Since hostilities began on 24 February 2022 in Ukraine, over 522,100 refugees arrived to Hungary directly from Ukraine or via third countries, the majority women and children as well as older people and those with disabilities. Many are in need of urgent medical care, including persons with chronic illnesses and those with mental and physical disabilities.

UNHCR is supporting government-led efforts through a multisectoral response focusing on protection, reception / shelter and material as well as cash assistance for most vulnerable groups and those with specific needs.

UNHCR and partners are present at border crossing points, help and collection points as well as in urban areas to provide information on rights and available services, identify vulnerable refugees and refer them to relevant services, and to monitor and reinforce reception conditions.

522,100 total arrivals to Hungary from Ukraine, including those transiting from other countries (as of 23 March 2022)

330,900 arrivals to Hungary directly from Ukraine (as of 23 March 2022)

**ARRIVALS TO HUNGARY** since 24 Feb 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Arrivals from HUN-ROM border</th>
<th>Arrivals from HUN-UKR border</th>
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<tr>
<td>5-Mar-22</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**UNHCR PRESENCE**

**Staff:**
- 25 Total Staff
  - 6 International Staff
  - 19 National Staff
- 5 Affiliate Staff
- 20 Staff on mission in Hungary

**Offices:**
- 1 Office for Central Europe under Multi-Country Office (MCO) in Budapest

For more information, see the [Operational Data Portal](#) for the Ukraine Refugee Situation
Operational Context

Since 24 February 2022, Hungary has observed the rapid influx of refugees arriving at its six border crossing points with Ukraine (over 330,900 individuals as of 23 March), many with urgent protection needs and underlying vulnerabilities including women, children, older people and persons with disabilities. A high proportion of arrivals are also being recorded at Hungary’s six border crossing points with Romania, where at least 191,250 people from Ukraine have transited through. While many refugees move on to other European countries, some 5,915 individuals have applied for temporary protection status in Hungary as of 23 March. To respond to the scale, pace and complexity of the situation, UNHCR has declared Hungary a Level 3 Emergency, the highest possible designation.

Government authorities confirmed their ability and started building up necessary capacities to meet the immediate needs of those arriving, including access to health, education, temporary accommodation, and provision of core relief items along border entry and registration points. Collection and help points have been established by authorities to provide assistance to those arriving to Hungary and inform on measures to apply for asylum and temporary protection. Shelters and reception centres have been launched across parts of the country where refugees arriving from Ukraine are referred to short-term accommodation in government-run facilities or with volunteer networks. Humanitarian actors and public authorities present at border crossing points and urban areas are closely coordinating to provide assistance and services, including advice on temporary housing, transportation, and legal counselling.

While authorities and local communities have taken a welcoming stance to those fleeing hostilities in Ukraine, the high number of arrivals has strained existing capacities, making information provision and identification of vulnerable profiles more challenging in the context of a mass influx situation. Further efforts are needed to reinforce communication and legal counselling to ensure those arriving are fully informed about procedures for applying for temporary protection and asylum, as well as the rights attached to different legal statuses. Additionally, further screening is needed to identify those with specific vulnerabilities—notably older people and those with limited mobility or physical impairments—while identification and referral of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) requires closer monitoring.

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 SEA 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 composed of women and children.

(Left): A mother and her son who fled Ukraine arrive at Zăhony train station in Hungary. Those arriving are guided to collection points where they can apply for asylum or temporary protection. Support is provided by municipalities, humanitarian organizations and members of the community at border crossings as well as at help/collection points and at reception centres. © UNHCR/Zsolt Balla

(Right): Ethnic Hungarian families fleeing Ukraine are accommodated at the cultural centre in the Hungarian border town of Beregsurány. An estimated 150,000 ethnic Hungarians live in the Transcarpathia region in the west of Ukraine. © UNHCR/Zsolt Balla
Working with Partners

UNHCR’s Representation for Central Europe in Budapest covers activities in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, and Slovenia. UNHCR has been present in Hungary since 1989.

UNHCR works in close coordination with relevant Hungarian government counterparts to enable refugees and asylum-seekers to enjoy essential rights and access basic services. UNHCR maintains positive collaboration with state entities including local and municipal authorities, UN agencies, NGOs, humanitarian partners, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders to provide protection and assistance to those seeking asylum.

As part of the Ukraine Situation response, UNHCR leads and coordinates the implementation of the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) in line with the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) and in close collaboration and consultation with relevant government counterparts, and with the support of inter-agency partners and other stakeholders. UNHCR also leads the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) at country-level to ensure harmonized response within existing government structures and among inter-agency partners, NGOs, volunteers and other stakeholders, with associated working groups (Protection, Cash, Health and Basic Needs – including Shelter, Food, and Non-Food Items) and task forces (PSEA, MHPSS) established to effectively coordinate partners response.

UNHCR is also in the process of formally expanding its partnerships in Hungary to ensure availability of comprehensive assistance and services to people seeking protection, including those with specific needs. UNHCR works closely with Caritas Hungary, Hungarian Baptist Aid, Hungarian Maltese Charity Service, Hungarian Interchurch Aid, Hungarian Red Cross, and Hungarian Reformed Church Aid.

Our current implementing partners in Hungary include:

- **Cordelia Foundation** – provides psycho-social counselling and mental health support (MHPSS) for asylum-seekers, refugees and family members who have experienced trauma and distress.
- **Hungarian Helsinki Committee** – offers assistance and legal support to refugees, including those in detention.
- **Menedék** – provides counselling, language courses and social, educational and cultural programs supporting refugees and migrants in Hungary, in addition to job and housing assistance.
- **Next Step** – supports community-building, skills development, and empowerment of people seeking asylum in Hungary.

Main Activities

In the context of the high flow of arrivals into Hungary from Ukraine, provision of information remains key to ensuring refugees are able to access key services, make decisions, and actively participate in the response. UNHCR and partners are working to ensure those arriving from Ukraine have access to information through preferred channels, feedback response mechanisms, decision making forums, and are able to participate in all stages of the response. ‘Blue Dot’ hubs are being launched in Hungary to provide information, two-way communication, counselling, protection case management and referrals.

UNHCR is identifying those with vulnerabilities—including people with specific needs, those with disabilities, and UASC—for referral to specialized services in Hungary. In coordination with local authorities, referral pathways will be developed to ensure that refugees can access necessary services, in accordance with their needs and preferences. Additionally, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) will be prioritized by strengthening inter-agency networks and PSEA mechanisms and systems, including referrals, at the national level.

Additionally, UNHCR and partners are working to improve reception conditions, including through strengthening reception capacities in Hungary and monitoring of arrivals to ensure access to rights and services on a non-discriminatory basis, including for third-country nationals. UNHCR will support authorities in scaling up of accommodation capacity including for temporary shelter, while assisting authorities in identifying additional reception facilities to accommodate those with both immediate and longer-term needs.
People fleeing Ukraine arrive at Tiszabecs border crossing point in Hungary. On arrival, Ukrainians and other nationalities are screened and registered. They are guided to collection points where they can apply for asylum or temporary protection status. Support is being provided by government municipalities, humanitarian organizations and members of the local community. © UNHCR/Zsolt Balla

Contacts

Zoran Stevanovic, Snr. External Relations Officer, stevanoz@unhcr.org, Tel: +36 30 530 9633

Erno Simon, Snr. Communications Associate, simoner@unhcr.org, Tel: +36 1 336 3345

More Information

For further information, please visit the Ukraine Situation Operational Data Portal

UNHCR Central Europe ● UNHCR Hungary ● UNHCR Hungary Country Website ● UNHCR Ukraine Emergency Appeal

Sign up for the UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe mailing list to receive regular updates on the Ukraine Situation.