legal support** while strengthening national protection services. UNHCR addresses the needs of persons with specific vulnerabilities, including children and persons with disabilities, as well as safety and protection initiatives for women, boys and girls through **counselling**, **psychosocial support**, and **support for victims of violence**. UNHCR also engages in advocacy for the inclusion of refugees into national systems.

Cash assistance: To complement the national social protection system, cash for protection supports persons with specific needs - such as persons with disabilities, single parents and older persons. In 2024, over **9,100 individuals** benefitted from UNHCR cash assistance in Slovakia.

Coordination: To further support government-led efforts, UNHCR leads and coordinates humanitarian actors through the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF).

HIGHLIGHTS

DAFI Scholarship: Empowering refugee students

UNHCR expanded the DAFI Scholarship program in Slovakia, increasing support from 31 to 40 refugee students, including 38 Ukrainian students, for the academic year 2024/25. In addition to the scholarships, the initiative provides cash grants to help students meet basic needs, focusing on promoting social inclusion and economic stability. UNHCR cooperates with Slovak universities and focuses on facilitating students' access to employment, internships and volunteering opportunities, engaging private employers to leverage refugee potential. The program's success was highlighted by **Yurii, the first DAFI scholar to graduate from a Slovak university**.



Ukrainian refugee children participating in a puppet theatre performance in Bratislava in December 2024. © UNHCR of the Slovak Republic.

Puppet-theatre to support well-being for refugee children

On 14 December, UNHCR's refugee-led organization partner, the Ukrainian-Slovak Hub, organized an interactive youth puppet theatre performance of "Room on the Broom" – a magical journey targeted at both young children and school-aged children, in a cultural centre in Bratislava. The puppet theatre has previously been shown in Kežmarok, eastern Slovakia, where community-based activities such as the theatre project are used to address the emotional impact of war on Ukrainian refugee children.

Key Priorities

- **Access to territory and protection:** UNHCR monitors the situation of people in need of international protection seeking access to the territory and asylum at Slovakia's border with Ukraine.
- **Community-based protection:** UNHCR conducts **participatory assessments** with refugees about their needs to inform UNHCR and partners' programming. UNHCR operates diverse one-way and **two-way communication** with refugee communities and supports **refugee-led (RLOs) and community-based (CBOs) organizations**. In 2024, five RLOs and CBOs were supported through grants. UNHCR also hosted a capacity-building workshop that covered crucial topics like protection principles, support for individuals with specific needs, fundraising, and municipal cooperation, aiming to empower and support the sustainability of their activities.
- **Inclusion:** UNHCR promotes **social cohesion** and refugee **integration** through projects and community activities that involve refugee and local communities, and advocates with national and local authorities—including municipalities and self-governing regions—for refugees to access local services. UNHCR and partners facilitate **employment counselling, skills trainings** and **requalification courses** for refugees in areas where there are opportunities in the labour market. According to latest **SEIS** results, 66% of refugees are employed. The main barrier cited by refugees is lack of Slovak language skills.
- **Assistance and integration centers:** UNHCR and UNICEF, in partnership with local authorities, have been operating six Blue Dot protection hubs across Slovakia to support refugees fleeing conflict. These centers, located in Bratislava, Dunajská Streda Košice, Michalovce, Nitra and Trenčín provided critical protection services to over 30,000 refugees in 2024. The initiative is evolving into a municipal-led network, coordinated by the Union of Cities and

supported by UNHCR, to ensure sustainable local response.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with national partners to respond to the needs of refugees under temporary protection in Slovakia: **Slovak Humanitarian Council, Human Rights League, People in Peril, Mareena, Sme Spolu** ("We Are Together"), **League for Mental Health, Platform for Families with Children with Disabilities, and Centre for Research on Ethnicity and Culture (CVEK)**.
- UNHCR leads the refugee coordination structure in Slovakia and coordinates the 2025-2026 RRP with the participation of 19 partners, including national and international NGOs, refugee-led organizations and other UN agencies.
- UNHCR has formalized partnerships through Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with **Center for Legal Aid, Comenius University, Judicial Academy, Slovak National Center for Human Rights and Slovak Olympic and Sports Committee**.
- UNHCR also works closely with municipalities and self-governing regions to ensure inclusion of refugees in local services and community structures, and further support social cohesion.

Statelessness

- Slovakia has acceded to both the 1954 and 1961 UN Conventions on Statelessness. Slovakia retains its reservation to Article 27 of the 1954 Convention and issues the 1954 Convention Travel Documents only to stateless people who have been granted permanent residence in the territory of the Slovak Republic.

UNHCR Presence in Slovakia

Staff:

26 National Staff

13 International Staff

Offices:

1 National Office in Bratislava

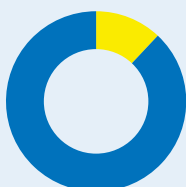
1 Field Office in Košice

Financial Information* (as of 31 January 2025)

* Information relates to UNHCR's Representation for Central Europe, which covers the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, and Slovenia.

Financial requirements
\$ 35.0 M

Funding gap 88 %
\$ 30.81 M



Funded 12%
\$ 4.19 M

UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors in 2024 and 2025:

Australia | Belgium | Denmark | France | Germany | Ireland | Japan | Netherlands | New Zealand | Norway | Republic of Korea | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | Sweden | Switzerland

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