

# Hungary

February 2022

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	<b>5,736</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>11</b>
Stateless persons	<b>130</b>
Total population of concern	<b>5,877</b>

## TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN\*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Afghanistan	<b>1,481</b>	Iran	<b>6</b>
Syrian Arab Republic	<b>896</b>	Afghanistan	<b>5</b>
Iraq	<b>612</b>		

\*Data source: UNHCR 2021 Mid-Year Statistical Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

## UKRAINE SITUATION

At the time of updating this fact sheet, in light of the rapidly deteriorating situation and war in Ukraine, UNHCR is ramping up its response and capacity in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, including in Hungary.

UNHCR estimates that up to 4 million refugees may flee Ukraine, with more than 650,000 people having already crossed an international border in search of safety from 24 to 28 February.

UNHCR declared a Level 3 Emergency for Ukraine and a Level 2 Emergency for neighbouring countries on 25 February. UNHCR and OCHA jointly [launched](#) the [Humanitarian Flash Appeal](#) and the [Regional Refugee Response Plan](#) for the Ukraine situation on 1 March.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Over 400 persons of concern assisted

by UNHCR's partners in the second half of 2021. Asylum-seekers and refugees had access to legal, social and integration assistance, and psychosocial counselling and treatment.

### 23 community awareness events

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

### 49 partner, government and UNHCR staff trained on SGBV

Trainings were organized to facilitate SGBV prevention and response.

## IRANIAN FATHER AND SON RE-ENACT THEIR STORY FOR HUNGARIAN THEATRE GOERS



Iranian refugee Abouzar and his son, Armin, chose to stay in Hungary despite being detained at the border for 18 months. A new theatre production offers some clues as to why.

## 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 140,000 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 to stop refoulement of people in need of protection.
- **Asylum procedure:** Access to the asylum procedure is very limited. 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. Through its partner, the Hungarian Helsinki Committee, UNHCR provides free and quality **legal assistance** for asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons, and monitors the **quality** of the asylum procedure.
- **Integration:** In 2021, 38 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 3 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 and empowerment. UNHCR also works with **Cordelia Foundation**, which provides psychosocial counselling and treatment to persons of concern.
- 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 multimedia stories about refugees, 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's support, the status determination authority established an internal quality assurance mechanism.

## UNHCR Presence in Central Europe

Staff:	Offices:
26 National Staff	1 Multi-Country Office in Budapest
5 International Staff	1 National Office in Prague
6 Affiliates	

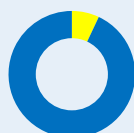
The UNHCR Representation for Central Europe in Budapest, Hungary covers operations in the Czech Republic, Hungary, the Republic of Moldova, Slovakia and Slovenia.

## Financial information (22 February 2022)

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

**Financial requirements**  
**USD 5.1M\***

**Funding gap 93%**  
**4.7 M**



**Funded 7%**  
**0.4 M**

\*This amount refers to the initial budget approved by UNHCR's Executive Committee for 2022, prior to the latest hostilities in Ukraine.

UNHCR is grateful to the donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions to the 2022 global programmes. Donors of USD 10 million or more are:

**Sweden | Norway | Netherlands | Denmark | Germany | Switzerland | Belgium | Ireland**

Unearmarked contributions provide UNHCR with vital flexibility in determining how best to protect and assist persons of concern who are in the greatest need or at the greatest risk.