

HUNGARY

15 June – 31 August 2022

Since the war in Ukraine began on 24 February 2022, over 2,443,583 people have crossed in to Hungary directly from Ukraine or via third countries, the majority women and children (69 per cent), as well as older people and those with disabilities.

UNHCR has opened information centers called “Blue Dots.” Two static Blue Dots and one mobile Blue dot are operational with partners Baptist Church Aid and Menedék in Tiszabecs, Zahony and throughout Hungary.

Summer schools were supported throughout Hungary for Ukrainian students to better integrate into the upcoming Hungarian school system. Language courses were also provided to adults in addition to Hungarian cultural and workforce development courses.

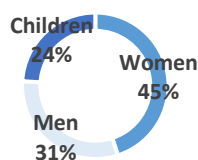
CROSSINGS TO HUNGARY since 24 Feb 2022

2,443,583 total crossings to Hungary (6th of September)

1,327,129 crossing directly from Ukraine

1,217,357 crossing via Romania border

Gender Disaggregation



29,170 applications for Temporary Protection in Hungary (22 of August)

25,789 positive decisions taken



UNHCR’s partner Greek Catholic Church Foundation delivered musical instruments to a school supporting Ukrainian children. Photo credit UNHCR/Vitalii Kudrunskiy

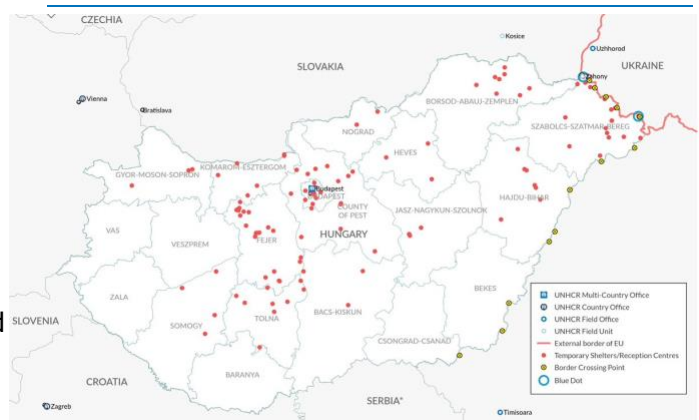
UNHCR PRESENCE IN HUNGARY

STAFF:

- **37** National staff
- **20** International Staff

OFFICES:

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



Operational Context

Since 24 February 2022, Hungary has observed the **rapid influx of people crossing** from Ukraine (over 2,443,583 as of 6 of September). 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 crossings are recorded at Hungary's border with Romania, where some 1,217,357 people from Ukraine have transited. While the majority move on to other European countries, over 29,170 individuals have applied for Temporary Protection status in Hungary (as of 6 September). To respond to the scale, pace and complexity of the situation, UNHCR has maintained Hungary as a **Level 3 Emergency**, the highest possible designation.

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. Help points have been established to provide information and assistance to those arriving to Hungary in addition to the establishment of three Blue Dots (information hubs across the Ukraine refugee response) in Zahony, Tiszabecs and a mobile unit. A community center was also recently opened in Budapest in partnership with the Municipality and IOM. Refugees arriving from Ukraine are referred to short-term accommodation in government-run facilities or with volunteer networks. Regular visits to the shelter are in place for protection monitoring and referral. With winter approaching, efforts are also underway to the shelters to ensure adequate living conditions over the winter. Direct assistance provision to vulnerable households is also scheduled.

UNHCR and partners are continuing to reinforce **communication and legal counselling** to ensure those arriving from Ukraine 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 individuals settle for the medium – term, UNHCR increasingly supports efforts to ensure school enrolment, employment and longer – term housing solutions. Partnership with civil society, the private sector and state actors are at the center of these efforts

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.

Working with Partners

UNHCR works in close coordination partners to support refugees and asylum-seekers as well as with state entities including local and municipal authorities, UN agencies, NGOs, humanitarian partners, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders providing assistance to those seeking protection.

As part of the Ukraine Situation response, UNHCR leads and coordinates the **Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF)** at country-level in Hungary to ensure harmonized response within national efforts 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 has 12 active partnership agreements with the following organizations: Cordelia Foundation, Hungarian Baptist Aid, Hungarian Charity of the Order of Malta, Hungarian Helsinki Committee (HHC), Hungarian Red Cross, Mandak House, Menedék, Migration Aid, NANE, Next Step, Romaversitas, and ULE Association.



Refugee children from conflict-affected regions are drawing in the camp organized by refugee-led NGO Unity and funded by UNHCR. Photo credit: NGO Unity



Hungarian language courses for refugees from Ukraine organized by the refugee-led NGO Lexis (equipment and furniture donated by UNHCR). Photo credit: NGO Lexis

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 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 followed by the opening of the Blue Dot in Tiszabecs on the 1st of August alongside a Mobile Blue dot. 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](#). Since August, 6,450 individuals have been assisted by the Blue Dots.
- On 26th and 29th of July UNHCR and Hungarian Helsinki Committee colleagues delivered sessions to 22 NGO staff on GBV, Child Protection, Temporary Protection (legal frameworks), Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) to the staff in charge of the Blue Dot at Tiszabecs, run by the Hungarian Baptist Aid.
- Since the 28th of April, UNHCR and partners have counselled 3,209 individuals (2,134 households) both at the Blue Dots and inland locations.
- 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. UNHCR is also conducting focus groups to capture winter related needs. To accomplish this, dedicated site-mapping and site-profiling tools have been launched by UNHCR and partners. As of August, of the 896 sites provided by the Government, visits have taken place at 103 locations thus far. In September, UNHCR with the support of RCF members will carry out a nationwide multi – sectoral assessment in both communal shelters and long – term accommodation to better capture the need of refugees ahead of the 2023 planning process.
- 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 Wednesday, 17th of August, UNHCR Hungary released *Information for parents and families on enrollment in kindergarten and school for the academic year 2022/2023 - UNHCR Hungary*. The material provides information on the legal requirements, the enrollment procedure and assisting organizations. Within the first four days of its launch, the information was accessed by 888 people on the UNHCR website and seen by 677 people.

Communication and Provision of Information

- 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. As of the 23rd of August, there have been 137,977 page views with 53,360 accessed from Hungary and 42,430 from Ukraine.
- UNHCR established a Telegram Channel that enables one-way communication with Ukrainian refugees in Hungary. To date, there are over 740 subscribers. The Telegram Channel allows for refugees to access the important update and information in a platform that is widely used by Ukrainians.

Training and Capacity-Building

- 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. On 28 July, UNHCR conducted a training on Legal Protection for IOM and UNHCR staff who will be operating the upcoming Budapest Helps! Community Center.
- In addition, a GBV training on how to support survivors was done for Lexis NGO and another training for the Regional CallCenter staff on legal referrals, GBC and Child Protection during the reporting period.

Supply

- UNHCR launched a warehouse in eastern Hungary to facilitate delivery of core relief items (CRIs) to Ukraine. Currently the contingency stocks are as follows; 266,200 bedding sets, 11,520 blankets, 183,750 hygiene kits, 52,160 mattresses, 154,800 quilts and 2,000 tarpaulins.
- 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 6,756 individuals have been reached with over 6,622 kits distributed as of the 30th of August.

Special Thanks to Donors

UNHCR is especially thankful for the contributions to Hungary

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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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