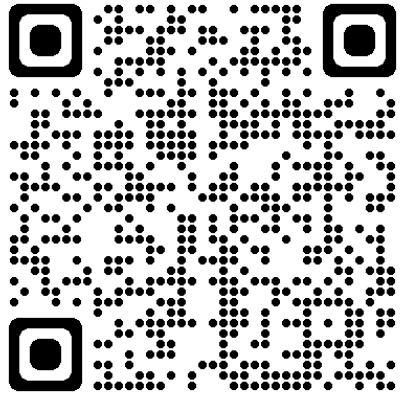


Join on Zoom



Regional Refugee Response
for the Ukraine Situation

HUNGARY

**RCF – OLDER
REFUGEES**



HUNGARY
Refugee Coordination Forum

**UNHCR Ipoly, Budapest,
February 2, 2024**

AGENDA

- Introduction and operational updates
- Vulnerabilities and barriers to services for older refugees
- First-hand testimonies of older refugees
- Recommendations
- AoB





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Vulnerabilities and barriers to services for older refugees



Regional Refugee Response
for the Ukraine Situation



SEE THE CRISIS **CHANGE THE OUTCOME**

HUNGARY RFC PRESENTATION ON SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR OLDER REFUGEES

2 FEBRUARY 2024

ABOUT ACAPS



WHO WE ARE

ACAPS Ukraine Analysis Hub provides independent analysis on the humanitarian impacts of the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine across the country and the region



WHAT WE DO

Our products include datasets, thematic reports, analytical support, and capacity building to responders



HOW WE COLLABORATE

We engage and establish collaborations with like-minded organisations, through scenario-building workshops, joint analysis, and training sessions.



THE REPORT

The [ACAPS overview of social protection for refugees from Ukraine](#) looks at:

- The assistance is available *from the host states* to refugees from Ukraine who have temporary Protection (TP) in: Czechia, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia;
- The extent to which this assistance is accessible;
- The extent to which this assistance may help refugees meet their needs.

Methodology:

- Secondary data review and the [ACAPS regional dataset](#)
- 9 key informant interviews with responders.

This presentation is based on:

- This report, and additional sources
- Findings are from across the 6 countries, and may not come from Hungary unless specifically stated.
- If findings are from Hungary, it is specified.



HOW MANY OLDER REFUGEES IN HUNGARY?

- In November 2023 there were about 63,775 refugees from Ukraine in Hungary, 64% of whom had TP ([UNHCR 30/11/2023](#)).
- There is a lack of accurate data on refugee and HH profiles in Hungary.
- Between 7% and 11% of refugees from Ukraine in Hungary are aged 60+ (based on: [HUN Protection profiling and monitoring Oct 2023 - Jan 2024](#) (non-representative), [HUN MSNA 2023](#) (non-representative), [CZE, SVK, POL, ROU, MDA Intentions 4th Round May 2023](#) (+/- representative).
- This is an estimated **4,500 to 7,000** older people.
- Between 43% and **82%** of older people are women (the higher more likely).



HOW MANY OLDER REFUGEES IN HUNGARY?

4000 people



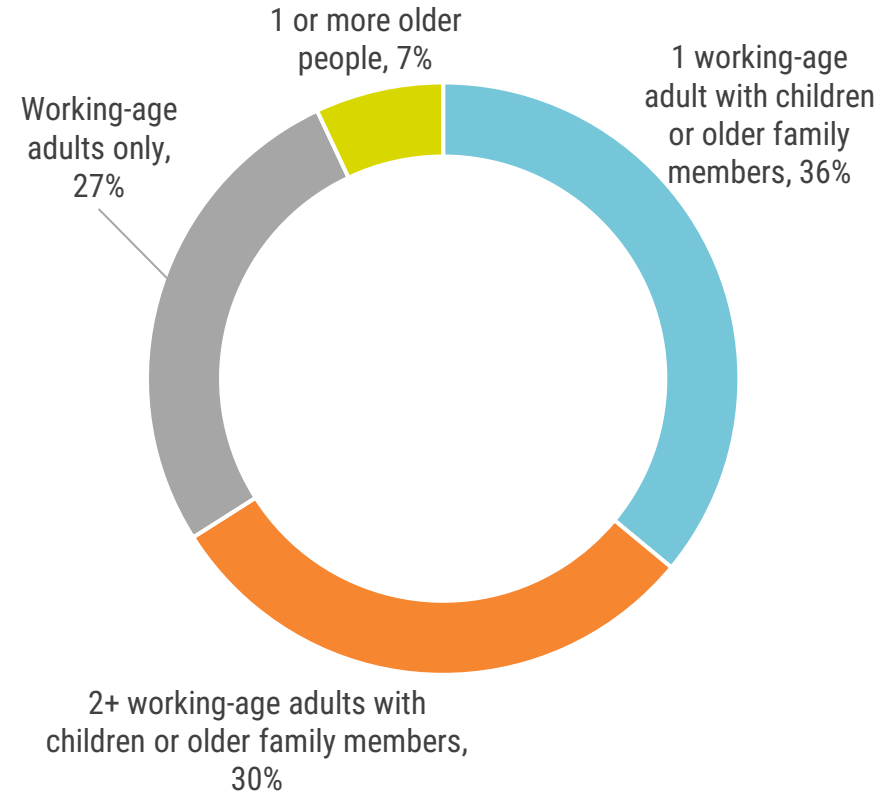
7000 people



HOUSEHOLD PROFILES

In CZE, SVK, POL, ROU and MDA:

- Over 1/3 HHs are made up of a single caregiver + children or older people.
- In 7% HHs all adults are older people



INADEQUACIES IN MEETING NEEDS

Income sources available to TP holders compared to the cost of living for a **single person of retirement age**

% of cost of living covered by...	Czechia	Hungary	Moldova	Poland	Romania	Slovakia
Special benefits for refugees from Ukraine	10%	6%	0%	0%	19%	0%
Average Ukrainian pension	10%	13%	17%	11%	16%	12%
Sum of average Ukr. pension and available benefits not dependent on income	20%	19%	17%	11%	35%	12%
Max. amount under basic income-dependent benefits	15%	11%	9%	15%	4%	20%

Yellow indicates current ineligibility for refugees from Ukraine

Income sources available to TP holders compared to the cost of living, for a family of 3 (1 adult + 2 children).
[In Hungary, results would be *similar* for a 3-person household with 1 working-age adult + older people]

% of cost of living covered by...	Czechia	Hungary	Moldova	Poland	Romania	Slovakia
Special benefits for refugees from Ukraine	17%	6%	0%	0%	24%	0%
Child benefits not dependent on income	0%	2%	0%	10%	10%	5%
One salary at minimum wage (net)	30%	25%	10%	28%	22%	29%
One salary at minimum wage (net) and available benefits not dependent on income	47%	31%	10%	38%	45%	35%
Max. amount under basic income-dependent benefits	16%	3%	12%	20%	7%	19%
Median or mean household income	No data	No data	No data	No data	26%	27%

Yellow indicates current ineligibility for refugees from Ukraine.

Green indicates conditional eligibility.

- The cost of living is higher for refugees than for locals.
- The average Ukrainian pension covers only 13% of the cost of living (with rent) of a single older person in Hungary, and 19% if combined with refugee benefits.
- National social protection in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) is insufficient to make a living.

Income-dependent benefits:

- In Hungary, refugees are not eligible;
- Income thresholds at a very low level– only the poorest of the poorest qualify;
- In the countries where refugees are eligible, humanitarian aid is considered income, limiting their eligibility;
- Very low amounts.



BARRIERS IN ACCESS TO SOCIAL SERVICES

Eligibility to temporary Protection in Hungary

- Refugees who are third country nationals are not eligible in Hungary.
- 1 in 4 refugees from Ukraine self-identify as Hungarian ([MSNA 2023](#)).
- Dual citizens are not eligible to TP but struggle to access citizen rights if they lack a social security number or a registered address.

Administrative barriers in Hungary

- It can take up to 55 days to receive TP. Until then, freedom of movement is limited.
- Recipients of the allowance for TP holders aged 6+ need to report to municipalities in person monthly.

Insufficient information across the 6 countries

- Across the 6 countries, lack of information is a challenge for refugees to apply for assistance.

Lacking translation and interpretation across the 6 countries

- Lack of interpretation services limits access to TP and benefits.
- Some institutions' websites lack information in Ukrainian, e.g. the [National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing](#).
- Information in, and interpretation from/to: Russian, Romani, and Ukrainian sign language even less available.



OLDER REFUGEES – VULNERABILITIES

Access to TP and social Protection across the 6 countries

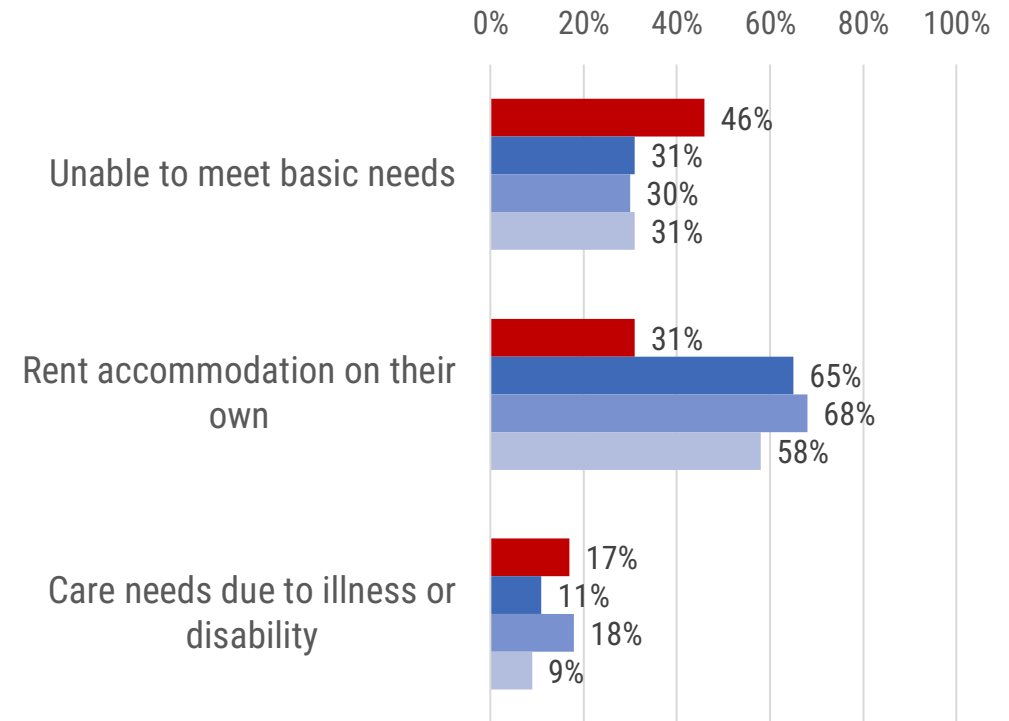
- HHs with older refugees are more likely to lack ID documents and struggle replacing them.
- Risk of insufficient digital skills, struggle to understand how to apply for benefits online, especially if older people they are on their own.

Basic needs

- Across the 6 countries, between one-third and over one-half [based on different studies] of all HHs struggle to meet basic needs. About one half for HHs where all adults are older.
- Not eligible for long-term care in HUN.

Accommodation across the 6 countries

- Older refugees are more likely to live in collective accommodation or be hosted (esp. HHs with only older adults).
- A family where all adults are aged 60+ is about twice less likely to rent than other HHs (CZE, MDA, ROU, POL, SVK).
- About 1 in 5 older people have specific needs due to illness or disability (17% HHs with only older adults, and 23% HHs with older women; CZE, MDA, ROU, POL, SVK).
- Collective accommodation lacks adaptations and accessibility for people with disabilities.
- Rent is often unaffordable, but social housing underdeveloped.



- Households in which all adults are older people (1 or more people)
- 1 working-age adult with children or older family members
- 2+ working-age adults with children or older family members
- Working-age adults only

[UNHCR Intentions 4th Round May 2023 \(CZE, MDA, ROU, POL, SVK\)](#)

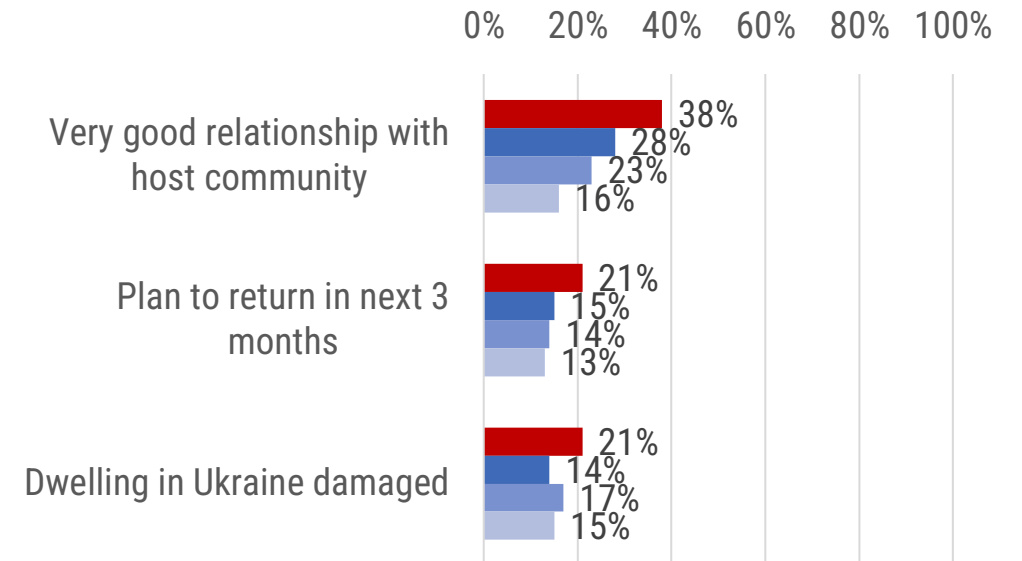


OLDER REFUGEES – INCLUSION / EXCLUSION

Findings from CZE, MDA, ROU, POL and SVK:

Social inclusion / exclusion varies

- HHs with only older adults report *higher* levels of good relationship with host community...
- ... but also of the intention to return to Ukraine in the next 3 months.
- Return where? The % of those whose homes in Ukraine were damaged is higher for HHs with only older adults than for other HHs.



- Households in which all adults are older people (1 or more people)
- 1 working-age adult with children or older family members
- 2+ working-age adults with children or older family members
- Working-age adults only



OLDER REFUGEES – INCLUSION / EXCLUSION

Insufficient inclusion activities for older people

- Lack of state-provided free courses of host country language for adults in HUN and the other 4 countries (exception: CZE);
- Insufficient other inclusion activities in POL.

Middle-aged and older people's strategies of living host society in POL

- Nearly 1 in 5 older refugees did not go out to meet friends or attend activities ([HelpAge 09/10/2023](#)).
- A qualitative study shows 3 groups of Ukrainian refugee women aged 50+ :
 1. Stay almost only in Ukrainian environment, which brings safety,
 2. Able to function in host society but prefer staying with Ukrainians,
 3. Learn Polish, integrate and encourage others to do so.
- Ukr-Pol activities not very effective, participants stayed in national groups, as they share experiences ([Society of Creative Initiatives "ę" 09/2023](#)).



MORE ABOUT ACAPS ANALYSIS

More ACAPS reports on humanitarian situation:

- For [refugees from Ukraine in Central and Eastern Europe](#)
- In [Ukraine](#)

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Contact us: ukraine.hub@acaps.org

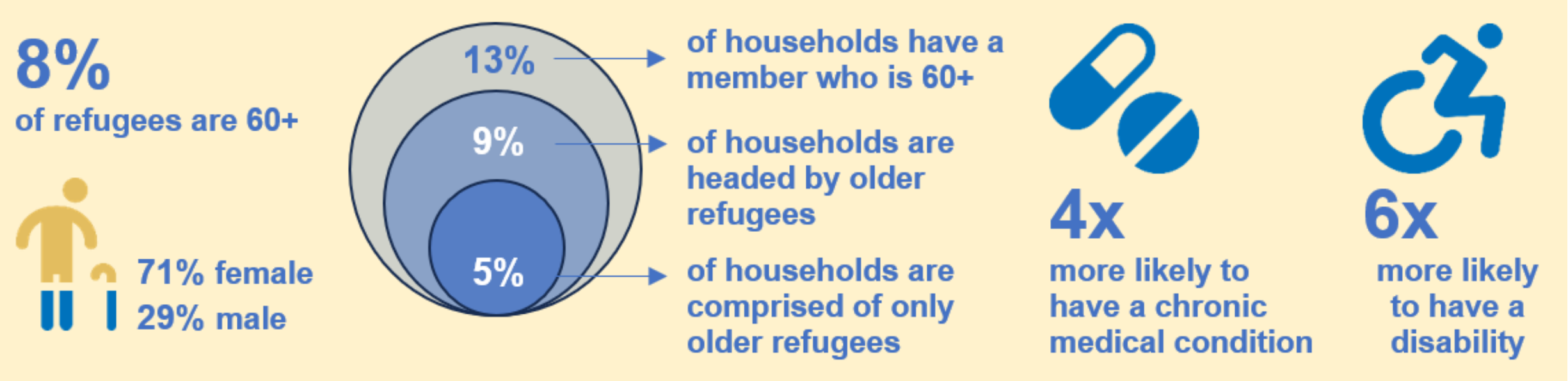
Social protection report: malgorzata.zub@acaps.org

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MSNA Hungary – 2023 Granular Analysis

Demographic and vulnerability profile of older refugees



MSNA Hungary – 2023 Granular Analysis

Socio-economic profile of households with older refugees



- 50%

Average income (per month) of HH with older refugees compared to HH without (170,000 HUF vs 347,000 HUF)



~ 25%

Income component from social protection for HH with older refugees (vs 5% for HH w/out older refugees)



2 x Monthly

expenditure on health-related costs for HH with older refugees



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First-hand testimonies of older refugees

- **Tetiana**
- **Alla**
- **Olha**
- **Lyudmila**



Reccommendations



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Focus on 4 areas

** not exhaustive*



Digital Divide and Access to Information

Health and Care Opportunities



Social Inclusion

Income and Financial Resources



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Digital Divide and Access to Information

- Accessibility & Information Dissemination
- Outreach Programs
- Digital Literacy Classes



- Affordable Technology Access
- Address Tech Apprehension





Health and Care opportunities

For Healthcare Providers:

- Access to Geriatric Healthcare
- Age-Appropriate Diagnostic Assessments
- Chronic Condition Management
- Rehabilitation Services
- Streamlining Prescription Processing

For Humanitarian Actors:

- Preventive Healthcare and Outreach
- Translation and Interpretation Services
- Accessible Accommodations
- Assistance with Daily Activities
- Family-Based Care
- Home-Based Care
- Institutional Care



Social Inclusion



- Community Engagement
- Infrastructure and Transportation
- Technology for Social Engagement
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)
- Peer-Support Initiatives
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Support for Caregivers and Caregiving Support



Income and Financial Resources

- Social Security and Financial Aid
- Employment Opportunities
- Skills Training and Economic Independence
- Entrepreneurship Support
- Addressing Specific Financial Needs with integrated support



AoB



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HUNGARY
Refugee Coordination Forum



THANK YOU

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