



## Terms of Reference Protection Working Group Hungary

2025 update

### 1. Background

Since 2022, over 47,000 refugees have applied for Temporary Protection. A significant number of refugees have also chosen to reside on the territory under other forms of legal stay, including residents permits. With five land border crossings, the country remains a critical entry point for people fleeing the conflict in Ukraine, including Hungarian dual nationals.

The humanitarian response is coordinated by the Hungarian government and UNHCR, which established an Inter-Agency mechanism and the Ukraine Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP).

### 2. Objectives

The Hungary Protection Working Group (PWG) provides technical guidance to protection actors in Hungary, to ensure effective, coherent and predictable interventions to support the government's efforts to respond to the protection needs of refugees and other persons in need of international protection. The Protection Working Group (PWG) comprises the child protection and Gender-based Violence (GBV) sub-sectors.

The PWG aims to coordinate stakeholders, provide strategic guidance and technical inputs, share information effectively, identify gaps and opportunities, strengthen the protection sector through research and evidence, build capacity across stakeholders, improve data management for evidence-based programming, and leverage the comparative strengths of each member.

### 3. Accountability

The PWG is accountable for:

- Protection needs are addressed through timely, coordinated action.
- Strong coordination and information-sharing among members, government, and donors for effective planning, implementation, and evaluation.
- Data on affected populations is regularly collected, analysed, and updated, considering age, gender, and diversity.
- Members remain accountable to affected communities through consultation and feedback mechanisms.
- Support the advocacy efforts for sufficient funding for protection activities under the Ukraine RRP.

### 4. Core functions

1. Strategic Planning & Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Lead the planning process of an inclusive protection response plan, based on the Ukraine Refugee Response Plan 2025-26</li><li>❖ In accordance with the RRP strategic objectives, ensure coherence between PWG actors when working on needs/gaps analysis; agree upon recommendations for the response and foster aligned planning and reporting among the members.</li></ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Promote minimum standards, guidelines and good practices across the protection sector.</li></ul>
2. Protection Analysis & Technical Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Provide guidance and advice on protection analysis. This includes the setup of mechanisms to measure the impact and evolution of risks; the development of messaging, provision of analysis to support advocacy and resource mobilization for protection activities and programs, based on evidence. Conduct and disseminate research and build evidence to strengthen the sector's performance and make sure research and assessments activities are coordinated among PWG members.</li><li>❖ Provide technical support to partners, foster capacity building/development, including supporting needs assessments, project design, proposal development and advocacy initiatives; promote inter-sector collaboration in support of the protection response. Develop/adapt standard operating procedures (SOPs) and referral pathways. Improve data and information management for evidence-based programming.</li></ul>
3. Capacity Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Identify the capacity development needs of all stakeholders involved in the protection response. Provide technical support, as required, throughout the design of targeted operational response to ensure it is in line with the strategic priorities, the evolving nature of the crisis and needs of persons of concern.</li></ul>
4. Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Advocate with key stakeholders to develop, consolidate and implement protection strategies, identify advocacy gaps and develop appropriate joint advocacy messages and tools for government and other counterparts. Ensure cross-cutting issues, including gender equality programming and protection mainstreaming are reflected in WG activities.</li></ul>
5. Accountability to Affected People (AAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Ensure that AAP is at the centre of the humanitarian response through robust community-based feedback and complaints mechanisms to guarantee participation and inclusion, communication and transparency, feedback and response with an age, gender, and diversity approach. Coordinate, identify and strengthen the resilience of host communities, through support benefiting both host populations and refugees and through increasing the awareness of, and equitable access to services.</li></ul>
6. Nexus approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Strengthen links between the refugee response and development initiatives that are under the auspices of the government. This includes sharing of protection analyses pertaining to persons of concern as well as hosting communities.</li></ul>

## 5. Roles and Responsibilities

Chairing: The PWG is led by UNHCR. The lead is responsible for:



- Reporting to and sharing relevant information to/from the PWG members in alignment with the Refugee Coordination Model;
- Ensuring effective implementation of the protection response and addressing identified gaps;
- Leading the protection coordination and information management efforts, including advocacy;
- Chairing the coordination meetings and following up on action points and agreed deadlines with members;
- Representing the PWG in planning and strategic meetings, and other in-country and regional platforms, as appropriate;
- Striving that protection strategies and priorities are integrated into national plans and policies;
- Facilitating information sharing and exchange of best practices / lessons learned between the WG members; and
- Advocating and mobilizing resources on behalf of the PWG members.

#### Membership:

- Membership of the PWG is open to all protection partners (including national NGOs and civil society organizations, UN agencies and other international organizations) that are active (or that plan to be active) in the protection component of the refugee response.
- Organizations involved in protection activities are encouraged to participate in the meetings.
- For accountability and follow-up purposes, each organization should nominate one focal point for participation in meetings and a back-up member. For continuity, the same person should attend each meeting. Member organizations can nominate replacements if the designated focal point or back-up leaves the organization.
- An updated list of members will be circulated on a regular basis.
- Main responsibilities of members include:
  - ❖ Represent and take decisions on behalf of their organizations;
  - ❖ Regularly attend the PWG meetings and share information about activities, available and expected funding, trends and gaps, including geographical and programmatic gaps;
  - ❖ Coordinate planning and assessments with the PWG members to avoid duplication and address gaps;
  - ❖ Contributing to policy and strategy development pertinent to the protection component;
  - ❖ Actively take part in the implementation of the PWG responsibilities and work plan; and
  - ❖ Endorse and disseminate Inter-Agency standards, guidelines and tools.

## **6. Working Modalities**

PWG meetings take place regularly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each 2<sup>nd</sup> month, as per the RCF calendar for 2025 published on the Operational Data Portal. Ad-hoc meetings can be called if needed. Meetings can be held online, or in-person in Budapest. An agenda for the meeting shall be shared with the members before the meeting, and the meeting minutes shall be recorded and circulated for comments after the meeting has been held, before being published on the Operational Data Portal. The working language of meetings is generally English, but the PWG chair shall strive to make AI-supported (AI-Artificial Intelligence) automated translation possible for each *online* meeting, through translated live captions. This will allow presentations and discussions to take place in Hungarian, and in Ukrainian languages. For in-person meetings, interpretation services shall be made available if needed.

The annual PWG work plan is developed and approved by the PWG members in the first Quarter of 2025. All PWG members strive to take an active part in the implementation of the work plan. The PWG chair will review progress and update members on the implementation status, with a bi-annual review frequency.

PWG members may agree to form specific Technical Task forces, on a temporary basis, to provide a forum of experts to address certain thematic issues that require concerted action.



## **7. Feedback and Complaints**

Anyone can submit feedback or complaints, including anonymously, regarding the functioning of the PWG. Feedback and complaints should be submitted to the Refugee Forum (RCF) Coordinator, who on a case-by-case basis will refer them to the PWG meeting for plenary discussion.

## **8. Validity and Amendments**

The duration of these ToRs will be 12 months, until January 2026. Amendments to the ToRs may be proposed by any of the members of the Working Group.