

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY and KEY FINDINGS

In mid-2023, UNHCR conducted a Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA), focusing on refugees from Ukraine living in Hungary. The assessment, guided by the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF), involved nearly 700 adult respondents from refugee households across 18 counties in Hungary.² The data collected was complemented with focus group discussions organized with refugees. The information gathered is crucial for humanitarian planning as well as identifying service gaps. The findings informed the 2024 Refugee Response Plan (RRP). Here are the key findings.

Household Profiles and Vulnerabilities.

Interviewed households comprise 2.2 members on average. Women and girls make up the majority of family members (59%); 27% are children (boys and girls) and 8% are older refugees aged 60+. Approximately 9 out of 10 interviewed refugees reside in urban centers, particularly in Budapest, while 12% live in rural areas. 80% self-identify as Ukrainian, 25% as Hungarian, and 5% as Roma, with respondents able to select multiple options. Vulnerabilities were identified within the sampled households: 32% of households reported having a member with a chronic medical condition; 7% of the household members reported a form of disability and difficulties performing basic functions. On average, households have been living in Hungary for more than a year, with 28% having arrived within the last 12 months.

Satisfaction with Assistance.

Around half of the interviewed households received assistance within the last 3 months from either governmental entities or humanitarian organizations. The majority was satisfied with the support received. However, during focus group discussions, refugees have stressed the importance of continued financial

and material aid. Nearly all of the respondents who received aid expressed satisfaction with the behavior of aid workers. Among the percentage who did not (6%), the reasons cited were feeling unheard regarding their needs, their feedback not being considered, and a perceived lack of respect and empathy from aid workers towards their situation.

Priority Needs.

3 out of 4 households interviewed identified unmet priority needs within their households. The primary needs highlighted are accommodation, followed by food, and language support. The emphasis on the need for language assistance, including language courses and translation services, underscores the significance refugees place on language as a crucial tool for facilitating socio-economic integration. It also reflects their intentions to integrate within the local community and the limited number of individuals with immediate intention to return.

Temporary Protection (TP) and Documentation.

Most of the refugee households reported a valid legal status in Hungary (93%), in the form of either temporary protection, residence permits, or similar status, or are dual nationals (Ukrainian and Hungarian). Generally, refugees reported having valid identity documents and access to registration of new-born children.

Protection Risks.

Approximately a quarter of the respondents (24%) expressed protection issues in their residential areas. Main reported concerns for adults include risks of robbery and verbal harassment within their community. For children, concerns around psychological violence, such as bullying and violence online.

² The survey targeted individuals who fled Ukraine after the escalation of the conflict and reside in Hungary under different status, including temporary protection, residence permits, dual citizens.

Refugees showed a high level of familiarity with where and how to access services, in particular hospitals and the police, but lower levels of awareness of services specifically for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), such as helplines, legal aid, or psychosocial support. 13% of refugee households experienced tensions with the host community, such as verbal aggression, discriminatory behavior, and negative online comments. Respondents linked these behaviors to their refugee status, ethnicity, and different cultural backgrounds combined with a competition for jobs and resources in the host country.

³ The average Hungarian income is at 187,000 HUF net per month per capita in 2022, according to the Hungarian Central Statistical Office. It should be noted that the MSNA questionnaire did not specify if the questions related to income were referring to gross or net income.