

Hungary

February 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.

Asylum-seekers who arrive irregularly are **removed from the territory**. Those wishing to apply for asylum need an **entry permit** from the Hungarian embassy in a non-EU neighbouring country.

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

POPULATION OF CONCERN

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Refugees | 5,834 |
| Asylum-seekers | 54 |
| Stateless people | 77 |

MAIN THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

| | Refugees | | Asylum-seekers |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|
| Afghanistan | 1,512 | Afghanistan | 20 |
| Syria | 933 | Iraq | 15 |
| Iraq | 637 | Syria | 9 |

Data source: UNHCR 2020 Mid-Year Statistical report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

1,208

persons of concern were assisted by UNHCR partners in 2020. Asylum-seekers and refugees had access to legal, social and integration assistance and psycho-social counseling and treatment.

137

protection monitoring visits were conducted to detention and reception centres, including child protection facilities, accommodating persons of concern.

12

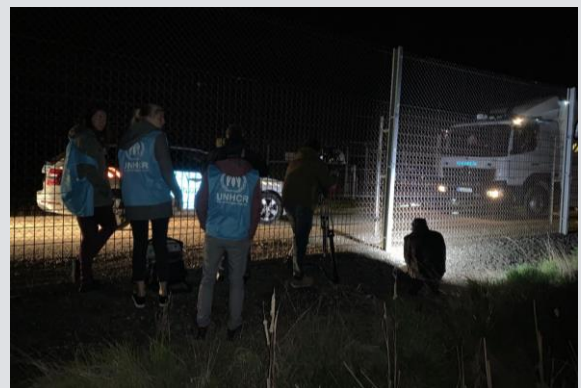
integration coordination meetings, including outreach meetings were organized, with key NGO stakeholders and refugee communities.

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

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

Inclusion of persons of concern: Authorities introduced various safeguards in facilities accommodating persons of concern and displayed information materials on health safety measures. Until now, only persons of concern with a 'domestic registered address' are entitled to receive vaccination free of charge.

Communication with Communities: UNHCR distributed public health information through direct counselling and by providing posters to facilities in multiple languages. UNHCR partners also displayed pandemic-related information on their websites.



Access to asylum is further at stake in Hungary.

Read more [here](#).

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 71,000 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**, including at borders, 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 2020, 126 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:** Refugees who have recently been granted protection, are in need of support. In addition, those refugees who have already attained a degree of integration and self-reliance, may also continue to need support. 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 project partnership agreements with 4 NGOs.
 - Hungarian Helsinki Committee** – provides legal assistance to asylum-seekers and conducts advocacy to challenge existing protection gaps.
 - Menedek Association** – offers social counselling, integration assistance and engages in community mobilization.
 - Next Step** – makes available community building activities, skills development, empowerment and awareness raising.
 - Cordelia Foundation** – provides psycho-social counselling and treatment.
- UNHCR holds regular integration 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, Ministry of Interior, National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing and the National Police.
- **External Engagement:** UNHCR publishes compelling multimedia web stories about refugees living in Hungary and local people assisting them, reaches out to the Hungarian 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 in place since July 2007.
- With the support of UNHCR, the status determination authority established an internal quality assurance mechanism.

UNHCR Presence in Hungary

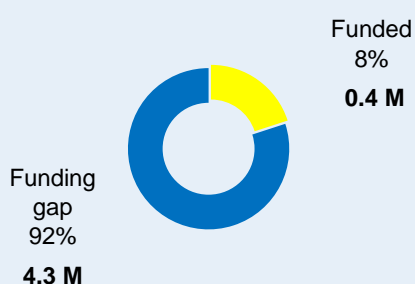
| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Staff: | Office |
| 22 national staff | 1 Office |
| 6 international staff | |

The UNHCR Representation for Central Europe in Budapest, Hungary, is a multi-country office which covers operations in the Czech Republic, Hungary, the Republic of Moldova, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Financial information* (28 February 2021)

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

Financial requirements:
USD 4.7 M



UNHCR is grateful to the major donors of unearmarked contributions* to the 2021 global programmes (USD, as of 28 February 2021):

Norway 80 M | Sweden 66.9 M | Netherlands 36.1 M | Denmark 34.6 M | Germany 22.1 M | Switzerland 16.4 M | Ireland 12.5 M | Belgium 11.9 M

*Unearmarked contributions allow UNHCR for critical flexibility in how best to reach populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Above are donors of USD 10 million or more.