

Hungary

September 2021

Hungary considers that refugees **should remain in first countries** of arrival and not be granted access after onwards movement. Hungary **does not support** the Global Compact on Refugees.

People arriving irregularly are **removed from the country**. Those wishing to apply for asylum need an **entry permit** from the Hungarian embassy in a neighbouring non-EU country.

Hungary supports **externalization** of asylum obligations and rejects any form of **mandatory solidarity** and **responsibility-sharing**.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Refugees	5898
Asylum-seekers	38
Stateless persons	147
Total population of concern	6083

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Afghanistan	1,503	Afghanistan	17
Syrian Arab Republic	923	Iraq	6
Iraq	635	Iran	5
		Pakistan	5
		Turkey	5

*Data source: UNHCR 2020 Global Trends Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: UNHCR has advocated for full inclusion of refugees and other people of concern in the COVID-19 vaccination roll-out.

Inclusion: Authorities introduced various safeguards in facilities accommodating persons of concern and displayed information materials on health safety measures. People holding a residence permit and/or personal identity and travel documents are entitled to receive COVID-19 vaccination free of charge.

Communication with Communities: UNHCR's refugee community outreach strategy facilitates two-way communication with communities. UNHCR partners displayed pandemic-related information on their websites.

HIGHLIGHTS

685 persons of concern assisted

by UNHCR partners in the first half of 2021. Asylum-seekers and refugees had access to legal, social and integration assistance and psycho-social counseling and treatment.

76 community awareness events

were organized with key NGO stakeholders and refugee communities, including children's development and community programmes, and capacity building events.

15 integration workshops

seminars, and trainings were organized to support the integration of people of concern in Hungary.

AFGHAN TEACHER FINDS PEACE AND OPPORTUNITY IN HUNGARY



Omar Sharifullah has carved out a livelihood that supports both his own family in Hungary and traditional artisans in Afghanistan.

Key Priorities

- **Access to territory:** People who may be in need of international protection are denied access to the territory. Since 2016, Hungarian authorities have forcibly removed over 105,000 people, including those wishing to apply for asylum. UNHCR seeks to promote legislative change through **advocacy** with the government and with key stakeholders, such as international human rights treaty bodies. UNHCR also conducts **protection monitoring** and engages with the judiciary with the aim that people in need of protection are not refouled.
- **Asylum procedure:** Asylum-seekers who wish to lodge an asylum application need to first express their interest to do so at a Hungarian Embassy in a neighbouring non-EU country. If their claim is deemed viable, they may be issued a one-time entry permit to enter the asylum procedure. Thus, access to the asylum procedure is very limited. Through its partner Hungarian Helsinki Committee, UNHCR provides free and quality **legal assistance** for asylum-seekers, refugees, and stateless people, and monitors the **quality** of asylum procedure.
- **Integration:** In the first half of 2021, 18 people were granted international protection. For those who choose to stay, integration is a challenge. NGOs do not have access to EU funding for integration-related activities. UNHCR provides counselling, community services, education and accommodation support, vocational training, language training and labour market **integration assistance** as well as medical and psycho-therapeutic treatment for refugees.
- **Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance:** UNHCR leads **community engagement** and **mobilization** efforts to ensure two-way communication between the refugee and local communities, NGOs and UNHCR.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR has 4 partnership agreements. **Hungarian Helsinki Committee** provides legal assistance to asylum-seekers. **Menedék Association** offers social counselling, integration assistance and engages in community mobilization. **Next Step** offers community-building, skills development, empowerment. **Cordelia Foundation** – provides psycho-social counselling and treatment.
- UNHCR holds regular integration and outreach coordination meetings with all partners, including authorities, refugee outreach coordinators, NGOs and faith-based organizations.
- UNHCR's **key government interlocutors** are the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ministry of Interior, National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing and the National Police.
- **External Engagement:** UNHCR publishes compelling multimedia stories about refugees and local people assisting them, reaches out to society, maintains media relationships, participates in refugee related public events and posts on a daily basis on UNHCR's social media platforms.

Statelessness

- Hungary is a party to both Statelessness Conventions and has a statelessness determination procedure since July 2007. With UNHCR support, the status determination authority established an internal quality assurance mechanism.

UNHCR Presence in Central Europe

Staff:

23 National Staff
 6 International Staff
 3 Affiliated Work Force

Offices:

1 Multi-Country Office in Budapest
 1 Country Office in Prague

The UNHCR Representation for Central Europe in Budapest, Hungary covers operations in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Financial information (28 September 2021)

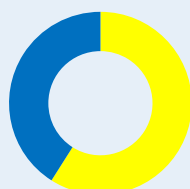
Information relates to the Representation for Central Europe, which covers the Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Slovakia, Slovenia

Financial requirements

USD 5.1 M

Funding gap
 41%

2.1 M



Funded
 59%

3 M

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UNHCR Hungary is grateful to the donors to its 2021 programme: **Hungary**